

KIMBERLEY CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PROJECT
Report on Community Workshops – Fall 2008

Workshop #1:
Climate Change – Global and Local Perspectives, September 30th



The goal of this first workshop was to offer Kimberley residents an introduction to climate change, offering perspectives from both the global and local levels. There were 30 participants in total, including just over 20 from the general public. The audience heard two presentations; the first was a shortened version of *An Inconvenient Truth*, a global perspective presented by Ingrid Liepa; the second presentation, by Dr. Mel Reasoner, focused on climate change science and the emerging understanding of climate impacts and future scenarios here in the Kootenay region. Questions from the audience were generally focused on clarification of the science and discussion of climate solutions, with significant interest in the story of Gussing, Austria, a town that in 10 years has become energy self-sufficient and a highly respected renewable energy centre in Europe.

Workshop #2:
Planning for Climate Change in Kimberley: Issues and Priorities, October 28th

On October 28th approximately 50 Kimberley residents attended “Planning for Climate Change in Kimberley: Issues and Priorities.” The purpose of the workshop was to engage a wider group of residents/stakeholders into the local adaptation dialogue and gather additional information from community members about priority issues/concerns.

The first half of the workshop was devoted to a series of presentations:

1. Overview of the Kimberley Climate Adaptation Project, by Ingrid Liepa
2. Historical Climate and a Sprinkling of Future Scenarios for Kimberley, by Trevor Murdock of the Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium.
3. Visualizing Climate Change, by Ellen Pond of UBC’s Collaborative for Advanced Landscape Planning.
4. Climate Change Impacts and the Need for Adaptation within Long Term Community Planning, by Stewart Cohen of Environment Canada’s Impacts and Adaptation Research Group.



A number of questions were asked after the presentations:

Q1: Is more of Kimberley's winter precipitation going to fall as rain?

A1: Yes, that would be the likely scenario, especially around the shoulder seasons of winter.

Q2: Is the 'visioning' project intended more for the general public than for the very engaged participant?

A2: The visioning tools are intended for multiple types and levels of engagement, from general public through to planning experts.

A2: Visualizations, when jointly developed as possible future scenarios, help to build trust between stakeholders in the adaptation dialogue.

Q3: Are you seeking to identify priorities specifically for Kimberley, or more generally for a wide range of communities?

A3: This project is focusing specifically on Kimberley, although it should be noted that a similar project is being supported by CBT in the District of Elkford. The learnings and findings from these two projects will go on to inform the climate change adaptation work of other communities in the Basin.

Q4: Are you addressing adaptations needed to respond to human community mitigation responses (e.g. possibly fewer Calgarians travelling to Kimberley)?

A4: Yes, we need to address these types of adaptive responses as well, but we have to recognize that there are a wide range of possible mitigation stories/scenarios (e.g. tourism levels maintained with fuel-efficient vehicles available or rail transport)

A4: One likely scenario involves increased migration to the Kootenay region from impacted parts of the world, as this is seen as a desirable destination in light of future climate scenarios.

Q5: Does the graph of increased insurance claims from catastrophic events account for inflation?

A5: Yes.

Q6: How are the students at Selkirk being involved in the project?

A6: A presentation was made to Selkirk students in September, and some dialogue occurred around identifying impacts students are most concerned about here in Kimberley.

Participants were then asked to form eight small groups of 5-7, assigned one of eight priority adaptation issues and asked to answer the following two questions by mapping climate change impact pathways for that issue on a big sheet of flip chart paper:

1. Given the predicted climate changes for the area, what might be the climate change challenges and opportunities facing Kimberley in respect of one or more of the 8 issues areas that were identified in June (*try to be specific, e.g., changes in streamflow in Mark Creek, timing of ski season open*)

2. Which impacts are you most concerned about and why (i.e. what are the consequences of the anticipated impacts? *Consider the environmental, economic, social, and cultural aspects*)

After completing the first impacts map for an issue, the groups selected additional issues for impact pathways mapping as time allowed. The eight priority issues were: Water, Forest Ecology and Fire Risk, Municipal Infrastructure, Emergency Situations, Tourism, Food and Food Security, Health, and Energy & Economy. Tourism and Municipal Infrastructure were the most popular second choices. The attached photo illustrates a completed impacts map.

