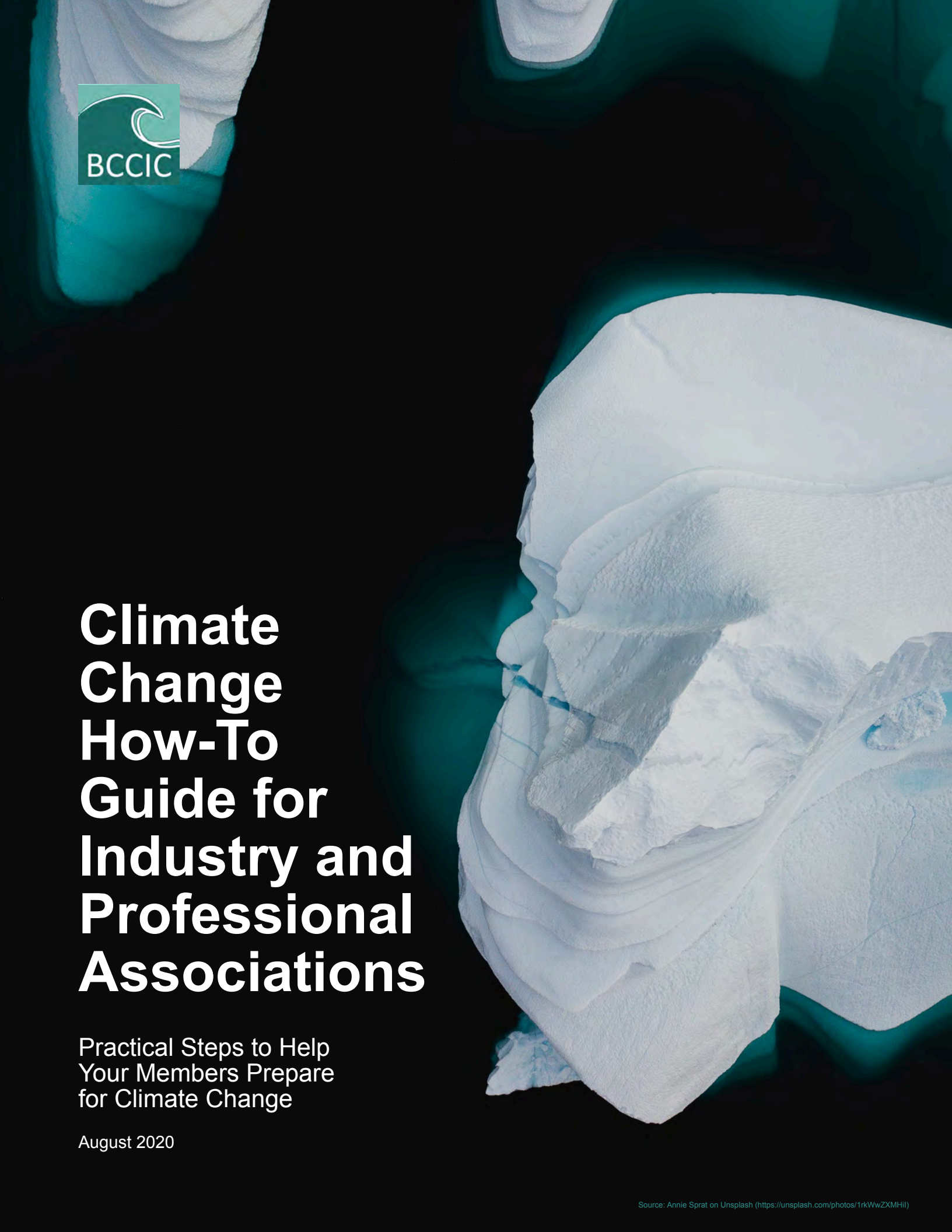

Climate Change How-To Guide for Industry and Professional Associations

Practical Steps to Help Your Members Prepare for Climate Change

August 2020

Source: Annie Sprat on Unsplash (https://unsplash.com/photos/1rkWwZXMHil)

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August 2020

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BCCIC

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The **British Columbia Council for International Cooperation (BCCIC)** is a network of civil society organizations and individuals moving toward a better world based in British Columbia, Canada. By compiling this Guide, BCCIC hopes to improve the climate change response of industries and professionals in BC and Canada.

We would like to acknowledge that our work takes place on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the xwməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam), skwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), səl̓ilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh), and sc̓awaθən məsteyəxw (Tsawwassen) nations.

We make this acknowledgement to pay our profound respect to the hosts of this land, for their stewardship since time immemorial, and to remind ourselves of their history and its present-day implications on our society as a whole.

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Abbreviations

BC: British Columbia
BCCIC: BC Council for International Cooperation
BIPOC: Black, Indigenous and People of Colour
ENGO: Environmental Non-Governmental Organization
FOMO: Fear Of Missing Out
GHG: Greenhouse Gas
IPCC: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
LCR: Low-Carbon Resilience
NGO: Non-Governmental Organization
SBTi: Science Based Targets initiative
SDG: Sustainable Development Goal
TCFD: Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures

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Tristan Flock, Engineers and Geoscientists BC
Walter Wawruck, BC Council for International Cooperation (Member)

See **Appendix 3** (page 37) for a complete list of associations consulted.

Preface

The Climate Change How-To Guide for Industry and Professional Associations ("the Guide") is a tool for associations in British Columbia (BC) and Canada to help their members prepare for and address the climate emergency. It is designed to apply to any association, including professional, industry, and business associations of any size, no matter the current status of their climate change response.

The British Columbia Council for International Cooperation (BCCIC) undertook this project to address the lack of comprehensive climate change resources for associations, while recognizing the importance of associations, and the professionals and industries they represent, in facilitating a coordinated climate change response across BC, Canada, and internationally.

BCCIC is focused on promoting and supporting the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), both locally and globally. SDG #13, Climate Action,[1] is a particular focus of BCCIC, given the urgency of the issue and its widespread impacts on every other SDG, including poverty, hunger, health and well-being, gender equality, and peace, justice and strong institutions.

Given BCCIC's work to encourage interdisciplinary collaboration on the SDGs and engage our diverse network of social and environmental organizations and purpose-driven businesses, we are eager to see this Guide facilitate climate change conversations across a range of industries and professions throughout BC, Canada and beyond.

The release of this Guide coincides with a pivotal moment in human history. In the year 2020, as the world is overcome by the devastating COVID-19 pandemic, people everywhere turn their attention to human health and the economy. At the same time, 2020 also initiates the 10-year countdown before the effects of climate change – which could be the world's largest health and economic crisis – become irreversible. We produced this Guide to help ensure that climate change is on the radar of associations and their members when we recover from the pandemic and re-think business-as-usual.

Source: Annie Spratt on Unsplash (https://unsplash.com/photos/1rkWwZXMHil)

Purpose of the Guide

The purpose of this Guide is to build the capacity of BC and Canadian industry, business, and professional associations to help their members become climate change leaders, play their role in the transition to a low-carbon economy, reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and increase their resilience in the face of climate change. It is becoming increasingly clear that those who are prepared for climate change will succeed in the future, and those who delay put their organizations and clients at risk. Associations play a critical role to help members with this transition.

By following the steps in this Guide, you will be able to identify next steps for enhancing your association's progress on climate change and learn how to build on your existing practices. You will also learn the business case and rationale for pursuing climate action to manage the risks and to leverage the opportunities ahead. We hope the Guide can be a useful resource as you continue your climate action journey.

This Guide includes:

- Background information on climate change trends, risks, and impacts (pages 10-16);
- The business case and rationale for associations to respond to climate change (pages 21-26);
- Tips on overcoming barriers and challenges (page 27);
- BC- and Canadian-specific resources and examples (pages 33-36); and
- Best practices and steps associations can pursue to help their members reduce their climate change impacts, prepare for the changes to come, and benefit from the opportunities presented by the low-carbon economy (pages 28, 29-30, and 39-46).

How to Use the Guide:

Tailor your actions. This is a generic Guide – you will need to tailor it to your context, based on your sector or profession, size, priorities, mandate, and membership. For readers who are already informed about climate change and the justification for action, feel free to skip ahead to page 27 of the Guide.

Elevate climate change. While some associations may be addressing climate change indirectly as a result of other priorities (e.g. creating operational efficiencies), the intent of this Guide is to mobilize associations to address climate change directly.

