ClimateWest, a central hub for climate services in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta, is proud to host Alberta's Adaptation Resilience Training module recordings and resources.

Check out climatewest.ca for all training material available through ART and other initiatives.





The aim of the Adaptation Resilience Program (ART) is to build the capacity of professionals in Alberta to adapt to climate change. This module was recorded in September, 2021.

Professionals across the Prairie region may find this training useful.

Supported by the Natural Resources Canada's Building Regional Adaptation Capacity and Expertise (BRACE) Program and the Government of Alberta













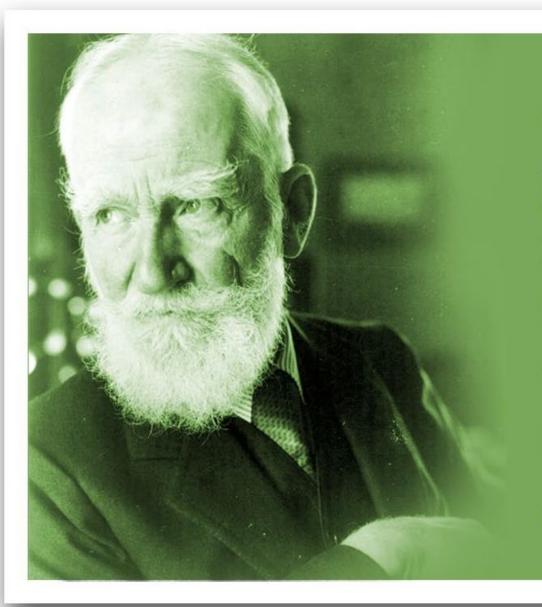


## **Adaptation Resilience Training**

But it's so Cold Outside! How to Speak Effectively About Climate Change (Climate Change Communication Considerations)

Garry Drachenberg, P.Eng., Associated Engineering

**September 10, 2021** 



The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place.

- George Bernard Shaw

#### **Communication – Easier said than done!**

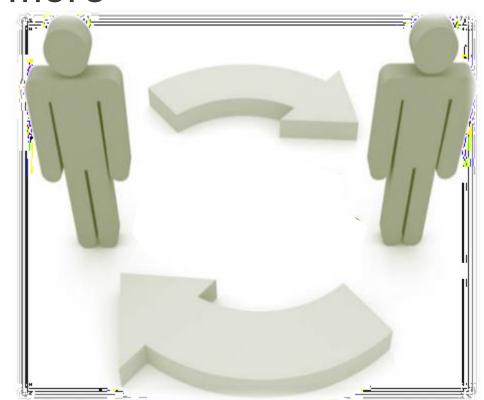
"Effective communication requires more

than an exchange of information.

When done right, communication

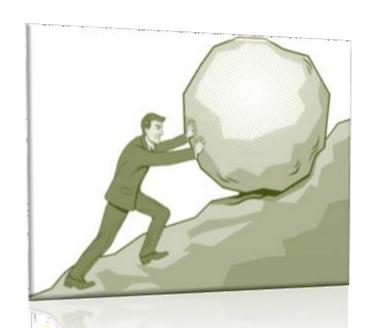
- o fosters understanding,
- o strengthens relationships,
- & builds trust

It's Hard Work!



# The Climate Change Communication Challenge

- Complex issue
- Lack of understanding
- Psychological & ideological barriers
- Climate risks can appear distant & exaggerated
- Scale of issue can be used to rationalize inaction
- Need to plan for & incorporate uncertainty
- Associated with political, social and financial costs



#### **Overview**

There are many pieces to this puzzle... we'll only look at a few

#### **Communication Basics**

(Know Your Audience, Communication Goals, Keys to Good Outcomes)

## Climate Change Communication Tips, Tools, & Resources

(Words & Messaging, Visual Aids, Helpful Resources)

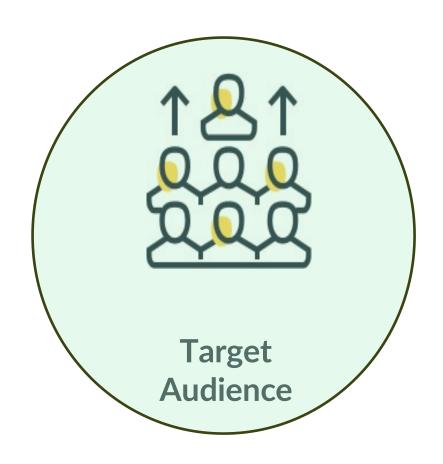
#### **Change Management Considerations**

(Change Types & Phases, Change Management Basics, Helpful Resources)



## **Topic 1: Communication Basics**

#### **Communication Basics** (Predelivery Items to Ponder)





Communication Goals



**Keys to Good Outcomes** 

#### **Communication Basics**

- Who is the target audience?
- Communication must be tailored to suit the audience
- Doing homework is important





### Who is the Target Audience?

What is their CC issues understanding level (novice, intermediate, advanced)?

Internal Audience Inventory

Colleagues within the department

In other departments

- External Audience Inventory
  - Public Sector entities
  - Private Sector entities
  - General Public

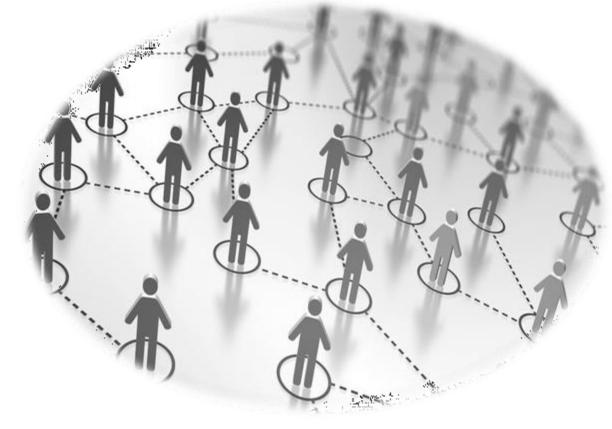




#### What is the Audience Make-up?

What is their CC issues understanding level (novice, intermediate, advanced)?

- Age Range
- Occupational & Economic Status
- Educational Background
- Political Orientation
- Who they trust & respect



### Who Are They & What Makes Them Tick

How people respond and react to messages about climate change is shaped by:

- Differing values (e.g. freedom, prosperity, or equality)
- Identities (e.g. being a care giver, progressive, or business person)
- Worldviews (thinking the world should be egalitarian or hierarchical)
- Personal priorities (e.g. health and finance)



