



KAWARTHA LAND TRUST

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Kawartha Land Trust (KLT) Strategic Planning Terms of Reference: Nature-based Climate Solutions

Why Nature-based Climate Solutions?

Nature-based climate solutions are powerful tools in the fight against climate change and their importance has been gaining recognition. In 2020, the Canadian Government announced the Natural Climate Solutions Fund to support the 2 Billion Trees Program, the Agricultural Climate Solutions program, and the Nature Smart Climate Solutions program. The Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund (NSCSF) is a \$631M 10-year fund intended to reduce 2-4 megatons of greenhouse gas emissions annually.

Along with monitoring and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, carbon sequestration is an important method of reducing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Many natural ecosystems are carbon sinks: they absorb more carbon from the atmosphere than they release. When these ecosystems are destroyed through development or other means, not only is carbon released but that sequestration potential is lost. The NSCSF, therefore, supports ecosystem conservation and restoration, as well as sustainable land management practices.

As an environmental organization, KLT is in the perfect position to take a leading role in nature-based climate solutions. In fact, carbon sequestration is a secondary result of many stewardship actions that KLT undertakes. However, with the current scientific evidence for climate change, stronger intentionality is called for.

In the Kawarthas, we have enough land to sequester the carbon footprint of all our regions' residents (if emission reduction targets are reached in 2030). As a member of the global community, KLT is poised to expand its positive influence on climate change resilience, and inspire our community into action.



KLT's Background with Nature-based Climate Solutions

The land that KLT protects sequesters many tons of carbon annually, with forests and wetlands being the top performers. The 2,532 acres of forest protected by KLT sequesters 6,583 tons of carbon annually. The 1,624 acres of wetland are responsible for an additional 2,436 tons. In total, that's the equivalent of the emissions from 1,515 cars.

On some properties, KLT is also engaged in reforestation, which serves to increase the rate of carbon sequestration. For example, in the summer of 2021, KLT staff, interns and volunteers planted 1,600 white pines in John Earle Chase Memorial Park. Tree-planting is frequently supported on Partners in Conservation properties as well, and many similar initiatives are on the horizon. Not only does reforestation increase sequestration potential, planting trees — along with formal protection of wetlands — provides critical habitat. Many species lose habitat to flooding, droughts, and wildfires whose intensity and frequency are influenced by climate change. Providing habitat will contribute to their persistence for years to come.

Other Inspiring Nature-based Climate Solutions Work in the Land Trust Sector

[The Nature Conservancy](#)
[Family Forest Future](#)

Your Participation

- We want your expertise and vision to plan what can be accomplished in the next eight years if we take a nature-based climate solutions approach.
- We want you to be bold and think creatively.
- We expect everyone to listen deeply. A simple protocol for careful listening and a process for making decisions will be presented by a facilitator at the first meeting of each group.
- You are not required to attend all meetings and can attend meetings for other strategies as you like. However, any decisions made at meetings where you are not present need to be considered final and will not be revisited due to absence.
- We expect participants to also help research their topic, possibly interviewing key informants who cannot participate in the meeting. A basic interview tool and instructions will be provided.
- We request that everyone read the information circulated in preparation for the meeting and participate in discussions.



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Outcome

The working group will create a recommendation to the KLT Board, related to how a nature-based climate solutions approach will help us achieve our strategic objectives. It will address the following:

- Define the strategy. Include a metric that indicates what KLT will have accomplished by 2030 by taking a nature-based climate solutions approach.
- Describe eight years of tactics that KLT might use to best implement the strategy.
- Use the “KLT Toolkit” to inform the tactics. Propose new tools if required.
- Connect the tactics to progress toward KLT’s strategic objectives. Often, a tactic will help achieve multiple strategic objectives.

Milestones

- Mid-May: First meeting
- Late June: Draft circulated to the Board
- October: Wrap-up

Meetings

The Committee will meet bi-weekly starting mid-May and end in October. Meetings will be held in person in the KLT boardroom with an option to attend virtually if needed.

The designated KLT staff member will maintain written notes of all meetings, which will be shared with members of the Committee, KLT staff, Board members and other involved strategic planning committees and advisors.

Resources

The Committee will receive the necessary resources from the KLT to fulfil its mandate, including administrative support from the designated KLT staff member and technical expertise from the Director of Community Conservation and/or Executive Director.



KLT Toolkit

When considering how we will create impact by enacting a nature-based climate solutions strategy, consider the following toolkit.

Permanent Protection

We become owners of land to protect it forever against development. Donations of land and acquiring rights on land (CEAs) are major tools. Purchasing land is used to protect pieces of critical importance.

Land Stewardship

We manage our lands to minimize impact, enhance nature, and invite the public to experience nature. We work with other conservation organizations to steward and restore their protected land.

Volunteers

People power our impact. Boots in the mud or behind the scenes, our impact is because of the contributions of people who love the land.

Community Conservation

Finding synergy between land protection and the needs of the community can make conservation projects relevant to more people and grow our impact. This can be achieved by listening and responding to the needs of the community.

Support Landowners

Landowners will decide the future of our landscape. Our Partners in Conservation program thanks them for the care they take of their lands and helps them to take on stewardship and restoration projects.

Fundraising

We bring in government investments in conservation to this region and increase conservation-minded philanthropical efforts. Individuals are inspired to donate because of their connections to our cause.

Communication

We have a voice that can inspire and educate people on why land is worth protecting.

Partnerships

We work with others with skills in social services, education, research, technology, environment, agriculture, and business to expand the impact of our land conservation efforts.

Back End



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Good governance, technology, and systems are all critical enablers of our work.

