

ONTARIO'S CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES

Operating under provincial legislation since 1946, Ontario is the only province to have non-profit, community-based watershed management agencies that undertake a variety of watershed-based programs aimed at conserving natural resources for the purpose of protecting people and property from natural hazards. Included in the mandate are programs such as flood and drought forecasting, planning and regulations, natural land management, drinking water source protection, and surface water and groundwater monitoring.

Conservation authorities were established after provincial leaders were petitioned by the public over concerns of poor land management and the overuse of natural resources. During the early 1950s, authorities began acquiring land that overcut, overgrazed, and/or too wet for agricultural purposes. These properties then became the foundation for natural resource conservation and restoration.

QUINTE CONSERVATION

The Moira River and Napanee River Conservation Authorities (1947) and the Prince Edward Region Conservation Authority (1965) amalgamated in 1995 to become Quinte Conservation.

Quinte Conservation (QC) is one of Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities. Our watershed boundary comprises 6,000 km² and drains into the Bay of Quinte on Lake Ontario, and we own, manage, and protect 30,000 acres of private, patented property in southern Ontario. These lands lie in parts of the Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory and the traditional territory of the Anishnabek and Huron-Wendat peoples.

BAY OF QUINTE

Because of its location at the northeastern end of Lake Ontario, the Bay of Quinte faces many environmental health and water quality challenges due to urban/stormwater discharge and land-use changes including agricultural runoff and development.

Since the Bay was identified as an area of concern in the 1980s, QC has participated in a number of initiatives related to water protection, habitat restoration, erosion protection, and land stewardship. Many of QC's landholdings front onto a permanent waterbody, and the long-term management of these properties assists with shoreline erosion protection, improved water quality, and reduced contaminates in runoff.

THE QUINTE CONSERVATION FOREST

Conservation authorities are amongst the most significant landowners in the province. In the Quinte watershed, over 30,000 acres (12,000 hectares) of naturalized land is owned by QC. Through purchasing these properties over the last 80 years, the previous and current Board of Directors have committed QC to protecting these natural resources for the long-term.

Quinte Conservation is leading the way in Improved Forest Management (IFM) practices and has been recognized on a provincial level for cutting-edge stewardship and forest certification through the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). Over the years, QC's forests have flourished with a diversity of tree and plant species and an abundance of ecological interests. Through long-term management strategies, these forest holdings can support sustainable harvesting efforts with a focus on quality and quantity of forest products.

Properties that are not harvested and left naturalized are in some cases maintained as public conservation areas, featuring trails and educational signage. The remaining unmarked landholdings often contain areas of scientific interest/importance, ecological diversity, and threatened/protected species. These properties have been identified as having substantial carbon capturing potential and have undergone a rigorous certification process, allowing QC to sell carbon credits as a way to generate a revenue for learning opportunities, scientific research, and stewardship efforts.

EASTERN ONTARIO MODEL FOREST

The forests owned and managed by Quinte Conservation have achieved Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) certification (FSC® C018800) through the Eastern Ontario Model Forest's Forest Certification Program.

The FSC® is an international, membership-based, non-profit organization that supports environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable management of the world's forests. QC's objectives for its forest holdings include environmental protection, recreation, education, wildlife habitat and limited forest products.

QC's forest operations on commercially-designated properties follow a strict process of inventorying, planning, harvesting, and production. Having a FSC certification guarantees that any FSC-labelled product (and the subsequent supply chain) is being managed to the highest of standards available for the forest industry.

Through Improved Forest Management practices, QC chooses to reduce harvesting efforts, and instead, focuses on long-term conservation and sustainable forest management which increases the amount of carbon kept in trees and soils over time.

The Quinte Forestry Project

10K+ FORESTED ACRES **997K+** MT CO₂ EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS OVER THE PROJECT'S FIRST 20 YEARS

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS:

- Companies produce carbon emissions through business operations.
- Forests absorb and store carbon emissions. The more forests, the more greenhouse gas emissions are removed from the air.
- Private landowners with large, naturalized, and forested properties can receive forest certification through a third party.
- Once certified, landowners can work with a broker, like Anew Climate LLC. to develop an improved forest management carbon offset.
- The broker can assist companies in offsetting their carbon emissions. I.e. Forest Carbon Offsets
- Quinte Conservation can support the stewardship of environmentally significant and ecologically diverse lands within the watershed.

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QC works with Anew Climate LLC. (Broker), to generate credits under a voluntary carbon standard to lower Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) in the atmosphere. By using naturalized and forested Authority owned land, referred to as carbon offsets, QC offers tradable 'rights' to businesses who wish to fund climate change projects and initiatives, rather than take actions to lower their own carbon emissions.

By purchasing carbon offset credits, a company can counterbalance emissions and effectively achieve a net-zero carbon footprint by funding programs that work to reduce/remove greenhouse gases.

Through carbon offset revenue, QC can support environmental programs and initiatives – allowing for the continued stewardship of environmentally significant and ecologically diverse lands.

WHY IS THE CARBON OFFSET PROGRAM IMPORTANT?

This program allows QC to establish a precedent for improved forest management practices with a focus on growing forest knowledge.

Further, the program aligns with QC's mission of preserving and protecting naturalized areas and provides an additional revenue stream to support cherished, community programs that are not funded through the general levy.



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