

## **Home Adaptation Audit Program – Intact Centre for Climate Adaptation & Ecology Action Centre**

### Overview

Climate change presents us with a suite of challenges. While our governments and communities are taking a number of measures to prepare for the impacts and be resilient in the face of climate change, little support is available in the Atlantic region to individual property owners, which exposes them to undue physical and financial risk.

The Home Adaptation Audit Program (HAAP) offers that support, and gives individual property owners a chance to better understand their risk associated with climate change impacts and receive expert advice on how to reduce that risk.

The HAAP was developed by the Intact Centre for Climate Adaptation at the University of Waterloo and has been piloted in Kitchener/Waterloo and Calgary. This pilot was a huge success:

- Auditors visited 400 homes, giving 6-8 recommendations per home
- 63% of homeowners implemented the majority of the recommendations within 8 weeks, reducing each homes' risk of flood damage by approximately 80%
- 91% of participating homeowners said they would recommend the audit to others
- 77% of participating homeowners told an average of 8 people about the audit, leading to a reach of 616 homeowners per 100 audits conducted
- For every \$1 spend on an audit, the homeowner avoids an average of \$7.5 in flood damage risk over 10 years, as demonstrated through the pilot project

The Intact Centre for Climate Adaptation is now ready to expand this pilot project into full-fledged audit programs in Burlington, ON, and, in partnership with the EAC, in Nova Scotia. We're looking for interest and commitment for this project from Halifax, Truro, and the provincial government.

The goals of the Nova Scotia HAAP are:

- To enable individuals to understand the risks their property faces due to Nova Scotia's expected climate change impacts
- To audit 1800 Nova Scotian homes in 2016, avoiding almost \$4M in flood damages
- To build partnerships with the EAC, ICCA, and municipal and provincial governments
- To boost awareness and engagement with climate adaptation in Nova Scotia at the individual, community, and provincial level
- To expand this project so audits are available across the province in the future, saving Nova Scotians millions in avoided flood costs over time

For more information please contact Robin Tress, EAC's Coastal Adaptation Coordinator.

[Coastal@ecologyaction.ca](mailto:Coastal@ecologyaction.ca) (902) 442 5046