Benchmark your practices. The Guide has a section to benchmark your association's practices. See the **Fillable Climate Change Scorecard** on page 39. You can use this tool to develop an agenda to accelerate your opportunities and close your gaps.

Who is the Guide for?

The Guide is designed for those involved in setting the strategic direction of BC and Canadian industry, business, and professional associations (i.e. senior management, staff, and board members). Any association, whether already pursuing advanced action on climate change or just beginning their climate action journey, can benefit from the Guide's advice. While the Guide relies on the BC and Canadian context for examples, climate science, and resources, the best practices are equally applicable to associations outside of BC and Canada.

Governments and environmental and civil society organizations would also benefit from the insights and climate policy best practices highlighted in this Guide to understand how industries and professions can support resilience in the face of this emerging crisis.

Finally, any person whose organization is a member of an association, or who themselves is a member of a professional association, can use this Guide to encourage their association leaders to accelerate their response to climate change.

Source: Martin Meyers on Unsplash (https://unsplash.com/)

Why Use the Guide?

- Learn about climate change best practices in industry and professional associations;
- Understand the risks and opportunities of climate change and consider how they might affect your members;
- Become informed about the business case or rationale for associations to address climate change and the effective measures you can pursue;
- Get tips on overcoming barriers to advancing climate action within your association;
- Prioritize next steps, benchmark your progress, and identify gaps and opportunities to address in your climate strategies;
- Find out how your association and members can respond to the climate emergency and thrive in a low-carbon future.

Introduction to Climate Change

Climate Change: Challenges and Solutions

Special Topics: COVID-19 and Systemic Racism

Source: Annie Sprat on Unsplash (https://unsplash.com/photos/1rkWwZXMHil)

Introduction to Climate Change

Climate Change: Challenges and Solutions

In 2019, scientists around the world amplified their call to action by declaring "clearly and unequivocally" that our planet is facing a climate emergency.[2] Without immediate and forceful action to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, our planet's climate could reach a tipping point, making global warming irreversible in human timescales. This would disrupt economic stability and global trade, threaten global agriculture production, and collapse global fisheries.[3]

The safest option for humanity to avoid this catastrophic scenario is to limit warming to 1.5ºC. Unfortunately, we are currently on track to reach a global temperature rise of 3-4ºC by the end of the century.[4] To achieve 1.5ºC, we need to reduce GHG emissions by 45% below 2010 levels by 2030 and reach net zero emissions by 2050.[5]

5 Climate Facts: The Canadian Context

1. Canada's climate is warming twice as fast as the global average; Northern Canada is warming almost three times as fast.[6]
2. From 2014-2018, extreme weather events caused more than $1 billion per year worth of insured losses in Canada and payouts reaching nearly $2 billion in 2018. By 2050, the economic impact of climate change in Canada could reach between $21 billion and $43 billion a year, including impacts on timber supply ($2 billion to $17 billion per year, with higher impacts in B.C.) and flooding damages to coastal dwellings ($1 billion to $8 billion per year, with higher impacts in Atlantic Canada).[7]
3. Canada generates less than two per cent of the world's GHG emissions, but it is one of the highest emitters in the world per person.[8]
4. Climate change has drastic effects on the health of Canadians, especially vulnerable populations, due to climate impacts such as increased vector-borne diseases, flooding, droughts, and extreme temperatures.[9]
5. Canadian communities, supply chains, infrastructure, food security, and ecosystems are at risk from increasingly frequent and severe coastal flooding, heat waves, water supply shortages, wildfires, pests, ocean acidification, glacier loss, and thawing permafrost.[10]

Source: Health Canada (2008) https://greenhealthcare.ca/climate-change/resiliency/

Local Solutions: Profiling one Province

BC is not exempt from the global threat of climate change. Impacts in BC will become increasingly frequent and severe, impairing the health and wellbeing of BC residents and threatening key industries, including agriculture, hydroelectric power generation, fisheries, and forestry. However, BC is also well-positioned to be a leader in efforts to combat climate change, with a well-established carbon tax, substantial green economy investment and innovation, and clean and affordable power and hydro electricity.[11]

> **"I truly believe that since associations can set a direction and policy for their members that extend far beyond profit margins and political timelines, that we can – and must – play a leading role in advancing climate change solutions."**
>
> **-Beth McMahon, Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Institute of Planners**

Emerging trends in BC and around the world highlight the direction the economy is heading as a result of these efforts. Trends include the shift to a low-carbon economy, new government regulations, changing capital allocations, evolving customer expectations, and emerging technologies.[12]

For industries and professionals, the trends represent either substantial risks for the unprepared, or great opportunities for those looking forward. Industry, business, and professional associations have a role to play in preparing their members for a low-carbon economy and adapting to current and future climate impacts.

Responding to Climate Change

The two main approaches to climate change response are **mitigation** and **adaptation** (see **Appendix 2: Definitions** on page 36). While this "two-pronged approach" to climate change is useful, in what follows, the two concepts are not separated and are instead treated as a cohesive unit. This line of thinking stems from a third approach to climate change response, called **Low-Carbon Resilience** (LCR), which integrates strategies that both reduce GHG emissions (mitigation) and simultaneously address vulnerability to climate change impacts (adaptation) (for examples of LCR, visit ACT).[13]

Example

2018 Joint Statement on Advancing Integrated Climate Action

In 2018, several leading national Canadian professional associations released a public statement recognizing the responsibility of professionals to respond to climate change and address both emissions reduction and adaptation. In the statement, the associations committed to several actions, including working to advance understanding among members of their climate change responsibilities; improving education and training for members on climate change science, best practices, tools, and approaches; and advancing interdisciplinary capacity for climate action within and between associations. Participating associations include Canadian Society of Landscape Architects, Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, Canadian Water and Wastewater Association, Canadian Institute of Planners, and ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability).

Special Topics: COVID-19 and Systemic Racism

Since this Guide was first conceived in early 2020, two profound tremors have shaken society's foundations: the COVID-19 pandemic and reminders of the dire impacts of systemic racism. Associations and their members are grappling with these issues on a daily basis. For many, it is difficult to set aside the time to address the implications of climate change, which seem a distant threat in comparison to the daily reality of the COVID-19 pandemic and systemic racism. Yet, both the pandemic and systemic racism are intrinsically linked to the present and future impacts of climate change, as described below. It is important that any climate change plan or action take these developments into consideration.

Source: @StatisticallyCartoon (Instagram) https://www.instagram.com/p/B-HT-4onfOm/

Lessons from COVID-19

Virtually everyone everywhere is impacted by the health and economic crises brought on by the global pandemic, and industry and professional associations and their members are no exception. Resources are stretched, revenue is limited, and membership drops as everyone struggles to respond, cope, and adapt. Undeniably, climate ambitions are being put on hold as people worldwide turn their attention to meeting basic needs. However, it is not the time to turn away from climate action. Leaders must commit to and demonstrate how integrating climate action into COVID-19 recovery plans can ensure we build a healthier, stronger economy and a better world, all while ensuring community resilience in the face of future crises.

The challenges posed by COVID-19 have given all of us a new perspective on global crises and our ability to deal with them. If a virus can seriously jeopardize the global economy in just a few weeks, imagine what could happen as a result of the worst effects of climate change. COVID-19 has brought us a widespread realization that everyone, including industries and professionals, must challenge themselves to respond much more decisively to the threat of climate change.[14]

There are many other important lessons-learned from the COVID-19 pandemic that associations and their members can apply to the looming climate crisis. Review the following ideas to determine which are most relevant to your association and association leaders:

- **COVID-19 has shown us how effective we can be if we put our mind to changing our practices - can we find the same sense of urgency and motivation in response to the climate crisis?**
- **Society will judge how industries and professionals respond to crises like COVID-19 and climate change - they must choose which side of history they want to be on.**
- **The health crisis brought on by COVID-19 has helped to frame the climate crisis around its potentially catastrophic health impacts – much as the virus has paralyzed society due to its effects on human health, climate change is expected to have similar extreme health repercussions.**
- **COVID-19 has exposed the fault lines of vulnerability in communities, businesses, and society, highlighting the need to increase resilience in preparation for the climate crisis.**
- **Like COVID-19, we should do our best to manage the unavoidable impacts of climate change (through adaptation), and we should avoid the unmanageable impacts (through emission mitigation).**
- **While a prompt response is essential, proactively preparing and building resilience is a much more effective way to avoid the worst impacts.**
- **Not only is it possible to work virtually, but it is also cost-effective, convenient, and emissions-friendly.**
- **We must listen to scientists, especially for urgent and potentially catastrophic crises.**

There are opportunities for transformative change that only exist in the window of a disaster. As the world recovers from COVID-19, many governments and businesses are pursuing a response that supports an equitable transition towards a resilient, low-carbon economy.[15] Now, more than ever, industries and professional groups can capitalize on this pivot in ways that will benefit their members and society for years to come.