Center for Research on Environmental Decisions

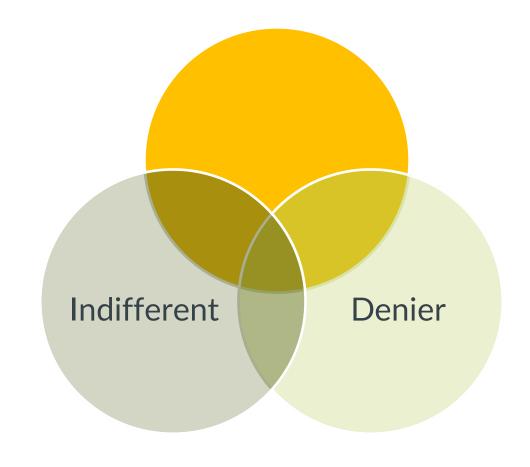
Earth Institute | Columbia University



### What's Predisposition Towards the Topic?

Different Types of Audiences

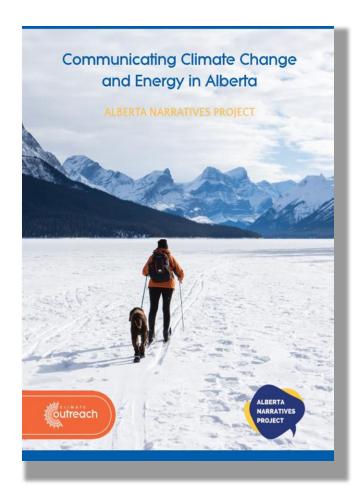
- Indifferent Audience
- Denier Audience
- Advocate Audience





#### So, What's the Scoop On Albertan Views

Albertan's Predisposition Towards the Topic



#### **SOME KEY FINDINGS**

(Alberta Narratives Project)

- Most (though not all) people accepted that the weather is changing
- Albertans were split about weather climate change is caused by humans or natural variations
- People find it hard to talk about climate change and rarely do so
- People would prefer to talk about preparation
   & adaptation rather than causes & mitigation

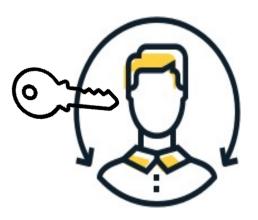


## **Communication Basics** (*Predelivery Items to Ponder*)



Target Audience



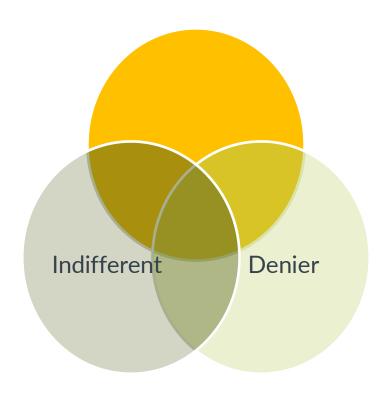


Keys to Good
Outcomes

#### Different Goals for Different Audiences

- Inform or educate
- Persuade or convince
- Activate
- Inspire or Motivate



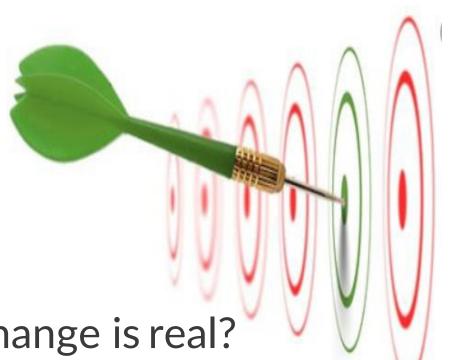




# Speakers Intention & Calibration to that Intention & Purpose

- Is it to help facilitate understanding?
- Is it to help find common ground?
- Is it to help folks become more climate literate?
- Is it to convince them that climate change is real?
- Is it to create a pathway for further dialogue?





#### Different Goals for Different Groups

**Alarmed** 

**Concerned** 

**Cautious** 

**Disengaged** 

**Doubtful** 

**Dismissive** 













· .

Highest Belief in Global Warming Most Concerned Most Motivated Lowest Belief in Global Warming Least Concerned Least Motivated

December 2018. Base: 1,114 Americans.







## **Different Goals for Different Groups**

**Alarmed** 

**Concerned** 

**Cautious** 

**Disengaged** 

**Doubtful** 

**Dismissive** 













**Activate Them** 

**Engage Them** 

Don't Annoy Them



## Depending on Who We Speak To

- Different communication outreach initiatives may be needed for different groups
- Some will require more effort
- Some will take more time commitment





## Patience for the Long Journey is Required





Communication Goals

#### **Communication Basics** (Predelivery Items to Ponder)



**Target** Audience

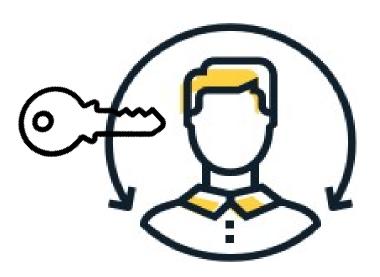


**Communication** Goals



#### **Keys to Successful Outcomes**

- Understand communication aspects & their impact
- Understanding key barriers
- Finding common ground
- Being Scout rather than Warrior
- Use right-sized out reach format, venue
   & personnel for occasion



Must also tailor communication to suit learning styles

Auditory / Oral

**Learning Modes** 

When someone says they don't get what you are saying ... we may need to repackage it so they get what we are trying to convey

Visual

Kinesthetic



Learning Modalities (Auditory/ Oral)

Explain to me ... what's the story around this

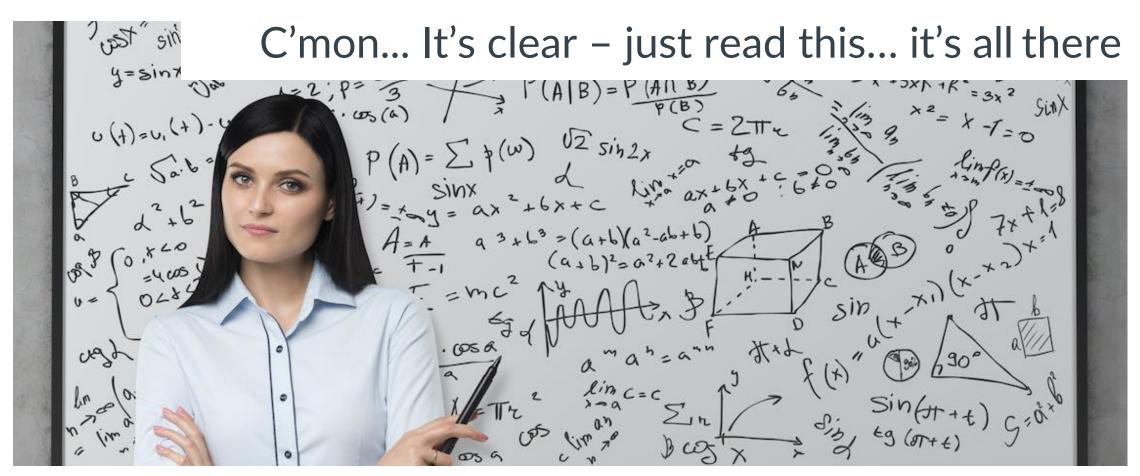


Let me tell you what's taking place

and how it works



Learning Modalities (Visual)





Let me write it down for you ... how it works

Learning Modalities (Kinesthetic)

Move that over there and switch that on





Let me show you... how it works

Verbal vs Non Verbal Impacts



Words

(What we say)

**Voice & Tone** 

(How we sayit)

