

Guide on Applying Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEA) Within Climate-Resilient Infrastructure

Purpose of this guide

The purpose of the guide is to help end-users (asset owners including private sector organizations and different levels of government, specifically municipalities) with decision-making and risk management relating to their infrastructure by guiding how to prioritize construction, operation and retrofit in the context of climate change adaptation, based on:

- the services the infrastructure offers,
- the users and their needs,
- who would be most affected by climate impacts and hazards, and
- how to address needs through portfolio management and project design.



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Why develop this guide?

Incorporating inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility (IDEA) into climate-resilient infrastructure decisions can help reduce the disproportionate impacts of climate change, disasters, and emergencies on Indigenous Peoples and equity-deserving groups.

What are the benefits of this guide?

Climate change disproportionately affects Indigenous Peoples and equity-deserving groups. Failing to design and retrofit infrastructure to be climate-resilient, while considering diverse needs, has long-term consequences for communities, asset owners, and governments. It is crucial to apply an IDEA lens when making decisions on portfolio management and project design for climate-resilient infrastructure. This approach benefits governments, asset owners, communities, and individuals by helping ensure diverse needs are met.

Benefits to governments and asset owners

- Mitigate legal risks
- Achieve positive returns on investments
- Build resilience, reduce loss and damage, and meet the needs of communities
- Build trust with communities
- Drive innovative solutions

Benefits to communities and individuals

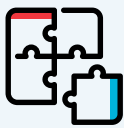
- Enhance social inclusion and justice
- Reduce financial impact on households



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What are the key components of this guide at a high level?

This guide provides a framework for including IDEA considerations in the steps of portfolio management and project design as it relates to climate-resilient infrastructure. The framework offers general steps that end-users follow within portfolio management and project design processes while recognizing that the process followed by each end-user may be slightly different and context-specific. Ultimately, end-users may use the proposed steps as overall guidance and are encouraged to tailor the processes and actions to their needs, capacity, and context. Additionally, as frameworks and regulatory requirements shift, so will the expectations of end-users.



Ongoing Community Engagement

- Develop equitable, inclusive and accessible engagement strategies, and allocate sufficient resources to facilitate these engagement efforts. (Sections 7.1.1 - 7.1.4; Appendix 2.1 - 2.2)
- Evaluate the engagement process and outcome, and maintain ongoing communication with communities. (Sections 7.1.7 - 7.1.8)



Project Design

- **Design elements**
 - Consider IDEA in the infrastructure design process including engaging diverse communities to understand their needs. (Sections 7.1.6, 7.3.1; Appendix 2.4)
- **Team composition & procurement**
 - Establish a diverse core project team and ensure equitable decision-making. (Section 7.3.2.1)
 - Embed IDEA in the purchasing and procurement processes with continuous monitoring and evaluation. (Sections 7.3.2.2 - 7.3.2.7; Appendix 2.5)



Portfolio Management

- **Understand climate, infrastructure and communities**
 - Collect infrastructure maintenance and condition data and forecast the potential impact of climate change on existing infrastructure. (Section 7.2.1)
 - Understand current and projected demographic data to identify vulnerable populations and areas, and understand how future demographic trends may impact how people use and interact with the infrastructure. (Sections 7.2.2 - 7.2.3; Appendix 1)
- **Climate and community risk management**
 - Conduct a climate risk assessment on the infrastructure and community risk assessment to understand how vulnerable communities might be impacted. Ensure the risk assessment is informed by community perspectives. (Sections 7.1.5, 7.2.4; Appendix 2.3)

Appendix

This guide provides a compiled list of resources for end-users to leverage throughout portfolio management and project design processes.