



Canadian Environmental
Assessment Agency

Agence canadienne
d'évaluation environnementale

Incorporating Climate Change Considerations in Environmental Assessment



*General Guidance for
Practitioners*

IAIA April 2004



Canada

Introduction

Prepared by:

A Federal-Provincial-Territorial committee

Supported & chaired by:

The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency

Built upon:

*Extensive consultations with jurisdictions &
stakeholders*

Why the need to consider it in EA?

- ✓ **Climate change is recognized as an important environmental issue.**
- ✓ **EA has the potential to link project planning and management to the broader climate change response.**
- ✓ **The public, stakeholders, and the government are increasingly raising climate change issues in project EA.**
- ✓ **A consistent approach to climate change is needed across jurisdictions.**

Why is it of particular importance to Canada?

- ➡ Shifting weather patterns across Canada
- ➡ Vast coastal areas vulnerable to flooding and erosion
- ➡ Changing ice patterns and shrinking glaciers
- ➡ Changing patterns of flora and fauna
- ➡ Impact on Northern peoples, their environment, culture & livelihood

Guidance on...

Climate change considerations in EA

- *Projects contribution to **GHG emissions***
- ***Impact** of climate change on the project*

Recommended procedures

- *Scope GHG/Impacts Considerations*
- *Identify GHG/Impacts Considerations*
- *Assess GHG/Impacts Considerations*
- *Complete GHG/Impacts Management Plan*
- *Monitor, Follow-Up & use Adaptive Management*

Guidance on... (cont'd)

EA tools for practitioners

- *Proposed worksheets*
- *Key sources of information*
- *Case studies of Canadian approaches*

NOTE:

The guidance is consistent with national climate change Policy & will be updated as climate change policies, science, & EA practice continues to develop.

Challenges

Legislation and Policy

- National and jurisdictional climate change policy still in development.
- Lack of legally binding regulations or sanctioned benchmarks for GHG emission reductions.

EA Practice

- New and evolving field requiring further research and application.
- The contribution of an individual project to climate change cannot be measured.
- Lack of consistent approach to date.

In spite of these challenges:

- GHG emissions and the potential impacts of climate change on projects can be assessed.
- Assessing climate change implications is consistent with EA practice.
- Our scientific understanding and regulatory policies are advancing.
- It is essential that project proponents and decision makers are aware of any important climate change implications.

Benefits

- **Increase attention to, and awareness of climate change considerations.**
- **Increase consideration of less emission-intensive ways to design and operate projects.**
- **Minimize risks to projects and the environment from climate change impacts.**
- **Improve level of information provided to decision makers.**
- **Assure public and other stakeholders that climate change considerations are being taken into account.**

Finding the Guidance Document

- http://www.ceaa.gc.ca/012/014/index_e.htm
- [http://www.ceaa.gc.ca/012/014/climate change_e.pdf](http://www.ceaa.gc.ca/012/014/climate_change_e.pdf)

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Thank you