



Communities Adapting to Climate Change

Communities Adapting to Climate Change 2nd Regional Workshop for Local Government

Workshop Summary Report

Location: The Prestige Lakeside Resort, Nelson B.C.

Date: Wednesday, October 14, 2009



CBT Director of Water and Environment, Kindy Gosal, welcomes participants to the Communities Adapting to Climate Change 2nd Regional Workshop on October 14th, 2009 at the Prestige Lakeside Resort in Nelson, B.C.



Communities Adapting to Climate Change

Table of Contents

Workshop Background and Overview.....	3
Workshop Objectives	4
Participants	4
Innovations	5
Workshop Sessions	6
Session 1 – Welcome and Climate Change 201	6
Session 2 – Creating an Adaptation Action Plan: Learning from the City of Kimberley, District of Elkford and others	7
Session 3 – Communities Adapting to Climate Change Phase 2	9
Session 4 - Beyond Municipal Jurisdictions: Risks and Opportunities.....	13
Keynote Speaker	14
Summary	15
Evaluation	16
Additional Resources	16
Contact Information.....	16

Workshop Background and Overview



Gord DeRosa, City of Trail Councillor, gives a thumbs up at the second regional workshop.

The 2009 regional climate change adaptation workshop for local governments was part of the Communities Adapting to Climate Change Initiative that launched in 2007. The initiative aims to help Columbia Basin communities increase their resiliency to climate change at the local level. It does this by supporting communities in identifying the range of potential impacts, assessing local vulnerabilities and sensitivities, and developing adaptation strategies for addressing climate change impacts.

The initiative is spearheaded by Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) and supported by advisors and technical expertise from a host of academic, First Nations, and governmental institutions, as well as community development practitioners.

Phase one included two pilot communities, Kimberley and Elkford (2008-2009) that underwent this year-long adaptation planning processes. Phase two includes three communities that will participate in the adaptation planning process: Roseland, Castlegar and Kaslo/RDCK Area D.

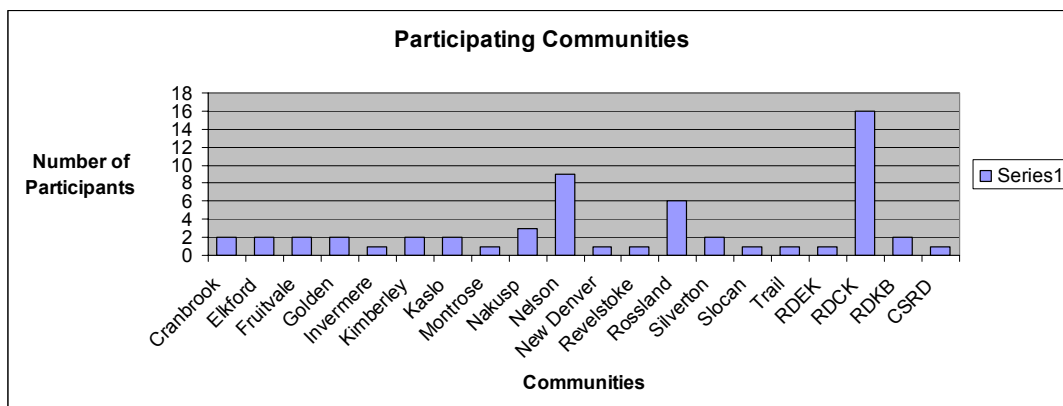
The workshop provided a venue to share the experiences and lessons gained to date, seek input into future ideas for knowledge sharing and learning, and introduce the initial project ideas from the communities embarking on climate change adaptation planning processes in 2009-2010.

Workshop Objectives

- Local government staff, elected officials and their community partners understand potential climate change impacts and how to *begin to adapt to a changing climate*
- Participants learn the *insider tips* of preparing for climate change impacts directly from City of Kimberley and District of Elkford, the communities that participated in CBT's Communities Adapting to Climate Change Initiative in 2008-2009. Experiences from other communities will also be shared.
- Gain local government input on topics and approaches CBT should consider for supporting climate change adaptation impacts and possible actions beyond the community level.
- To share tools and resources available to local governments and explore preferred communication modes and learning events.
- Networking opportunities for local governments with climate change technical experts, resource people and community leaders taking action on preparing for climate change impacts.

