



Climate Change Scorecard for Industry and Professional Associations

An Excerpt From the *Climate Change How-To Guide for Industry and Professional Associations*

August 2020

Source: Annie Spratt on Unsplash (<https://unsplash.com/photos/1rkWwZXMHiI>)

Climate Change Scorecard for Industry and Professional Associations

The purpose of the Climate Change Scorecard is to help industry and professional associations understand the many ways in which they can ensure their members consider climate change in their decision-making and reduce their physical and transition risks through climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The scorecard is a complete list of all the possible climate change practices an association could pursue – therefore not all practices will apply to each association. The list is meant to be tailored to fit the needs of each association, depending on their size, mandate, priorities, membership, and sector or profession. Associations just beginning their climate change journey can use this scorecard to develop their roadmap and prioritize their actions. Associations further along can use this scorecard to benchmark their progress and identify gaps and opportunities to address in future plans. Smaller associations can consider using the shorter version of this list on page 29 of the full Guide.

There are 10 Themes, 55 practices, and 15 practices **highlighted** as priority practices. The **highlighted** priority practices are essential to build a basic climate change program and should be the focus of most association climate change programs. Note that the order of implementation of these practices will vary for each association (see **Climate Change Roadmap for Industry and Professional Associations** on page 28 of the full Guide for a sequential set of steps).

How to use the scorecard:

1. Rank your association against the practices below, from 0 – 3. Either rank each practice or just focus on the highlighted important practices.
2. Identify the gaps (i.e. where your practices are ranked 0 or 1) and the themes in which you score the lowest (see page 8 for your automatically-calculated scores).
3. Prioritize the actions to address in your association's Business Plan or Climate Change Plan over the next 1 – 2 years.
4. In one or two years, repeat this process to track your progress and identify additional steps to take.

This document is an excerpt from the Climate Change How-To Guide for Industry and Professional Associations.

For a copy of the complete How-To Guide, visit BCCIC's website: <http://bccic.ca/climateguide>

Key:

0 = No Progress

1 = Beginning (i.e. occasionally practiced or in its developing stages)

2 = Advancing (i.e. often practiced and well-developed)

3 = Leading (i.e. consistently practiced and fully-developed; acts as a role-model for other associations)

N/A = The practice is not applicable (i.e. it is outside of the association's mandate)

Focus Area	Best Practice	Rank	Comments
Research and Knowledge Development			
1. Gather and Share Research and Information	A. Gather, analyze, summarize, and share research and information on the physical and transition risks and opportunities of climate change, and how they will affect members, their value chains/ecosystems/operating contexts, and the profession/sector until 2050. Conduct joint research with academia and research institutions where possible (example). Include climate change as a lens in the association's other research projects, especially where commissioning climate change research is cost-prohibitive		
	B. Provide information to members on the business case and benefits for acting on climate change		
	C. Provide definitions of climate change terms and concepts to develop a shared knowledge-base and language among members		
2. Include Climate Change Information in Communications	A. Include climate change insights, trends, innovations, news, and case studies in regular member communications		
Professional Development and Education			
3. Provide Education and Training	A. Include climate change topics in conferences, webinars, and other education programs; put out a standing call for climate change sessions at conferences and webinars (example)		
	B. Hold workshops, courses, and training programs for climate change knowledge exchange, capacity building, and innovation sharing presented by experts and thought leaders (example). <i>[For Industry Associations, provide climate change education to executives of member companies]</i>		
	C. Develop climate change curriculum materials and/or engage post-secondary and training institutions on need for climate change education		
Standards and Certifications			
4. Update Standards and Certifications	A. For associations with standards, include climate change best practices (example)		
	B. For associations with professional guidelines, competencies, certifications, accreditations or designations, update them to include climate change as either a mandatory component or specialization (example). Include climate change as a component of members' Continuing Professional Development (example)		

Standards and Certifications Continued			
5. Promote Global Standards	A. Encourage members to adopt global climate change standards where relevant, e.g. publish a sustainability report that adheres to the Global Reporting Initiative , disclose climate change strategy following the guidelines of the CDP , endorse and implement the recommendations of the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures , etc.		
Best Practices, Resources and Support			
6. Offer Awards and Profile Best Practices	A. Create and/or encourage member participation in Environment and Climate Change Awards that profile best practices (example). For associations that offer awards, use the nomination process to identify best practices to share at conferences and in webinars		
	B. Publish case studies of members with best practices and innovative solutions in climate change mitigation and adaptation (for both large and small members); share best practices of other associations with similar memberships; create an inventory or database of member best practices in climate change (example)		
7. Offer Tools and Peer Programs	A. Create/share climate change tips, articles, toolkits, how-to guides, checklists; consider housing resources within a climate change knowledge hub or centre of excellence (example)		
	B. Offer peer learning and mentoring programs, communities of practice, a help desk, or specialized advisory teams to support members		
	C. Create/share a peer benchmarking program to enable members to compare their practices and performance, learn from one another, and incentivize the adoption of better practices (example)		
Policy and Planning			
8. Consult and Engage Members and Stakeholders on Priorities	A. Survey members on the climate change priorities of their organizations and the climate change priorities they would like the sector/profession to address collectively (example)		
	B. Create climate change committee, task force or advisory group to recommend initiatives and strategies (example)		
	C. Consult external stakeholders to prioritize climate change actions for the sector/profession to address (example)		