> **"Now is the perfect time for associations to start integrating a climate change lens into our strategies as we rebound from this pandemic."**
>
> **-David Chiang, Chartered Professional Accountants BC**

Equity, Justice, and Climate Change

Climate change is more than a business risk. Climate change is a social, political, and ethical issue with profound implications for the health, safety, and well-being of people and communities worldwide, especially poor and marginalized populations.[16] Although typically not significant contributors to the problem, marginalized populations, who have fewer resources to adapt to these accelerating risks, are disproportionately threatened by the economic, social and environmental impacts of a changing climate.[17] These injustices occur at many scales, from community-level to international.

When action against climate change is framed in the context of these social impacts, it is referred to as **Climate Justice**. Climate Justice is a human-centred approach to climate change mitigation and adaptation, protecting the rights of the most vulnerable and sharing the burdens of climate change, and the resources required to manage its impacts, equitably and fairly.[18]

In Canada, the deep-rooted issue of systemic racism against Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC) communities further reinforces the need to ensure that climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies address racial and social justice.

Climate Justice is about ensuring no one is left behind in the transition to a low-carbon economy and in society's or an industry's efforts to prepare and adapt to the impacts of climate change. This includes ensuring a "Just Transition"[19] for regions that are most economically and socially impacted by decarbonization, particularly fossil fuel-dependent communities and workers.

Source: Callum Shaw on Unsplash (https://unsplash.com/)

Tip! Address Equity and Justice in your climate plans. Consider the five tips below to help your association advance equity and justice in your climate plans.

Industry and professional associations have an important and necessary role to play in the Climate Justice movement by integrating the following actions into their climate change response:

1. Raise Awareness

Raise awareness about the link between climate change and racial inequity among members by including Climate Justice topics in conferences, webinars, education programs, and regular member communications (e.g. via newsletter, websites, reports, and articles for members and the public).

2. Engage Members and Stakeholders

Consult members and external stakeholders on ways the sector or profession can implement Climate Justice actions; include marginalized and under-represented voices in your association's climate change committee, task force or advisory group, especially youth, who are increasingly engaged in Climate Justice and who are future customers and workers.

3. Adopt a Climate Justice Lens

Ensure climate policies and measures address disparities and unequal impacts experienced by diverse groups based on their age, culture, ethnicity, race, education, gender, disability, sexual orientation, migration status, geography, language, religious beliefs, and other identity factors. Incorporate Indigenous Knowledge and diverse BIPOC experiences in the development of your climate policy and plans. Consider adopting and integrating the Mary Robinson Foundation's Principles of Climate Justice.[20]

4. Build Partnerships

Build relationships and partnerships with Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and NGOs/ENGOs to foster Climate Justice and address the needs, priorities, and rights of under-represented communities.

5. Acknowledge the Industry or Profession's Responsibility

Acknowledge the responsibility of your association and members to act in the public interest and prioritize the protection of the most vulnerable and marginalized communities in its climate change response, for example by releasing position papers and commitment statements on the topic of Climate Justice.

Your Climate Change Journey

Overview

The Case for Climate Action: Risks and Benefits

Barriers and Opportunities

Climate Change Roadmap for Industry and Professional Associations

Climate Change Checklist of Practices

Source: Annie Sprat on Unsplash (https://unsplash.com/photos/1rkWwZXMHil)

Your Climate Change Journey

Overview

Now that we have reviewed the basic climate change facts and the significance of COVID-19 and Climate Justice developments, we will provide guidance and advice to inform your association's climate change actions. The following sections of the Guide contain roadmaps, checklists, resources, and examples to help your association take the next step on your Climate Change Journey.

Whether you are just starting to address climate change within your association, or you are more advanced, the following sections will help you prioritize next steps, benchmark your progress, and identify gaps and opportunities to address in future plans.

To answer the question "Why should associations help members address climate change?", see page 21. **The Case for Climate Action: Risks and Benefits** will help you develop a strong business case or rationale for climate action, by highlighting the climate change risks and opportunities for associations and their members.

During these challenging times, many associations face barriers to addressing climate change, especially smaller organizations and those who are still in the beginning stages of their climate change response. For ideas on how to overcome these challenges, consider the **Barriers and Opportunities** section on page 27.

The **Climate Change Roadmap for Industry and Professional Associations** (page 28) contains sequential high-level steps for both industry and professional associations to start or advance their climate change response.

Use the **Climate Change Checklist of Practices** on page 29 to benchmark your progress and identify gaps and opportunities to address in future plans. This is a streamlined list of 10 key practices for associations. For a complete list of over 50 climate change practices an association could pursue, see **Appendix 4: Fillable Climate Change Scorecard** (page 39). Use this to benchmark and rank your association's climate strategy as Beginning, Advancing, or Leading and develop an agenda to accelerate your opportunities and close your gaps. The scorecard in Appendix 4 is designed to be filled out directly and saved as a PDF.

Finally, see page 33 for a list of helpful **Climate Change Resources**, including tools, research, networks, and funding opportunities.

Overview of Top Climate Change Practices

The Climate Change Checklist (page 29) and Scorecard (page 39) target ten top climate change focus areas:

1. Research and Knowledge Development. A comprehensive knowledge-base is an essential starting point. Your association and your members should be up-to-speed on the expected **physical and transition risks** and opportunities of climate change (see page 22). This is essential for an informed, coordinated response.

2. Professional Development and Education. With relevant information at hand, associations can begin to educate members on the climate change trends, risks, and opportunities relevant to the sector or profession and how to address them.

3. Standards and Certifications. Whether voluntary or mandatory, these can help to incentivize action. Some trade and many professional associations have standards and certifications that can be upgraded to include climate change competencies and practices. Standards are an effective tool for aligning your association's members on common best practices.

4. Best Practices, Resources and Support. Solutions to climate change exist already – profile existing best practices of your members and facilitate knowledge sharing and peer learning to promote innovative ideas and action within your membership.

5. Policy and Planning. Aspirational goals, concrete plans, and engaged boards, staff, and members are needed in order to successfully respond to climate change. Once association staff and members have a shared understanding of the importance of addressing climate change, it becomes possible for the association to develop policies, plans, and goals for you and your members to pursue together.

Example

Mining Association of Canada (MAC): Towards Sustainable Mining

Towards Sustainable Mining (TSM) is a mandatory, sector-wide initiative developed by MAC which requires facilities to annually publicly report their energy use and GHG emissions management performance, and to set targets - publicly verified by a third-party - which are then compared to program indicators. Within the Greenhouse Gas protocol (1 of 7 protocols within TSM, the others of which include biodiversity, health and safety, among other topics), requirements include: accountability from senior management, systems to track and report data, demonstrate energy data is taken into account, education/ training for staff, and establish and meet targets.

6. Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting. Success only comes with strong metrics. Once goals and plans are established, you can develop metrics to track and even publicly report on your success.

7. Marketing and Public Engagement. Build and promote the brand or value of your profession/sector to key audiences and help the public, industry, and governments advance together on climate change.

8. Government Relations. Drive government climate policy - don't wait for it. Include climate advocacy in your government relations efforts.

9. Collaboration and Partnerships. Collaboration and partnership with government, civil society, academia, and industry is essential to address interdisciplinary issues such as climate change. Sectors and professions will need to collaborate and co-innovate with allied associations to overcome barriers and accelerate the transition.

10. Operational Practices. Lead by example from within the association and achieve cost-saving benefits by adopting internal climate measures. Consider whether becoming carbon neutral is a reasonable target for your association to be a role model and inspire other stakeholders.

Tip! Look for leaders around you. For associations to successfully respond to climate change, they need an internal champion who understands the challenges and opportunities associated with climate change within your sector or profession.

