

The Ontario Centre for Climate Impacts and Adaptation Resources (OCCIAR) presents a Two-Part Webinar Series:

Collaboration to Enhance Resilience to Climate Change:

Part 1: Interdependencies and Multi-Sectoral Climate Change Risk Management

Part 2: Toronto Hydro's Climate Adaptation Actions

Overview

An emerging trend in climate change risk management is a systems perspective considering the interdependencies of infrastructure providers. The first webinar provides an overview of how the City of Toronto has engaged internal divisions and external organizations, such as Toronto Hydro and other utilities, to better understand and manage climate risk. The second webinar provides a more detailed look at how Toronto Hydro is taking practical actions to adapt to climate change.

Part 1: Interdependencies and Multi-sectoral Climate Change Risk Management

Presenter: David MacLeod (Senior Environmental Specialist, City of Toronto)

Date: Wednesday, February 22, 2017

Time: 1:00-2:00pm ET (please note your time zone)

Cost: Free!

The City of Toronto has been a pioneer in the field of municipal climate change risk assessment for a decade. Collaborative engagement of both internal and external infrastructure organizations that support "core functions" of Toronto has been essential to this groundbreaking work. Central to that thinking has been consideration of how sectors such as electricity, natural gas, district heating/cooling, roads, water supply, drainage, railways etc. are dependent on each other for ongoing operation. This creates a complex web of "interdependencies" that can break down when extreme weather causes damage to engineered systems not designed for this level of stress. Beyond climate stresses, factors of increasing population and infrastructure deficit may create a "perfect storm" and possible "cascade or domino failures", which may be mitigated by advance identification of key failure points of high dependency.

David MacLeod

Over the last 30 years, David has worked for over a dozen sectors in environmental risk management across Canada, including seven electrical and gas utilities in five Canadian provinces. For the last 10 years, as Senior Environmental Specialist in the City of Toronto, David has focussed on collaboratively assessing and managing risks associated with climate change in Toronto. His work engages infrastructure and social service providers on issues of business continuity, cost avoidance and consideration of vulnerable populations. He is a frequent public speaker, university level instructor and former Certified Environmental Auditor. David holds a MA in Environmental Geography and BSc in Environmental Science. He is a member of the Engineers Canada Public Infrastructure Engineering Vulnerability Committee (PIEVC) and is one of Toronto's staff liaisons with C40.



Part 2: Toronto Hydro's Climate Adaptation Actions

Presenter: Rob McKeown (Engineer, Toronto Hydro)

Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2017

Time: 1:00-2:00pm ET (please note your time zone)

Cost: Free!

Whether it's extreme heat, flooding, ice storms or other forms of extreme weather, an electric utility's infrastructure may be vulnerable to the changes in the climate. Electricity is an essential component of our society, so Toronto Hydro is in the process of integrating climate change adaptation strategies across its Engineering Division. In this webinar, Rob McKeown will discuss the process that Toronto Hydro has been following to adapt to climate change. Steps followed include a vulnerability assessment, roadmap development and implementation. Ongoing system resilience enhancements through capital and maintenance programs and new technologies will also be discussed. Finally, a status update of the roadmap implementation one year into the process will be presented.

Rob McKeown

Rob is an Engineer in the Standards and Policy Planning department at Toronto Hydro. Over the last two years, Rob has been coordinating efforts of multiple groups in the company to implement a wide variety of climate adaptation initiatives. He is Toronto Hydro's representative on the City of Toronto's multi-sectoral "Resilient City Working Group". Rob received his Bachelor of Applied Science in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Waterloo in 2002 and is a registered Professional Engineer in the Province of Ontario.



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