

Communities Adapting to Climate Change is a regional planning and action initiative with local governments and First Nations to take tangible steps toward preparing for climate change impacts.

Climate Change Adaptation

The climate we have experienced in the last century will not be the same as the climate of the future. Greenhouse gas emissions are contributing to climate change and it is clear that reducing our emissions is important. At the same time, we must also plan and adapt to present and forecasted impacts.

An important place to start to prepare for climate change is at the local and regional levels where the impacts are felt and their significance understood. *Communities Adapting to Climate Change* is a regional planning and action initiative with local governments and First Nations to take tangible steps toward preparing for climate change impacts.

The Goal

The goal of the initiative is to support communities in the Canadian Columbia Basin to:

- (i) Increase their adaptive capacity and resiliency related to climate change impacts at a local community level.
- (ii) Address climate change at a local community level by identifying the range of potential impacts, assessing local vulnerabilities and sensitivities and developing strategies for addressing climate change impacts.



Objectives

The objective of this initiative is to identify and work with communities in the Basin over one year and support these communities in:

- Increasing knowledge and understanding of climate change and its local biophysical, social, and economic impacts;
- Identifying local vulnerabilities and sensitivities related to climate change;
- Identifying adaptation and mitigation actions that minimize negative impacts without increasing greenhouse emissions;
- Identifying local opportunities resulting from climate change and adaptation actions to enhance these opportunities without increasing greenhouse emissions; and
- Developing implementation plans based on the identified actions.

Knowledge, Partnerships and Learning

This Initiative will provide technical resources and expertise to support local communities in the Basin to develop climate change adaptation plans. These adaptation plans will identify practical actions that can be taken at the community level to address local climate change impacts. The success of local initiatives depends heavily on the active participation of all major interest groups within each community.

New knowledge and learning will emerge throughout the process. A learning network of community representatives is being supported to ensure communities' connect, share knowledge and learn together.

Communities Taking Action

Decisions made today about how we manage our community growth, utilize our natural resources, and deliver essential services shape how resilient we will be to climate variability and change. Integrating information about potential climate change impacts into decision making can help to reduce sensitivities, seize opportunities and ultimately, lead to developing a more climate resilient community.

This Initiative is a partnership between Columbia Basin Trust and a host of academic, First Nations and governmental institutions at the local and provincial levels.