Source: Scott Webb on Pexels (www.pexels.com)

The Case for Climate Action: Risks and Benefits


Source: William Bossen on Unsplash (https://unsplash.com/)

While the exact consequences of a changing climate are unpredictable, one thing is certain: the sectors and professionals that will succeed in a warming, carbon-constrained world are those that are actively devising strategies to reduce risk and find low-carbon solutions.[21] Those who are slow to act could be putting their members in harm's way.

In BC, Canada, and around the world, the threat of climate change is inciting large-scale transitions in the way companies and professionals carry out their work. Key drivers of this transformation include new government regulations, changing capital allocations, evolving customer expectations, emerging technologies, and the global shift to a low-carbon economy.[22]

Industry and professional associations have a role to play in preparing their members for the impacts of climate change and orienting the sector or profession towards a low-carbon future. Associations can prioritize climate change issues among their members by providing leadership, support, and awareness of this complex challenge.

It is no secret that the COVID-19 pandemic is burdening organizations with financial, social, and environmental stress, including associations. However, as we rebound from this crisis, there exists an unparalleled opportunity to address another crisis - one which is longer-term and more complex, yet similarly urgent and life-threatening. By integrating climate change strategies into post-COVID recovery measures, associations can "build back better" and improve their sector's or profession's long-term resilience, beyond the current crisis.

The Risks of Inaction

The costs and societal changes caused by climate change will threaten unprepared associations and their memberships. The Task Force for Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD)[23] divides climate-related risks into two major categories: (1) risks related to the transition to a lower-carbon economy and (2) risks related to the physical impacts of climate change.

1. Transition Risks: Transitioning to a lower-carbon economy may entail extensive policy, legal, technology, and market changes to address mitigation and adaptation requirements related to climate change. Depending on the nature, speed, and focus of these changes, transition risks may pose varying levels of financial, operational, and reputational risk to organizations.[24]

2. Physical Risks: Physical risks resulting from climate change can be event-driven (acute) or longer-term shifts (chronic) in climate patterns. Physical risks may have financial implications for organizations, such as direct damage to assets and indirect impacts from supply chain disruption. Organizations' financial performance may also be affected by changes in water availability, sourcing, and quality; food security; and extreme temperature changes affecting organizations' premises, operations, supply chain, transport needs, and employee safety.[25]

Check out the TCFD report[26] for a detailed list of transition and physical risks that could imperil your members, their organizations, and their operating contexts.

The Opportunities and Benefits for Association Action on Climate Change

There are significant opportunities in addressing these challenges. The following is a list of the benefits of climate action for industry and professional associations, to inform the development of your association's 'Business Case' for undertaking climate change initiatives. Associations seeking to start or enhance their climate change program are encouraged to go through this list of benefits and use them to help association boards and leadership understand the imperatives for a strengthened climate change response.

You should tailor and adapt this list based on your specific mandate, the risks and opportunities your members face, along with organizational priorities, resources, culture, size, member interests – and whether your association is an industry or professional association.

Source: You X Ventures on Unsplash (https://unsplash.com/)

The Opportunities and Benefits for Association Action on Climate Change continued

It should be noted that the business case may not be relevant to regulated professions whose responsibility is to serve the public interest regardless of the business benefits.[27]

1. Build credibility, reputation, and public trust

Associations which respond to and act on prevailing societal trends will strengthen their sector/profession's credibility and relevance in the eyes of members and society.[28] This includes preparing members for the shift to a low-carbon economy and the accelerating impacts of climate change. In this way, an association can build positive stakeholder relationships with customers, communities, NGOs, suppliers, and others, and enhance the sector or profession's social license to operate and grow.

2. Enhance innovation, save costs, and open market opportunities

By helping members transition to efficient and low-carbon business models and professional practices, associations spur member innovation, save costs for their members, and open up market opportunities in the short and long-term.[29] For example, case studies from a sample of over 70 Climate Smart businesses show an average emissions reduction of 11%, resulting in an average of over $60,000 in annual cost savings for each business.[30] Operational measures to reduce paper use, energy use, and business travel (e.g. virtual meetings) are expected to save costs not only for members, but for associations too.

3. Enhance the customer and investor value proposition*

Increasingly, customers and investors seek out companies that have an improved climate change profile.[31] By helping their members adopt best climate change practices and enhance the resilience of their supply chains, associations position their members for future economic success.

*For associations whose members are not customer or investor-led, this benefit may not be relevant to them

> "When we [Forest Products Association of Canada] did our 30 by 30 Climate Change Challenge, we proposed new policy and regulation - we didn't wait for it. If you have a plan, the government is open to discussing the changes you're suggesting. That proactiveness was significant for us and for our members."
>
> -Bob Larocque, Senior Vice President, Forest Products Association of Canada

> "When regulatory environments change, associations are well-placed to be "tilling the field" ahead of time, creating the context so the industry is more receptive to the change, building industry capacity to get there before regulations. This way, you don't end up with an association kicking-and-screaming into the future, but one that is finding opportunity for their members. It's not just about complying with regulations, but turning regulations into a business advantage for the sector."
>
> -Gwendal Castellan, Manager of Sustainable Destination Development, Tourism Vancouver

Example

Forest Products Association of Canada (FPAC): "30 by 30" Climate Change Challenge

In 2016, the Forest Products Association of Canada set an industry-wide climate change mitigation target, pledging to remove 30 megatonnes (MT) of CO_2 a year by 2030 - more than 13% of the Canadian government's emissions reduction target. The sector plans to achieve this target through innovation, efficiency, and forest management practices that maximize carbon sequestration.

4. Influence and prepare for government regulation

Associations which collaboratively engage with government on climate change policy and proactively adopt climate change best practices are able to drive government climate policy and regulations in their favour. When associations drive policy rather than wait for it, members will be able to plan and strategize more efficiently, while avoiding uncertainty and devalued assets. Equally, by acting ahead of regulation, it is also possible to forestall it.[32] The sooner members act on climate change, the more time they have to cement the practices and policies they will ultimately be required to adopt.

5. Fulfill association goals, meet member expectations, and foster resiliency

Industry, business and professional association goals are typically to meet member expectations by creating value for their members and helping their sector or profession succeed, now and into the future. Acting on climate change will help members remain profitable and competitive as society transitions into a low-carbon economy and climate risks increase.[33] Associations that position members for a carbon-constrained future and support them to take advantage of it, will be building the resilience of their members – ultimately leading to the resilience of the association.

> **"In order for industry and professional associations to be relevant they have to fill the need for member information on climate change, recognizing that climate change is a concern across Canada. And it's not going to go away."**
>
> **-Beth McMahon, Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Institute of Planners**

6. Enhance employee recruitment and retention

Associations with climate change programs can get a head start on attracting top talent who want to work in organizations where they can have the most impact.[34] Members who progress on climate action are better equipped to attract young, talented workers too.

7. Attract and retain members

Climate change programming can increase associations' value and relevance for current and prospective members.[35] As climate change imperatives gain in importance, some members may be attracted to associations that can help them address their climate change needs. It can also reduce the risk that members will join different organizations who are better positioned to meet those needs. Significantly, investors are mobilizing to ensure companies do not participate in trade organizations lobbying against climate change,[36] while other high-profile companies are ending their memberships in associations not aligned with their climate policies.[37]

8. Leverage and stimulate government funding

The Provincial and Federal Government have ambitious carbon reduction targets and adaptation plans. They are offering incentives, funding, and programs to organizations mitigating and adapting to climate change, which may receive higher priority should Canada and BC pursue a 'Green Recovery'[38] from COVID-19. Associations can leverage this financial support on behalf of members, and also stimulate the development of new funding programs through advocacy and leadership. (See **Climate Change Resources** on page 33 for more examples of government climate change programs.)

9. Build positive government and stakeholder relations

Associations that increase their climate change expertise will be better positioned to contribute positively to regulatory initiatives by government and collaborate constructively with stakeholders.[39]

10. Show leadership provincially, nationally and globally

Associations which promote and implement cutting-edge climate change practices, programs, and solutions are seen as leaders in their sector or profession in BC, Canada and around the world. This is an opportunity for associations to help their members see themselves as part of the solution to climate change and position them to succeed in a low-carbon future.

