



**EcoHack-a-City Halifax – Final Presentation Group 1**



# THE CHALLENGE

---

## The question and project scope:

- How might we increase the resiliency of residential infrastructure in an innovative and inclusive way in Halifax?

## The Issue:

- Extreme climate events are increasing, putting our residential buildings at increasingly frequent risk.
- Lower-income residents may live in higher-risk buildings and in higher risk location for climate impacts (flooding, etc.)

# THE CHALLENGE

---

## Climate Impacts to Consider:

- Floods (coastal and inland),
- Ice storms
- Extreme heat
- Wind storms
- Droughts
- Forest fires, etc.

## Resulting Effects:

- Power outages
- Wells going dry
- Food insecurity
- Rising costs
- Transportation challenges
- Damage to homes
- Repairs
- Insurance issues
- Stress
- Mental and physical health impacts
- Inequalities
- Our more vulnerable residents are more severely impacted.

# THE CHALLENGE

---

## Who/What is Affected:

- Homeowners, renters, landlords, children, low-income residents, those with low/no mobility, seniors, elderly, entire community
  - Less concerned about new construction and more about existing homes adapting
  - Especially concerned for low-income residents who don't have the means to adapt
  - Especially concerned for renters; often not allowed to make changes to homes they don't own

## Gaps:

- Lack of flood risk maps for Halifax, perhaps lacking other climate data too
- Lack of awareness among some groups, climate impacts and resilience not a priority, questions about landlords in particular
- Lack of resilience incentive programs for homeowners, renters, landlords, etc.

# THE CURRENT SOLUTIONS THAT ARE BEING TRIED

---

Increase Participation for emergency preparedness. Safe AND Affordable Housing by providing renters (30-40% of residents) **flood mitigation kits**

Promoting **Incentive Programs** for homeowners to make renovations and landscaping that are more resilient to climate change

Supporting legislation that reduces barriers for individuals and landlords to choose **Resilience Retrofitting**

**Fire-resilient neighbourhoods** (British Columbia); include green space as an accounting asset when purchasing

**Funding opportunities** for efficiency and conservation installs to support the leverage and reach of further action

**Education and awareness campaigns** - interconnected and interdisciplinary - all-together systems approach

# THE GAPS THAT EXIST AND WHO/WHAT IS PRIMARILY IMPACTED? WHAT IS THEIR SPECIFIC NEED?

---

## Who/What is Affected:

- Homeowners, renters, landlords, children, low-income residents, those with low/no mobility, seniors, elderly, entire community
  - Less concerned about new construction and more about existing homes adapting
  - Especially concerned for low-income residents who don't have the means to adapt
  - Especially concerned for renters; often not allowed to make changes to homes they don't own:

## Gaps:

- Lack of flood risk maps for Halifax, perhaps lacking other climate data too; Need for targeting specific areas
- Lack of awareness among some groups, climate impacts and resilience not a priority, questions about landlords in particular
- Lack of resilience incentive programs for homeowners, renters, landlords, etc.; most focus on mitigation
- Renters often not allowed to make changes to homes they don't own
- Landlords may not be concerned if no return on investment
- Incentive programs are typically rebates, meaning you have to have available funds for initial investment

# WHAT ARE THE IMPACT ZONES (1 TO 3) TO ACT ON IN THE NEAR FUTURE? AND WHY?

---

## **Supporting community connection:**

- A way to trigger a process for community benefit agreements / for a property inspection when an property is redeveloped - what else can we do when a property gets sold to support community?
- Engagement & Conversations (e.g with renters with landlords with both at once)
- Address lack of understanding, awareness, empathy, relationship

## **Amplifying the good story:**

- Recognizing landlords who are doing things well; targeting small landlords and not the large companies
- Backyard suites example- storytelling, engagement & incentives
- Understanding the landlords perspectives better - how they see the items we've talked about today
- Incentive Program for landlords - commercial retrofit programs

## **Community Benefit Agreements for very large developments & Social Policy Frameworks**

# OUR KEY LEARNINGS DURING THE PROCESS (AND HOW WE CAN USE IT IN OUR FUTURE WORK)

---

## **Key Learnings from the Design Thinking Process:**

- A good way to think through a complex challenge. I liked the various questions asked of us, looking at a challenge from many angles.
- Nice to connect with people working in this field around the Maritimes.
- Mural board very useful; reflections let the repeated issues stand out

## **Key Learnings from the Activity:**

- Interesting to learn about resilience incentives in other Canadian communities and hoping to try some in my region.
- Great to drill down into who is ultimately impacted and who is hardest to reach / most vulnerable: renters, particularly in lower income brackets
- Resilient retrofits are relatively “new” concept; lots of challenges but lots of opportunities!