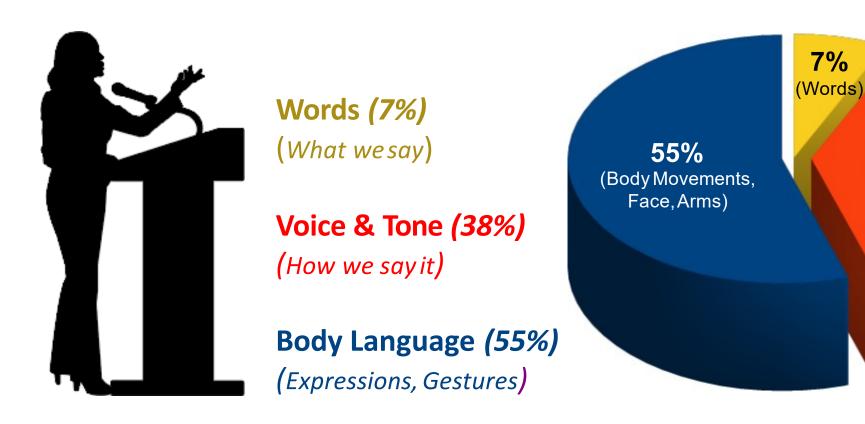
**Body Language** 

(Expressions, Gestures)



## **Polling Question**

Verbal vs Non Verbal Impacts





38%

(Voice tone,

modulation.

pauses)

Verbal vs Non Verbal Impacts



Words (7%)

(What we say)

Voice & Tone (38%)

(How we say it)

Body Language (55%)

(Expressions, Gestures)



Studies suggested that we overwhelmingly deduce our feelings, attitudes, and beliefs about what someone says not by the actual words spoken, but by the speaker's body language and tone of voice.

If words and body language disagree, one tends to believe the body language.

Univ. of CA Research Prof Albert Mehrarbian Research





Words certainly do matter "BUT"

- They are only part of what is required
- How we say & conveyit matters
- The listener's predisposition & understanding also matters





#### **Understanding Barriers**

IPCC - Communications Handbook for IPCC Authors



CC Communication Research Insights:

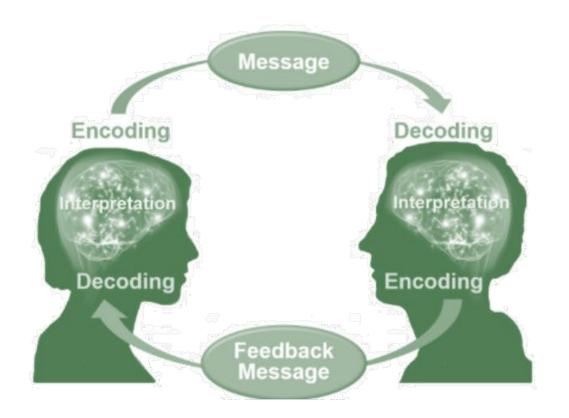
- Facts alone, not sufficient for effective public engagement
- People 'filter' the information according to whether it fits their values





#### **Understanding Barriers**





Most of the time, people seek out information that supports their existing beliefs and values and reject information that contradicts the beliefs and values that are most important to them.



## **Bridging Barriers / Making a Connection**

IPCC - Communications Handbook for IPCC Authors



#### Research shows

- values & political views dominate
- scientific facts / knowledgenot as important

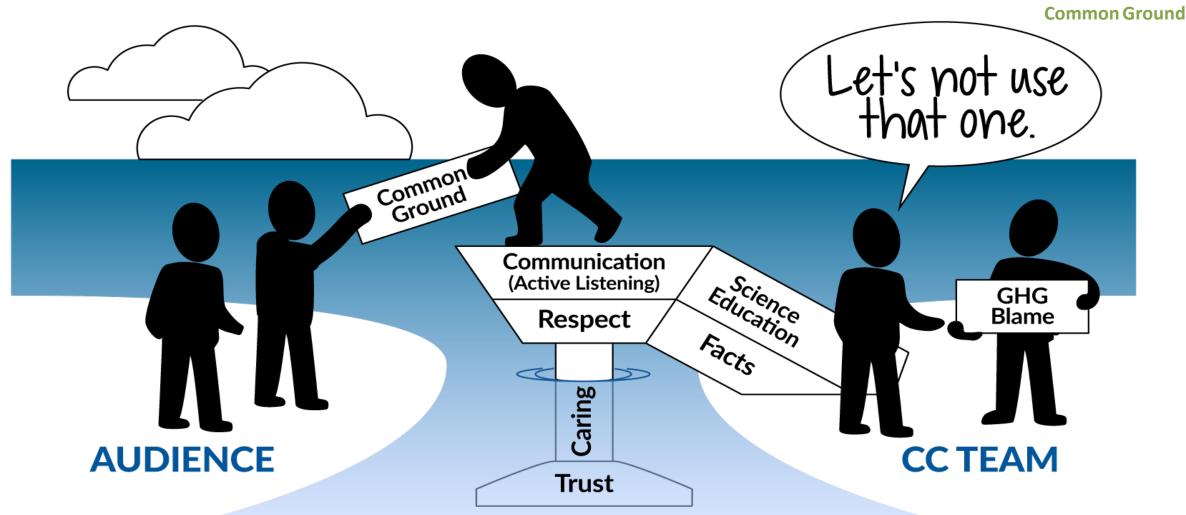
## For science to be heard, it must connect with

- widely-shared public values
- Points / issues of 'local interest'



# **Bridging Barriers / Making a Connection**







# **Bridging Barriers / Making a Connection**



It starts with seeing, hearing, and experiencing the other as they are, not as they should be, could be, or ought to be.

People need to know they are not judged. This doesn't mean living without expectations.

What it does mean is relating in a way that feels safe, supportive, and caring. A key relationship principle is to "connect before you expect".



- David Irvine

### Handling Resistance / Conflict



#### **3 Sources of Problems**

Different Perceptions

Negative Emotions

Unclear Communication

**Strategies for HandlingProblems** 

Put yourself in their shoes

Understand emotions, theirs and yours

Discuss each other's perceptions

Listen actively

Show that you understand them

Speak to be understood

Come-up with options for mutual gain

Be friendly



# Handling Resistance / Conflict Be Kind First, Be Right Later



- When we are in the moment, we can easily forget that the goal is to connect with the other side
- We can get so caught up in winning that we forget about connecting
- Labelling is easier than getting to know someone who disagrees with us



Discard the label... Check-out what's inside.

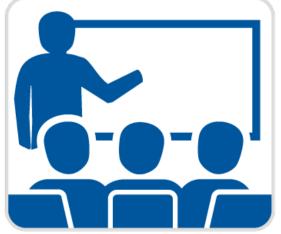


## Format for Climate Change Outreach



Depends on communication outreach purpose, who is in the audience, their predisposition to the topic and what you hope to accomplish.