Example

Railway Association of Canada (RAC): Creating a Pathway Framework

RAC and its members have set voluntary emission reduction targets since 1995, formalized through a series of MOUs with the Federal Government. The freight industry's workload has increased by 80% since 1990 while emissions intensities have decreased by approximately 40%. Each year the RAC with support from Transport Canada and Environment and Climate Change Canada prepares a performance report that tracks progress and includes information about best practices in the railway sector. Pollution Probe, an environmental non-government organization, vets and reviews each performance report. RAC is working in cooperation with the federal government to create a Pathway framework that outlines the short, medium and long-term options for reducing emissions in the railway sector.

Source: CU Management (2020) https://www.cumanagement.com/articles/2020/01/five-tips-better-eliminating-board-meeting-chaos

The Moral Imperative

In addition to these ten opportunities and benefits of helping members prepare for and address climate change, there are social responsibility and moral obligations for implementing these measures as a collective. A climate change plan which is driven by associations' and their members' social purpose[40] will be much more effective than one which is solely profit-driven. Associations and their members have a responsibility to act on climate change, not only because employees, communities and investors are demanding it, but because it is the right thing to do.

Example

Engineers and Geoscientists of BC (EGBC): Climate Change Action Plan
EGBC is strengthening its response to climate change through the development of a Climate Change Action Plan. Led by EGBC's Climate Change Advisory Group, the Plan will provide a comprehensive strategic planning framework for the association to guide and support its registrants in addressing climate change within their professional practice. Proposed initiatives within the Plan include strengthening cross-disciplinary practices with other professional organizations, expanding the Climate Change Information Portal, identifying opportunities for postsecondary engagement around professional obligations for climate change, and integrating climate change into professional practice guidelines and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programs. EGBC is consulting on and developing the Plan throughout 2020.

> "We have to look at climate change as a public interest issue. When we do, that changes the whole narrative around it. It's no longer just about business risk, but about the broader issues of how Canadians and the global community will be protected in the context of a changing climate. Associations need to think about the role they can play to address these broader concerns."
>
> -Gordon Beal, Vice President of Research Guidance and Support, Chartered Professional Accountants Canada

Source: Forestry Innovation Investment (https://www.bcfii.ca/bc-forests-and-markets/sustainable-forest-management)

Source: Vox (2020) https://www.vox.com/energy-and-environment/2020/4/16/21220312/coronavirus-stimulus-renewable-energy-democrats

Source: Christina @ wocintechchat.com on Pexels (www.pexels.com)

Barriers and Opportunities

Many associations face barriers to addressing climate change, especially smaller organizations and those who are still in the beginning stages of their climate change response. Keep reading to identify barriers you may face, and to learn about ways to overcome these challenges.

Barriers	Ways to overcome them
Lack of association resources and budget	• Think big, start small: Set long-term climate change goals for the sector or profession, and work backwards from that goal by laying out a set of manageable steps, starting with quick, easy wins (a process known as "Backcasting"[41]) • Weave climate change into existing projects and initiatives rather than take on large new projects • Build strategic partnerships with key adjacent sectors or allied professions to tackle barriers and challenges together, share resources and best-practices, and advance innovation • Advocate for and leverage government and other climate change funding opportunities • Seek out leader members who may be willing to fund collective research and develop the program
Uninterested and unmotivated membership	• Educate and engage members on climate change risks and opportunities through surveys, conferences, webinars, workshops, courses, and regular member communications • Use peer-learning formats, e.g. discussion forums, knowledge-sharing, networking channels • Amplify climate change best practices and stories of leading members – creating a fear of missing out (FOMO) • Use climate change awards and other recognition programs to encourage members to participate • Offer education to executive leadership of members to stimulate interest and demand
Securing the buy in of the association board and senior leadership	• Recruit sustainability champions from the membership to promote the program to others • Find common ground by highlighting the elements that everyone can get behind and support • Align the project to association's existing vision, mission, and priorities • Clarify the risks of inaction and the opportunities of proactive measures (see **The Case for Climate Action: Risks and Benefits** in the previous section for more information) • Recruit a committed member who has a strong link to the association's executive and board of directors to help make the case
Competition between members [Industry associations only]	• Focus on pre-competitive issues where collaboration can make a difference • Identify and advance climate change issues where members are not competing – GHG emission reductions, for example • Find common ground
Varying levels of climate change knowledge, competencies, and organizational size among members	• Determine priorities based on consensus • Ask larger companies to mentor smaller companies • Develop a list of quick-wins and easy steps to get smaller members started • Leverage the lessons and resources of other associations to build knowledge collectively, through sector-wide inter-association partnerships (e.g. across the textiles supply chain or the construction industry)

Source: These ideas were summarized from interviews with association representatives (see Appendix 2) as well as from online resources for associations.[42]

Climate Change Roadmap for Industry and Professional Associations

Now that you have considered the business and risk case for action, it is time to consider the steps your association might take to advance climate change progress amongst your members. The following diagram shows sequential high-level steps for both industry and professional associations to start or advance on their climate change journey. This Roadmap is meant to be used in combination with the **Climate Change Checklist of Practices** in the section below (or with the extended fillable version in **Appendix 4**), to help your association prioritize and order the practices in the checklist into a logical set of steps.

The diagram is inherently iterative, meaning associations may be working at multiple steps in the diagram simultaneously and will continually work in and out of these stages over time.

> **!**
>
> **It should be noted that, while Collaboration is not referred to as its own step in the diagram, it is an important element of each of the 6 Steps highlighted below. Collaboration and partnerships with government, civil society, academia, and other associations is essential to address interdisciplinary issues such as climate change, and it will help to alleviate the burden of tackling climate change on your own.**

STEP 1	**Research**	Develop a climate risk and business case specific to the sector/profession, based on relevant research
STEP 2	**Commit**	Adopt a board-approved climate change policy or declaration, committing to key actions
STEP 3	**Strategize**	Develop goals, set targets, engage members and stakeholders, and implement action plans
STEP 4	**Embed**	Embed climate change goals into existing plans, programs, and certifications; integrate climate change into professional standards of practice (if applicable)
STEP 5	**Educate, Support, and Advocate**	Develop educational tools and programs, promote best practices, and support peer learning; advocate for government climate policy
STEP 6	**Measure and Report**	Develop and track key performance indicators; report on progress

Source: Adapted from Strandberg Consulting's Framework.[43]

Climate Change Checklist for Associations: 10 Key Practices

The checklist below contains ten key practices to adopt to prepare your members for climate change. For a complete list of over 50 practices your association can adopt, and a benchmark/rating tool to assess your progress, see **Appendix 4: Fillable Climate Change Scorecard** (page 39). Note that the order of these practices will vary for each association.

Focus Area	Best Practice
1. Gather and Share Information	Gather, analyze, and summarize research on the physical and transition risks and opportunities of climate change that will affect your sector or profession (see **Climate Change Resources** on page 33 for examples). If your association is a member of a provincial or national association, see if they have this information available. Share research with the board of directors and members. Include information on the business case and imperative for acting on climate change.
2. Engage Board	Adopt a board-approved climate change policy/ commitment statement and work plan for how the profession or industry can reduce emissions, adapt to climate change impacts, and transition to the low-carbon economy.
3. Engage Members	Survey members on the climate change priorities of their organizations and the climate change priorities they would like the association to address collectively. Create a climate change committee, task force, or advisory group to recommend initiatives and strategies.
4. Provide Education	Include climate change research, news, and case studies in regular member communications (e.g. via newsletter, websites, reports, articles for members, etc.). Include climate change topics in conferences, webinars, lunch 'n learns, and other education programs.
5. Profile Best Practices	Publish case studies of members with best practices and innovative solutions in climate change mitigation and adaptation (for both large and small members).
6. Provide Resources	Create/share climate change tips, articles, toolkits, how-to guides, checklists.

Tip! Just starting out?
For associations just beginning the climate change journey, consider starting small by focusing on a few quick-wins. Where possible, weave climate change into your existing projects and initiatives rather than undertaking entirely new projects. Adapt the checklist to your organization's needs and priorities. For example, some organizations will start with gathering information and sharing research, while other organizations will start with preparing and adopting a board climate change policy or commitment statement.

Example

Chartered Professional Accountants (CPA) Canada: Climate Change Training
CPA Canada partnered with Natural Resources Canada to develop a multi-year training initiative to help Canadian business leaders recognize and anticipate the emerging financial impacts of climate change and help their organizations develop value-creating strategies for the long-term. Target audiences include Boards of Directors, Executives, and CPAs working in business and professional services.

