



ENGINEERS &  
GEOSCIENTISTS  
BRITISH COLUMBIA

# DISCUSSION PAPER

CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN



# INTRODUCTION

The earth's climate is changing at an unprecedented rate, and this presents new and evolving challenges, risks, and opportunities that will need to be considered by registrants in the fulfillment of their professional responsibilities.

At the 2018 Annual General Meeting, a motion was brought forward to the Engineers and Geoscientists BC Council to consider undertaking and putting the necessary resources into the development of a comprehensive action plan that will provide direction on the roles and duties of registrants in addressing the issue of a changing climate.

In response to this motion, Council has directed the Climate Change Advisory Group to develop a Climate Change Action Plan. To ensure this action plan is flexible, scalable and responsive to the breadth of professional practice of registrants, Engineers and Geoscientists BC is seeking feedback and input from a wide range of stakeholders.

To help frame the engagement process, this Discussion Paper has been developed to solicit views and opinions to inform the objectives, scope and content of the action plan.



# CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN

Engineers and Geoscientists BC is the regulatory and licensing body for the engineering and geoscience professions in BC. To protect the public, we maintain robust standards of entry to the professions, and comprehensive regulatory tools to support engineers and geoscientists in meeting their professional and ethical obligations.

## OVERVIEW

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The Climate Change Action Plan is intended to be a tangible and pragmatic plan that Engineers and Geoscientists BC can use to guide specific initiatives, programs, policies, and where appropriate, regulations.

Understanding how Engineers and Geoscientists BC can better support its registrants is important to ensuring the professions effectively respond to the impacts of a changing climate within their professional practice.

## STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

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As this is Engineers and Geoscientists BC's first Climate Change Action Plan,

we are seeking feedback and input from a wide range of stakeholders. The engagement process will take place between February and June, 2020 and there will be several forums– such as written submissions, focus groups, and webinars - for registrants, industry professionals and the wider professional community to participate.

The insights and information gathered will be used to inform the development of a preliminary Climate Change Action Plan, which will then be submitted to Council for approval in November 2020.

## DISCUSSION PAPER

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This Discussion Paper is seeking feedback on the following areas:

- Leadership
- Regulation
- Knowledge Development
- Knowledge Application

The following pages outline the current and proposed initiatives for each area, and poses a series of questions in which stakeholders can provide feedback on.





# LEADERSHIP

GOAL: Engineers and Geoscientists BC will take an active role in the engineering and geoscience professions' response to a changing climate.

## CURRENT INITIATIVES

- Development of position papers on climate change, both on adaptation and mitigation, and a commitment to raising awareness about the potential impacts of the changing climate;
- Provision of resources and personnel to help support practice committees and division groups related to climate change, environment, and sustainability;
- Climate Change Information Portal with tools and resources, and an evolving portfolio of practice guidelines on the topic of climate change adaptation and mitigation; and
- Developing relationships, partnerships and agreements with other industry associations, institutes, societies, and government on professional practice initiatives

related to climate change and sustainability impacting the engineering and geoscience professions in BC.

## PROPOSED INITIATIVES

- Expanding engagement with other professional organizations to foster robust cross-disciplinary practices;
- Continuing engagement with the Provincial government on climate related matters; and
- Investigate further opportunities to integrate climate change into existing and future organization initiatives.

# LEADERSHIP

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- Q. Do you support the current and proposed initiatives listed in this section? Are there any missing? Should they be prioritized?
- Q. How could Engineers and Geoscientists BC actively engage the other engineering and geoscience regulators in Canada to better consider climate change in their jurisdictions?
- Q. How could Engineers and Geoscientists BC engage with, and provide input to, the Provincial government on standards and regulations as they relate to professional practice and climate change?
- Q. How could Engineers and Geoscientists BC continue to support its registrants to ensure they are informed about a changing climate, and the impacts on their professional practice?



# REGULATION

GOAL: Engineers and Geoscientists BC will use right-touch regulation, that is, the level of regulation is proportionate to the level of risk to the public, to limit and manage the impacts of climate change.

## CURRENT INITIATIVES

- Providing input into the development of legislation, codes, and standards impacting professional practice when it comes to climate change adaptation and mitigation; and
- Providing input to climate change related intentions papers, public policy documents and other projects initiated by the public and private sectors that have implications for professional practice.
- Consideration of climate change impacts in the development and revision of Engineers and Geoscientists BC's existing and future professional practice guidelines; and
- Investigate how organizations which provide products and/or services requiring the practice of professional engineering or professional geoscience, can better support their employee engineers and geoscientists in addressing climate change in their professional practice in an appropriate manner.

