



THE
CANADIAN
INSTITUTE OF
PLANNERS

POLICY ON CLIMATE CHANGE

“Human influence on the climate system is clear, and recent anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases are the highest in history. Recent climate changes have had widespread impacts on human and natural systems.”

– Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Fifth Assessment Report,
“Climate Change 2014: Synthesis Report – Summary for Policymakers”, p. 2.



1. DECLARATION

The Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP) believes 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.

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”, p4.*

As the professional body representing 6,300 professional planners across Canada, CIP knows that the role of planners is vital in helping Canada and the world meet the challenges of climate change. In carrying out the

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.

Many adaptation and mitigation options can help address climate change, but no single option is sufficient by itself. Effective implementation depends on policies and cooperation at all scales and can be enhanced through integrated responses that link mitigation and adaptation with other societal objectives.

planning process, planners educate and learn from communities and in turn, provide links among politicians, residents, developers, and other professionals.

CIP members should reference section 1.3 of the ***CIP Code of Professional Conduct:***

“The Planner’s Responsibility to the Public Interest – Members shall acknowledge the inter-related nature of planning decisions and the consequences for natural and human environments.”



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 DIRECTIVES¹

CIP endorses the following actions to ensure planners contribute to the mitigation and adaptation of climate change:

1. CIP will champion action on climate change policy nationally and internationally.
2. CIP will ensure that members have access to the best available scientific information on climate change, in a language that is understandable.
3. CIP will empower its members to consider climate change in their actions and recommendations, in order to:
 - a) Minimize the risk and cumulative effects associated with extreme weather events;

¹ Original text has been condensed. Please refer to original policy 2009 for full text cip-icu.ca/ClimateChange

- b) Protect natural resources and habitats;
 - c) Ensure no adverse public health effects;
 - d) Build resilience into our communities;
 - e) Take advantage of mitigation and adaptation measures, whenever possible.
- 4.** CIP will increase the adaptation and mitigation knowledge and skills amongst members, towards minimizing adverse impacts on our communities.
- 5.** To achieve 3 & 4, CIP will support its membership by:
- a) Commissioning applied research
 - b) Supporting demonstration projects
 - c) Communicating best practices recommendations
 - d) Designing educational resources for Continuous Professional Learning (CPL) and academia
- 6.** CIP will work collaboratively with post-secondary institutions to incorporate climate change into their curricula.
- 7.** CIP will work with Environment Canada and Natural Resources Canada to develop and communicate reliable data, adaptation tools and mitigation techniques that are usable by its members.
- 8.** CIP will issue a Report Card to monitor how well this policy is being implemented.



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