Climate Change Checklist continued

Focus Area	Best Practice
7. Offer Awards	Create an Environment and Climate Change Award to recognize best practices and identify case studies to profile in communications, conferences, and webinars.
8. Embed in Operations	Develop a green meeting/conference protocol (e.g. eliminate paper use, plastic bottles, and waste, use green venues, consolidate number of meetings, hold virtual meetings, etc.). Include climate change in procurement policies (e.g. source from suppliers who have climate change action plans and who offer lower-carbon options. Include green criteria in RFPs for promotional products, conferences, and events).
9. Advocate for Climate Policy	Advocate for government policy to support members to improve their climate practices and resilience; integrate climate change into ongoing government engagement programs and partner with organizations that have shared advocacy goals.
10. Build Strategic Partnerships	Build strategic partnerships with trusted organizations with climate change expertise to deliver information, training, and resources to members (see Climate Change Resources on page 33 for examples); collaborate with other organizations or associations in the professional or sector ecosystem to foster best practices and knowledge sharing.

Source: These ideas were summarized from interviews with association representatives (see Appendix 3) as well as from existing online resources for associations.[44]

Example

Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP): Associations Leading by Example

The Canadian Institute of Planners is dedicated to helping its members respond to climate change through various initiatives, such as building climate change topics into conferences and webinars, establishing a Climate Change Committee, and developing a Climate Change Policy for the planning profession. The association also resolved to lead by example by committing to establish and implement a carbon-neutral strategy for its own operations in 2020. Prior to this, CIP assessed the GHG impacts of its board meetings and changed its meeting venue to reduce flight emissions.

Source: Chevanon Photography on Unsplash (https://unsplash.com/)

Congratulations!

Now that you understand the climate change facts, the risks of inaction and the opportunities of a proactive response, the steps involved to advance on the climate path, and the key practices to adopt to prepare a climate action plan for you and your members, you are ready to get started. Read on for a list of resources, and to access the fillable benchmark to assess your gaps and opportunities. Good luck!

Remember that your members and society will benefit from any actions you take. Those who act now will become leaders in our time.

Source: Fauxels on Pexels (www.pexels.com)

Appendices

Source: Annie Sprat on Unsplash (https://unsplash.com/photos/1rkWwZXMHil)

Appendices

Appendix 1: Climate Change Resources

The following is a list of publicly available climate change resources, including websites, networks and organizations, government programs, and other resources and tools to help your association advance action on climate change.

Government funding programs to support climate mitigation and adaptation

Federal:

- Climate Action Fund: funding for education, training and tools, outreach and promotion, and networking and partnering. Industry and trade associations are eligible.
- Low Carbon Economy Fund: funding for projects to make homes and buildings more energy efficient, help companies innovate and access technologies to reduce emissions, and help the forest and agriculture sectors enhance stored carbon in forests and soils.
- Clean Growth Hub: a whole-of-government focal point for clean technology focused on supporting companies and projects, coordinating programs, and tracking results.
- Building Regional Adaptation Capacity and Expertise (BRACE): a federal funding program to build the capacity of communities, organizations, small and medium-sized enterprises, and practitioners to access, use, and apply knowledge and tools on climate change adaptation in their work.

Provincial (BC):

- CleanBC Program for Industry: provides financial incentives for cleaner industrial operations that meet a low-carbon emissions benchmark.

Adaptation tools and networks

Federal:

- Canada's Climate Change Adaptation Platform: a national forum that brings together key groups in Canada to collaborate on climate change adaptation priorities. Members include representatives from federal, provincial, and territorial governments, industry, communities, academics, and Indigenous, professional, and not-for-profit organizations.

Provincial (BC):

- BC Professional Associations Adaptation Working Group (PAAWG): a working group hosted by the Fraser Basin Council which is made up of eight BC-based professional associations. Through teleconferences and workshops, members share knowledge and identify approaches to support inter-professional adaptation efforts.
- Adaptation Learning Network: a BC-based network of professionals from multiple disciplines that seeks to enhance knowledge and skills on climate adaptation through professional training and knowledge exchange.
- ReTooling for Climate Change: a first-stop website on climate change adaptation developed by the Fraser Basin Council, with tools and resources for BC local governments, First Nations, and the natural resource sectors.
- Plan2Adapt: an adaptation tool that generates maps, plots, and data describing projected future climate conditions for regions throughout British Columbia.

Resources for professional associations

- Professionals and Climate Change: How professional associations can get serious about global warming: this report from West Coast Environmental Law (2011) provides a list of recommendations for professional associations on how they can ensure their members consider climate change.
- Professional Societies and Climate Change: An analysis of how urban-focused professional societies are integrating climate change into their member engagement activities: this report from The Kresge Foundation (2017) is a US-based analysis of how urban-focused professional societies are integrating climate change into their member engagement activities.
- Low Carbon Resilience: Best Practices For Professionals: this report from the Adaptation to Climate Change Team (2018) contains case studies, tools and resources that highlight the key role professionals play as change agents in climate action, and how they can uptake Low-Carbon Resilience (LCR)-based practices.

Measuring and reporting tools and support

- Climate Smart: provides training, personalized coaching, software, and expert review and certification to help small and mid-sized businesses measure and reduce their carbon footprint while cutting costs.
- Greenhouse Gas Protocol: provides standards, guidance, tools and training for business and government to measure and manage climate-warming emissions. It is considered the global standard for GHG emission measurement and accounting.
- CDP (formerly Carbon Disclosure Project): a global environmental disclosure system which

supports companies, cities, states, and regions to measure and manage their risks and opportunities on climate change, water security and deforestation.

- Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures Final Recommendations: globally recognized standard issued by the G-8 Financial Stability Board for governing, managing, and disclosing climate-related financial risk.
- Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi): a collaboration between several international organizations to define and promote best practice in science-based target setting, showcase companies that set science-based targets, offer resources, workshops and guidance, and assess and approve companies' targets.

Climate change research, databases and organizations

Federal:

- Canadian Centre for Climate Services: provides Canadians with information and support to consider climate change in their decisions. It includes a library of climate resources, a support desk, and a climate data portal.
- Adaptation to Climate Change Team: advances adaptation research in Canada and internationally through academic, corporate and community research, events, networks, and affiliations. They produce guidelines specific to professional practice sectors.
- Canada's Changing Climate Report: research led by Environment and Climate Change Canada about how and why Canada's climate has changed and what changes are projected for the future.
- Canada's Top Climate Change Risks: this report, from the Council of Canadian Academies (2019), is a comprehensive examination of climate change risks from a whole-of-government perspective, informed by a multidisciplinary panel of experts.
- Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions: a BC-based institute that convenes solution seekers and research partners to co-design, co-develop, and co-deliver climate solutions for BC and Canada.

Provincial (BC):

- Preliminary Strategic Climate Risk Assessment: research led by the BC Government to better understand climate-related risks in B.C.

Appendix 2: Definitions

Adaptation: Climate Adaptation is any adjustment made in response to actual or expected future impacts of climate change, to either reduce vulnerability to harmful effects or make the most of any potential beneficial opportunities (IPCC).[45]

Carbon Sequestration: The capture and secure storage of carbon that would otherwise be emitted to, or remain, in the atmosphere (ScienceDirect).[46]

Climate Change: Climate change refers to any significant change in the measures of climate lasting for an extended period. In other words, climate change includes major changes in temperature, precipitation, or wind patterns, among other effects, that occur over several decades or longer (US EPA).[47]

Climate Justice: Climate Justice links human rights and development to achieve a human-centred approach to climate change mitigation and adaptation, safeguarding the rights of the most vulnerable and sharing the burdens and benefits of climate change and its resolution equitably and fairly (Mary Robinson Foundation).[48]

Greenhouse Gases: Gaseous constituents of the atmosphere, either natural or emitted by humans, that absorb and emit radiation, causing the greenhouse effect. Water vapour, carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, methane and ozone are the primary greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere (IPCC).[49]

Low-Carbon Resilience (LCR): The integration of strategies that both reduce GHG emissions (mitigation) and vulnerability to climate change impacts (adaptation) (ACT SFU).[50]

Mitigation: Climate Mitigation is any action to reduce the flow of heat-trapping GHG emissions into the atmosphere, either by reducing sources of these gases (for example, the burning of fossil fuels for electricity, heat or transport) or enhancing the “sinks” that accumulate and store these gases (such as the oceans, forests and soil) (NASA).[51]

Physical and Transition Risks: See page 22.