Participants

- Elected officials and staff from local governments in the Columbia Basin
- Local government partners such as NGOs, businesses or community groups that attended with the local government delegation.
- Columbia Basin Trust technical and advisory support partners.
- Representatives from government and academia that are working with CBT on climate change impacts and adaptation.
- **Total number of registrants at the workshop: 93 Registered online participants: 6**
- **Basin representation: 16 communities and 4 regional districts**



Innovations

Online workshop

An online option for workshop participation was added once the workshop space reached its maximum capacity. This feature also enabled participation from those unable to travel to Nelson. The online portion of the workshop while considered a trial, worked very successfully. The use of online participation tools will be explored further for future meetings and workshops.

Information resource tables and people: Climate Café

Nine resource tables were set up in a café style to provide additional relevant information on climate change and sustainability for workshop participants. Browsing the various topics and filling in the Climate Café passports helped to encourage networking among the participants and resource people. The workshop began with a climate change breakfast café that gave participants the opportunity to engage with technical experts, explore the resource tables and share food together.

Interactive sessions

A variety of interactive sessions were used to encourage networking between participants and gain input and recommendations on issues.

Online registration and information

Free online tools such as 'Google sites' and 'Survey Monkey' were used to communicate workshop information and facilitate the online registration process. It was very successful in that it shared, in a paperless fashion, all the basic information about the workshop prior to attending. It also made it possible to collect information on the participant's level of interest and knowledge on climate change related topics prior to the workshop. The information gained in advanced was used to create an agenda that most met participants' needs.



Online Facilitator, Amber Hayes from KAST, connects online participants with the workshop. Online participants were able to see and hear the presentations and they were able to participate by asking questions.



Sandra Brown and Cecilia Roa from UBC solicit input to their study on water issues in the Columbia Basin to a workshop participant at their resource table.



Researchers, practitioners and communities that have undertaken climate change adaptation work displayed their resources at the workshop. In this photo Ingrid Liepa and Troy Pollock from the Kimberley Climate Adaptation Project sit in front of their display with Ellen Pond from UBC CALP Visualizations and Laurie Cordell with Smart Planning for Communities of the Fraser Basin Council.

Workshop Sessions

Session 1 – Welcome and Climate Change 201

Overview

- This session helped ensure participants had a common language and understanding of climate change terms and science. Technical Support Team members Cindy Pearce, Trevor Murdock, Ingrid Liepa and Stewart Cohen lead the discussion and presentation.
- The session started with a handout of nine questions about climate change and participants were asked to seek out the answers at their tables and in the room (knowledge networking opportunity).
- A PowerPoint presentation followed providing the answers to the nine questions on climate change.



Technical Support Team Members, Trevor Murdock, Stewart Cohen and Ingrid Liepa sat on the panel for Climate Change 201

Presentations

Session 1 - Climate Change 201 C.Pearce, T.Murdock, S.Cohen, I.Liepa.ppt

Session 2 – Creating an Adaptation Action Plan: Learning from the City of Kimberley, District of Elkford and others

Overview

- This session highlighted the experiences from Kimberley and Elkford of undertaking a climate change adaptation planning process with Presentations by Elkford's CAO, Corien Speaker and Kimberley's Coordinator for the Adaptation Project, Ingrid Liepa.
- The session also provided reflections from the Advisory Committee and Technical Support Team on phase one of the initiative.
- The session ended with a question and answer period from the workshop participants about the lessons learned from phase one.



District of Elkford CAO Corien Speaker with Consultant for Elkford's Adaptation Project, Megan Walsh

Presentations

Session 2 - Elkford's Adaptation Process & Integration into the OCP, C.Speaker.pdf

Session 2 - Kimberley's Adaptation Approach, I.Liepa.ppt

View the short film (online) on Kimberley and Elkford's experience
http://www.cbt.org/Initiatives/Climate_Change/action_video.asp

Session 2 Panelists from Kimberley, Elkford and the Technical Support Team

Troy Pollock, Alan Hamlet, Stewart Cohen, Trevor Murdock, Corien Speaker, Ingrid Liepa, Peter Hisch

Key Points from the presentations

Elkford

- Adaptation is more relevant than mitigation at the local level.
- The process revealed / confirmed new priorities (e.g. wild fire threat) and motivated Elkford to act sooner rather than later on key issues.
- Elkford needs to map their aquifer to determine risks.
- Doing an OCP concurrently with the climate change adaptation initiative ensured that the OCP was viewed through a climate change lens.
- At the council level, in future, all decisions will consider climate change goals and actions
- The OCP will guide long-term strategic planning.
- The climate change adaptation and mitigation process turned the OCP into a truly community plan instead of primarily a land-use planning document.
- Start today!

