

Infrastructure and Buildings Working Group

IBWG Meeting 43

December 10, 2024 – 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm ET

Meeting Summary

1. IBWG Updates and Announcements

- For new members, please join the IBWG directory by completing this quick form:
<https://forms.gle/vgJqG1ayWKVUMTy48>
 - Please note that the information shared in this form will be publicly available.
- **New FCM Funding and Tools:**
 - FCM Climate-ready Plans and Processes:
<https://greenmunicipalfund.ca/funding/climate-ready-plans-processes>
 - FCM Climate-Ready Communities Assessment Tool:
<https://greenmunicipalfund.ca/climate-ready-communities-assessment-tool>
- **Infrastructure Resources for Climate Resilience:**
 - [Climate Insight](#)
 - [Climate Ready Infrastructure Service \(CRIS\) - Climate Ready Infrastructure Service](#)
 - [Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada - Codes, standards and guidance for climate resilience](#) ; [Logement, Infrastructures et Collectivité Canada - Codes, normes et lignes directrices pour la résilience climatique](#)
 - [Bill 198, Ontario Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Act, 2024 - Legislative Assembly of Ontario](#)

2. Presentations [PDFs attached]

Climate Toolkit for Housing Infrastructure

Speakers:

Devin Causley (Senior Policy Analyst, Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada)

Christopher Chen (Manager, Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada)

Meeting Overview:

- Intention of the toolkit is to be a connector in the resilience space for all communities, but specifically helping HICC funding applicants
- Encouraging low carbon resilience approaches
- Composed of 3 spheres of service (**now all available**):
 - **Climate Help Desk**
 - ♣ Staffed by HICC

- ♣ Can help users identify programs, decide on adaptation solutions, identify leading climate resilience standards for their asset, etc.
- **Roster of Experts**
 - ♣ Led by the Canadian Urban Institute
 - ♣ Matching climate and infrastructure experts with local communities, to help strengthen their climate related options to infrastructure projects
 - ♣ Qualified, appropriate (e.g., regional specific) professionals
 - ♣ Trying to make it easy for communities to integrate climate considerations into their projects supporting diverse projects
 - ♣ Support capacity building for users
 - ♣ You can register as a Climate expert by filling out the form linked on the website here: [Apply Now - Climate Ready Infrastructure Service](#)
- **Online Platform: Climate Insight**
 - ♣ Broadest base of support
 - ♣ Learn about climate trends, library of core relevant tools, guides, case studies
 - ♣ Bring what exists to the platform, cultivating resources, as opposed to creating new ones
 - ♣ Year 2 of 5-year plan
 - ♣ Updated every 6-months- please reach out to Devin Causley if you come across any resources that should be captured (Devin.Causley@infc.gc.ca)

Discussion:

Chris Chen: For more information about the Climate Ready Infrastructure Service (CRIS) and to register interest, please go to: climatereadycanada.ca

Relevant for potential local communities (municipalities, etc.) seeking free services or for potential Roster Experts (paid) to work with local communities. Please contact: Matt Buckman (mbuckman@canurb.org), Robert Plitt (rplitt@canurb.org)

Harshan Radhakrishnan: Re: Roster of Experts, FYI: Engineers and Geoscientists BC conducts an annual information reporting process, requiring registrants to declare their industries and areas of practice. Currently, over 300 registrants have self-declared "Climate Science" or "Climate Risk Management" as their areas of practice. Please note:

- Declarations are self-reported.
- Registrants undergo routine audits and practice reviews by Engineers and Geoscientists BC.

To find practitioners, search by industry/area of practice in the Registrant Directory:

<https://tools.egbc.ca/Registrant-Directory>

Devin Causley: QR code for feedback or to register with our e-bulletin list.

Q: To what extent can this resource assist applicants with applications?

A: Services can't help them prepare an application, but can help with climate considerations and prepare the background documents

Post-Workshop Engagement Session: National Workshop “From Knowledge to Action”

Speakers:

Catherine Hallmich (Policy Analyst, Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada).

