



Canadian Philanthropy  
Commitment on Climate Change

# Implementation Guide

This document outlines recommended actions for funders on each of the 7 pillars of engagement of the Philanthropy Commitment on Climate Change.

Below, we restate the 7 pillars with elements that reflect Canadian issues, challenges, values and aspirations for consideration. We then present recommended actions for foundations that are Getting Started (page 3), those Building Momentum (page 4), and those ready to Demonstrate Leadership (page 5).



Categories

Getting Started Actions



Education

We will ensure that our boards, investment committees, staff, volunteers and stakeholders are informed about the systemic causes, impacts and solutions of climate change, and the implications for our work.

*In Canada, we respect that Indigenous teaching and traditional ecological knowledge are essential to our learning journey and climate justice.*



Resources

Recognising the urgency of the situation, we will commit resources to accelerate work that addresses the root causes of climate change or adaptation to its impacts. If our governing document or other factors make it difficult to directly fund such work, we will find other ways to contribute, or consider how such barriers might be overcome.

*In Canada, the system in which we operate can make it prohibitive for groups closest to the work on the ground, often non-qualified donees, to obtain the resources they need. We will advocate for transformative change and identify ways to overcome philanthropic and systemic barriers. We will work to flow funding abundantly now, and over generations, to Indigenous and equity-seeking groups.*



Integration

Within the design and implementation of our programmes, we will seek opportunities to contribute to a fair and lasting transition to a net zero world, and to support adaptation to climate change impacts, especially in the most affected communities.

*In Canada, we will work to equip grantees, applicants, Boards and staff to consider the many ways in which climate change impacts and intersects with the priority issues and program areas in which we grant. We also recognize the multifaceted climate solutions that are grounded in Indigenous wisdom and leadership.*



Endowments  
and Assets

We will consider climate change in relation to the source and management of our operational and any endowed funds. We will seek to align our investment strategy and its implementation with a rapid and just transition to a net zero economy.

*In Canada, we will take action embedded in science and use our voice as holders of capital to help shift corporate and regulatory behavior. We will work to align more of our investments to UNDRIP and reconciliation investment screens that help us reach our climate goals.*



Operations

We will take ambitious action to minimise the climate impact of our own operations, which may include for example travel, buildings and procurement.

*In Canada, we will also encourage our grantees and peers to consider how their work impacts climate change.*



Influence  
and Advocacy

We will seek opportunities to work with others, to amplify the voices of frontline communities, and to encourage and support more ambitious action on climate change by our key stakeholders, partners and audiences; these may include businesses, local or national governments, multilateral organisations, donors and funders, individuals or civil society movements.

*In Canada, we know that philanthropic actors can influence and advocate to advance priorities within the bounds of their charitable status. As allies, we will work to support and uphold Indigenous rights and Indigenous initiatives that protect all living beings, land, water, and air.*



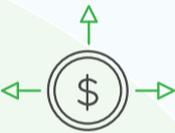
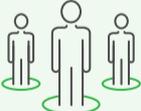
Transparency

We will collect and publish information annually on the actions we have taken against the six pillars listed above to share our progress and identify areas for improvement. We will continue to develop our practice, to collaborate, and to learn from each other.

*In Canada, we will share information on our progress annually via the Canadian Philanthropy Commitment on Climate Change reporting tools so that we can be transparent and held accountable by our peers, our partners and ultimately the public. We will aim to increase our ambition year-over-year with support from the Commitment team.*

*We will seek guidance from Indigenous and other equity seeking groups to ensure our actions are robust and impactful.*



Categories	Getting Started Actions
 <p>Education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Distribute resources on climate change that will be provided by this program.</li> <li>- Explore what Indigenous experience and wisdom can teach us about the intersections of climate change and Indigenous rights by, for example: reading resources from Indigenous Climate Action, inviting Indigenous speakers to share (making sure to provide Honoraria to guests).</li> <li>- Learn about the history of Canada and colonial actions. With resources provided, understand how colonization continues today and its many connections to the climate crisis.</li> <li>- Explore the multiplier impact of climate change on communities of color and vulnerable groups via resources that will be provided.</li> </ul>
 <p>Resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consider how you can share knowledge and staff time, and other resources to support organisations working on the front-line of climate mitigation, adaptation, and advocacy.</li> <li>- Consider what financial resources you can commit within the year and in the future, with particular attention to Indigenous-led initiatives.</li> </ul>
 <p>Integration</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identify how climate change impacts the work you do, and vice versa. Climate change is a threat multiplier that impacts food security, poverty reduction, mental health, and gender equality, and many of the focus areas of Canadian philanthropies.</li> </ul>
 <p>Endowments and Assets</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consider climate change across your portfolio in all your funds. Identify any barriers to change (investment committee, etc), and create a plan to remove barriers.</li> <li>- Consider using the <b>Justice Funders' Resonance Framework</b> as a tool to evaluate the stage you are at.</li> <li>- Review your investment policy statement and seek advice on how to embed climate change and a <b>reconciliation screen</b>.</li> </ul>
 <p>Operations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Perform an assesement of how your operations contribute to climate change, and set a science-based climate impact reduction target the following year.</li> <li>- Conduct a colonial assesement and commit to a journey of learning and unlearning.</li> </ul>
 <p>Influence and Advocacy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identify climate messengers - including youth, Indigenous and equity-seeking leaders in your community and stakeholders - grantees, donors, and partners - and find ways to lend your platform to their message (via your events, newsletters, in meetings with officials, etc.).</li> <li>- Contribute to efforts of local Indigenous projects, movements, communities and nations taking climate action.</li> <li>- Support the advocacy efforts of climate-focused environmental groups.</li> </ul>
 <p>Transparency</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Share back with us on your actions. We will work with you on simple, easy to do reporting against each of these pillars. We will also create opportunities to share learnings with peers on the climate action journey.</li> <li>- Make sure your actions are easily accessible, whether in a report, on your website, and/or shared on social media.</li> <li>- Commit to transparency as an act of reconciliation and seek ongoing guidance from Indigenous leaders.</li> </ul>