Kimberley – See Powerpoint Presentation

Reflections from the CBT Advisory Committee

Jenny Fraser, Mel Reasoner, Meredith Hamstead, Cindy Pearce, Alan Hamlet, Stewart Cohen, Trevor Murdock

- Visualizations help people understand the local impacts more clearly
- Translating the science of climate change into local impacts requires a team approach
- In order to bring about change – resulting in adaptation plans – it requires a process like this with the support of CBT
- There is a level of autonomy at the community level that allows for action at the individual and local level. This autonomy makes it possible to move ahead quickly and take action
- At the outset, we weren't sure if communities were ready for this process. But yes they are. There is a lot of capacity for long-term planning
- The Elkford and Kimberley adaption action plans are among the best adaptation reports globally. This process will encourage us to change our goal posts and encourage us to be more resilient.



This information banner was part of Kimberley's display on their Adaptation Planning Process.

Session 3 – Communities Adapting to Climate Change Phase 2

Overview

- Communities Adapting to Climate Change Initiative Coordinator, Michelle Laurie, provided a background presentation on the Initiative and the communities that will be participating in Phase Two.
- Introduction to the Learning Network including a survey to see how community members would like to participate with the Learning Network and the Initiative.
- Presentations from phase two community representatives, Jennifer Ellis from Rossland, Kristin Aasen from Castlegar and Ramona Mattix from RDCK/Area. D, provided a window into their ideas and plans for their adaptation planning process in 2009/2010.



General Manager of Development Services for the RDCK, Ramona Mattix presents plans for the Kaslo/RDCK Area D's adaptation planning process

Presentations

Session 3- Communities Adapting to Climate Change Phase 2, M.Laurie.ppt
Session 3 - Kaslo & RDCK Area D, R.Mattix.ppt

Key points from the presenters

Castlegar

- Castlegar's two initial priorities are: 1) municipal infrastructure and 2) food security. A third priority will be identified.
- A variety of engagement tools are anticipated and will include passive education (e.g. displays in high-traffic areas), high school involvement.
- The city is in the initial stages of an OCP review and will integrate adaptation and mitigation into the OCP.
- The city will work in partnership with Engineers Canada to assess the vulnerability of its storm water system. Climate change impacts such as extreme weather events may stress infrastructure beyond its capacity and or shorten the lifespan of certain infrastructure. This partnership will help assess the vulnerability of the city's infrastructure.



Kristin Aasen, Sustainability Facilitator for Castlegar and coordinator for Castlegar's Adaptation Project talks with Technical Expert and Climate Scientist, Trevor Murdock.

Rossland

- The city is taking an open and adaptive approach to the process.
- This planning initiative meshes with other concurrent / ongoing planning initiatives (i.e., OCP, Strategic Sustainability Plan, State of the Basin) and existing task force projects.
- Focus will be on exploring adaptation from a socio-economic point of view and will include an exploration of the opportunities associated with adaptation planning.
- This process will engage economists in the discussion and will try to cost out the impacts on a micro and macro scale.
- Rossland will partner with SFU ACT (Adaptation to Climate Change Team) and look at global examples.

RDCK – See *presentation*

Learning network: soliciting input on future participation

The Learning Network supports communities planning to adapt to the impacts of climate change. It connects local governments with each other, with technical expertise and resources with the intent to lay the foundation for an active, regional, climate change adaptation network that will sustain itself over time.

