

Climate Change Task Force Fall 2011 Report

The Climate Change Task Force strives to raise awareness of the importance of climate change and related issues amongst TAC councils, committees and the general membership and to advance the need to consider mitigation, green house gas reduction, 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.

TAC News Features

The Task Force believes that the Association's newsletter can be a worthwhile vehicle for promoting information about climate change issues and initiatives amongst the membership. Task Force members have contributed a series of TAC News articles on climate change topics. TAC members are encouraged to consider submitting articles about their own climate change initiatives, whether they describe effects, mitigation strategies or adaptation approaches. Contact TAC's editor for more information. (Lynne Parisien, LParisien@tac-atc.ca)

The Fall 2011 issue of the TAC News features an article on the sustainability strategy of the Ministry of Transportation, Ontario.

Conference Sessions

The Task Force has organized one session to run during the 2011 Annual TAC Conference about the potential economic implications of climate change. The session will take place Monday September 12 at 14:15 MT.

Renewing TAC's Work on Climate Change

With half a year remaining in its existing mandate, the Task Force has reviewed its work, sought feedback from TAC members through a survey, and considered options to continue TAC's focus on climate change. The feedback received from TAC's councils and committees is that climate change issues continue to be significant and there is a strong desire to see the issues addressed and for the work of the Task Force to continue.

Subject to the approval of the TAC Board of Directors, the Task Force is recommending a renewal of the two year mandate as a task force until spring 2014.

A key part of the process would be to adapt the Task Force work plan for the next two years to focus on what TAC members indicated should be addressed. A preliminary proposed work plan based on the results of the survey of TAC entities, addresses both adaptation to climate change and mitigation to reduce GHG emissions in transportation activities and infrastructure. It is expected that the Task Force would, in the next six months, identify activities that could be undertaken in each of these areas.

**Transportation Association of Canada
Climate Change Task Force
Proposed Work Plan 2011-2012**

1. Key Issues / Purpose

Identify suitable TAC initiatives to develop cooperative strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare to adapt to the impacts of changing climate. The transportation sector is one of the larger sources of GHG emissions and is also likely to be impacted by changing climate. Provide general support by compiling examples of policy, best practice and standards of various transportation agencies and partners.

2. Focus Areas

- A. Adapting to changing climate - many suggestions for projects in survey responses.
- B. Mitigation options to reduce GHG emissions in transportation activities and infrastructures.

3. Activities Common to both Focus Areas

- Newsletter articles - many suggestions provided, find authors and confirm topics for articles. Solicit articles from - CCTF, Councils &/or Committees
- Conference sessions or workshops - many suggestions provided in survey responses. Sessions to be organized by CCTF and Committees.
- Identify available tools and request councils for review and identify gaps with tools (risk assessment tools, LCA tools, empirical modeling).
- Develop project outlines to respond to gaps and test need (value / support) through sponsorship process – willingness to fund.

4. Topics Suggested for activities to Address Barriers

- uncertainty about impacts
- technical info / reference material / climate data (scenarios)
- impact / risk assessment (ERM) summary (or has PIEVC done this already?)
- costs to adapt or mitigate
- design guidelines (IDF project underway)
- best practices

5. Mitigation

- technical info / reference material / climate data (scenarios)
- impact / risk assessment (Enterprise Risk Management) summary
- costs – benefits of the various policy and available options in North America and in the rest of the world
- best practices

Climate Change Task Force Roster

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