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## Climate Action Plan for Belfast

Aug 14, 2023

BELFAST — It was standing room only Aug. 8 when the Belfast Free Library All of Belfast Climate Dialogues team hosted the Belfast Climate Crisis Committee (now the CEUC) for a presentation of the City Of Belfast Climate Action Plan.

The presenters, past members of the CCC (Fred Bowers and Barbara Bell), and present members of the CEUC (Jerry Brand, Jon Beal and Bernie Baker), focused on the challenges to the city of Belfast posed by climate change, and initiatives for adaptation of our critical infrastructure to enable Belfast to be resilient with equity for all residents. The infrastructure changes — to the stormwater system, the Wastewater Treatment Plant and the electrical system, for example — will take time and significant money to accomplish, the group said in a press release. These are the systems we rely on in our daily lives.

The Climate Action Plan was presented to the Belfast City Council on June 4 and is awaiting adoption. Some of the recommended actions are already underway, and a search for funding for others is occurring.

"The sad reality is that the changes to our environment are evolving at a rate may exceed our collective ability to respond, as evidenced by the various recent disasters in other parts of the country and world," the group said.

The entire plan is available on the library's ABCD website at [belfastlibrary.org/all-of-belfast-climate-dialogues](http://belfastlibrary.org/all-of-belfast-climate-dialogues).

"The plan is a living document, subject to change as the climate evolves, and is intended as a guide to what ACTIONS may be taken to adapt to our new reality," the press release said.

In addition to critical infrastructure, the document includes initiatives that can be taken by property owners, such as rain gardens to reduce flooding and installation of heat pumps in homes to reduce energy costs.

The plan was well received, the group said. Attendees expressed an interest in participating in some form of a climate action advocacy organization to become further involved.

The Climate Crisis Committee thanks "invaluable partners" Brenda Harrington and her ABCD team, Misty Mallar and Sarah Kirn, for their support and collaboration during the two-year plan development process.