

# AssetAdapt+

ADAPTATION + SUSTAINABILITY  
FOR CAPITAL PROJECT DELIVERY

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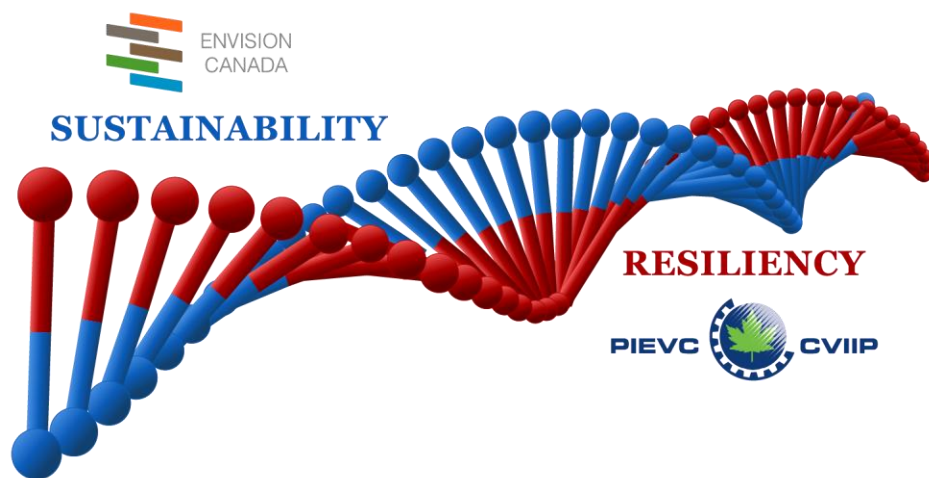
## WATER/WASTEWATER COHORT

### EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

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#### Context

Communities across the nation are grappling with aging infrastructure and a pressing housing crisis, underscoring the urgent need for comprehensive infrastructure investment. Investments in housing development and maintenance trigger the demand for critical infrastructure improvements, such as roads, bridges, water treatment plants, and parks. These community assets are essential for maintaining everyday life by ensuring safe and reliable access to services for all residents. Resiliency and sustainability serve as foundational pillars supporting thriving communities now and in the future. By leveraging the established PIEVC Protocol and the Envision® Sustainable Infrastructure Framework, the AssetAdapt+ initiative will empower communities to plan and execute capital infrastructure projects meticulously. This initiative ensures communities incorporate climate adaptation and sustainability measures within their projects and sets them up for subsequent FCM Green Municipal Funding applications.



## Invitation to Join Peer Cohort

The Canadian Society for Civil Engineering (CSCE), in partnership with the Climate Risk Institute (CRI), is inviting communities to express interest in participating in the AssetAdapt+ water/wastewater cohort. CSCE and CRI are providers of training in Canada and internationally on the widely-adopted and recognized ENVISION framework and PIEVC infrastructure protocol.

As a cohort participant, you will have an opportunity to work in a collaborative, supported environment with peers from up to 10 communities throughout Canada, over a period of about 12 months. You will have access to training and direct guidance and support from leaders in infrastructure sustainability and climate resilience, as you develop new skills and co-develop the RFP scopes of work that will ensure sustainability and climate resilience outcomes are integrated into the design service procurement of your community's planned water / wastewater capital projects.

If your community has an upcoming water / wastewater capital project seeking to integrate sustainability and climate resilience considerations, we would love to hear from you!

## Cohort Objectives & Outcomes:

Working and learning alongside peers and with support of mentors, cohort participants will develop a defined scope of work for their upcoming GMF application and/or Request for Proposals (RFP) for an upcoming water / wastewater capital project.

Cohort participants will receive support and training from mid-2025 to mid-2026 through a series of virtual training workshops and mentorship opportunities, centered around utilizing the *Envision® Sustainable Infrastructure Framework* and *PIEVC Protocol*. There is **no cost** to the community to participate.

Through this cohort collaboration, each community will:

- Receive **training in the Envision framework and PIEVC protocol** (with option for participants to obtain credit towards professional credentials in sustainability and/or climate risk).
- Participate in a series of design charrettes covering **project scoping and procurement components**, such as stakeholder mapping, materiality assessment, climate hazard data, equitable procurement, and more.
- Work with **mentors and peers** to prepare drafts scopes of work for professional services for an upcoming capital project, that can be used in the Request for Proposals call for design and construction of the project.
- Align project scopes of work with **FCM Green Municipal Fund** objectives and/or the **Climate Ready Infrastructure Services (CRIS)** program guidelines, to enable communities to subsequently apply for project funding to support implementation.

## Participant Eligibility Criteria

Each community will be required to **identify a capital water/wastewater project** - major renewal, replacement, or new asset - that will be procured for design and construction within 3 years. Projects already procured may be eligible if the project is not expected to reach 30% design before September 2026 and if there is opportunity to add complimentary scope and fees.

To be eligible for the cohort, participants should:

- Be employed or elected by a Canadian local government (i.e., a town, city, region, district, etc.); or
- Be employed or elected by an Indigenous community (regardless of federal, provincial or territorial status); or
- Be employed by an Indigenous community that operates under delegated authority by a province or territory (such as Northwest Territory settlements, Metis Settlement Council of Alberta, etc.)