Gillian Koh (Manager, Climate Change and Sustainability at Standards Council of Canada)

Meeting Overview

- Over 60 senior leaders, experts, federal officials responsible for public infrastructure or climate adaptation attended the December 4 workshop
- The workshop had two objectives: 1) identify gaps in guidance for top hazards and key infrastructure assets, 2) define needs and commit to supporting the update and impact of existing guidance
- Canada is the first country in the world to use future design values in their building code
- Breakout sessions were divided by topic area, resulting in over 100 suggestions
 - Identifying gaps in guidance, for example:
 - ♣ Asset specific guidance for resilience to coastal flooding
 - ♣ Standard to prevent embers from travelling into buildings, standard for HVAC
 - Define needs, for example:
 - ♣ Funders and asset owners can write resilient guidance into procurement requirements
 - ♣ Scientists help distill technical information for non-technical audiences (e.g., real estate agenda, insurance brokers, etc.)

3. IBWG Member Roundtable

Rob De Puis (Insurance Bureau of Canada): As a result of the Jasper wildfire, Parks Canada officials have posted the Rebuilding Guide which includes key changes to improve wildfire resilience:

<https://parks.canada.ca/pn-np/ab/jasper/gestion-management/serviceimmobilier-realty/reconstruction-rebuilding/guide#fire>

Harshan Radhakrishnan: Co-developing with CRI a training program named the Climate Resiliency Training project. It is the first national level training programs. The audience is mainly engineers, but includes other professionals in the infrastructure sector as well (e.g., planners, architects). Focuses on public sector buildings and part 3 buildings. Happy to provide more info, if of interest to the group.

Rob De Puis: ICLR has issued a wildfire-urban post-fire case study: the 2023 BC Grouse wildfire complex: <https://www.iclr.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Grouse-Complex-WU-Fires-N.pdf>

4. Shared Resources

Gerald Smith: Does anyone know of any existing climate- risk guidance (education/training) that real-estate agents and brokers can refer to in order to inform home buyers?

- <https://urbaneer.com/blog/climate-risk-assessment-tool-is-now-available-for-canadian-homebuyers-and-homeowners>
- From what I can see, there are great resources (like below) and engagement/education/outreach efforts by ENGOs like Reep Green Solutions, but often focused on single hazards Smith, Gerald T EMCR:EX (Unverified):
https://www.intactcentreclimateadaptation.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/UoW_ICCA_2022_02-Treading-Water_Flooding-and-Housing-Market.pdf
- This has been my go-to resource to educate people on their climate risks with an equity lens: <https://healthyplan.city/en> (we at Partners for Action (P4A) at UWaterloo partnered with CANUE on the flood layer). I see this is similar to ICLEI's mapping on ClimateInsight
- This was a portal created in partnership with Co-operators and Farm Mutual Re at a time where nothing like this existed. <https://floodsmartcanada.ca/reduce-your-risks/>.
- We at P4A (in collaboration with NRC and building on work done with Halifax Regional Municipality) will be launching a multi-hazard database of resilient retrofits (which also gives you direction on measures for new builds) in Jan or Feb. This is a BETA site and the database has updates needed that we cannot make right now (darned platform!) - but here is the link for those interested: <https://climateresilientretrofits.ca/database/>
- The Intact Centre has produced a number of excellent one page infographics targeted at homeowners, and also offers flood protection training for mortgage professionals and home inspectors
- One pagers: [Climate-Ready Infographics – Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation](#)
- Flood protection training: [Flood Protection Training – Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation](#)

Harshan Radhakrishnan: Is there a standard or a resource for the application of equity lens to the development of climate resilient infrastructure?

- You've likely seen this, but BC Housing's toolkit talks about equity:
<https://www.bchousing.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/Realizing-Resilient-Buildings-in-BC.pdf> (not a 'standard' though but more mentioning it)
- <https://www.torontomu.ca/diversity/standards/#PASEN>