

Measuring Progress on Climate Change Adaptation: Lessons from the Community Well-Being Analogue

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Abstract

The study evaluated the community well-being (CWB) analogue to provide lessons for the measurement of progress and adaptation to climate change at the municipal level. Since the impacts of climate change are experienced at the local scale and effective climate change adaptation (CCA) is thought to require local scale engagement and targeted action, municipal scale measurement is key to understanding CCA progress. While research on CCA activities is in the nascent stage of development, measuring similar activities within the CWB field is well developed across Canada and internationally through the use of indicators and associated measures.

The study gleaned lessons from CWB measurement tools, approaches and processes that could be applicable to the CCA context. Research involved an extensive review of CWB models and key informant interviews conducted with key Canadian municipal and international authorities who are leaders in spearheading CWB initiatives. In this presentation we will outline the major CWB models, our findings from the CWB analogue and the lessons learned for CCA measurement. In particular, we suggest that early engagement and participative processes, flexible and adaptable measurement tools, careful consideration of data requirements, 'mainstreaming' CCA measurement into ongoing activities and the 'de-siloing' of expertise will be important for the success of CCA measurement activities at the municipal scale.

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