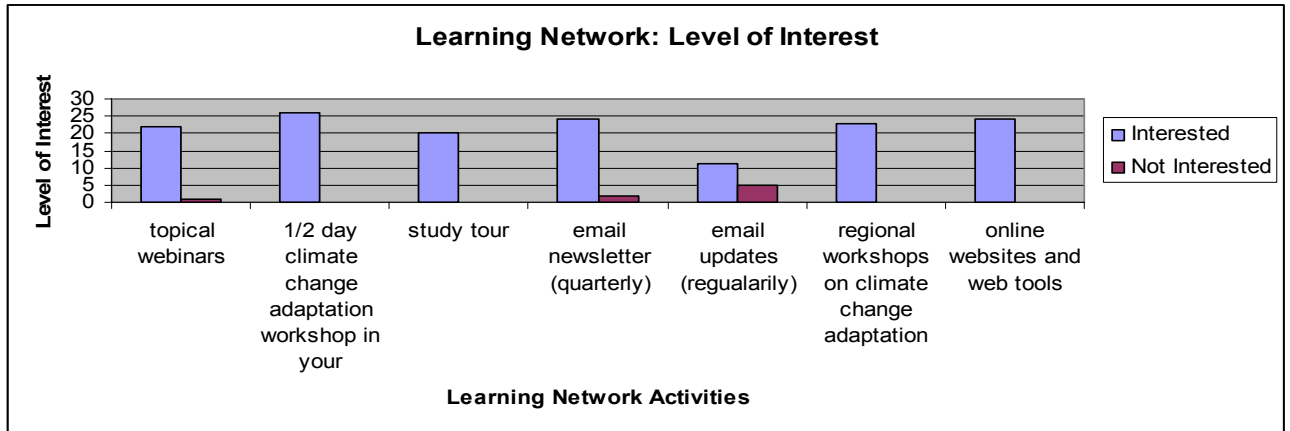
Michelle Laurie, Initiative Coordinator, invited workshop participants to provide their input on how they would like to participate with the Learning Network in phase two of the Initiative. Workshop participants were able to provide feedback through survey handouts. See chart below for survey results. People that showed interest will be contacted re further involvement.

Questions and Suggestions for the Learning Network from participants

- Track a single issue (e.g. wildfire) through the entire planning process – from being identified as a vulnerability to action. Provide more details about a single issue step-by-step through the process.
- Provide feedback on the implementation of actions that occur in Kimberley and Elkford. For example, did they draft a bylaw to address buffer zones for development re: wildfire interface? Share successes and progress on implementation from K & E with the LN members.
- Be cognizant of poor or limited internet access in remote / outlying areas and use other methods to share information and resources. Webinars were seen as very useful but not all constituents are internet literate.
- Consider holding a climate change road show to increase awareness and credibility of this initiative. “Traveling educators”, smaller communities, joint community initiatives.
- Develop and deliver climate models on a local / community scale as well as to increase community understanding (i.e. at workshops), use the Kimberley fire model to raise awareness in other communities.
- Build capacity around engagement with all people including those who are hard to reach and not currently interested. Transition town was identified as a tool for building engagement capacity.
- More on municipal teamwork and building champions.
- Additional networking opportunities to review/share theory and design on adaptation locally and regionally with project communities and other.
- The topic of water ranked high for themes to explore further.
- Ideas to set up local community action groups to take leads in smaller communities
- Expand network to include all citizens.
- Find synergies with existing initiatives at regional, provincial and international scales, i.e. how can climate change adaptation dovetail with ‘Living Water Smart’. How does the municipality fit within the larger system?
- Inter-annual report card
- Q&A online with other government institutions whose roles are critical to assisting local municipalities.
- Engage K-12, youth involvement.

- How to cut through information overload and balance learning with action.
- Mentorship is important.
- Talk about what didn't work as well as what worked.
- A little hand-holding will help.
- News and updates on legislation changes or other key information from the provincial and federal levels.
- Integrate events to avoid information overload.

The Learning Network: survey results



Session 4 - Beyond Municipal Jurisdictions: Risks and Opportunities

Overview

- This was an interactive session for participants to look beyond the municipal level to investigate what issues they would like to see addressed at the regional level.
- Regional topics explored included: Transportation, Wildfire, Extreme Events and Emergency Preparedness, Health, Food Growing and Agriculture, Economic Impacts, Incorporating Climate Change Adaptation into Local Government Operations.
- There were two facilitators at each of the seven stations to help guide the discussions and to provide available information on the topics. Participants were able to visit three of the seven stations to learn more about these regional issues before providing feedback to CBT.



Jenny Fraser from the Ministry of Environment facilitates the round table discussion on health as one of the regional topics.

Outcomes/Action Items

Top three topics of interest:

- Economic Impacts
- Food security
- Incorporating Climate Change Adaptation into Local Government Operations

Additional topic of interest: Water

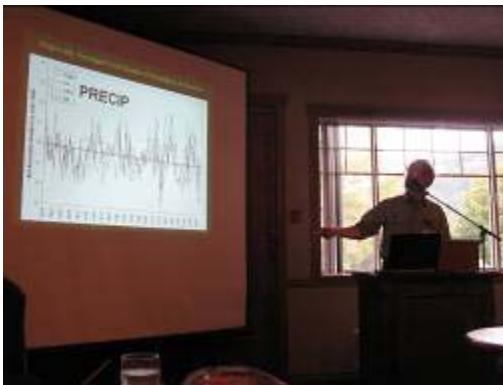


Facilitator Jennifer Ellis from the City of Rossland presents the main points that came from her round table discussion.



