

# UPDATING NB'S CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN

A Role for Local Environmental Groups  
and a Strong Environmental Movement

Presentation to the Standing Committee on Climate  
Change and Environmental Stewardship

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New Brunswick Environmental Network  
Réseau environnemental du Nouveau-Brunswick

# About the NBEN

- Founded in 1991
- Links together over 110 non profit environmental groups
- One of the largest provincial networks in the country
- Works to improve communication and co-operation among environmental groups and between these groups, government and other sectors
- Non advocacy, does not take position
- Provides educational opportunities to its members, encourages members to adopt common positions, and speak with a common voice, and works to build the capacity of the environmental movement as a whole
- Maintains important online tools such the Eco-Directory and Reference Library



# About the NBEN

Two main mechanisms for delivering on our mission:

**Caucuses** facilitate communications among member groups and can provide relevant and expert input on specific environmental issues of importance to provincial policy-making and broader public education.

**Collaboratives** provide an opportunity for agencies that share a common goal to advance the development of policy and programming that is relevant, broadly supported, and implemented on a cross-sectoral basis.



# Key Points of Importance

## #1: Collaboration with ENGOs, big and small, in pursuing climate action

- Essential to educating citizens about the climate crisis and providing them with opportunities to take meaningful action
- Eyes and ears on the ground – key role in environmental monitoring
- Local watershed groups and naturalists clubs play a particularly important role in this regard



# Key Points of Importance

## #2: Continued funding for climate work undertaken by NB ENGOS

- Environmental groups do a lot with very little
- Access to secure funding is key
- Multi-year funding helps groups plan for longer term results
- Allocation of funding from Climate Action Fund should be more transparent and funds should be directed to new climate-fighting measures
- An open application stream should be created



# Key Points of Importance

## #3: Increased transparency and availability of climate related data and information

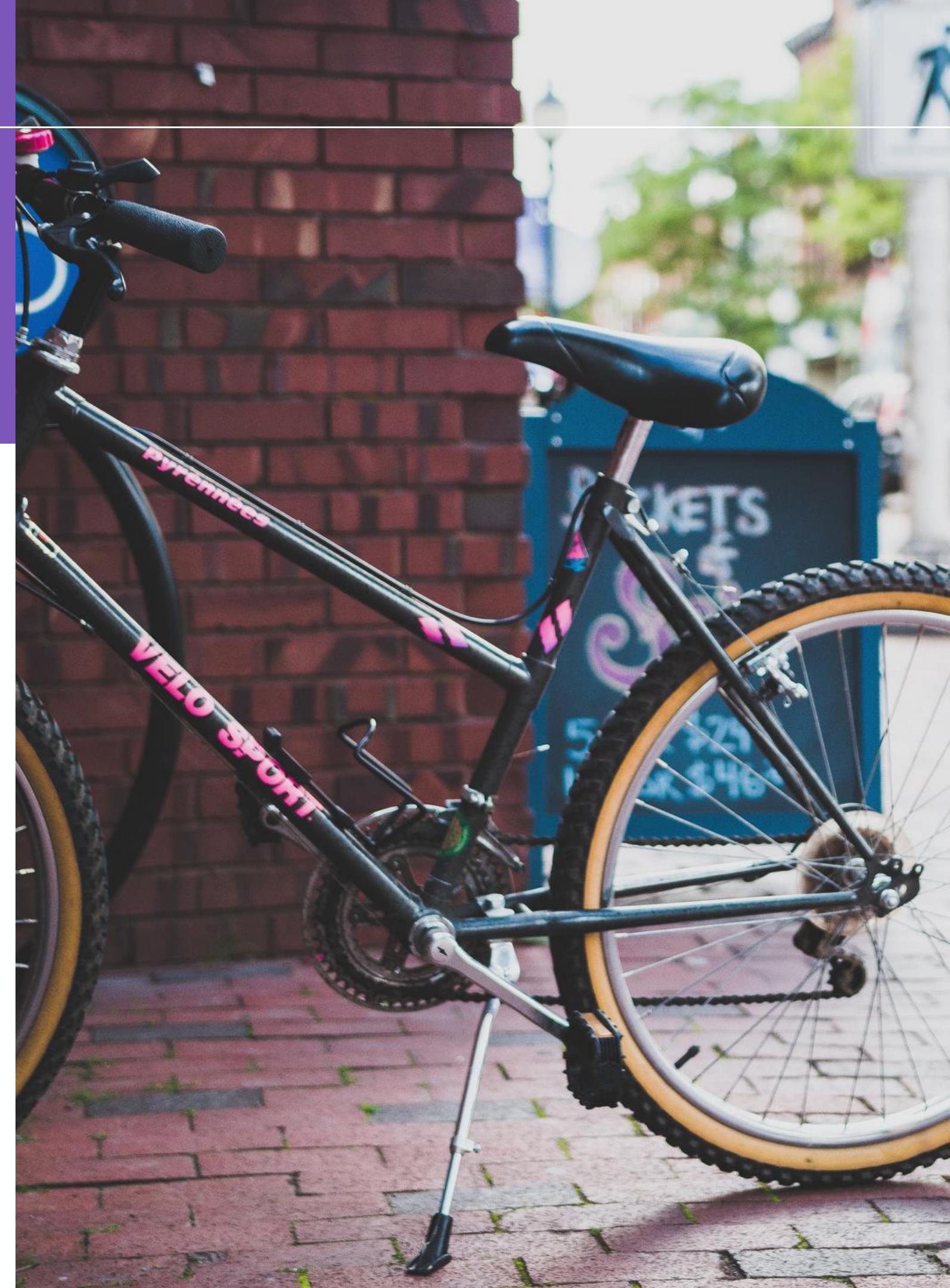
- Better access to the most relevant, accurate and up-to-date information
- Information that is easy to understand and adapted to different audiences
- Data and information on adaptation for specific sectors (agriculture, forestry, fisheries, etc.)
- Make key government commissioned studies public



