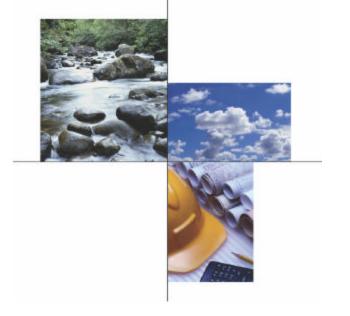


Incorporating Climate Change Considerations in Environmental Assessment



General Guidance for Practitioners

IAIA April 2004







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





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Thank you