Communities serviced by private utility providers may include participation from the private utility in addition to municipal staff. Where necessary, special cases will be considered due to the governance model of the community's water/wastewater system.

In the case of small communities under 30,000, where staff resources are otherwise hindering participation in the cohort, the following alternate participants may be proposed alongside a community staff representative:

- An existing consultant under contract with the community who supports the community in an ongoing / longer-term capacity (and compensated by the community directly for participation as a representative), or
- A new pre-qualified consultant (to be 'matched' in collaboration with the Canadian Urban Institute under the [Climate Ready Infrastructure Services](#) initiative) who may participate and support community staff in defining and draft the technical scope of work, at no cost to the community.

## Participation Commitment:

Each cohort community will be expected to:

- Designate minimum **2 community cohort representatives\***, preferably one participant would have technical, sustainability, or climate resilience roles for the selected capital project and the other be (if possible/applicable) a manager with decision-making oversight for the project. *\* Note for small communities under 30,000 there will be some flexibility in the number of staff representatives.*
- **Participate in core cohort capacity building events** (estimated commitment of 25 hours per person), which include 5 virtual cohort charrettes, and a pre- and post- cohort survey.

- **Collaborate with peers and mentors** to, offer insights, and/or share information, including for example, working drafts of stakeholder mapping, sustainability materiality assessment, climate hazard data gap analysis, etc.
- **Identify and engage an inter-departmental staff committee\*** (estimated commitment of 5 hours per person) representing a cross-segment of departments / roles, such as procurement, strategic planning, Indigenous, engagement, asset management, engineering, long-range planning, emergency planning, or council. The cohort participants will be expected to debrief learning insights following the five (5) virtual charrettes with their peers and leadership. This committee could be an existing inter-department leadership committee or a new committee formed for this project. *\* Note for small communities under 30,000 there will be flexibility in this requirement and might involve a 1:1 debrief with the CAO or designated lead.*
- **Provide a draft scope of work** for sustainability and climate resilience services at the conclusion of the cohort, to be shared with cohort participants and project funders. Participants will be guided through the cohort events to incrementally work towards this as the final participant deliverable.

In total, **minimum 25 hours per cohort participant** is required to participant in charrette events, plus an additional **35 hours per community is estimated** outside of the charrette events for debriefing the interdepartmental committee and developing / drafting of procurement scopes. This is an estimate, as the level of detail and rigor in the development of the scopes of work between charrette events, is up to the community representatives to determine and can involve more or less rigor to meet their particilat project outcome needs and the capacity constraints of staff.

## Draft Cohort Schedule (subject to change)

June 2025	Charrette #1 – Kickoff and Envision Training (6hrs)
June 2025	Charrette #2 – PIEVC Training and Cohort Orientation (6hrs)
Oct 2025	Charrette #3 – Project Scoping for Sustainability & Climate Resilience (4h)
Jan 2026	Charrette #4 – Procurement Considerations & Reporting (3h)
May 2026	Charrette #5 – Feedback, Debrief, and Implementation Steps (3h)

## About PIEVC and Envision®

Both the Envision® framework and PIEVC protocol is included as recommended means to address the resiliency requirements of the federal Climate Lens. Envision and PIEVC are complimentary and can be integrated to offer a holistic assessment of both sustainability and climate resilience outcomes on capital projects.

The Public Infrastructure Engineering Vulnerability Committee (PIEVC) was established in 2005 by Engineers Canada to consider how the impacts of climate change might affect Canada's public infrastructure and to support practitioners in assessing and addressing related risks. In 2020 the PIEVC Alliance took over management of the PIEVC Protocol and related resources and training. More details about PIEVC can be found on the [PIEVC Program website](#).

Envision is a global framework and rating system that has been applied in Canada since the framework's inception in 2012. It offers a holistic, comprehensive point of reference to examine the sustainability and resiliency performance of all types of infrastructure. Envision can assist asset owners, and their design consultants and contractors, in delivering infrastructure that tackles communities' most pressing challenges, including improving the quality of life for everyone, creating quality jobs, increasing economic growth, supporting climate resilience, reducing emissions, and cultivating social equity and cohesiveness. More details about Envision can be found on the [Envision Canada website](#).

## Express Interest to Participate

If your community would like to be considered for the cohort, please complete the [Expression of Interest form](#) no later than April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025, including:

1. Primary point of contact details;
2. Size of your community;
3. Project name and location;
4. Project estimated capital construction value (and if know the procurement model e.g. design-bid-build, design-build);
5. Brief (max 250 word) project description (including if it is a new asset, replacement, expansion etc.);
6. Anticipated schedule, at minimum providing anticipated / targeted dates for project design start, construction start, and operations start.
7. For communities under 30,000, indicate if your participation is contingent on consultant support (to be funded separately under the Canadian Urban Institute under the [Climate Ready Infrastructure Services](#) initiative).

If selected for the cohort, a formal Letter of Commitment will be required at a later time, signed by a manager or someone with authorization to commit staff time.

If you have questions, feel free to reach out to [assetadapt@csce.ca](mailto:assetadapt@csce.ca)

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