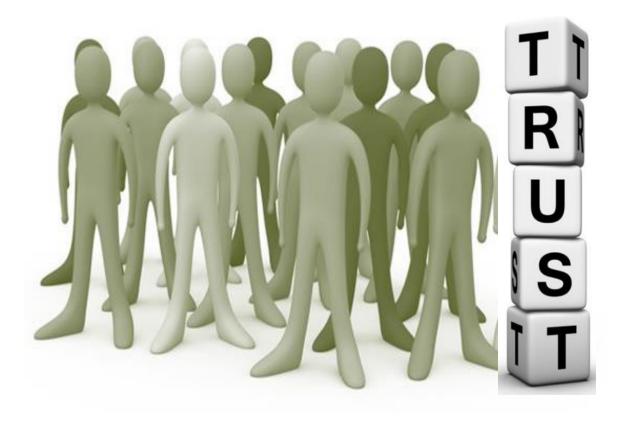


# Best Personnel for CC Outreach Messengers that Audience Can Identify With



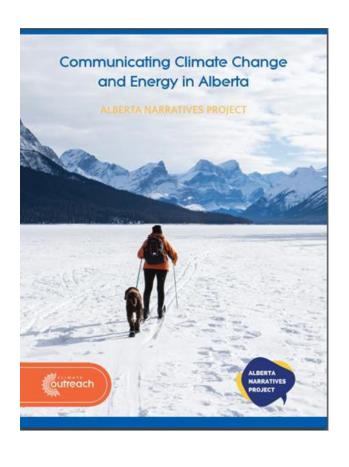
The people who are most

likely to change our minds are the ones we identify with and agree with on the majority of topics. If someone you know, like, and trust believes a idea, you are more likely to give it merit, weight, or consideration.





# Alberta Narratives Project – Reflections from Collaborators



# **Show Time**



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mSXl38GQPRY



# ALBERTA ARRATIVES PROJECT

## Segment Recap

- Communication is not that easy at the best of times
  - CC Communication is even more complex & challenging
- The purpose of communication must recognize the type of audience in place
  - Sometimes just creating an opening to continue discussion on another day is enough
- Scientific facts matter... but less than most think
- People process information through their value sets
- To connect, we must find common ground

# Segment Recap

• To find common ground, we must listen, be a scout rather than a warrior, care in order to help build trust

"People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care"

- Communication format matters;
   face time matters to enable discussion
   & 2-way listening
- Sometimes may need a trusted ally to come along (i.e. one trusted within the group or community)

# **Polling Question**

# **Topic 2: Communication Tips, Tools & Resources**

# **Climate Change Communications**

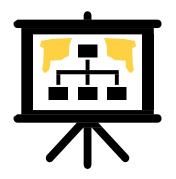
There's no one-size-fits-all approach to climate change communication



Luckily, there are a range of tips, tools & resources that can help.

# **CC Communication Tips, Tools & Resources**





Visual Aids



Helpful Resources

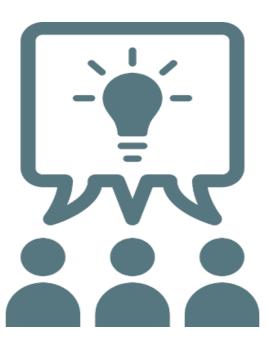
# **Words & Phrasing Matter**

To connect & keep communication channels open, nuances matter

Clarify terms that might carry different meanings



Establish common meaning





# Words & Phrasing Matter Suggested Word/Language Usage

Scientific Word	Non-scientific Meaning
scheme	conspiracy
uncertainty	Not knowing
positive trend	good trend
adaptation	going with the flow, dealing with problems as they arise
theory	hunch, opinion, conjecture, speculation





# Words & Phrasing Matter Suggested Word/Language Usage

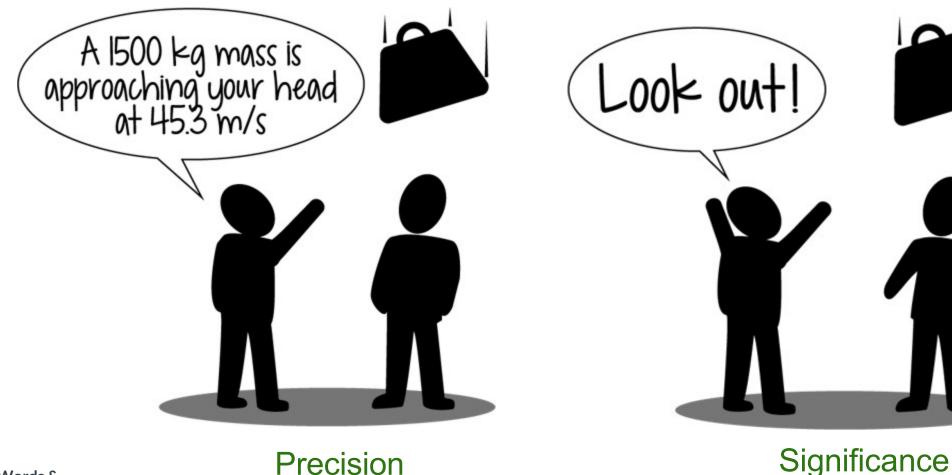


Scientific Word	Non-scientific Meaning	Better Language
scheme	conspiracy	blueprint
uncertainty	Not knowing	range
positive trend	good trend	upward trend
adaptation	going with the flow, dealing with problems as they arise	increasing preparedness for climate impacts
theory	hunch, opinion, conjecture, speculation	physical understanding of how this works



# **Words & Phrasing Matter**

Taking Tech Talk to People Talk





**Precision** 

# Words & Phrasing Matter Taking Tech Talk to People Talk

Severe Weather Caused \$2.4 Billion in Insured Damage in 2020

Rank	Year	Total loss	Notable severe weather event
		(\$ billion)	
1	2016	5.261	Fort McMurray, Alberta, fire
2	2013	3.418	Alberta and Greater Toronto Area floods
3	1998	2.494	Quebec ice storm
4	2020	2.388	Fort McMurray, Alberta, flooding and Calgary, Alberta, hailstorm
5	2018	2.113	Multiple events: Ontario and Quebec rainstorms and windstorm
6	2011	1.740	Slave Lake, Alberta, fire and windstorm
7	2012	1.456	Calgary, Alberta, rainstorm
8	2019	1.334	Multiple events
9	2005	1.299	Ontario rainstorm
10	2017	1.255	Multiple events

SOURCE Insurance Bureau of Canada ... Edmonton Newscast



We are having the same storms we had in the past ... the difference is the intensity within a shorter period of time. -Craig Stewart



# Message Framing "Example Set"





MOST SUCCESSFUL LANGUAGE	LEAST SUCCESSFUL LANGUAGE
Speaks well across multiple audiences, is engaging, and stimulates a strong discussion	Feeds division, does not engage people, or does not stimulate discussion



#### Alberta Narratives Project Examples

#### MOST SUCCESSFUL LANGUAGE

Speaks well across multiple audiences, is engaging, and stimulates a strong discussion

Everyone is important in Alberta

#### LEAST SUCCESSFUL LANGUAGE

Feeds division, does not engage people, or does not stimulate discussion

Excessive focus on oil and gas



MOST SUCCESSFUL LANGUAGE	LEAST SUCCESSFUL LANGUAGE
Speaks well across multiple audiences, is engaging, and stimulates a strong discussion	Feeds division, does not engage people, or does not stimulate discussion
Everyone is important in Alberta	Excessive focus on oil and gas
The main problems with oil and gas are over- dependency, vulnerability, and insecurity	The main problem with oil is climate change and environmental destruction



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The main problems with oil and gas are over- dependency, vulnerability, and insecurity	The main problem with oil is climate change and environmental destruction
We need to diversify	Alberta can be a leader on climate change



MOST SUCCESSFUL LANGUAGE	LEAST SUCCESSFUL LANGUAGE
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Everyone is important in Alberta	Excessive focus on oil and gas
The main problems with oil and gas are over- dependency, vulnerability, and insecurity	The main problem with oil is climate change and environmental destruction
We need to diversify	Alberta can be a leader on climate change
We can discuss our choices	This is the only way



