

CIP POLICY ON CLIMATE CHANGE

“ WARMING OF THE CLIMATE SYSTEM IS
UNEQUIVOCAL, AS IS NOW EVIDENT
FROM OBSERVATIONS OF INCREASES IN GLOBAL
AVERAGE AIR AND OCEAN TEMPERATURES,
WIDESPREAD MELTING OF SNOW AND ICE, AND
RISING GLOBAL AVERAGE SEA LEVEL.”



- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC),
Fourth Assessment Report, "Climate Change 2007:
Synthesis Report - Summary for Policymakers", p. 1.



CANADIAN INSTITUTE OF PLANNERS || INSTITUT CANADIEN DES URBANISTES

Shaping Our Communities || *Bâtir nos communautés*
Sustaining Canada's Future || *Pour un Canada viable*

1.

DECLARATION

THE CANADIAN INSTITUTE OF PLANNERS (CIP) BELIEVES CLIMATE CHANGE IS REAL AND IMMEDIATE. THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AFFECT AND WILL CONTINUE TO AFFECT ALL ASPECTS OF OUR MISSION TO ENSURE A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE AND TO SHAPE BETTER COMMUNITIES.

THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE USES THE FOLLOWING DEFINITIONS:

MITIGATION:

An anthropogenic* intervention to reduce the sources or enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases.

ADAPTATION:

Adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities.

* "relating to or resulting from the influence that humans have on the natural world."



2.

BASIS OF POLICY

“THERE IS VERY HIGH CONFIDENCE THAT THE NET EFFECT OF HUMAN ACTIVITIES SINCE 1750 HAS BEEN ONE OF WARMING. GLOBAL ATMOSPHERIC CONCENTRATIONS OF CO₂, METHANE (CH₄) AND NITROUS OXIDE (N₂O) HAVE INCREASED MARKEDLY AS A RESULT OF HUMAN ACTIVITIES SINCE 1750 AND NOW FAR EXCEED PRE-INDUSTRIAL VALUES DETERMINED FROM ICE CORES SPANNING MANY THOUSANDS OF YEARS.”

- IPCC, Fourth Assessment Report, “Climate Change 2007: Synthesis Report – Summary for Policymakers”, p. 4.

As the professional body representing 7,000 planners across Canada, CIP knows that the role of planners is vital in helping Canada and the world meet the challenges of climate change. Planners think holistically and for the long-term, whether strategizing to manage urban growth, protect natural resources or sustain rural and northern communities. Planners take decisions that influence the way we live – from housing choice to place of work to mode of transport. In carrying out the planning process, planners educate and learn from communities and in turn, provide links among politicians, residents, developers, and other professionals.

In launching this policy, CIP is breaking new ground. In the past, CIP has focused its policy activity on reacting to government initiatives rather than creating new policy. However, given that climate change affects every dimension of our profession and adds considerable uncertainty to the planning process, CIP maintains that all sectors of society must work together, that planners have a significant role and believes the time is right to lead our members on this critical issue.

CIP’s climate change policy draws from the fifth core principle established in our Strategic Plan. This principle commits CIP to **“reduce the rate of climate change, mitigate its effects, and plan for adaptation.”**

3.

STATEMENT OF GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

THE CANADIAN INSTITUTE OF PLANNERS ENDORSES THE FOLLOWING POLICY ON CLIMATE CHANGE.

GOAL

In acknowledging our share of responsibility to future generations for custodianship of this planet and its habitats, the Canadian Institute of Planners aims to empower its members to tackle the effects of climate change.

OBJECTIVES

To achieve this goal, CIP has set the following objectives:

- To increase planners’ capacity to mitigate and adapt to climate change locally, nationally, and internationally;
- To increase planners’ knowledge about climate change, mitigation techniques, and adaptation strategies;
- To raise awareness of the links between planning and climate change among its members, the general public, other professionals, and our international colleagues;
- To build networks of professionals to support collaborative solutions for meeting the challenges of climate change.

4.

POLICY DIRECTIVES

“UNMITIGATED CLIMATE CHANGE WOULD, IN THE LONG TERM, BE LIKELY TO EXCEED THE CAPACITY OF NATURAL, MANAGED AND HUMAN SYSTEMS TO ADAPT.”

- IPCC, Fourth Assessment Report, Working Group III, Summary for Policy Makers, p. 20.

CIP ENDORSES THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS TO ENSURE PLANNERS CONTRIBUTE TO MITIGATING AND ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE:

1. CIP will champion action on climate change policy nationally and internationally.
2. CIP will facilitate the exchange of information between the scientific community and professional planners to make sure our members have access to the best available information on climate change, in language that is easily understood.
3. CIP will empower its members to consider climate change in their actions and recommendations within the broad ambit of planning activities (including for example, long-range plan preparation, development approval, planning for energy, infrastructure and transportation, resource management) in order to:
 - a. minimize risks associated with extreme events and with the cumulative effects of climate change;
 - b. protect natural resources and habitats;
 - c. ensure no adverse public health effects;
 - d. build resilience into communities; and
 - e. take advantage of mitigation and adaptation techniques, whenever possible.
4. Given that mitigation efforts alone cannot avoid further impacts of climate change, CIP will increase the knowledge and skills amongst its members to develop suitable adaptation strategies to enable communities to manage the effects of climate change and minimize adverse impacts.
5. In keeping with policies 3 and 4 above, CIP will support its members by:
 - a. commissioning applied research that addresses climate change challenges from a planning perspective;
 - b. supporting demonstration projects in climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies and methods;
 - c. developing and disseminating best-practice recommendations for climate change mitigation and adaptation planning; and
 - d. designing climate change educational resources for use in continuous professional learning (CPL) and academic programs.
6. CIP will work collaboratively with universities and other post-secondary institutions to ensure climate change is integrated into the curriculum for planners.
7. CIP will continue to work with Natural Resources Canada and Environment Canada for the development and consolidation of reliable data, adaptation tools and mitigation techniques that are usable at the regional and local level.
8. CIP will issue a Report Card to monitor how well this policy is being implemented.