

City of Toronto Climate Change Risk Management Policy

Date & Version Number: July 8, 2014 Version 1.0

Background

Toronto's climate has changed and will continue to change into the foreseeable future. Recent studies anticipate more variable weather including drought, extreme rain and wind storms and heat, which will have impacts on our residents, businesses, built infrastructure, services, food supplies and natural environment. The future of Toronto and its quality of life may be influenced by how resilient the City, its residents and businesses are to the direct and indirect effects of a changing climate. Vulnerable populations may be disproportionately impacted by extreme weather events and as such climate change risk management actions help support equity. The City cannot prevent all disruptions due to a changing climate and extreme weather but by applying a systematic approach to identifying risks and setting priorities it can work to minimize disruptions and destructive forces and be more resilient.

Purpose

This policy establishes a process to systematically prioritize the identification, assessment, reduction, monitoring and reporting on the risks to the City of Toronto's infrastructure, finances, operations and liability due to a changing climate, including increased incidence of extreme weather events.

Scope and Application

This policy applies to all City of Toronto staff and management, as well as any contractors or consultants that are employed on behalf of the City.

It is effective as of the date indicated at the top of this document and remains so until a newer version is issued or the policy is cancelled.

Policy Statement

The City will:

1. Continue to monitor and research how the climate is changing and when new information relevant to the City of Toronto becomes available, provide this to City Council, the City Manager, the Deputy City Managers and all Division Heads;
2. Mitigate risk to the City's assets and services by integrating identified risk information into decision making and utilizing this information to inform priorities for investment;
3. Establish methods to evaluate initiatives undertaken by the City through the lens of climate change resilience;
4. Continue to reduce and manage risks to its employees and contractors resulting from a changing climate;

5. Build awareness and establish meaningful partnerships with the community, residents, the private sector and the broader public sector; and
6. Share knowledge and information with external organizations to promote engagement in enhancing extreme weather resilience on a broader scale.

| Roles and Responsibilities Position | Roles & Responsibilities |
|--|---|
| City Manager & Deputy City Managers | Resilient City Lead responsible for corporate-wide implementation. |
| Division Heads | Accountable for the climate change resilience of their operations. |
| Environment & Energy Division | <p>To guide implementation of this Policy by supporting the EET and by coordinating and leading the Resilient City Working Group.</p> <p>To coordinate monitoring and reporting of progress of implementation.</p> <p>To provide corporate level municipal best practices in climate change risk management and to lead necessary research.</p> |
| Executive Environment Team (EET) | To lead implementation of this Policy, cross corporate coordination, research and analysis, as well as coordination of mechanisms to partner with the private sector and broader private sector. |
| Resilient City Working Group | To provide expert knowledge and technical support and facilitate implementation of resilience actions within their respective operations. |

Document Approval

This policy was adopted by City Council on July 8, 2014.

Policy Review Cycle

This policy will be reviewed as a minimum every year by the EET.

Definitions

- City, City of Toronto – the municipal corporation that provides public services across all municipal wards that comprise the geographic region of Toronto.
- Risk – the total concept of the likelihood of occurrence of a risk event and the severity of possible consequences.
- Resilience – the ability of a system, entity, community or person to withstand shocks while still maintaining its essential functions and to recover quickly and effectively".
- Extreme weather – when a weather event is significantly different from the average or usual weather pattern.