Science-Based Targets: Targets adopted by companies to reduce GHG emissions are considered “science-based” if they are in line with what the latest climate science says is necessary to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement – to limit global warming to well-below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursue efforts to limit warming to 1.5°C (SBTi).[52]

Sector Ecosystem: A complex network of interconnected organizations—including suppliers, distributors, customers, competitors, and government agencies—involved in the delivery of a specific product or service through both competition and cooperation, where each entity in the ecosystem affects and is affected by the others, creating a constantly evolving relationship in which each entity must be flexible and adaptable in order to survive as in a biological ecosystem (Investopedia).[53]

Appendix 3: Methodology and Associations Consulted

This Guide was informed through consultation with association stakeholders who represented 30 industry and professional associations, including chambers and boards of trade. Consultations occurred through one-on-one interviews throughout May - July 2020, and a virtual Climate Change Roundtable Consultation event in June 2020.

Of the 30 associations consulted:

- 19 were industry/business associations and 11 were professional associations;
- 14 were national Canadian associations, 1 was American, 1 was international, and 14 were BC-based.

See below for a complete list of associations consulted.

In addition, 7 experts from a range of BC organizations were consulted. A total of 42 people participated in consultations to inform key practices and opportunities profiled in the Guide.

In addition to the findings from consultations, the sections in this Guide are based on a scan of publicly available climate change research and existing sustainability guides and benchmarks for industry and professional associations.

Associations Consulted

Industry/Business Associations:

- BC Co-op Association
- BC Electrical Association
- Building Owners and Managers Association - BC
- Building Owners and Managers Association - Canada
- Burnaby Board of Trade
- Canadian Chambers of Commerce
- Canadian Credit Union Association
- Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters - BC
- Cement Association of Canada
- Chemistry Industry Association of Canada

- Fisheries Council of Canada
- Forest Products Association of Canada
- Greater Vancouver Board of Trade
- Railway Association of Canada
- Retail Council of Canada
- Strathcona Business Improvement Area
- The Mining Association of Canada
- Tourism Vancouver
- Vancouver Regional Construction Association

Professional Associations:

- American Society of Adaptation Professionals
- BC Real Estate Association
- BC Society of Landscape Architects
- Canadian Association of University Business Officers
- Canadian Institute of Planners
- Chartered Professional Accountants BC
- Chartered Professional Accountants Canada
- Engineers and Geoscientists BC
- Engineers Canada
- International Actuarial Association
- Planning Institute of BC

Appendix 4: Fillable Climate Change Scorecard

The purpose of the Climate Change Scorecard is to help industry and professional associations understand the many ways in which they can ensure their members consider climate change in their decision-making and reduce their physical and transition risks through climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The scorecard is a complete list of all the possible climate change practices an association could pursue – therefore not all practices will apply to each association. The list is meant to be tailored to fit the needs of each association, depending on their size, mandate, priorities, membership, and sector or profession. Associations just beginning their climate change journey can use this scorecard to develop their roadmap and prioritize their actions. Associations further along can use this scorecard to benchmark their progress and identify gaps and opportunities to address in future plans. Smaller associations can consider using the shorter version of this list on page 29.

There are 10 Themes and 55 practices, 15 of which are highlighted as priority practices. The highlighted priority practices are essential to build a basic climate change program and should be the focus of most association climate change programs. Note that the order of implementation of these practices will vary for each association (see Climate **Change Roadmap for Industry and Professional Associations** on page 28 for a sequential set of steps).

How to use the Scorecard:

1. Rank your association against the practices below, from 0 – 3. You can either rank each practice or just focus on the highlighted important practices.
2. Identify the gaps (i.e. where your practices are ranked 0 or 1) and the themes in which you score the lowest (see page 46 for your automatically-calculated scores).
3. Prioritize the actions to address in your association's Business Plan or Climate Change Plan over the next 1 – 2 years.
4. In one or two years, repeat this process to track your progress and identify additional steps to take.

Standalone Version of the Checklist for your Board and Leaders:

If you would like to fill out this checklist in a standalone document, which will automatically calculate your association's scores, here's a link to it on BCCIC's website: [link]

Key
0 = No Progress
1 = Beginning (i.e. occasionally practiced or in its developing stages)
2 = Advancing (i.e. often practiced and well-developed)
3 = Leading (i.e. consistently practiced and fully-developed; acts as a role-model for other associations)
N/A = The practice is not applicable (i.e. it is outside of the association's mandate)

Focus Area	Best Practice	Rank	Comments
Research and Knowledge Development			
1. Gather and Share Research and Information	A. Gather, analyze, summarize, and share research and information on the physical and transition risks and opportunities of climate change, and how they will affect members, their value chains/ecosystems/operating contexts, and the profession/sector until 2050. Conduct joint research with academia and research institutions where possible (example). Include climate change as a lens in the association's other research projects, especially where commissioning climate change research is cost-prohibitive	0	Insert comments here.
	B. Provide information to members on the business case and benefits for acting on climate change	0	
	C. Provide definitions of climate change terms and concepts to develop a shared knowledge-base and language among members	0	
2. Include Climate Change Information in Communications	A. Include climate change insights, trends, innovations, news, and case studies in regular member communications	0	
Professional Development and Education			
3. Provide Education and Training	A. Include climate change topics in conferences, webinars, and other education programs; put out a standing call for climate change sessions at conferences and webinars (example)	0	
	B. Hold workshops, courses, and training programs for climate change knowledge exchange, capacity building, and innovation sharing presented by experts and thought leaders (example). *[For Industry Associations, provide climate change education to executives of member companies]*	0	
	C. Develop climate change curriculum materials and/or engage post-secondary and training institutions on need for climate change education	0	
Standards and Certifications			
4. Update Standards and Certifications	A. For associations with standards, include climate change best practices (example)	0	
	B. For associations with professional guidelines, competencies, certifications, accreditations or designations, update them to include climate change as either a mandatory component or specialization (example). Include climate change as a component of members' Continuing Professional Development (example)	0	

Standards and Certifications Continued			
5. Promote Global Standards	A. Encourage members to adopt global climate change standards where relevant, e.g. publish a sustainability report that adheres to the Global Reporting Initiative, disclose climate change strategy following the guidelines of the CDP, endorse and implement the recommendations of the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures, etc.	0	Insert comments here.
Best Practices, Resources and Support			
6. Offer Awards and Profile Best Practices	A. Create and/or encourage member participation in Environment and Climate Change Awards that profile best practices (example). For associations that offer awards, use the nomination process to identify best practices to share at conferences and in webinars	0	
	B. Publish case studies of members with best practices and innovative solutions in climate change mitigation and adaptation (for both large and small members); share best practices of other associations with similar memberships; create an inventory or database of member best practices in climate change (example)	0	
7. Offer Tools and Peer Programs	A. Create/share climate change tips, articles, toolkits, how-to guides, checklists; consider housing resources within a climate change knowledge hub or centre of excellence (example)	0	
	B. Offer peer learning and mentoring programs, communities of practice, a help desk, or specialized advisory teams to support members	0	
	C. Create/share a peer benchmarking program to enable members to compare their practices and performance, learn from one another, and incentivize the adoption of better practices (example)	0	
Policy and Planning			
8. Consult and Engage Members and Stakeholders on Priorities	A. Survey members on the climate change priorities of their organizations and the climate change priorities they would like the sector/profession to address collectively (example)	0	
	B. Create climate change committee, task force or advisory group to recommend initiatives and strategies (example)	0	
	C. Consult external stakeholders to prioritize climate change actions for the sector/profession to address (example)	0	