# LEVEL 2: Building Momentum

*\*includes ALL actions from Getting Started, in addition to actions listed below.*

Categories

'Getting Started' **Actions Plus:**



Education

- Create discussion opportunities for your Board, grantees and peers from resources and question prompts that will be provided
- Host at least two discussions on the intersections of climate justice, social justice, and Indigenous sovereignty (resources will be provided).



Resources

- Evaluate your strategic plan and granting through a climate lens, and identify structures, policies and practices that may hinder committing additional resources. (E.g. what bylaws may be challenging? How does your mission, vision and values guide your commitment?).
- Regardless of your funding focus, identify how you can fund at least one initiative that results in climate action, whether direct or indirect (narrative shifting, community adaptation, evidence-based mitigation, etc.).
- Consider how your grantmaking processes (applications, decisions, reporting) can shift resources and power.
- Consider how to allocate a percentage of your resources to transformational support for Indigenous and equity seeking organizations.



Integration

- Share your findings from the 'Getting started' exercise and participate in community discussions.
- Add a climate lens question to your applications for grants (samples can be provided) to encourage reflection on the intersectionality of climate and your funding focus.
- Add an Indigenous sovereignty and leadership lens to your application (recommended wording will be provided).
- Identify how to go beyond existing work to connect the dots between climate change and supporting climate action in the most affected communities.



Endowments and Assets

- Measure the climate impact of your portfolio and consider whether permanent endowments remain strategic and optimal in respect of goals and urgency.
- Set a science-based carbon reduction target for your portfolio.
- Define your climate action investment strategy and commit to investing in climate solutions that respect human and Indigenous rights.



Operations

- Take 3 impactful actions within the year to reduce your climate impact, based on your climate change assessment.
- Set a climate impact reduction target.



Influence and Advocacy

- Identify areas of influence where you might elevate the efforts of climate-focused environmental groups, Indigenous and other equity seeking groups and Indigenous-led groups.
- Identify three ways you can support Indigenous sovereignty and land, water, air stewardship.



Transparency

- Evaluate your actions. How can you be more ambitious next year? Identify internal goals.
- Invite dialogue/feedback on learnings and unlearnings from Indigenous leaders.



*\*includes ALL actions from Getting Started, Building Momentum, in addition to actions listed below.*

Categories

'Getting Started' and 'Building Momentum' **Actions Plus:**



Education

- Participate in a regular peer and partner learning opportunities.
- Encourage your board, investment committee, staff, volunteers, grantees, and donors to participate more deeply and perhaps join a climate-focused learning trip.



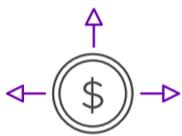
Resources

- Commit funding resources to climate action, whether in the form of new grants or as a percentage of overall grants.
- Prioritize actions that are led by Indigenous and other equity seeking groups. You can evaluate the distinction between projects and organizations that benefit Indigenous people and those that are led by them with **this tool** from The Circle.



Integration

- Apply a climate lens and Indigenous sovereignty lens on all your existing and future work.
- E.g. this may involve changing granting criteria and reporting, updating your strategic plan and bylaws, and your communications strategy.



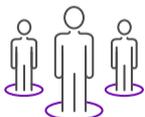
Endowments  
and Assets

- Set a public science-based carbon reduction target that acknowledges Indigenous rights and commit to shifting the majority of your investments to be low carbon or carbon neutral
- Ensure your existing asset manager understands climate justice and has a climate risk and opportunity strategy. If not, integrate these considerations into future hiring.
- Participate in efforts to engage constructively with companies about their climate action plans
- Identify opportunities to invest in and drive the transition to a low-carbon economy (e.g. green energy, technology to reduce energy consumption)
- Consider spending down funds to achieve a larger financial impact now. We have an estimated 10 years to significantly reduce carbon emissions, otherwise we greatly increase the likelihood of impacts being locked in.



Operations

- Take 5 impactful actions within the year to reduce your climate impact, based on your climate change and colonial assesement.



Influence  
and Advocacy

- Join messengers and lend your voice and credibility to these efforts. Regularly convene and take part in advocacy work.
- \* If you are a small, geographic-based foundation, your voice and influence still matters. Climate change will impact all of us - you can still start conversations, pay attention to provincial and/or national conversations, speak up about local impacts you're seeing, and amplify the voices of local community members taking climate action.



Transparency

- Publicly commit to more ambitious actions for the following year
- Share stories of your learning journey through your networks, encouraging others to join.