

Climate Change Adaptation

CBT understands that climate change impacts are directly felt at the community level and that increasing community resiliency to deal with impacts is important.

CBT's *Communities Adapting to Climate Change* is a leading-edge initiative that will become an important model that other Basin communities can use to deal with local climate change impacts.

In 2008/2009 CBT supported the District of Elkford and the City of Kimberley in their adaptation planning efforts. The key steps to successful adaptation planning outlined here are based on the experience of these two communities, and have been developed using a range of technical resources and expertise in climate change adaptation planning. Read on the next page how these communities followed the steps to successful adaptation planning.

There is no single approach to developing a community climate change adaptation plan. Ultimately, the needs of the community, the priorities identified through community engagement, and the best available science, will determine the best approach for a community.

Six Steps to Successful Adaptation Planning

Step 1 - Get Started

- Make the commitment
- Establish a local coordinator/consultant
- Establish a local steering committee
- Develop a work plan
- Locate resources

Step 2 - Learn About Climate Change

- Seek out local knowledge and observations
- Research historical and available information
- Obtain future climate projections for your region
- Share ideas with your community

Step 3 - Identify Priorities in Your Community

- Investigate potential impacts
- Identify what is important to the community
- Talk with people about the issues
- Confirm priority issues for further investigation

Step 4 - Assess Vulnerability and Risk

- Complete sensitivity analysis
- Evaluate adaptive capacity
- Determine probability of events
- Establish priority risks and opportunities

Step 5 - Develop Adaptation Strategies and Actions

- Establish goals
- Determine actions
- Assign people to act

Step 6 - Implement and Monitor Plans

- Implement plans
- Monitor progress
- Revise plans with new information



Local Experience

Kimberley worked with community members and technical experts to identify a range of potential climate change impacts they may face in the future, to assess local sensitivities and to develop adaptation strategies. Their project was built around three distinct phases: Learn, Share and Plan.

The District of Elkford wanted to see implications of future climatic changes incorporated into their new Official Community Plan (OCP). At the time, no other community in British Columbia had attempted to integrate climate change adaptation into their OCP. Significant time and cost efficiencies were gained through the coupling of these two processes, particularly with the organization and facilitation of community outreach.

Watch the video, *Communities Adapting to Climate Change: A Tale of Two Communities*, as Kimberley and Elkford share their experience of participating in CBT's *Communities Adapting to Climate Change Initiative*.

“More than anything, a successful project requires champions within local government who understand the value of undertaking this kind of work, a core group of project supporters to help do, advise or support the work as necessary, and someone who can effectively manage/coordinate the work flow.”

Ingrid Liepa
Kimberley Climate Adaptation Project Coordinator

*“Your project will need to create a fine balance between spending time on the following priorities:
1) developing and implementing your plan;
2) conducting research to ensure your plan is based on sound policy and science;
3) informing and consulting your community; and 4) sharing the results of your project with CBT and the learning network.”*

Climate Change Adaptation Consulting Team
District of Elkford

What's Next

CBT is committed to taking action on climate change and actively engaging with people living in the Columbia Basin. CBT will continue to act as a convener and facilitator, as well as support existing and emerging climate change initiatives as part of its long-term commitment to support people in the Columbia Basin to achieve social, economic and environmental well-being and self-sufficiency for present and future generations.

Phase 2 of CBT's *Communities Adapting to Climate Change Initiative* started in September 2009 with the communities of Rossland, Castlegar and Kaslo in partnership with the Regional District of Central Kootenay.

How did they do it?

- Received resources through CBT's *Communities Adapting to Climate Change Initiative* and made the commitment to the process.
- Climate projections combined with local observations helped the communities understand how the climate may change in the future.
- Research, along with conversations in the community, helped to identify key areas for investigation. In both communities, issues related to water and forests ranked as top priorities and concerns for local residents.

Kimberley's Priority Planning Areas	Elkford's Priority Planning Areas
Water and Forests	Wildfire
Municipal Infrastructure	Flooding
Tourism	Water Availability

- The communities assessed each priority planning area to determine the weak spots (vulnerabilities).
- The communities prioritized actions based on the vulnerabilities identified.
- The results of this process were used to create climate change adaptation action plans.