MOST SUCCESSFUL LANGUAGE	LEAST SUCCESSFUL LANGUAGE
Speaks well across multiple audiences, is engaging, and stimulates a strong discussion	Feeds division, does not engage people, or does not stimulate discussion
Straight talk	Techno-jargon, euphemisms and slogans



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Speaks well across multiple audiences, is engaging, and stimulates a strong discussion	Feeds division, does not engage people, or does not stimulate discussion
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This will not be easy	This will be easy – eco-boosterism



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This will not be easy	This will be easy – eco-boosterism
Renewables offer new opportunities and positive challenges — the next "boom"	"Clean" energy will replace "dirty" fossil fuels



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This will not be easy	This will be easy – eco-boosterism
Renewables offer new opportunities and positive challenges — the next "boom"	"Clean" energy will replace "dirty" fossil fuels
Building a transition towards something new	Transition away from something old



# Other "Simple Core Message Examples"

5 evidence-based messages that work

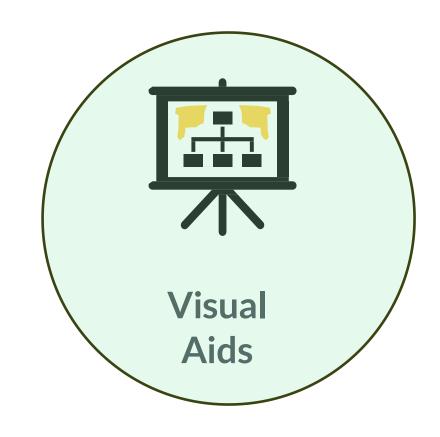
- It's real
- It's harmful
- Our actions are causing it
- Experts agree
- Our actions can reduce the threat