# Key Points of Importance

## **#4: Clear communication from government to the public on the urgency of the climate crisis (and honesty regarding the solutions available to us in the timeframe we face)**

- Mobilization of public will be key to ensuring success of the transformational societal projects required as part of the transition to a low-carbon future
- Need to increase public confidence and build social agency
- Engage early and often
- The climate is in crisis. Act like it is.
- Play on the things people love. Be honest, but stay hopeful.
- Communicate plans for a just transition
- Quickly release a clear statement of public interest on climate to inform decision making down the line
- ENGOs can be partners in sharing news of programs and initiatives with a positive impact on our environment and climate



# Key Points of Importance

## #5: Intersectoral cooperation

- Support for SMEs to reduce their carbon footprint and move to more climate friendly operations. SMEs are 99% of our economy.
- Continued community-university partnerships



# Key Points of Importance

## #6: Education and capacity building at all levels to more rapidly implement known climate solutions

- Sustainability Education Alliance
- Integrating climate teachings into curriculum
- Greater focus on experiential learning and outdoor learning
- Viewing climate literacy as an essential outcome of our public education experience



# Key Points of Importance

## #6: Education and capacity building at all levels to more rapidly implement known climate solutions

- NB Climate Change Adaptation Collaborative
- Strong focus on natural and nature-based infrastructure
- Natural approaches can reduce risk of climate impacts, while offering co-benefits for tourism, recreation, and human health
- New Brunswick is a leader and should continue to lead
- Specific project work to build capacity amongst engineers, planners, ENGOs
- Future work to focus on building capacity among municipal staff and decision makers



# Key Points of Importance

## #7: Meaningful Youth Engagement

- Young people are increasingly anxious and preoccupied by the worsening impacts of climate change
- They will be the most impacted by decisions made today
- Youth representation on climate advisory bodies
- Meet youth where they're at
- Explore possibility of massive engagement of youth in climate fight through something akin to a "NB Youth Climate Corps"
- Reduce financial burden of ever increasing tuition costs to facilitate youth pursual of climate essential professions



Merci!  
Thank You!  
Wela'lin

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