

Climate Proof Your Business

Climate Ready BC: Preparing Together

BC'S CLIMATE IS ALREADY CHANGING



Less snow and receding glaciers



Fewer frost days



Hottest days getting hotter



Less summer rain



More extreme precipitation events



Sea level rise



PREPARING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE IS SMART BUSINESS

TAKING ACTION NOW CAN MINIMIZE RISKS TO YOUR BUSINESS

- ✓ Weather-related disasters like floods, storms and wildfires are getting more frequent, more extreme and more expensive
- ✓ The risks of inaction can be significant, particularly for **small businesses** which may be less able to recover than larger companies
- ✓ **It's time to adapt.** Planning and preparing for a changing climate is not only smart business, but is necessary to ensure a healthy resilient economy in the future
- ✓ Additional benefits of action include improving air and water quality, reducing energy costs and enhancing well being

WHAT CAN BUSINESSES DO?

UNDERSTAND THE RISKS TO YOUR BUSINESS AND CLIENTS from events like extreme weather, wildfires and floods

MAKE DETAILED PLANS for what to do during extreme weather events and power outages. Consider things like staff access to your business and customer safety

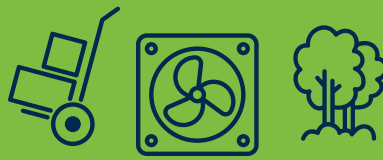
ASSESS RISKS IN SUPPLY CHAIN: Consider impacts on your supply chain if a major climate event occurs such as wildfire or flood in another jurisdiction

FORM AN EMERGENCY PLANNING TEAM: Create a response plan and clearly outline staff roles and responsibilities in the event of a disaster

POSITION YOUR PRODUCTS AND SERVICES to align with future climate changes



PREPARING YOUR BUSINESS FOR CLIMATE RISKS



Increase Safety and Comfort for Staff/Customers:

- Install adequate ventilation and air filtration for wildfire smoke
- Install heat pumps for cooling and have fans on hand for extreme heat events
- Use trees and landscaping to provide shade and natural cooling

Increase Resilience of Operations:

- Update facilities or infrastructure with future climate projections in mind
- Partner with local governments and business associations to build resilience in areas you do not control (e.g. critical transportation or energy networks)
- Share experiences of adaptation efforts with other small businesses in your sector

Increase Resilience of Supply Chains:

- Screen products and suppliers for potential climate risks to production and/or distribution
- Create contingency plans for back-up suppliers in the case of disruptive events

DID YOU KNOW...



From 2010-2019, the cost of weather-related insured catastrophic losses was **twice as high** as from 1983 to 2009

The average cost per disaster has **jumped 1250%** since the 1970s. A typical storm or flood that cost roughly \$8 million in the early 1970's now costs over \$110 million

Small businesses lost approximately **\$68.9 million in sales** in 2017 due to the BC wildfires

Following the 2018 Grand Forks Flood, local businesses reported **\$2.4 million in lost wages** and 26% of businesses stated they would not be able to hire back their laid off employees

B.C.'S CLIMATE PREPAREDNESS AND ADAPTATION STRATEGY

is working to ensure businesses are prepared for a changing climate



WONDERING WHERE TO START?

PreparedBC: Guide for Small Businesses: a practical guide for small businesses to prepare for emergency or business disruption

Facing the Elements: Building Business Resilience in a Changing Climate: A business-friendly primer emphasizing why adapting to climate change is important to stay competitive

Managing Climate Risks: Highlights for Business Leaders: explains why acting now to prepare for future climate realities makes good business sense

Retooling Website: Climate preparedness tools and resources

Tip of the Iceberg: Navigating the Known and Unknown Costs of Climate Change for Canada: includes data, infographics, a full report and recommendations

For more information visit:
www.gov.bc.ca/BC-Adapts

