

PORTMORE, JAMAICA + TOWNSVILLE, AUSTRALIA



LOCATED IN THE ATLANTIC HURRICANE BELT,

Portmore, Jamaica is extremely susceptible to hurricanes that can cause severe flooding and widespread infrastructure damage. Portmore is a low-lying area on the southern coast of Jamaica. Originally a predominantly agricultural area, the city transformed into a large residential community in the 1950s and became home for thousands of residents who worked in Kingston. Since then, the population of Portmore has grown extremely rapidly, leading it to become the largest residential area in the Caribbean.

One of the greatest climate related risks to Portmore is the potential impacts from tropical storms, storm surges and sea level rise. The coastal location of the city also renders it highly susceptible to incremental changes in sea levels and the potential for inundation that will only worsen with future seal level rise.

Recognizing that the city's flood risk is increasing with the threat of climate change, Portmore applied to be part of the CityLinks partnership in the hopes of receiving technical assistance to better plan for future climate impacts.

PARTNERING ON SHARED CLIMATE CHALLENGES

Although, the distance between Townsville and Portmore couldn't be greater, local government structure and shared climate challenges are incredibly similar. In conjunction with the Urban Climate Change Research Network the partnership took localized climate data and community input to create the basis for Portmore's Climate Action Plan.

RESULTS

1

Based off of a collective social learning workshop model from Townsville, the partnership hosted a workshop for 46 key stakeholders from local government, civil society, and the national government in Portmore to prioritize climate actions that will feed into Portmore's Climate Action Plan.

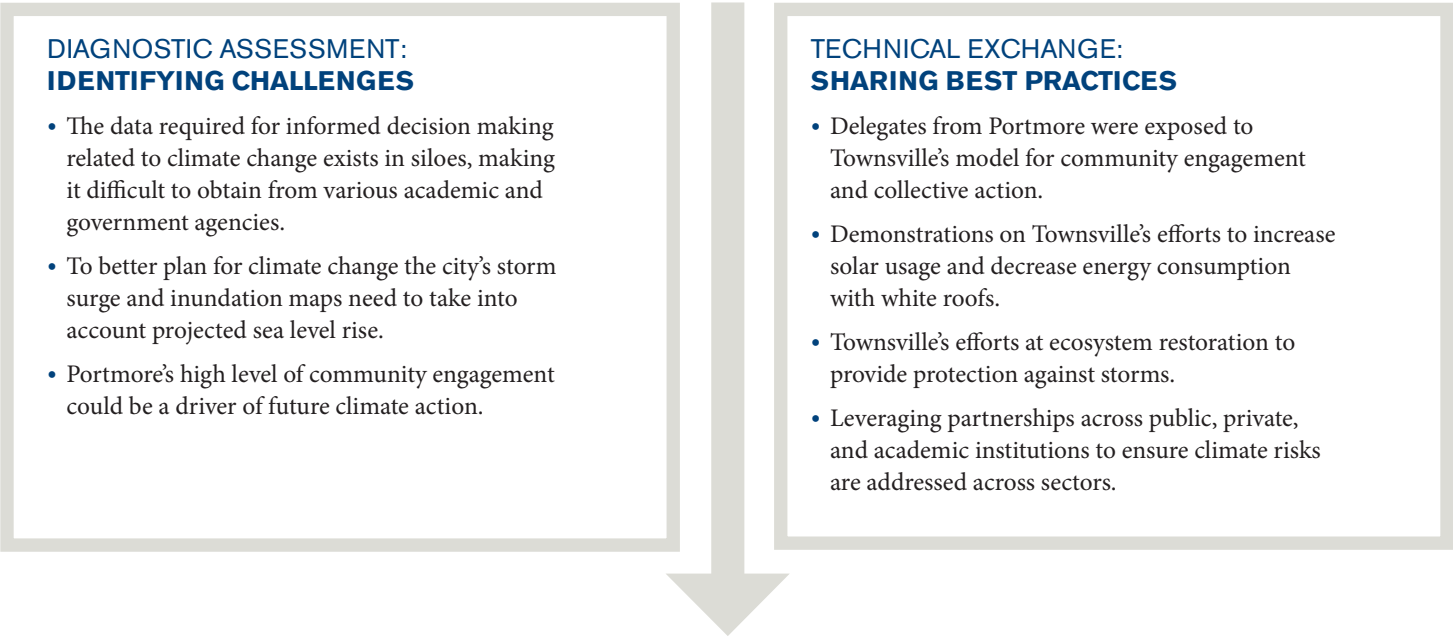
2

Portmore adopted climate education initiatives from Townsville that will work with students from elementary to high school on the creation of sensors to monitor indoor energy consumption and indoor temperatures.

3

After seeing the impacts white roofs had in Townsville, Portmore is considering the design of municipal pilot projects that would encourage white roofs.

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**WORK PLANNING:
CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING AND IDENTIFYING ACTIVITIES TO MITIGATE AND ADAPT TO THE CLIMATE RELATED RISKS IN PORTMORE.**

OBJECTIVE		
Utilize climate data and gather community input to inform a Climate Action Plan for Portmore Municipal Council.		
<p style="text-align: center;">ACTIVITY 1</p> <p>Provide an overview of community based climate actions to municipal officials from Portmore through an exchange visit to Townsville.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ACTIVITY 2</p> <p>Host a collective social learning workshop in Portmore to develop potential activities that respond to the localized climate projections for Portmore.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ACTIVITY 3</p> <p>Create the framework and provide the data for Portmore's Climate Action Plan.</p>

CROSS-CUTTING RECOMMENDATIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED

- 1** Open data policies are critical to ensuring that climate data is used across departments and mainstreamed into municipal decision making.
- 2** Engaging the community at every level of climate action planning creates buy-in, spreads responsibility beyond the municipality, and ensures more sustained action.
- 3** A climate action plan should not be seen as a stagnant document, but rather an iterative process that can continue to grow and evolve.