## PROPOSED INITIATIVES

- Engineers and Geoscientists BC to reflect best practice in climate change adaptation and mitigation, and transition to an efficient risk-based approach to underpin the development of all climate impacted practice guidelines;

# REGULATION

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- Q. Do you support the current and proposed initiatives listed in this section? Are there any missing? Should they be prioritized?
- Q. How could engineering and geoscience corporations better support their professional staff to address climate change in their professional practice?
- Q. How could Engineers and Geoscientists BC move from a hazard-only based approach to a risk-based approach when assessing climate impacts for projects when there is a design/technical recommendation impacted by climate change?
- Q. How could climate change be better reflected in Engineers and Geoscientists BC's professional practice resources and management programs?
- Q. How could climate change be better considered in Engineers and Geoscientists BC's Code of Ethics training?





# KNOWLEDGE DEVELOPMENT

GOAL: Engineers and Geoscientists BC will build registrants' knowledge and awareness to integrate climate change into their professional practice.

## CURRENT INITIATIVES

- Revising, updating and maintaining the Engineers and Geoscientists BC Online Sustainability Primer; and
- Working with stakeholders in delivering seminars related to sustainability and climate change mitigation and adaptation in professional practice.

- Expand Engineers and Geoscientists BC's Continuing Professional Development (CPD) program to incorporate more topics related to a changing climate.

## PROPOSED INITIATIVES

- Expand, improve and more broadly promote the Engineers and Geoscientists BC's digital climate portal (e.g., identifying resources such as future projections of BC Building Code related climate design parameters;
- Identify further opportunities for post-secondary engagement on topics centred around professional obligations in a changing climate; and

# KNOWLEDGE DEVELOPMENT

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- Q. Do you support the current and proposed initiatives listed in this section? Are there any missing? Should they be prioritized?
- Q. What activities (i.e., newsletters, forums, webinars) could Engineers and Geoscientists BC implement to ensure registrants are up-to-date with climate change and its relevance to professional practice?
- Q. How could Engineers and Geoscientists BC collect, curate and disseminate climate change resources from other jurisdictions related to the engineering and geoscience professions?
- Q. How could Engineers and Geoscientists BC expand its CPD Program to better address the needs of registrants in a changing climate?
- Q. How could Engineers and Geoscientists BC inform post-secondary students on the roles and responsibilities of professional engineers and geoscientists in a changing climate?



# KNOWLEDGE APPLICATION

GOAL: Engineers and Geoscientists BC will support registrants in addressing a changing climate through the development of tools and resources.

## CURRENT INITIATIVES

- Development of professional practice guidelines related to climate change, in response to government legislation and regulations requiring consideration of climate change.

## PROPOSED INITIATIVES

- Identify areas of practice that require further professional development and practice resources; and
- Review and update professional practice guidelines which have a climate basis for design, or which are impacted by a changing climate, so that they are relevant to current and future climates.

# KNOWLEDGE APPLICATION

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- Q. Do you support the current and proposed initiatives listed in this section? Are there any missing? Should they be prioritized?
- Q. Which areas of practice impacted by climate change require further professional practice resources (i.e., guidelines, advisories)?
- Q. On projects where there is a climatic basis for consideration, how could Engineers and Geoscientists BC support registrants in applying a climate risk assessment and risk management approach consistent with recognized standards?
- Q. How could Engineers and Geoscientists BC better inform its registrants on climate change related best practices (i.e., reduce emissions), and ensure they provide reasonable responses to limiting the environmental footprint of their projects whenever possible.



# SUBMIT YOUR FEEDBACK

Written submissions are open from Monday, February 10, 2020 until Tuesday, June 30, 2020. Submissions should be in Word or PDF format.

Your submission should include the following information clearly outlined:

- Your name, if submitting an individual response
- Name and purpose of your organization, if submitting on behalf of an organization
- Your connection to the topic of climate change action – personal or professional (e.g., Engineers and Geoscientists BC registrant, industry professional, member of the public, etc.,)
- Answers to the questions posed in the Discussion Paper

There are multiple questions contained in this discussion paper.

Please indicate the question and section you are addressing when providing your response.

All submissions will be read and considered but not posted publicly by Engineers and Geoscientists BC.

However, please be aware that Engineers and Geoscientists BC is subject to the freedom of information provisions at Part 2 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 165.

## SUBMISSION DETAILS

Email: [ccag@egbc.ca](mailto:ccag@egbc.ca)

Subject line: Feedback - Climate Change Action Plan

Website: [egbc.ca/Climate-Change](http://egbc.ca/Climate-Change)

An email confirming receipt of the submission will be sent, but personalized responses will not be provided.

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