

Climate Proof Your Business



What is climate resilience?

Climate resilience is defined as the **capacity to cope with a hazardous event or trend or disturbance**. For businesses, it is also reflected in the capacity to respond in ways that maintain essential functions and structures, and the capacity to adapt, learn, and transform. Building climate resilience in a business involves preparing for climate-related risks and making transformational change that ultimately works to reduce risks and greenhouse gas emissions, in line with Canada's transition to net-zero.

Lincoln's climate is already changing:



More extreme hot days



Milder winter temperatures
(more rain / ice & less snow)



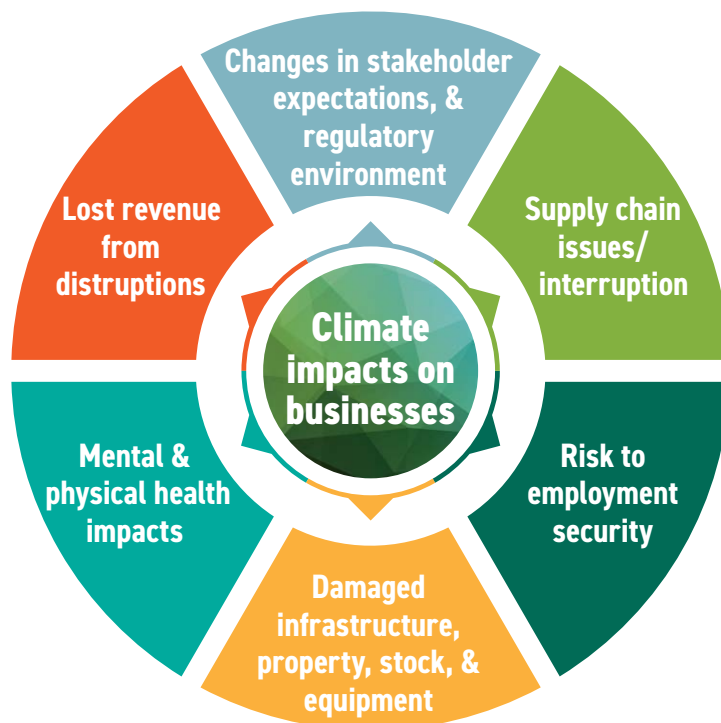
More extreme precipitation events



Longer drought periods



Fewer frost days



Taking action can minimize risks to your business



The risks of inaction can be significant, particularly for small businesses who may be less able to recover than larger companies



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 employee and community well being

Additional Resources:

[National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy Business Primer](#)

Tactics and strategies to stay competitive in a changing climate

[Retooling for Climate Change](#)

Additional information on how to respond to climate risks

[Canadian Climate Institute Tip of the Iceberg](#)

Gain additional information on how weather-related disasters have caused business disruptions

[WDCSB Business Climate Resilience](#)

A report providing businesses with the knowledge and steps required to build business climate resilience

[Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation University of Waterloo](#)

Research Centre that focuses on identifying and reducing the impacts of extreme weather

[Insurance Bureau of Canada \(IBC\)](#)

Access resources including studies on financial management of climate risks, and the economic and fiscal impact of climate change and disasters

[Niagara Region Emergency Management Plan](#)

A robust emergency management plan that serves as a framework for responding to risks

[Small Business Access](#)

Learn now to obtain funding, find employees, get federal support and much more.

[Low Impact Development Best Management Practices Facts Sheets](#)

Learn about design considerations, construction, and planning considerations for LID practices

[Town of Lincoln Business Resilience Toolkit](#)

A planning tool to prepare and respond to climate risks



PREPARE

Preparedness is a critical first step in resilience-building. It is important to take the steps to assess, adapt, and mitigate risks to your business.

Assess the risks and opportunities from a changing climate as they relate to the following five areas:

1. Site conditions, physical assets, and infrastructure;
2. Processes and workforce;
3. Raw materials, supply chains, and logistics;
4. Products, services, and markets; and
5. Regulatory risks, changing standards, and reputation.

Adapt: Inventory the impacts on your business from past climate-related events. What was your business' response to these events? Are there steps you can take to adapt to climate risks?

Mitigate: Consider how you can reduce greenhouse gas emissions through your operations and position your products and services to align with future climate changes.

- Have fans on hand for extreme heat events
- Use trees and landscaping for natural cooling
- Screen products and suppliers for potential climate risks to production and/or distribution
- Create contingency plans



RESPOND

Climate projections for Lincoln anticipate an increase in frequency and severity of extreme weather events including windstorms and thunderstorms. These events, in addition to the expected increase in heavy rain events and flooding, signal the importance of having an effective and efficient emergency response plan.

Consider what procedures, systems, materials, and equipment are necessary for operations. Prioritize your businesses needs.

Develop an emergency response plan that at the minimum includes the following:

- Clear evacuation procedures;
- A procedure to handle injuries;
- Emergency contact details;
- Emergency supplies; and
- Instructions for switching off utilities.

Educate staff on the climate related risks your business faces and share your plan. Train staff on their individual roles and responsibilities in an emergency.



RECOVER

In the event a climate related emergency leads to business closure, you may be considering reopening. During the recovery phase it is important to take the time to pause and assess your current state of mind, in addition to your financial situation.

Recovery may also provide additional opportunities to build resilience. If there are structural damages to your business, issues with suppliers, and/or modifications to your products, it is worth considering how to integrate sustainable practices into your operations. Identify areas for change to operations and sourcing that contribute to the net-zero transformation and increase resilience.



DID YOU KNOW?

Climate change impact costs in Canada are also expected to accelerate, increasing from an average of **\$5bn/yr. in 2020** to an average of between **\$21bn and \$43bn/yr. by 2050.**

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

Every dollar invested in mitigating the effects of severe weather in Canada saves **\$3 to \$5** in recovery costs.