Monday, July 18, 2016; 2:30 – 5:30 pm
Hyatt Regency; Herald/Doll; Calgary, Alberta

Infrastructure

Welcome and Overview of Working Group

Senator Chuck Winder, Idaho State Legislature
Bruce Agnew, Director, Cascadia Center
Michael McSweeney, CEO, Cement Association of Canada

Infrastructure and disaster resilience in the age of climate change

Climate change demands that we plan for a future of less predictable and more extreme weather. This will require new thinking in the ways we build, operate and maintain our buildings and infrastructure. In a region already familiar with disaster management and planning for seismic risks, climate change adds a new dimension to the role of the built environment in disaster resilience.

As national, sub-national and local governments embark on one of the largest infrastructure renewal efforts in a generation, this two-part session engages leading North American experts on the urgency of climate adaptation, the current state of climate and disaster resilience in North America and emerging solutions to building low-carbon, climate and disaster resilient communities.

Part 1: Facing the future: can our infrastructure weather an uncertain climate?

Extreme is the new normal.

From the $6 billion flood that inundated Calgary in 2013, to the historic wildfire that raged through Fort McMurray in May, to the threat of sea level rise on the Pacific Coast, climate change adds complexity to disaster management and preparedness in a region already plagued by significant seismic and other risks. This panel will discuss the impacts of severe weather on our infrastructure and the best ways to integrate climate adaptation into existing disaster planning.

Moderator: Adam Auer, Director of Sustainability, Cement Association of Canada
Blair Feltmate, Head, Intact Centre for Climate Adaptation, University of Waterloo
David McGown, Senior Vice-President, Strategic Initiatives,Insurance Bureau of Canada

Part 2: Lifecycle assessment: Decision-making for climate-friendly, climate ready and disaster resilient buildings and infrastructure

The challenge of moving away from the "lowest initial cost" model that dominates many infrastructure decisions in our era of fiscal restraint to a more holistic life-cycle costing model is challenging. This session will explore how innovative life cycle tools and decision making processes can help governments better align multiple objectives and leverage infrastructure investments to build climate-friendly and disaster-resilient communities.

Moderator: Adam Auer, Director of Sustainability, Cement Association of Canada
Paul Kovacs, Executive Director, Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction (ICLR)
Jeremy Gregory, Executive Director, Concrete Sustainability Hub, MIT
Doug Smith, Director of Sustainability, City of Vancouver

Moderated Discussion & Action Items