

## FAQs and Key Messages

### Notes & Assumptions:

The following key messages and frequently asked questions (FAQs) will support people directly or indirectly involved in Columbia Basin Trust's (CBT's) Communities Adapting to Climate Change Initiative (CACCI).

The purpose of this document is to provide consistent, concise and accurate information about the three concurrent adaptation planning projects now underway.

### Defining Adaptation & Mitigation

#### What is climate change adaptation?

Adapting to climate change refers to preparing for the impacts, positive or negative, that a changing climate may bring. Examples of adaptation include doing more FireSmarting to reduce vulnerability to increased fire risk, or planting different crops to take advantage of a longer growing season.

#### What is mitigation?

Mitigation refers to actions that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Examples include taking public transit, driving less and conserving energy.

### Adapting to Potential Impacts

#### What potential impacts will we have to adapt to?

The potential local impacts of climate change will affect a range of sectors. One method to help think through the range of impacts is to look at the chain reactions caused by changes in temperature and precipitation.

Here are few examples of how potential climate change impacts impact could affect a range of sectors. Questions to generate thinking about how you could adapt to that impact are also provided.

<b>Sector Impacted</b>	<b>Example of Impact &amp; Adaptation Question</b>
<b>Water Supplies</b>	<p><b>Impact:</b> Lower winter snowpack and warmer summer temperatures could lead to lower summer stream flows</p> <p><b>Q:</b> What will lower flows mean for drinking water resources and how would we adapt to that?</p>
<b>Ground Transportation</b>	<p><b>Impact:</b> Increased winter precipitation could lead to more mud slides and floods that could wash out bridges and roads</p> <p><b>Q:</b> How could we reduce the risk for mudslides, flooding, and washouts?</p>
<b>Community Infrastructure &amp; Safety</b>	<p><b>Impact:</b> Municipal storm water systems may be overwhelmed by storm events / increased precipitation</p> <p><b>Q:</b> How could we adapt to that now and adjust our storm water management practices to be more prepared for the future?</p>
<b>Public Health</b>	<p><b>Impact:</b> Higher summer temperatures and the potential for more wildfires could impact summer air quality</p> <p><b>Q:</b> What steps could we take to help vulnerable residents, such as the elderly, cope if our air quality changes as a result of a fire or if summer temperatures are higher longer?</p>
<b>Hydro-electric Power</b>	<p><b>Impact:</b> Changes in winter snowpack and summer stream flows are likely to make it harder to maintain reservoir and flow levels for non-power needs</p> <p><b>Q:</b> How would we adjust to (new) changing reservoir and flow levels?</p>

<b>Forestry</b>	<p><b>Impact:</b> Warmer temperatures and changes in snowpack and summer precipitation may lead to changes in tree species and increased pest infestation such as pine beetle</p> <p><b>Q:</b> What new tree species should we think about planting to suit future growing conditions?</p>
<b>Tourism &amp; Recreation</b>	<p><b>Impact:</b> Warmer winter temperatures are likely to lead to less low-elevation snowpack at ski hills.</p> <p><b>Q:</b> How could our winter tourism businesses save snow or respond to fewer skier days?</p>
<b>Agriculture</b>	<p><b>Impact:</b> Higher temperatures may increase irrigation needs and alter crop suitability</p> <p><b>Q:</b> What crops might be suitable in a changing growing season?</p>

## Community Adaptation Projects

### What is the Communities Adapting to Climate Change Initiative (CACCI)?

The Communities Adapting to Climate Change Initiative (CACCI), supported by CBT, aims to help residents of the Canadian Columbia Basin:

- Increase their resiliency to climate change impacts at the local community level; and
- Develop strategies and actions to address risks and opportunities identified by communities due to climate change impacts.

### Which communities in the Columbia Basin are working on adaptation now?

As part of phase two of CBT's Communities Adapting to Climate Change Initiative, Rossland, the City of Castlegar, and the Village of Kaslo, in partnership with the Regional District of Central Kootenay Area D, were selected in fall 2009 to undertake adaptation planning processes.

Each community undergoing a project will identify between two and three priority areas to focus their work.

***Rossland***

The *Adapting to Climate Change: A Socioeconomic Priority Project* will focus on the socioeconomic impacts of climate change. Priority areas for further investigation will be identified in March 2010.

***Castlegar***

The *Adapting to Climate Change Project* will focus on municipal infrastructure and food security.

***The Village of Kaslo and RDCK Area D***

The *Climate Adaptation and You Project* will focus on water, in particular, small water systems, as well as food and agriculture.

A Learning Network including three regional districts and eighteen communities are participating in capacity building and learning events. The Learning Network is open to all Basin local governments and also comprises CBT's technical experts from academic, provincial government and practitioner fields.

**Has this been done elsewhere?**

The City of Kimberley and the District of Elkford went through a similar process in phase one of CBT's CACCI.

Both communities developed adaptation action plans reflecting their local priorities and identifying actions aimed at creating a more climate-resilient community. Elkford's actions have been incorporated into their recently revised draft Official Community Plan (to be completed May 2010).

## Defining the Process

### How will the adaptation plans be developed?

Each community will:

- Increase their community's understanding about climate change and potential local impacts
- Identify priorities
- Assess vulnerability, risk and opportunities
- Develop adaptation strategies and actions
- Implement and monitor the plan

The process is ongoing and plans should be updated as new information becomes available..

### Who is developing the adaptation plan?

A local coordinator is working with a volunteer, multi-sector steering committee.

City of Rossland

Jennifer Ellis, Project Coordinator  
visionstoaction@rossland.ca  
[www.visionstoaction.ca](http://www.visionstoaction.ca)

City of Castlegar

Kristin Aasen, Sustainability Facilitator  
kaasen@castlegar.ca  
[www.castlegar.ca/sustainable](http://www.castlegar.ca/sustainable)

Kaslo/RDCK Area D

Tim Sander, Project Coordinator  
timsander@telus.net  
[www.rdck.bc.ca/adaptation](http://www.rdck.bc.ca/adaptation)



# Communities Adapting to Climate Change

**Where can I get more info?**

[www.cbt.org/climatechange](http://www.cbt.org/climatechange)

Contact: Michelle Laurie, Coordinator  
Email: [adaptation@cbt.org](mailto:adaptation@cbt.org) or phone: 1.800.505.8998  
[www.cbt.org/climatechange](http://www.cbt.org/climatechange)