# **CC Communication Tips, Tools & Resources**



Words & Messaging





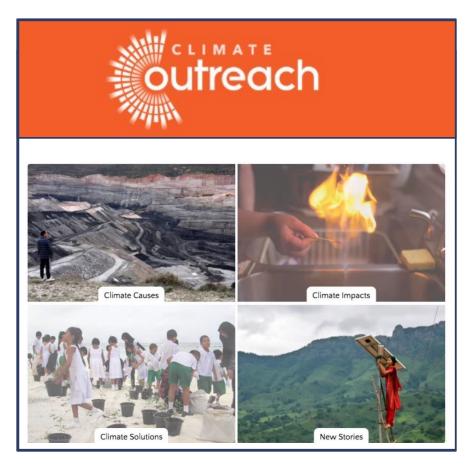
Helpful Resources

# Photos, Infographics & Videos





#### Photos, Infographics & Videos



Key principles of Climate Visuals



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5bvCO9FFU9Y

#### Photos, Infographics & Videos



Key principles of Climate Visuals

1. Show 'real people' not staged photo-ops

2. Tell new stories



#### Photos, Infographics & Videos



Key principles of Climate Visuals

1. Show 'real people' not staged photo-ops

2. Tell new stories

3. Show climate causes at scale

4. Climate impacts are emotionally powerful



#### Photos, Infographics & Videos



Key principles of Climate Visuals

1. Show 'real people' not staged photo-ops

2. Tell new stories

3. Show climate causes at scale

4. Climate impacts are emotionally powerful

5. Show local (but serious) climate impacts

6. Be very careful with protest imagery

7. Understand your audience



#### Photos Tell A Story That Words Can't





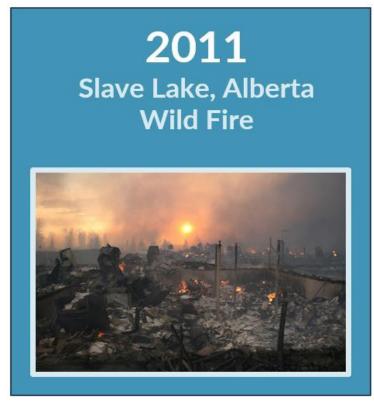


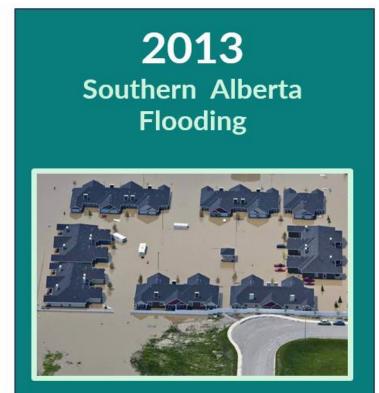


#### Photos Tell A Story That Words Can't



We have had Fires & Floods ... but not like these in recent times



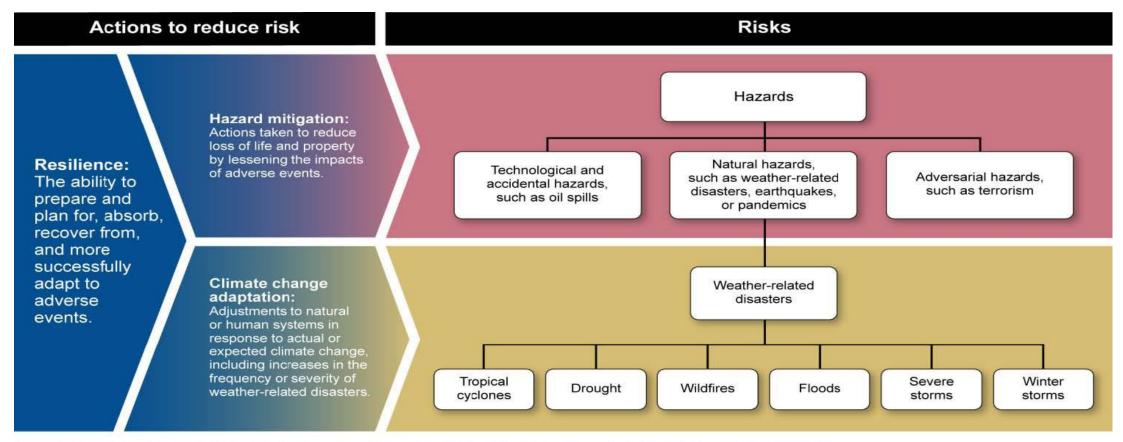






### Visuals Help Infographics Help Convey Content



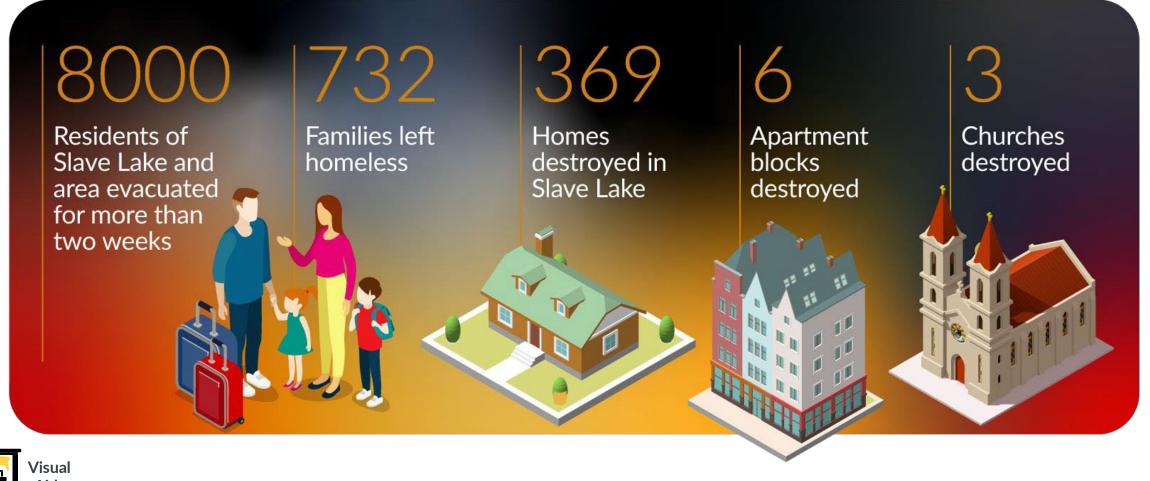


Source: GAO analysis of Presidential Policy Directive 8, previous GAO work, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration data. | GAO-16-454











#### Visuals Help Video & Film Tools

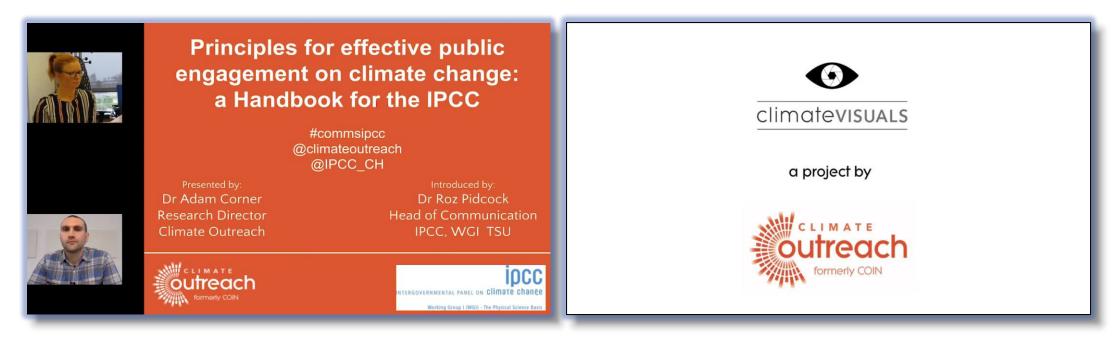


- Film is a language that everyone learns to 'read' from a very early age
- Appeals to a variety of sensory inputs and helps make information understandable to wide range of audiences





#### Video & Film Tools - Climate Change Video Resources



"https://climateoutreach.org"



#### **VIDEO & FILM TOOLS –** Climate Change Video Resources



#### National Climate Assessment: Agriculture chapter

Apr 30, 2014 | Discuss

"This isn't just about plants and animals. It's about people, it's about societies," says Gene Takle, a convening lead author of the National Climate Assessment's Agriculture chapter. Climate disruptions to agriculture have increased, and many regions will experience declines in crop and livestock production from increased stress due to weeds, diseases, insect pests, and other [...]



#### National Climate Assessment: Water chapter

Apr 30, 2014 | Discuss

"This is really a call for America to find out, 'What does climate change mean for where you live?'" says Paul Fleming, a convening lead author of the National Climate Assessment's Water Resources chapter. Fleming talks about how climate change will challenge the reliability of water supplies in the United States in multiple ways. Alterations [...]



#### National Climate Assessment: Health chapter

Apr 30, 2014 | Discuss

"We have to start connecting the dots between climate change and human health," says Kim Knowlton, a convening lead author of the National Climate Assessment's Human Health chapter. Climate change threatens human health and well-being in many ways, including impacts from increased extreme weather events, wildfire, decreased air quality, and illnesses transmitted by food, water, [...]



https://thestorygroup.org/category/nationalclimateassessment/



## Video & Film Tools - Climate Change Video Resources

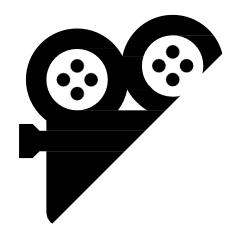


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# **Show Time**



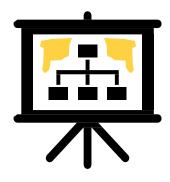
https://thestorygroup.org/an-iowa-farmer-faces-weather-extremes/



### **CC Communication Tips, Tools & Resources**



Words & Messaging



Visual Aids



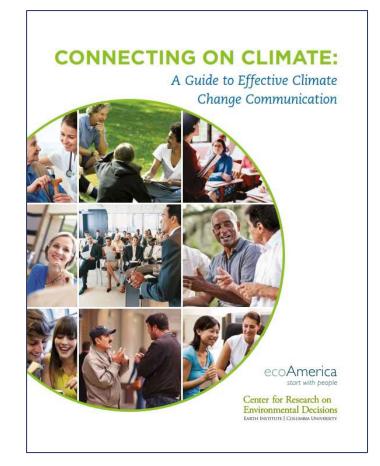
#### Don't Have to Reinvent the Wheel

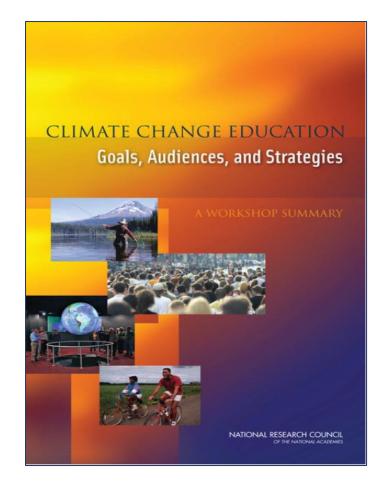


Principles for effective communication and public engagement on climate change

A Handbook for IPCC authors









outreach

#### Don't Have to Reinvent the Wheel



#### Climate Change Impacts by Sector

Climate change impacts many different sectors. Click the links below for information about impacts on each sector, or learn about climate change impacts by region or by state.



















#### Additional Human Health Resources:

- Map: Climate change and human health risks in your state
- Quiz: How much do you know about climate impacts on health?
- Factsheet: How will climate change affect my health?
- Factsheets: Climate change, health, and populations of concern
- Climate Change Indicators: <u>Understanding the link between climate change and human health</u>





#### **Segment Recap**

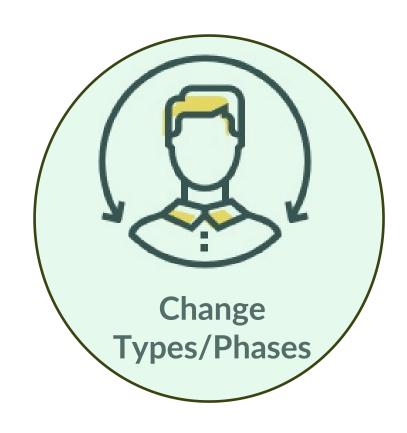
- Words need to be tailored to suit the audience in a way that resonates with them
- Framing of message types for different audiences is important to keep the communication pathway open
- A picture tells a 1000 words & everyone connects with good story telling (photos, infographics & videos help with communication)
- Don't reinvent the wheel great CC resources exist

