

Community Climate Change Adaptation Project



Climate change can potentially affect all aspects of life in the Yukon, influencing everything and everyone. Climate change is expected to increase temperature and precipitation. As temperature and precipitation change, so too will our weather, our forests, our lakes, our rivers and our wetlands. The distribution of permafrost may also change. As the effects of climate change alter the Yukon landscape, they will influence how we interact with our environment, the plant and animal species important to us, and how we live.



How Can Yukon Respond To Climate Change?

One way that Yukon can respond to climate change is to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases (GHGs) emitted into the atmosphere. Called **“mitigation”**, reducing GHG emissions will reduce the severity of climate change.

Another way Yukon can respond to climate change is to anticipate and respond to the ways that shifting climate conditions may affect us. This is called **“adaptation”**. Adaptation is important because Yukon is expected to experience some climate change regardless of how successful we are at limiting our GHG emissions.



Why Should Yukon Adapt to Climate Change?

In some ways Yukon residents have always adapted to shifting climate conditions; by changing how they live, by respecting their relationship with the land and by supporting each other. While these strengths will continue to help Yukon communities to continue to adapt to climate change, the changes to our landscape expected over the next sixty years are likely to be large and to occur very quickly. We need to ensure that we, our houses, our highways, and our power and food supplies are not vulnerable to any negative consequences of climate change.



How Can Yukon Adapt to Climate Change?

Adaptations can minimize the negative impacts of climate change and/or maximize our ability to benefit from it. In short, we adapt by preparing for climate change. To make sure we are ready for important impacts, Yukon communities need to develop a strategy to respond to climate change. This strategy will help to identify what needs to be done first, where communities may benefit from climate change, and who can help communities to prepare. Strategies like this will help communities to increase their ability to respond to disturbances, to take advantage of opportunities as they emerge, or to cope with any negative consequences of climate change. Communities that have prepared to respond to changing climate conditions have increased their **“adaptive capacity”**.



What is an Adaptation?

Adaptations come in many forms. Some adaptations, “*coping mechanisms*”, are done at a small scale by an individual or group of people working together. These adaptations may include changing what food is eaten, how food is stored, and when it is gathered. Other adaptations of this type may include organizing snow shoveling teams or using beetle killed wood for heating.

Other “*strategic adaptations*” occur at larger scales and require greater planning, institutional support/partnerships, and funding. These adaptations are necessary for disaster preparation, to renew/reinvent infrastructure such as buildings and highways, and to ensure adequate food security and health provision in the territory.



What is CCCAP?

The Community Climate Change Adaptation Project (CCCAP) is a pilot project designed to help Yukon communities to prepare for climate change. The project will work with three Yukon communities to evaluate how they are vulnerable to climate change and then to develop a plan to adapt to any challenges or opportunities that may emerge. After an adaptation plan has been developed, CCCAP will work with communities to implement some of the plan recommendations to ensure that the process of increasing their adaptive capacity has begun.

CCCAP will run from 2007 to 2012. During that time we will complete the following objectives:

2007-2008:

- Project start-up

2008-2009:

- Vulnerability assessment for Dawson City
- Selection of Community #2 (Whitehorse)

2009-2010

- Complete adaptation planning in Dawson City
- Implementation of selected adaptation projects in Dawson City
- Vulnerability assessment for Whitehorse
- Selection of Community #3 (Mayo)

2010-2011

- Complete implementation of adaptation projects in Dawson City
- Complete adaptation planning in Whitehorse
- Implementation of selected adaptation projects in Whitehorse
- Vulnerability assessment for Mayo
- Complete adaptation planning in Mayo

2011-2012

- Complete implementation of adaptation projects in Whitehorse
- Implementation of selected adaptation projects in Mayo
- Complete implementation of adaptation projects in Mayo



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