

BACKGROUND

CLIMATE-SMART: AN INTEGRATED, COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

Introduction

Climate change is expected to impact communities across Canada. Changes such as rising sea levels, higher temperatures, changes in rain and snow falls all have impacts on municipal infrastructure and operations as well as on the resource base on which communities depend. For example, more intense rainstorms could require changes in storm sewer design and/or operations. Planners, engineers and municipal decision-makers will all have to take a changing climate into account as they plan for the future.

Adaptation to climate change means adjusting our activities and practices to reduce vulnerability to changes in climate. It is a necessary complement to actions on emissions reductions. Developing adaptation strategies requires understanding the climate change issues of concern, as well as the decision-making processes already in place. Current research indicates that the most effective actions are developed by building on current approaches. However, there are at present few examples and little guidance on how this could best be done at the municipal level.

The Project

Climate-SMART (Climate-Change Sustainable Mitigation & Adaptation Risk Toolkits) is a two-year project that will help municipalities develop management and planning tools to adapt to climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Products in the toolkit will include a guide for identifying climate change adaptation planning and management options, and a tool to assist municipalities conduct cost-benefit adaptation assessments. The project will focus on the Halifax

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Regional Municipality, but will be designed so that the lessons learned and the tools developed during the process can be applied to other municipalities in the future.

Funding

Funding of \$150,000 is coming from the federal Climate Change Impacts & Adaptation Program, managed by Natural Resources Canada. Other funding will bring the total investment in Climate-SMART to \$445,000.

The project involves partnerships with three levels of government, as well as the private sector. Project leaders will work with policy makers, practitioners and community members to integrate climate change adaptation into decision-making processes.

Proponents and Partners

Dillon Consulting Ltd.
de Romilly & de Romilly Ltd
Halifax Regional Municipality
Feetham and Associates
Environment Canada
Nova Scotia Department of Energy
Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour

Climate Change Impacts & Adaptation Program

The Government of Canada's Climate Change Impacts & Adaptation Program provides funding for research and activities to improve our knowledge of Canada's vulnerability to climate change, to better assess the risks and benefits posed by climate change and to build the foundation upon which appropriate decisions on adaptation can be made. The Program also facilitates interaction between stakeholders and researchers through support of the Canadian Climate Impacts and Adaptation Research Network

For more information on this project, you may contact:

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