Communities Adapting to Climate Change

Keynote Speaker



Alan Hamlet, *University of Washington*

Water, Health and Extreme Events: Lessons from the Washington State Assessment and Scenarios for Extension to the Canadian Columbia River Basin.

Presentation

Keynote Speaker - Alan Hamlet, Water, Health and Extreme Events.ppt

Keynote speaker Alan Hamlet presents a graph on projected precipitation changes.



Alan Hamlet also sits on the CBT Technical Support Team. In this photo Alan is assisting phase two communities with their work planning process for 2009/2010.



Communities Adapting to Climate Change

Summary

The Communities Adapting to Climate Change Second Regional Workshop brought together local governments and staff from across the Basin to share and learn about climate change adaptation in the Columbia Basin and beyond.

The participation exceeded the organizer's expectations with over ninety people registered representing sixteen communities and four regional districts from the Basin. An additional online component was added to accommodate the overflow of interested participants. The demonstrable community interest in climate change adaptation provides encouragement for ongoing work in the future.

The evaluations confirm that participants thought the workshop achieved its objectives and that communities would like to continue to be involved and stay informed with CBT's Adaptation Initiative.

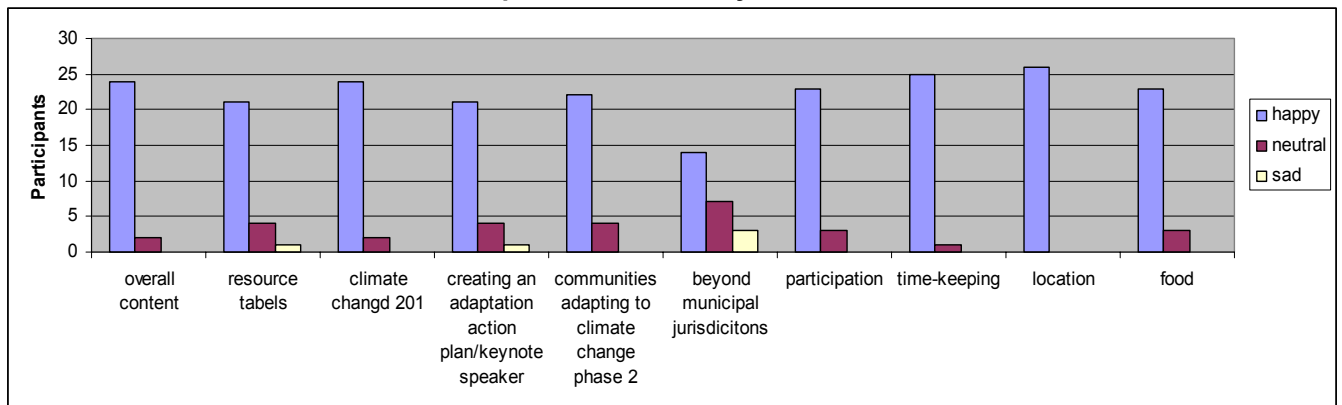
CBT will continue to engage local governments on the topic through the initiative's learning network, community projects and communication products. Please stay tuned via the website: www.cbt.org/climatechange.



Marguerite Rotvold, Board Chair for RDKB, participates in a round table discussion on wildfires.

Evaluation

Results from October 14, 2009 workshop evaluation survey



Additional Resources

- **CBT Climate Change Website** <http://cbt.org/climatechange>
 - **Information on Reducing Emissions**
http://cbt.org/Initiatives/Climate_Change/?Reducing_Emissions
 - **Adapting to Climate Change**
http://cbt.org/Initiatives/Climate_Change/?Adapting_to_Climate_Change
 - **Resources**
http://cbt.org/Initiatives/Climate_Change/?Resources
 - **Keep up to date on What's New**
http://www.cbt.org/Initiatives/Climate_Change/?Whats_New
 - **Online Adaptation Resource Kit**
<http://cbtadaptation.squarespace.com/>

Contact Information



Michelle Laurie
CBT Communities Adapting to Climate Change
Initiative Coordinator
adaptation@cbt.org / 1 800 505 8998

Michelle Laurie presents information on the Communities Adapting to Climate Change Initiative at the 2nd Regional Workshop on October 14, 2009 in Nelson B.C.