

Transportation Association of Canada Climate Change Task Force Guidance Document for Committees

The Climate Change Task Force was established to raise awareness of climate change and related issues amongst TAC councils, committees and its membership. Its mandate is to advance the need to consider mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation initiatives, 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, encourage TAC councils and committees to collaborate on their initiatives where it is beneficial to do so.

During its first term the Task Force, Councils and Committees have accomplished the following:

- Identified and categorized existing initiatives addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation that are being undertaken by TAC councils and committees;
- TAC councils and committees initiated new sponsored projects on mitigation and adaptation;
- Developed a Climate Change Checklist and guidance document to assist TAC councils and committees
- Task Force provided advice and helped to coordinate projects.

TAC councils and committees have accepted and responded to the challenge of incorporating climate change in their discussions and technical assessments. Most, if not all, groups are now better positioned to address climate change issues in their strategic transportation initiatives, use of emerging technologies and best practices.

The various TAC groups are encouraged to continue apply their experience and expertise to identify, leverage and advance climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives as part of TAC's overall strategic direction. 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. Does it fit in terms of your work plan and priorities?
3. Does your projects include adaptation to or mitigation of climate change?
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 the link:

<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. Work conducted at the committee level will ensure that TAC and its members are well positioned to be pro-active and responsive to emerging issues.