Policy and Planning Continued			
9. Engage Board of Directors and Staff	A. Provide climate change education to the association's board of directors and staff		
	B. Integrate climate change into the association's vision, mission, and/or strategic plan		
	C. Adopt and publicly communicate a board-approved climate change policy/commitment statement for how the profession or industry can reduce emissions and adapt to climate change impacts		
10. Adopt Climate Justice Lens	A. Ensure climate policies and measures address disparities and unequal impacts experienced by diverse groups based on their gender identity, race, ethnicity, religion, age, mental or physical disability, and other identity factors. Consider diverse BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Colour) experiences in the development of your climate policy and plans <i>[See Equity, Justice, and Climate Change on pages 15-16 of the full Guide for more information]</i>		
11. Set Priorities and Develop Plan	A. Develop a Climate Change Plan for the association, including climate change goals, targets, and metrics for the sector/profession to pursue together, by prioritizing climate actions from research and consultation (example)		
	A. Publicly recognize the professional obligations that members owe to their clients and the public in relation to climate change, to ensure members consider climate change in their decision-making. For example, clarify how existing ethical obligations apply in light of climate change, and amend codes of conduct or ethics to explicitly recognize members' professional obligations in relation to climate change (example , resource) <i>[Professional Associations only]</i>		
	C. Include climate change in other initiatives, such as the Association's innovation and technology agenda (e.g. invest in technology that reduces costs and carbon) <i>[Industry Associations only]</i>		
12. Set Mitigation and Adaptation Targets	A. Adopt voluntary or mandatory industry-wide emission reduction targets for the sector to pursue together (including protocols, metrics, timelines), in line with the IPCC report (i.e. carbon neutrality by 2050), that enable members to track and measure their performance and the association to track, measure, and report the sector's performance and progress (example) <i>[Industry Associations only]</i>		
	B. Develop adaptation targets for the sector, based on scientific research and models/scenarios of current and future climate change impacts <i>[Industry Associations only]</i>		

Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting			
13. Monitor and Evaluate	A. Regularly review the sector's/profession's progress towards the Association's goals to mitigate and adapt to climate change (example)		
	B. Develop and regularly update an internal database that tracks the sector's GHGs (example) [<i>Industry Associations only</i>]		
	C. Encourage members to use the Greenhouse Gas Protocol to measure their emissions, and consider the recommendations of the TCFD for disclosures [<i>Industry Associations only</i>]		
14. Report and Disclose	A. Report on the sector's/profession's climate mitigation and adaptation efforts, progress towards targets, and overall performance in regular annual or sustainability reports		
Marketing and Public Engagement			
15. Tell Stories and Brand Efforts	A. Help members market their climate change practices and tell their climate change story, e.g. develop a brand or template for members to use in their marketing [<i>Industry Associations only</i>]		
	B. Position the sector/profession as offering solutions to climate change mitigation and adaptation (example); Include climate change story in market development and trade and export promotion of the sector [<i>Industry Associations only</i>]		
	C. Attract future talent into the profession by profiling the profession's contribution to addressing climate change [<i>Professional Associations only</i>]		
16. Increase Public/Consumer Awareness	A. Initiate public awareness campaigns to communicate the climate performance and leadership of the sector/profession		
	B. Launch public and consumer education campaigns on climate change actions the public/consumers can pursue (example)		
17. Mobilize Support for Climate Action	A. Endorse climate change commitment statements, charters, or principles and recruit other signatories (example)		
	B. Release position papers on the significance of climate change and the industry's or profession's response, and encourage others to do the same (example)		
	C. Provide awards to external organizations, e.g. government, research institutes, suppliers, and vendors, to generate demand and interest in addressing climate change		

