



NEWS RELEASE

Niagara-on-the-Lake Welcomes New Climate Change Coordinator

For Immediate Release

February 6, 2025

The Town is pleased to welcome Kassie Burns as its new Climate Change Coordinator, effective February 3, 2025. This important role, approved by Council through the 2024 budget, reinforces the Town's commitment to environmental sustainability and aligns with key priorities within the [2022-2027 Strategic Plan](#).

"Addressing climate change is not just an environmental responsibility, it is an economic and social priority," stated Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa. "This new position reflects Council's dedication to long-term sustainability, protecting natural assets, and building a climate-resilient community. On behalf of Council, I welcome Kassie to Niagara-on-the-Lake and look forward to supporting her work as she advances key initiatives that will benefit our Town and region."

In her role, Kassie will focus on carrying out the Climate Change Adaptation Plan and ensure climate considerations are incorporated into municipal projects and policies. She will also play a key role in several environmental initiatives outlined in the Strategic Plan, including:

- The Invasive Species Management Plan
- The Waterfront Master Plan
- The Coastal Protection Program
- The Natural Asset Management Strategy

Additionally, she will coordinate joint efforts on climate initiatives and collaborate with regional and provincial partners, including the Regional Climate Change Representative, to advocate for Niagara-on-the-Lake's needs.

"Kassie's skills and experience will help move our Climate Change Adaptation Plan forward and ensure that climate resilience is rooted into municipal decision-making," stated CAO Bruce Zvaniga. "She will work closely with Staff, Council, and the community to integrate sustainable practices into our operations while coordinating with key partners on shared climate goals. Her leadership will help shape a stronger, more sustainable future for Niagara-on-the-Lake. Welcome, Kassie!"



Kassie comes to the Town from Vineland Research and Innovation Centre and brings valuable experience from her previous work with Niagara Parks Commission and Brock University. She is passionate about sustainability and finding solutions that balance environmental, economic, and social priorities.

"I am excited to join the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake in this role," stated Climate Change Coordinator Kassie Burns. "I look forward to working with Staff, Council, and the community to move forward with climate initiatives that make a real difference."

The addition of a Climate Change Coordinator reflects the Town's Strategic Plan priority of environmental responsibility, ensuring Niagara-on-the-Lake is prepared for climate challenges and working toward a resilient, sustainable future.

For more information about the Town's climate initiatives and the Climate Change Adaptation Plan, visit www.notl.com/town-services/environmental-stewardship/climate-and-energy/climate-change

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