

1. Claims of misinformation

Three climate scientists cited in KICLEI's own materials told Canada's National Observer that your group is misrepresenting their research.

Kevin Trenberth, at US National Center for Atmospheric Research, said that your claim that "water vapor is far more influential in regulating global temperatures" is factually inaccurate.

Andrew Lacis, an atmospheric physicist at NASA said that KICLEI misrepresented his research when claiming "This diminishing effect challenges the assumption that rising CO₂ levels alone will result in catastrophic global warming."

And John Cook, at the University of Melbourne, said that your claim that "only 0.3% of scientists explicitly attribute recent warming primarily to human activities" is "a gross misrepresentation of our work."

Two of the authors referred to it as disinformation. You shared one of these statistics during a March deputation to councillors in Thorold. The scientists expressed concerns that this misinformation has been shared with policymakers.

How do you respond to these concerns?

"KICLEI doesn't dispute climate science — we challenge how selectively interpreted findings are used to justify global mandates at the local level. Our references to water vapour, CO₂ forcing, and consensus data are grounded in published research. Disagreement over interpretation is not disinformation — it's democratic oversight, and Canadians have every right to ask how science is being used to shape policy."

2. Use of AI

We understand that you have created a custom GPT, the Canadian Civic Advisor. Your prompting guides instruct KICLEI members on using it to generate emails, speeches, petitions and more, tailored to individual communities.

As discussed above, multiple climate scientists say that your materials contain misinformation, and some prompts instruct the chatbot to draw on your reports and tailor it to local communities. An expert told us that this use of AI makes misinformation more persuasive and harder to detect.

How do you respond to these concerns?

“KICLEI Support helps citizens understand local policy and draft respectful, informed communications. Users review all outputs, and we encourage fact-checking. Using AI to support civic engagement is no different than political parties using templates or speechwriters.

The idea that AI makes participation ‘dangerous’ is misleading. The real issue seems to be that Canadians now have tools to speak clearly and effectively. That’s not misinformation — that’s democracy in action.”

3. U.S. ideology

In another public meeting, you displayed a picture of a bill from Tennessee that bans net-zero initiatives and said [“This is what we’re aiming for. We have the original resolution that they brought before their state, and now we’re making a Canadian version”](#)

An equivalent provincial law in Ontario would prevent any municipality, county, or school district from adopting policies aligned with Agenda 21, Agenda 2030, or UN net-zero goals.

How do you respond to concerns that this would override local municipalities decisions about PCP membership?

“Most councillors don’t even realize their municipality is partnered with ICLEI through the PCP program — or that it ties them to UN-aligned climate frameworks like Agenda 2030. We referenced the Tennessee bill because it reflects growing concerns about unelected influence in local policy, not because we want to import American law. In Canada, any resolution we support must respect our Constitution and uphold municipal autonomy.

We’re not calling for bans. We’re calling for clarity, consent, and accountability — including the right for councils to opt out of global policy partnerships they never knowingly agreed to.”

4. Framing

In a public meeting, you told attendees to remove words from their ideology to appeal to moderates. [“Remove every triggering word – make it so they don’t know which side it’s coming from.”](#) In another call, you recommended [replacing Agenda 21](#) with “UN directive program” to avoid people thinking “this is a conspiracy.”

A researcher on municipal politics says this tactic obscures the ideological roots of the movement.

How do you respond to that concern?

“There’s nothing deceptive about using language that connects. If we suggest avoiding terms like ‘Agenda 21,’ it’s because critics have worked hard to dismiss them as conspiratorial — even when they refer to real documents and policies. Reframing is about cutting through distractions so communities focus on what’s happening, not on political labels.

The real concern should be about the lack of transparency from those embedding global directives into local plans without naming them at all. That’s the tactic that obscures — not ours.”

5. Language

In a KICLEI [strategy meeting](#) you referred to the resignation of the volunteer chair of Thorold’s Climate and Biodiversity Committee, as well as that of a city clerk, saying “It’s like rats that run from the light. All you have to do is shine a light at them, and they’ll flee.”

Can you clarify what you meant, and respond to concerns about this language?

When light is shone on systems that rely on quiet compliance, some people choose to step away rather than face questions. The phrase ‘rats run from the light’ was a blunt metaphor used in a private setting to describe that dynamic. It wasn’t aimed at individuals, but at a pattern that often follows calls for transparency.

In both civic life and moral tradition, we understand that those who fear exposure tend to avoid the light. But in a free country, light is not something to fear — it’s something to welcome. KICLEI holds up a light so Canadians can see what’s guiding their local policies — and decide for themselves.”

6. Mailing list

How many councillors are on your mailing list and in how many municipalities?

“We don’t disclose private contact data or internal engagement figures. But the trend is clear: more and more elected officials are turning to KICLEI for clarity, context, and civic tools they aren’t getting anywhere else.”

7. Funding

Which organizations, if any, have provided funding for KICLEI's activities?

Which organizations, if any, have provided in-kind support to KICLEI's activities?

"KICLEI receives no corporate, government, or political party funding. Our work is supported entirely by private Canadian citizens through memberships, small donations, and volunteer contributions.

We have received no in-kind support from external organizations. This independence allows us to speak freely, serve communities without strings attached, and hold institutions accountable without compromise."