

Transportation Association of Canada Climate Change Task Force

Guidance Document for Committees

The Climate Change Task Force was established to raise awareness of the importance of climate change and related issues amongst TAC councils, committees and its membership and to advance the need to consider mitigation and adaptation initiatives, in addition to green house gas reduction, in the work of the Association. The Task Force provides a coordinating role on the topic of climate change to ensure that TAC councils and committees are not duplicating work by others within or outside the organization, and where possible, encourages TAC councils and committees to collaborate on their initiatives where it is beneficial to do so.

The short to mid term objectives of the Task Force include:

- The identification and categorization of existing initiatives towards climate change mitigation and adaptation that are being undertaken by TAC councils and committees;
- The recommendation of new mitigation and adaptation initiatives that should be addressed by TAC councils and committees;
- The development of criteria and perspectives on the potential effectiveness and success of the various initiatives; and
- The recommendation of additional projects, initiatives or activities to the TAC Board of Directors as appropriate.

The Climate Change Task Force wants to engage and challenge TAC councils and committees to incorporate climate change in all their discussions and technical assessments. Most, if not all, groups are already well positioned in the context of strategic transportation initiatives, emerging technologies and best practices. It is anticipated that the groups' experience and expertise could identify, leverage and advance a corresponding climate change adaptation and mitigation strategy. In this regard, it is suggested that groups review their respective work plans in light of the following fundamental considerations:

1. How are you looking at climate change?
2. How does it fit in terms of your work plan and priorities?
3. Are your projects of an adaptive or mitigative nature?
4. Are direct climate change impacts or benefits identifiable and quantifiable for your projects?
5. Can or should alternative solutions to transportation challenges be developed that better address climate change?
6. What projects should or could your committee undertake to address climate change issues?

For reference, TAC maintains a database of current practices and innovations, which is growing with the addition of climate change reference. It is available at <http://www.tacatc.ca/english/information/services/od-bestpractices.cfm>)

Addressing climate change through the Association's work will advance the concept of sustainable transportation to new heights. The important work at the committee level will ensure that TAC and its members are well positioned to be pro-active and responsive to emerging issues.