### **Topic 3: Change Management Considerations**

## **Change Management Considerations**



### **Change Management Considerations**





Change Management Basics



Helpful Resources

### Change is Not Easy

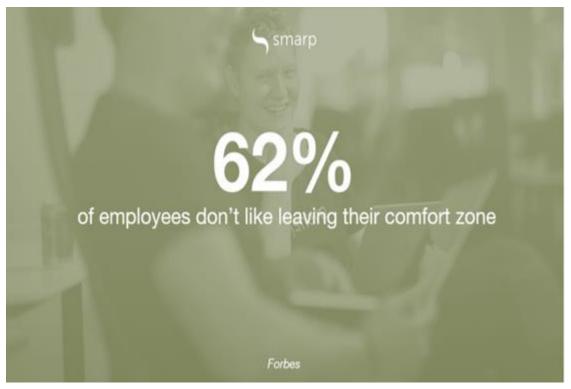
- We are creatures of habit & routine
- Status quo often equates to sense of:
  - comfort, stability, equilibrium
- Change often equates to sense of:
  - discomfort, instability, disequilibrium





### **Change is Not Easy**

Change is not widely embraced



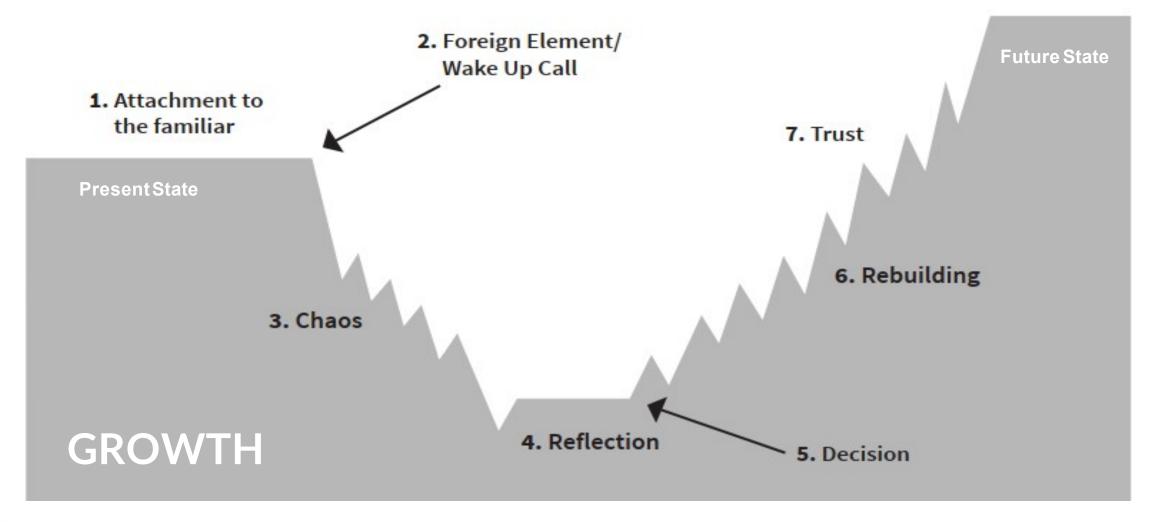
# Change & stress go hand-in-hand





### **Change is Not Easy**

8. New Possibilities
New Attachments

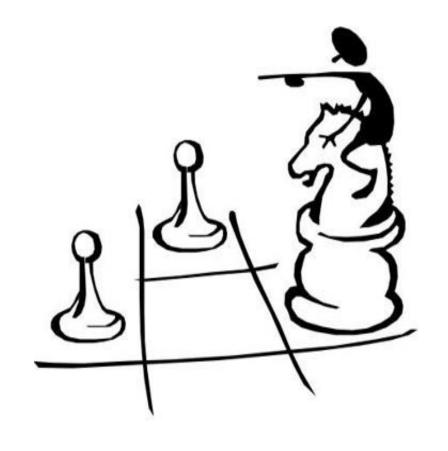




### **Different Changes - Different Impacts**

Kinds of Change (Kotter, 1998)

- Incremental
  - Tweaking the system or process
- Transitional
  - Restructuring & reorganizing
- Transformational
  - New vision, mission, values

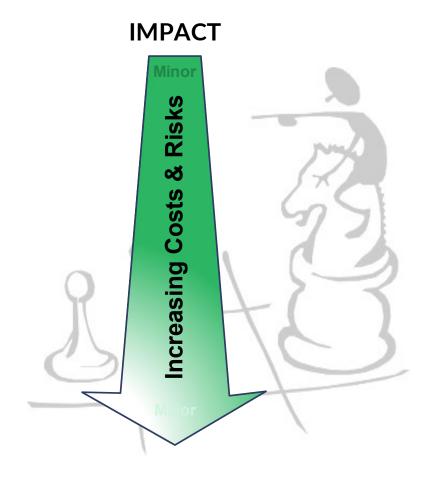




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### **Different Changes - Different Implications**

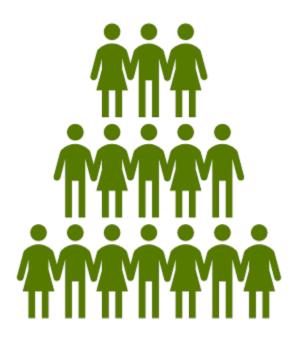
Easy for some... not so easy for others

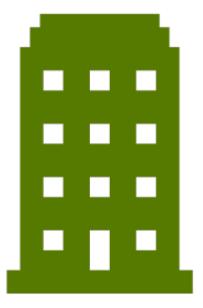




#### **Institutional Barriers to Change**

Organizational Changes are even more challenging







#### **Organizational Structure**

(e.g., silos, board support, general management, etc.)



#### Communication

(e.g., political will, ideological barriers, lack of public support, communicating uncertainty)



#### Technical Challenges

(e.g., limitation of climate models, insufficient data)



#### **Resources & Capacity**

(e.g., staff time, funding, staff understanding)



#### **Policies**

(e.g., lack of regulation/mandate, few implemented examples, no specifics in engineering design manual)



### **Change Management Considerations**



Change Types/Phases



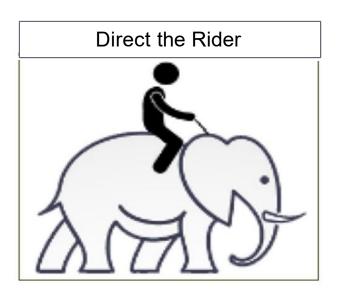


Helpful Resources

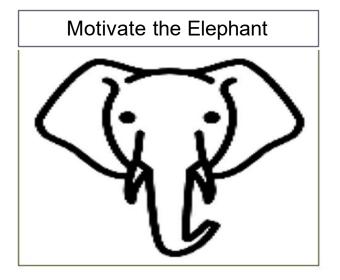
#### **Change Management Basics**

To change behavior (our own or someone else's), we must do three things:

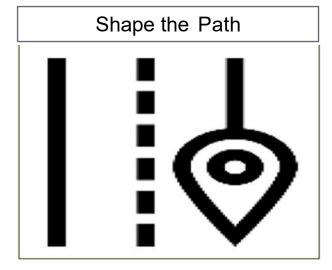
"Make the destination crystal clear"