Policy and Planning Continued			
9. Engage Board of Directors and Staff	A. Provide climate change education to the association's board of directors and staff	0	Insert comments here.
	B. Integrate climate change into the association's vision, mission, and/or strategic plan	0	
	C. Adopt and publicly communicate a board-approved climate change policy/ commitment statement for how the profession or industry can reduce emissions and adapt to climate change impacts	0	
10. Adopt Climate Justice Lens	A. Ensure climate policies and measures address disparities and unequal impacts experienced by diverse groups based on their gender identity, race, ethnicity, religion, age, mental or physical disability, and other identity factors. Consider diverse BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Colour) experiences in the development of your climate policy and plans *[See **Equity, Justice, and Climate Change** on pages 15-16 for more information]*	0	
11. Set Priorities and Develop Plan	A. Develop a Climate Change Plan for the association, including climate change goals, targets, and metrics for the sector/profession to pursue together, by prioritizing climate actions from research and consultation (example)	0	
	A. Publicly recognize the professional obligations that members owe to their clients and the public in relation to climate change, to ensure members consider climate change in their decision-making. For example, clarify how existing ethical obligations apply in light of climate change, and amend codes of conduct or ethics to explicitly recognize members' professional obligations in relation to climate change (example, resource) *[Professional Associations only]*	0	
	C. Include climate change in other initiatives, such as the Association's innovation and technology agenda (e.g. invest in technology that reduces costs and carbon) *[Industry Associations only]*	0	
12. Set Mitigation and Adaptation Targets	A. Adopt voluntary or mandatory industry-wide emission reduction targets for the sector to pursue together (including protocols, metrics, timelines), in line with the IPCC report (i.e. carbon neutrality by 2050), that enable members to track and measure their performance and the association to track, measure, and report the sector's performance and progress (example) *[Industry Associations only]*	0	
	B. Develop adaptation targets for the sector, based on scientific research and models/scenarios of current and future climate change impacts *[Industry Associations only]*	0	

Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting			
13. Monitor and Evaluate	A. Regularly review the sector's/profession's progress towards the Association's goals to mitigate and adapt to climate change (example)	0	Insert comments here.
	B. Develop and regularly update an internal database that tracks the sector's GHGs (example) *[Industry Associations only]*	0	
	C. Encourage members to use the Greenhouse Gas Protocol to measure their emissions, and consider the recommendations of the TCFD for disclosures *[Industry Associations only]*	0	
14. Report and Disclose	A. Report on the sector's/profession's climate mitigation and adaptation efforts, progress towards targets, and overall performance in regular annual or sustainability reports	0	
Marketing and Public Engagement			
15. Tell Stories and Brand Efforts	A. Help members market their climate change practices and tell their climate change story, e.g. develop a brand or template for members to use in their marketing *[Industry Associations only]*	0	
	B. Position the sector/profession as offering solutions to climate change mitigation and adaptation (example); Include climate change story in market development and trade and export promotion of the sector *[Industry Associations only]*	0	
	C. Attract future talent into the profession by profiling the profession's contribution to addressing climate change *[Professional Associations only]*	0	
16. Increase Public/ Consumer Awareness	A. Initiate public awareness campaigns to communicate the climate performance and leadership of the sector/profession	0	
	B. Launch public and consumer education campaigns on climate change actions the public/consumers can pursue (example)	0	
17. Mobilize Support for Climate Action	A. Endorse climate change commitment statements, charters, or principles and recruit other signatories (example)	0	
	B. Release position papers on the significance of climate change and the industry's or profession's response, and encourage others to do the same (example)	0	
	C. Provide awards to external organizations, e.g. government, research institutes, suppliers, and vendors, to generate demand and interest in addressing climate change	0	

Government Relations			
18. Collaborate with Government	A. Provide expertise to municipal, provincial, and federal governments on the climate change impacts on/of the sector or profession and the role the association is playing (example)	0	Insert comments here.
	B. Seek out and apply for government funding to help the sector or profession transition to a low carbon economy and adapt to climate change (example) (see **Climate Change Resources** on page 33 for more information)	0	
	C. Engage with governments on public policy measures to advance climate action and develop a climate change narrative/story members can use with governments where they lack this capacity	0	
19. Public Policy Advocacy	A. Proactively seek opportunities to comment on the development of federal, provincial, regional, and municipal climate strategies (example); include climate considerations as part of the association's budget submissions	0	
	B. Join a climate advocacy coalition to lobby governments on an accelerated climate change response (e.g. Smart Prosperity Leaders' Initiative, Climate Action Network Canada); engage ENGOs and other organizations to collaborate on shared advocacy objectives (example)	0	
	C. Advocate for government policy to support members to improve their climate practices/resilience; include in the association's Government Relations Plan measures that support the association's climate change goals and targets; ensure the association has consistent advocacy positions across its Government Relations program (example)	0	
Collaboration and Partnerships			
20. Collaborate with Other Sectors and Professions	A. Identify key adjacent sectors or allied professions that need an aligned climate change response to ensure the success of the overall value chain, partner to foster best practices and knowledge sharing, tackle barriers and challenges together, and advance innovation; initiate or join collaborations on climate mitigation and adaptation with other associations, addressing shared risks and opportunities	0	
	B. Create tools and resources for partner and allied groups to aid their climate efforts	0	
	C. Provide climate change tools and resources for organizations where members work and develop strategies to enhance the climate change competencies of organizations and sectors that hire members *[Professional Associations only]*	0	

Collaboration and Partnerships Continued			
21. Partner with Climate Change Experts	A. Engage a trusted organization with climate change expertise to deliver information, training and resources to members (e.g. Climate Smart, Adaptation Learning Network, local ENGOs, etc.)	0	Insert comments here.
22. Advance Climate Justice	A. Build relationships and partnerships with Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and NGOs/ENGOs, to foster Climate Justice and address needs, priorities, and rights of under-represented communities	0	
23. Partner Internationally	A. Build strategic climate change partnerships and collaborations with international associations in the sector or profession; find out about new research, best practices, and experts from international partnerships; recruit them to address climate change at conferences and events	0	
Operational Practices			
24. Reduce Operational Emissions	A. Adopt and implement a plan for the association to become carbon neutral (example)	0	
25. Embed in Procurement and Green Meeting Protocols	A. Hold conversations with the association's suppliers about how they can reduce their emissions and offer sustainable options and choices; include climate change in the association's procurement policy, e.g. to source from suppliers who have climate change action plans in place and who offer lower-carbon options	0	
	B. Develop a green meeting/conference protocol with the following elements: eliminate paper use, reduce waste, eliminate plastic bottles, use green venues, consolidate number of meetings, hold virtual meetings, offer airport pickups for those arriving together, etc.; include green criteria in RFPs for conferences and events (Resource)	0	
26. Review Investments	A. Ensure financial endowments and investments adhere to the recommendations of the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures and address physical and transition risks of climate change	0	

Source: These ideas were summarized from interviews with association representatives (see Appendix 3 of the full Guide) as well as from existing online resources for associations.[54]

Your Total Scores

How does your association perform in each of the 10 themes? See the table below for your automatically calculated scores, based on your responses to the Climate Change Scorecard. Your scores can help you benchmark your association's current climate change practices and identify priority areas to address.

**Note: Each use of the "N/A" option reduces the total number of possible points in your score by 3.*

Theme	Your Score	%
Research and Knowledge Development	0 / 12	0.00%
Professional Development and Education	0 / 9	0.00%
Standards and Certifications	0 / 9	0.00%
Best Practices, Resources and Support	0 / 15	0.00%
Policy and Planning	0 / 36	0.00%
Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting	0 / 12	0.00%
Marketing and Public Engagement	0 / 24	0.00%
Government Relations	0 / 18	0.00%
Collaboration and Partnerships	0 / 18	0.00%
Operational Practices	0 / 12	0.00%
Grand Total	0 / 165	0.00%

Key:

0-9% = Initiating: Minimal progress on climate change initiatives, just starting out

10-29% = Beginning: Basic steps have been adopted and basic initiatives are being pursued

30-49% = Developing: Programs and initiatives are underway, and a good foundation has been established

50-69% = Advancing: Considerable progress has been made, a few steps short of a complete program

70-100% = Leading: Climate change practices are well-established and exemplary

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The British Columbia Council for International Cooperation (BCCIC) is a coalition of over 140 individuals and civil society organizations that has engaged in sustainable development and environmental issues for 30 years.

BCCIC supports its members in becoming more effective agents of change in their sustainable development efforts by disseminating knowledge gained through collaborative projects, building relationships across sectors and networks, and developing the capacity of sustainable development practitioners. BCCIC also represents members' interests and advances civil society policy recommendations on municipal, provincial, national, and international issues.

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