



CLIMATE ACTION STATEMENT

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Approved by the CPRA Board of Directors

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CPRA – Climate Action Statement

The climate emergency is one of the biggest challenges facing our planet. Canada ratified the Paris Agreement and has joined other nations in committing to keep average global temperature rise below 2°C.

Parks and natural spaces provide ecosystem services that position our sector to have a significant impact in responding globally to the changing climate by capturing carbon, storing and cleaning storm water, cooling our city streets, and protecting communities.

Recreation and sport infrastructure consume significant amounts of carbon-based fuels to heat and cool facilities and operate equipment such as swimming pools and arenas. These facilities should be retrofitted or designed to use less energy and cleaner energy technologies to contribute to achieving community-level carbon emission reduction targets that will slow global temperature rise.

To increase the climate resilience of the natural systems and the infrastructure under our stewardship, we need to accelerate our climate actions. Informed by science, CPRA will commit to playing a supporting role for government policy and establishing partnerships and opportunities that build the capacity of the sector.

CPRA Governance Actions

- Increase CPRA Board and Member fluency on the materiality of climate change to the parks and recreation sector by means of strategic sessions/discussions at Board meetings.
- Adopt a resolution declaring an environment and climate emergency.
- Commit to developing an action plan for sharing knowledge and generating awareness amongst sector professionals and practitioners which should include a means to measure success.
- Reference the *Framework for Recreation and Parks for All* as foundations for our work on this issue.
- Strive to reduce our carbon footprint through our business and board practices and policies.

Partnership / Program Possibilities

Below are avenues for exploration as resources permit. The Board may identify additional possibilities in future.

- Partner with the architect and design sector to develop and launch a Climate Challenge for new parks and recreation infrastructure with targets for operational energy use, embodied carbon and water use reduction.
- Provide awareness and training opportunities on the federal government's '*Climate Lens Assessment Framework*' that is a mandatory requirement in the application for federal infrastructure funding (as of summer 2020).
- Pursue collaborative climate action activities and initiatives with the Canadian Parks Council and other partner organizations that are stewards of parks and conservation lands.
- Support aligned research-based organizations to advance scientific understanding and knowledge sharing amongst professionals, including identification of climate related risks and opportunities for a public recreation and parks service.
- Partner with government to administer / promote a capital grant program supporting municipalities to transition (new and retrofit) to zero carbon energy systems in parks and recreation facilities and resilient asset/infrastructure development.
- Incorporate climate action learning and knowledge sharing in CPRA events and activities and support member organizations efforts that increase the sector's knowledge and capacity on climate action matters.
- Incorporate climate change lens to the CPRA professional development program.
- Pursue federal green infrastructure funding and grant programs that target the parks and recreation sector.