



KASLO/RDCK AREA D PARTNERSHIP

Climate Change Adaptation & You



Appendix C - Climate change adaptation actions

The project Steering Committee recommends that the most urgent adaptation actions and mitigation measures where appropriate are taken. The 'Climate Change Adaptation & You' project recommends the following actions:

Abbreviations

AKBLG - The Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments

BC Govt – Government of British Columbia

CBT – Columbia Basin Trust

KDCFS – Kaslo and District Community Forest Society

KFSP – Kaslo Food Security Project

KLAS – Kootenay Local Agricultural Society

RDCK – the Regional District of Central Kootenay

MoA – Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

MoF – Ministry of Forests and Range

WKES – West Kootenay Eco Society

YRB – Yellowhead Road & Bridge maintenance

Water

Education

W1

Information and communication are a key component of a water strategy. Keep water licensees informed about potential future water shortages, both short term and long term, and ways on how to reduce water consumption.

Lead body: RDCK / Village / CBT

Policy

W2

More use should be made of household water before it gets sent down the drain. Collected rainwater can be used for some household purposes. Support to be given to change provincial legislation and regulations to allow grey water collection for outdoor use and rainwater for some household use.

Lead body: Village / RDCK / AKBLG / CBT

Protection of water availability and quality

W3

It is essential that water is used as efficiently as possible and not wasted. Water conservation incentives (e.g. low flow toilets, rain barrels / tanks, rainwater collection, low flow irrigation, etc.) must be encouraged for households and businesses, and links made to existing schemes. Public buildings should lead by example.

Lead body: Village / RDCK / Building owners

W4

Watersheds are an essential component of water collection. Water is stored (as snowpack), treated (filtered through the ground) and the release regulated (by vegetation). Some watershed areas lie within logging areas. It is important that forest management practices which maximise and protect water supply are supported. Damaged areas should be repaired and planted out with suitable vegetation.

Lead body: RDCK, Village, MoF, KDCFS, Other forest user licensees

W5

The present water storage facilities for the Kaslo Village are adequate for current water demand, but increasingly back up sources are needed. It is recommended that the Village research into increasing the water storage capacity of the Village reservoir.

Lead body: Village

W6

Presently little is known about how water is used – it is simply delivered. Use monitoring is an important component of water provision and options for monitoring of residential and industrial water use should be explored (for example a water metering program). Discussions should take place with known large users of water, including the golf course, as to how a reduction in the volume of water could take place.

Lead body: Village, CBT, RDCK, organised water users

W7

Warmer climates and extreme weather events can affect water quality through bacteria contamination. Advice and support should be made available to enable water user groups and publicly owned water systems to monitor water quality at intake.

Lead body: Village, RDCK, water user groups

W8

Hard surfaces can result in large amounts of surface water run-off in the event of an extreme weather event. This in turn can cause sedimentation and contamination problems in water sources. Every effort should be made to minimize or remove impervious surfaces in new building design, prior to construction, in watershed or riparian development permit area's.

Lead body: Community, RDCK, Village

Emergency preparedness

W9

A large number of water users have to pump water using electrical pumps. Back up power is essential to ensure continued supply in the event of a power outage. High priority should be given to ongoing maintenance programmes of public or privately owned generation units. Advice should be available to those who do not currently have alternative power generation capacity.

Lead body: Village / households

W10

Overhead power lines are subject to damage in extreme weather conditions. Many households and water distribution systems rely on electricity to pump water. Fortis BC and BC Hydro have upgraded much of the areas distribution lines to reduce interruption to the supply. It is essential that maintenance and upgrading of electrical supply infrastructure is continued and for climate change projections to be incorporated into their long term planning.

Lead body: Fortis / Hydro

Monitoring

W11

Monitoring is essential as trends versus climate data can then be established over the course of time, building a picture of water supply to a watershed. There is limited supply data for Kemp Creek and none available for Bjerkness and Fletcher. It is recommended that water flow monitoring on Kemp, Bjerkness and Fletcher creek is established. Redfish watershed comparison to be continued.

Lead body: Village / CBT watershed program

W12

Require water meters on all new construction (legislated for 2014)

Lead body: Village, RDCK, Building inspectors

Food

Food supply and distribution

F1

Roads are often blocked during the winter and extreme weather conditions. There needs to be a continuation of proactive highway maintenance to ensure storm drains and creeks which flow under the highway are kept clear of debris.

Lead body: YRB, MoT

F2

Food growers and farmers need assistance in growing food crops. There needs to be an ongoing promotion of community farm equipment co-ops. The relaunch of farmer's institutes should be explored.

Lead body: KLAS, WKES

F3

A warming climate presents opportunities as well as challenges. There is a need to monitor and record crop disease and bugs as well as new crop viability in the area.

Lead body: KFSP, KLAS

F4

The RDCK is in the process of drawing up an Area Agricultural Plan. It is important that the climate change adaptation recommendations are reflected in this and other long term plans or studies conducted by the RDCK

Lead body: RDCK, Village

F5

Local strains of food crop are an important component of adapting to climate change. There needs to be continued support and promotion for the local seed banks.

Lead body: KLAS, KFSP

F6

Tree cover is important for shade and for land stability. Identify and communicate tree planting grants / schemes and by 2012 implement active tree planting program

Lead body: RDCK, Village, WKES, landowners, community

Emergency preparedness

F7

There is an existing RDCK Emergency Preparedness Plan and Kaslo Fire Protection Plan. It is important to keep this up-to-date as new climate data comes forward and to reinforce its message to communities.

Every effort should be made to communicate the importance of fire protection to people who live outside the Kaslo Fire Protection area.

RDCK, Village

F8

By 2011, re-release RDCK Emergency Preparedness Plan to ensure thorough knowledge and understanding of the need for three day minimum food and water storage.

Lead body: RDCK

Education

F9

Support community education and incentive programme to adopt appropriate irrigation and water retention farming methods to reduce water consumption

Lead body: RDCK, Village

F10

Increase food preservation knowledge and practice

Lead body: KLAS, KFSP, Community

F11

Research best practice for crop farming e.g. techniques to mitigate variability and extreme weather events and changes in precipitation patterns

Lead body: KLAS, KFSP

F12

Monitor and communicate information on current financial agricultural incentives to aid transition

Lead body: BC Govt, MoA

In addition to the prioritised actions, the modelling and writing of the report provided the project with additional recommendations:

Action 1

According to information gathered via the questionnaire and at public meetings, gaining access to existing agricultural land access is a large and very real issue. For example, an owner of land inside the Agricultural Land Reserve may choose not to work the land for agricultural purposes, or may want to try to subdivide it for building purposes.

It is recommended that an Area wide ALR survey of land take place to establish the exact scale of this problem. It would be for the Agricultural Land Commission and the RDCK to then assess ways forward to maximize uptake of agricultural land for agricultural purposes. This will be addressed in the upcoming RDCK Area Agricultural Plan.

Action 2

It is vital to monitor the implementation of the recommended actions. This will ensure that the impetus created by this project is maintained and that communities within the area are given every opportunity to adapt to climate change. The Director of Area D has requested that the Area D Advisory Planning Commission carry out the monitoring of action implementation.