

## Three Ways to Reduce Climate Risk Working with Nature at Home

Heat and Flood Protection, for areas not at risk of wildfire.

Complete simple upgrades, (Do-it-yourself, for under \$250).

- 1) Maintain existing shade trees.
- 2) Grow plants climbing up your walls.
- 3) Green your balcony or deck with potted or hanging plants.
- 4) Join or start community greening program.

Complete more complex upgrades, (Work with a contractor, for over \$250).

- 1) Plant new shade trees, along south, east, and west facing walls.
- 2) Convert paved areas to vegetation which absorbs heat and more water.
- 3) Install a rain garden to collect stormwater at least five meters from the foundation.
- 4) Install green or vegetated roof.

Note: seek local advice on appropriate native species that will tolerate future climate conditions, and, in places at risk of wildfire, consider FireSmart guidance below.

Wildfire Protection, for areas at risk of wildfire.

- 1) Remove all combustible ground cover, such as mulch and plants, within one and a half meters of the house perimeter.
- 2) Remove conifer trees that are within ten meters of the house.
- 3) Mow the lawn to less than ten centimeters and plant low-growing, well-spread shrubs and other fire-resistant plants.
- 4) Prune trees to create a two-meter clearance from the ground to the lowest tree branches.

Note: Not all actions will be applicable to each home. Completing these steps does not guarantee the prevention of fire.

For more information and resources visit [www.intactcentre.ca](http://www.intactcentre.ca)