THE GREEN RESILIENCE PROJECT

2025 LEARNING REPORT: KEY TAKEAWAYS

The Green Resilience Project partners with local individuals or organizations across Canada to design and organize conversations (or engagement activities) to discuss how economic conditions and climate change impacts are affecting their communities, how those issues are connected to each other and other specific issues – from housing to food security to systemic oppression to mental health – and what can be done at the local or national level to address these issues together.

The Green Resilience Project can act as a catalyst for bringing a missing lens into community work that is often siloed in ways that reflect policy and funding options. We identify organizations that are engaged in community work and prompt an opportunity to discover or build upon connections that exist between climate change and other issue areas that affect our quality of life.

The GRP 2025 Learning Report reflects conversations hosted by:

- Black Environmental Initiative (BEI)
- Black Men's Therapy Fund (BMTF)
- Community Action For Environmental Sustainability (CAFES)
- Good To Be Good (GTBG)
- National Right to Housing Network (NRHN)
- Women's National Housing and Homelessness Network (WNHHN)

GRP partner conversations create space to uncover not just the harms of the climate crisis but the wisdom necessary to resolve it. These dialogues provide a crucial roadmap for policy-makers: equitable solutions must be intersectional, community-driven, and grounded in lived reality. Discussions on addressing these issues ranged from specific solutions to rethinking how solutions are approached, developed, and implemented.

CLIMATE CHANGE & DISCRIMINATION

Participants emphasized that climate change amplifies existing disparities—be it through environmental racism, gender-based violence, or economic precarity. Communities that face discrimination in housing, health, and employment are also those most affected by pollution, extreme weather, and lack of access to climate-resilient infrastructure.

WHAT PEOPLE WANT

- Intersectional solutions: Environmental, economic, and social issues must be addressed in an integrated and culturally relevant way to enhance mental health, community resilience, and environmental justice.
- Research & education: Research and education that empowers communities to understand environmental injustices, reclaim their history, and advocate for equitable solutions is vital for climate justice.
- Community-led solutions: Community-led approaches in climate, housing, and economic policy ensure equitable, resilient solutions tailored to the needs of those most impacted.

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS

Participants shared their experiences with the impacts of climate change. Climate change is causing more frequent and severe weather events—such as storms, flooding, and wildfires—that damage homes, displace communities, and strain public services. Poor air and water quality, mold from water damage, and lack of adequate heating and cooling in housing disproportionately impact low-income, racialized, and gender-diverse populations. These environmental changes are also driving up utility and insurance costs, worsening housing affordability and increasing the risk of homelessness. Additionally, climate disruptions are eroding cultural traditions, harming mental health, and deepening social inequalities, especially for Indigenous and marginalized communities.

WHAT PEOPLE WANT

- Community Connectivity and Collaboration: A key theme in these discussions was the need to foster community connection and collaboration to develop solutions that work for everyone.
- Government participation: The role of government in enabling solutions was a theme across conversations. This included shifting policymakers' focus to enacting policies that both address environmental conservation and hold major polluters accountable, while easing the burden on low-income communities.

CLIMATE CHANGE & HOUSING

The GRP partner conversations highlighted the ways that climate change and housing are deeply interconnected, with extreme weather events like flooding and heatwaves making inadequate housing conditions increasingly unsafe. Rising costs for climate adaptation along with higher utility and insurance rates, are pushing housing further out of reach for low-income and marginalized communities. Poor housing infrastructure, especially in racialized and gender-diverse communities, often lacks proper heating, cooling, and mold remediation, exacerbating health risks.

WHAT PEOPLE WANT

- Centring Indigenous knowledge and lived experiences: Embed Indigenous peoples' practices and lived-experience advisors within planning processes in order to strengthen and implement culturally and locally appropriate solutions.
- Policy solutions: Integrating climate justice with housing solutions requires bold government policy.

CONCLUSION

A key reflection from the Green Resilience Project is that integration of community expertise into policy development offers a path toward not just sustainability, but justice. Each conversation participant brings distinct lived experiences shaped by geography, identity, and systemic conditions—perspectives that are vital to understanding how the climate crisis intersects with income insecurity, housing, food systems, mental health, and discrimination.

These conversations not only surface the lived realities of the climate crisis, but also illuminate the pathways forward. Empowering communities to lead and co-create solutions is essential to building resilience and ensuring a just transition for all people in Canada.

> ***Applying a climate change, affordability, and community resilience lens to our work holds profound implications, especially when viewed through a gender lens. Integrating these focuses highlights critical needs and unique challenges faced by women, Two-Spirit, and gender-diverse individuals, particularly those who are racialized, Indigenous, or multiply marginalized.***

-WOMEN'S NATIONAL HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS NETWORK

FULL 2025 LEARNING REPORT AVAILABLE HERE

Video interviews with GRP partners available here.

If you'd like to work with the Green Resilience Project or if there is any information or support our team can provide to help advance your work, please get in touch.

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