"Help people feel the need for change"



"Make the required changes specific"





#### **Change Management Basics**

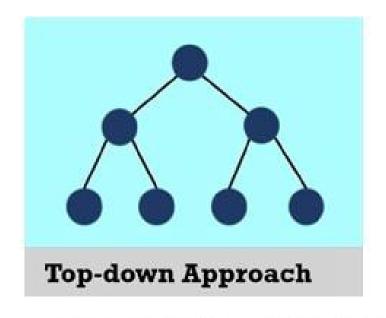
Change Management Plans look at:

- Behaviors that need to change
- Systems, processes & procedures that need to be in place to ensure success
- Other preparation activities required (e.g. training)
- Consequences necessary to sustain behavioral change



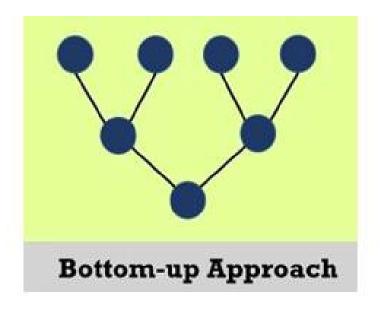
#### **Change Management Basics**

Need for both Top-down and Bottom-up approaches





- Department-wide policy, mandate or Adaptation Plan
- Adoption of resiliency guidelines
- Include adaptation within strategic plan



- Include info in existing plans, programs and processes
- Build trust, open communication avenues to create strategies with staff



#### **Summary Change Management in 4 Steps**



#### **DEFINE**

- Clarify roles in change management process
- Clarify what is changing and why
- Identify Stakeholders
- Establish timeframe
- Clarify success measures



#### **PLAN**

- Conduct impact and stakeholder assessments
- Create change and stakeholder engagement plans
- Identify risks and create risk mitigation plans
- Design plans for communications and training



#### **Summary Change Management in 4 Steps**



#### **IMPLEMENT**

- Enable/activate catalysts and leaders
- Roll out communications and training plans
- Monitor and manage resistance
- Deploy risk-mitigation plans



#### **SUSTAIN**

- Monitor adoption of change
- Reinforce behaviours that are aligned to the change
- Measure impact of change(s)
- Adjust as needed based on metrics



### **Change Management Considerations**



Change Types/Phases



Change Mgm't Basics



#### **Helpful Resources**

#### Climate Change Mainstreaming



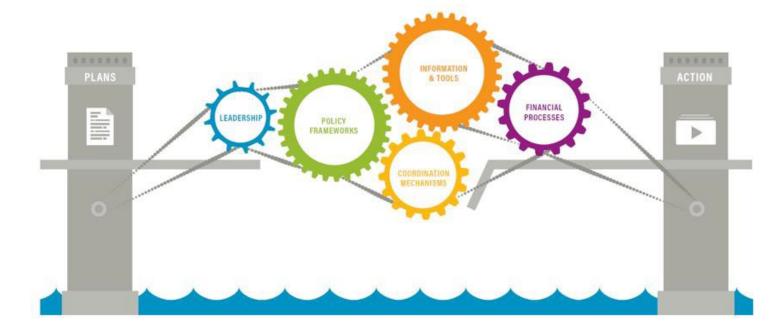
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**Working Pape** 

From Planning to Action: Mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation Into Development

Download

Figure ES-1 | Five Gears That Can Help Bridge the Implementation Gap





Mogelgaard, K., A. Dinshaw, N. Ginoya, M. Gutiérrez, P. Preethan, and J. Waslander. 2018. "From Planning to Action: Mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation into Development." Working Paper. Washington, DC: World Resources <a href="Institute.available-online-at-https://www.wri.org/research/planning-action-mainstreaming-climate-change-adaptation-developmenthttps://www.wri.org/publication/climate-planning-to-action"

#### Helpful Resources

#### Climate Change Mainstreaming



#### **TOPICS COVERED BY THEMODULE:**

- What is mainstreaming, and why mainstream climate change?
- A framework for mainstreaming climate change.
- Strengthening institutions and capacities.
- Principles for institutionalizing climate change mainstreaming.
- Tools and actions for supporting institutional and capacity strengthening



"Climate change is sometimes misunderstood as being about changes in the weather.

In reality, it is about changes in our very way of life."

Paul Polma

### **Module Summary**

### **Key Takeaways**

- Knowing your audience is important must tailor the message to suit the audience
- There are many components to communication some with more impactful than others. "How you say it and convey it" is the most impactful.
- Words & facts are often mistakenly thought to be sufficient for effective cc communication
- Finding common ground is a must to connect with others that think different than us.
- Taking "science talk" to "people talk' is important talking in words and phrasing that resonates with the target audience matters

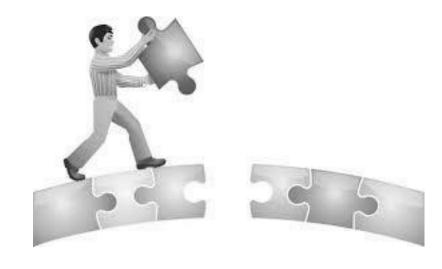
### **Key Takeaways**

- A picture speaks 1000 words and films are powerful storytelling vehicle. Maximize use of visual tools (*photos*, *info-graphics and videos*) to help with your outreach initiatives
- Dealing with the simplest changes is tough. Dealing with complex change is a world of difference.
- Changes can be categorized as incremental, transitional & transformational.
  - The change impacts & disruption for different people, groups & sectors is not the same for everyone.
- Many Climate Change mainstreaming resources exist, that can be drawn upon for guidance... no need to reinvent the wheel

#### Last word from some Alberta Groups

In a crisis, the whole province will pull together and help each other out ... its an old-school Western character ... it's a result a real salt of the earth bunch of people, and Albertans are just really, really great folks that take care of each other and that's great. (Rural Group)





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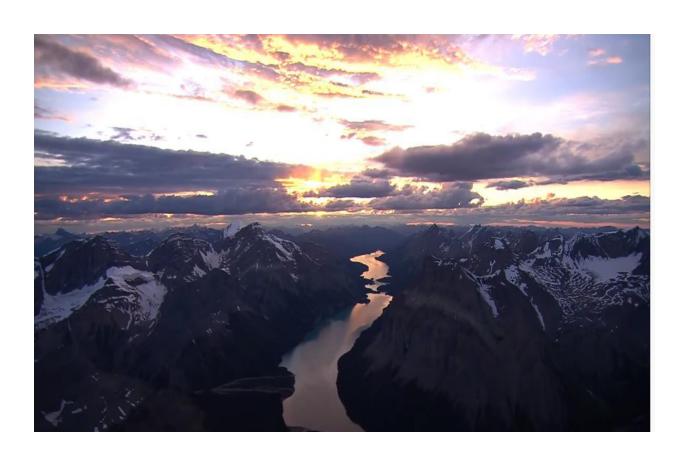


When you see how the rest of the world lives, we are very privileged. Alberta is literally the best place in the world to live, hands down.

(Farmers Group)



#### " We Share Common Ground "



# Show Time



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L82\_jHs8FgA

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#### **THANK YOU!**

If you have any questions, please contact <u>info@climatewest.ca</u>

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