Government Relations			
18. Collaborate with Government	A. Provide expertise to municipal, provincial, and federal governments on the climate change impacts on/of the sector or profession and the role the association is playing (example)		
	B. Seek out and apply for government funding to help the sector or profession transition to a low carbon economy and adapt to climate change (example) (see Climate Change Resources on page 33 of the full Guide for more information)		
	C. Engage with governments on public policy measures to advance climate action and develop a climate change narrative/story members can use with governments where they lack this capacity		
19. Public Policy Advocacy	A. Proactively seek opportunities to comment on the development of federal, provincial, regional, and municipal climate strategies (example); include climate considerations as part of the association's budget submissions		
	B. Join a climate advocacy coalition to lobby governments on an accelerated climate change response (e.g. Smart Prosperity Leaders' Initiative , Climate Action Network Canada); engage ENGOs and other organizations to collaborate on shared advocacy objectives (example)		
	C. Advocate for government policy to support members to improve their climate practices/resilience; include in the association's Government Relations Plan measures that support the association's climate change goals and targets; ensure the association has consistent advocacy positions across its Government Relations program (example)		
Collaboration and Partnerships			
20. Collaborate with Other Sectors and Professions	A. Identify key adjacent sectors or allied professions that need an aligned climate change response to ensure the success of the overall value chain, partner to foster best practices and knowledge sharing, tackle barriers and challenges together, and advance innovation; initiate or join collaborations on climate mitigation and adaptation with other associations, addressing shared risks and opportunities		
	B. Create tools and resources for partner and allied groups to aid their climate efforts		
	C. Provide climate change tools and resources for organizations where members work and develop strategies to enhance the climate change competencies of organizations and sectors that hire members [<i>Professional Associations only</i>]		

Collaboration and Partnerships Continued			
21. Partner with Climate Change Experts	A. Engage a trusted organization with climate change expertise to deliver information, training and resources to members (e.g. Climate Smart , Adaptation Learning Network , local ENGOS, etc.)		
22. Advance Climate Justice	A. Build relationships and partnerships with Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and NGOs/ENGOS, to foster Climate Justice and address needs, priorities, and rights of under-represented communities		
23. Partner Internationally	A. Build strategic climate change partnerships and collaborations with international associations in the sector or profession; find out about new research, best practices, and experts from international partnerships; recruit them to address climate change at conferences and events		
Operational Practices			
24. Reduce Operational Emissions	A. Adopt and implement a plan for the association to become carbon neutral (example)		
25. Embed in Procurement and Green Meeting Protocols	A. Hold conversations with the association's suppliers about how they can reduce their emissions and offer sustainable options and choices; include climate change in the association's procurement policy, e.g. to source from suppliers who have climate change action plans in place and who offer lower-carbon options		
	B. Develop a green meeting/conference protocol with the following elements: eliminate paper use, reduce waste, eliminate plastic bottles, use green venues, consolidate number of meetings, hold virtual meetings, offer airport pickups for those arriving together, etc.; include green criteria in RFPs for conferences and events (Resource)		
26. Review Investments	A. Ensure financial endowments and investments adhere to the recommendations of the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures and address physical and transition risks of climate change		

Source: These ideas were summarized from interviews with association representatives (see Appendix 3 of the full Guide) as well as from existing online resources for associations.¹

1. Coro Strandberg, "Sustainable Professional Association Initiative," Strandberg Consulting, accessed July 16, 2020, <https://corostrandberg.com/services-clients/sustain-able-professional-association-initiative/>; Coro Strandberg, "Climate Change and Associations CSAE Meeting Summary" (Strandberg Consulting, 2020), (Unpublished); Coro Strandberg, "Industry Association Sustainability Benchmark & Checklist" (Strandberg Consulting, 2018), <https://corostrandberg.com/publication/industry-association-sustainability-benchmark-and-checklist/>; "A Milestone Report & Three Year Retrospective Review: Maximizing Social Impact in Canadian Post-Secondary" (The McConnell Foundation, 2020), <https://re-code.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Social-Infrastructure-2020-Milestone-Report.pdf>.

Your Total Scores

How does your association perform in each of the 10 themes? See the table below for your automatically calculated scores, based on your responses to the Climate Change Scorecard. Your scores can help you benchmark your association's current climate change practices and identify priority areas to address.

**Note: Each use of the "N/A" option reduces the total number of possible points in your score by 3.*

Theme	Your Score	%
Research and Knowledge Development	/	
Professional Development and Education	/	
Standards and Certifications	/	
Best Practices, Resources and Support	/	
Policy and Planning	/	
Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting	/	
Marketing and Public Engagement	/	
Government Relations	/	
Collaboration and Partnerships	/	
Operational Practices	/	
Grand Total	/	

See the Climate Change How-To Guide for additional climate change information, resources, tips, and tools, including:

- Background information on climate change trends, risks, and impacts;
- The business case and rationale for associations to respond to climate change;
- Tips on overcoming barriers and challenges;
- BC- and Canadian-specific resources and examples; and
- A set of high-level steps associations can pursue to help their members reduce their climate change impacts, prepare for the changes to come and benefit from the opportunities presented by the low-carbon economy.

Key:

0-9% = Initiating: Minimal progress on climate change initiatives, just starting out

10-29% = Beginning: Basic steps have been adopted and basic initiatives are being pursued

30-49% = Developing: Programs and initiatives are underway, and a good foundation has been established

50-69% = Advancing: Considerable progress has been made, a few steps short of a complete program

70-100% = Leading: Climate change practices are well-established and exemplary