

STARCAP

Community Partner

Information Package



What is **STARCAP?**

The Synergia Transition and Resilience Climate Action Program (STARCAP) is an education and community animation project.

Each year, three to six Canadian organizations participate as Community Partners. For the 2023-2024 program, four partner organizations will be selected. Members of these Community Partner organizations enroll in a massive open online course (MOOC) developed by the Synergia Institute, called "Toward Co-operative Commonwealth: Transition in a Perilous Century," that is open to registrants from across the world.

The MOOC explores effective systems change and the ways communities, organizations, co-operatives, networks and movements take action to meet basic needs close to home, the lessons learned from their successes and how they navigate challenges. Community Partners form study circles to discuss how these strategies might be applied to their own contexts and convene an action group to undertake a climate action that aligns with their goals and capacity.

STARCAP is supported by three partner organizations:

Synergia Cooperative Institute
Dr. Mike Gismondi and Mike Lewis

Canadian Community Economic
Development Network
Christine Clarke

Athabasca University
Dr. Mike Gismondi

This project was undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada.

Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier du gouvernement du Canada.

Canada

Program objectives

STARCAP

- 1** To help organizations undertake or strengthen long-term climate action in their communities in ways that advance community resilience and climate justice.
- 2** Support Community Partners in exploring and applying MOOC content to their local climate action initiatives.
- 3** Collaborate with Community Partners to form study circles to explore what they are learning.
- 4** Collaborate with Community Partners to form action groups that identify or undertake a climate action initiative.
- 5** Deepen our collective learning and strengthen our collective capacity across the STARCAP Community Partner network.

Structure & Modules

MOOC

The MOOC is structured into seven modules. Each module runs for two weeks with a third week for catch-up or break and includes content review, exercises, discussion and individual reflection for a total of 21 weeks. Completion of each module requires a minimum of 2 hours per week.

1

Framing the Transition Journey

Sets out the context, key concepts for analyzing the problem and introduces a number of community alternative models and tools, providing a vision and foundation for the course.

2

Stewarding Land for the Common Good

Examines solutions that involve common, co-operative and community forms of land ownership and how this relates to systemic change.

3

Just Food Systems

Designing food and agricultural systems focused on people's health and the health of the environment, not maximizing profit.

4

Precarious Livelihoods

Examines precarious employment, the effects of technology and the digital or third industrial revolution on employment, and explores some of the diverse innovations - place based and digital - being forged to address the growing precariousness of livelihoods.

Structure & Modules

MOOC

Community Partners can choose to take the entire MOOC or a customized option. If customized, partners will take Module 1 and then select three additional modules. Advanced access to the MOOC will be provided as well as advice from the STARCAP team, if needed, to aid selection.

5

Democratizing Social Care

Understanding co-operative and user-controlled social care systems for human services, as opposed to centralized provision by the state or for profit companies.

6

Resilient Energy Futures

Exploring the development and design of renewable and sustainable energy generation systems that are distributed and democratically controlled at the community level.

7

Democratic Money

Exploring how democratic and co-operative ideas form the basis for financial systems and forms of currency that serve the common good and local economic well-being.

8

Synthesis (Optional)

A glimpse of how all this fits together and an opportunity to contribute to an overall synthesis of how these ideas and practices can generate transition to a new paradigm.

2023-2024 Programming

Community Partner

In addition to the MOOC, Community Partners will have access to programming that supports their climate action goals.

Workshop Series

A series of workshops that connect MOOC topics to on-the-ground climate action work, led by guest facilitators with extensive expertise and lived experience. Past workshops have explored Indigenous land sovereignty, co-operatives and alternative economies, organizing through a human rights framework and funding a Just Transition. The workshops support participants in seeing how the frameworks introduced in the MOOC can be put into practice through the first-hand perspectives of communities, organizers and activists doing the work.

Climate Action Support

Additional financial support of \$700 is available to Community Partners to design and deliver a workshop or community initiative based on an area of interest explored in the MOOC and/or that is relevant to participants' existing climate work.

2023-2024 Programming

Community Partner

The MOOC and Partner Programming will provide your community with a shared language to speak about climate change, frameworks to guide your initiatives, tools to network across various stakeholders and examples of community-led, climate activism from around the world to inspire and catalyze your efforts.

Study Circles + Action Groups

Community Partners regularly gather their members to discuss what they are learning in the MOOC and, as the program progresses, decide on a climate action initiative specific to their local contexts.

Knowledge Sharing Sessions

Community partners attend regular gatherings hosted by STARCAP to share knowledge, experiences and resources, report on activities and seek support from each other and the STARCAP team.

Roles & Responsibilities

Community Partner

Partners will receive a \$20,000 contribution from STARCAP and are required to match it with an equal in-kind contribution of time to carry out the responsibilities listed below, preferably by a consistent staff role.

- **Promote MOOC participation to members, staff, affiliated partners, networks, stakeholders and influencers, recruiting from 15 to 150 people.**
- **Convene and animate a minimum of two study circles, involving at least 15 participants.**
- **Convene and animate a minimum of one action group, involving at least five participants.**
- **Report on at least one initiative resulting from the action group.**
- **Complete evaluation and other reporting requirements as part of the program's developmental evaluation and iterative design learning, and participate in impact assessments (either through a focus group or survey) up to one or two years after program completion.**

Project Alignment

Community Partner

The following checklist describes the characteristics that have made for successful STARCAP Community Partner collaborations. Having three or four of the below is a good indicator of how well your organization's strategic priorities align with STARCAP.

- have strategic priorities related to climate action and are looking to advance the objectives of your work**
- already have a climate action lens to your work and would like to grow your knowledge of current frameworks and practice**
- have already implemented a climate initiative within your community and are looking for support on how to build it into long-term action**
- can demonstrate an engaged constituency and are looking to strengthen or expand that engagement through online learning platforms and group study that focus on climate action**

Timeline

STARCAP

October 13, 2023	Deadline to submit Expression of Interest
November 10, 2023	Selection of Community Partners
November 17, 2023	Contracts signed with Community Partners
December 2023	MOOC registration begins
January 2024	Start of MOOC
June 2024	End of MOOC
July - December 2024	Action group engagement

Application Process

STARCAP

To apply, submit a one-page Expression of Interest that includes:

- a brief description of your organization
- a description of past and current climate action initiatives, including number of participants you've engaged in these initiatives
- your vision for how engaging your community in a climate-oriented massive open online course might fit into your organization's climate action goals
- what your organization hopes to achieve by participating in STARCAP

We thank all applicants for their interest. Applicants under consideration will be contacted for an interview.

Interested organizations can contact Christine Clarke, STARCAP Program Manager to discuss participation

Application Deadline: October 13, 2023

**Christine Clarke, STARCAP
Program Manager**

Canadian Community Economic
Development Network

c.clarke@ccednet-rcdec.ca