

**What does it mean to build climate
resilience in communities?**





BC | Climate Resilience
Summit 2025

Vancouver, Robson Square March 3rd/4th



LIFT supports community members impacted by the housing crisis, substance use, and economic insecurity —people who already navigate uncertainty every day.

Climate adaptation is already part of non-profit work

During the 2021 heat dome, LIFT opened its doors as an informal cooling space. When wildfire smoke blanketed the region, they adjusted services to help people stay safe.



Helping non-profits plan for climate resilience



Operations



Strengths and gaps

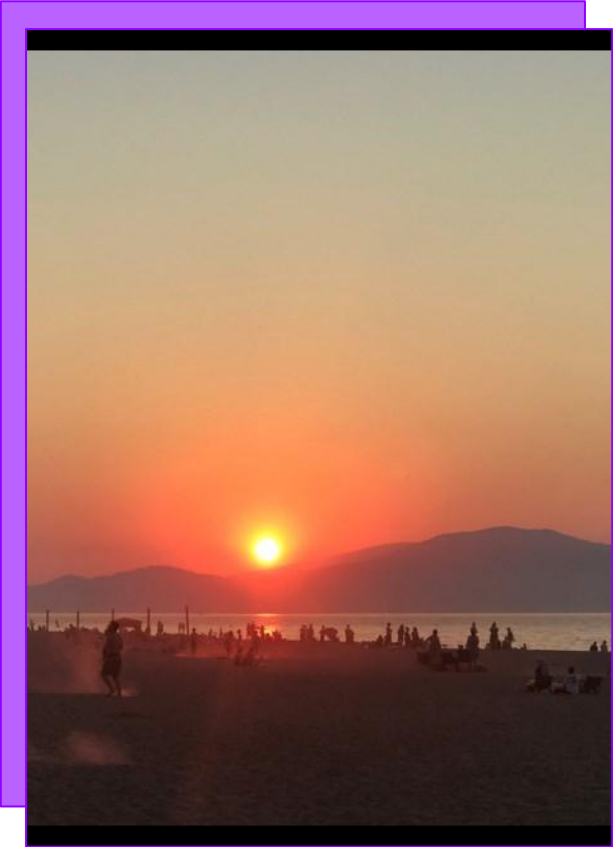


Actions

For example, in the qathet region, some of the key challenges are:



Wildfire smoke



Extreme heat



Flooding and storms



Volunteer network



Local partnerships



Emergency communications plan



Staff training



Funding opportunities



Insurance

These aren't abstract ideas—they're actionable steps that any non-profit can take.

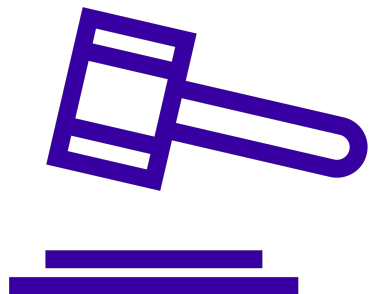
Making the case: Fundraising for resilience

One major gap we identified? Climate adaptation isn't well-funded in the non-profit sector. Non-profits need resources, not just to respond to disasters, but to prepare for them.

That's why we created a **case for support**—a fundraising tool that helps LIFT frame climate resilience as a priority for funders, partners, and donors.

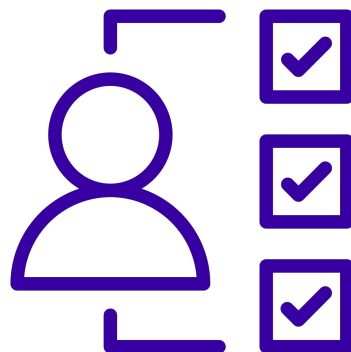


What can non-profits do?



Assess your climate risk

Identify the climate-related events that could impact your ability to operate, such as extreme heat, wildfire smoke, or flooding.



Create adaptable plans

Develop a simple response plan that outlines who does what when a disruption happens, and ensure they are flexible enough to handle a variety of scenarios.



Identify funding opportunities

Research grants, partnerships, and other funding sources that can support your climate adaptation efforts, both for immediate response and long-term resilience.

Templates and examples of other non-profit climate change adaptation plans can be found at thevantagepoint.ca under [downloadable resources](#).

A sector-wide shift



LIFT is just one of five non-profits we worked with to integrate climate adaptation into their work.

As a sector, non-profits have an opportunity to move from reacting to preparing—to make climate resilience part of the way they operate, so they're ready when emergencies hit.

“Non-profits already know how to adapt—they do it every day. By applying that same resourcefulness and commitment to climate resilience, we can keep essential services running, protect communities, and create stronger, more prepared organizations.”

Jessica Colasanto, Community Resources Manager, Lift Community Services

Climate Change Adaptation for Non-Profit Partners Project



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