Royal Roads University

Introba SHIFT FOCAL ENGINEERING

Royal Roads University Climate Change Risk Assessment and Resilience Planning Initiative (2024)

Toward a Resilient Future

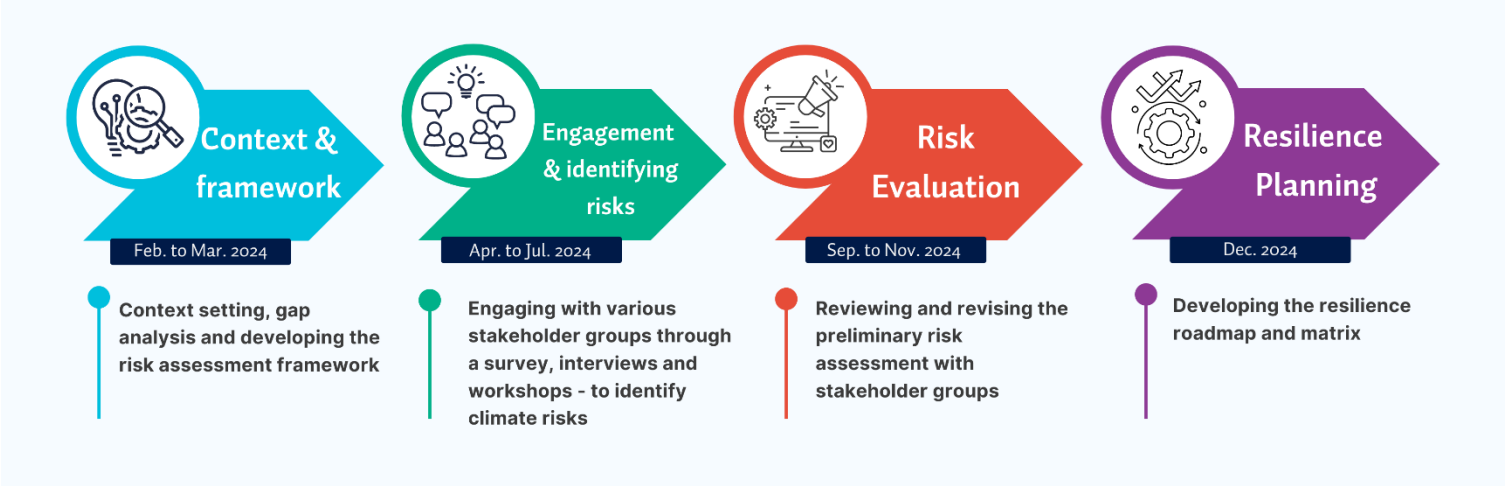
Our climate is changing and impacting the Royal Roads community, both on and off campus where we work and study. More frequent and intense heat events, stronger storms and rising sea levels, larger wildfires and wider-spread wildfire smoke are just some of the impacts of climate change we are already experiencing.

The University is undertaking a climate risk assessment with a consulting team from Introba, SHIFT Collaborative and Focal Engineering. This one-year process (January to December 2024) will establish a resilience roadmap to chart a path forward to prepare for and thrive under future conditions. The assessment is a critical precursor to future adaptation efforts by the University and is a priority identified in the Climate Action Plan 2022-2027.

By being proactive, we can more effectively safeguard the health and well-being of our students, staff, faculty, visitors and neighbours. We can also take measures to protect and better maintain our built, cultural and natural assets. Planning now allows the University to strengthen the resilience of our programs and services so that we can continue to create a safe space for lifelong learning as our climate continues to change.

Project Timeline

The project was initiated in January 2024 and is scheduled to be completed in December 2024. The graphic below highlights the project phasing.



How We Will Get There

To guide our actions, we first need to understand how climate change hazards could impact our people, our systems and assets (on- and off-campus), the services we provide to students, staff, faculty and visitors, and the University's strategic objectives. We are leading a climate change risk assessment to develop a clearer picture of who and what could be most impacted by different climate hazard events, so we can set priorities for where to focus efforts first.

The assessment builds on and beyond existing regional data and frameworks by considering potential climate impacts to the local campuses, offsite locations and the broader global context. See the *Join the Conversation* section below to read about how you can share your thoughts to inform climate risk assessment and resilience planning at Royal Roads University.

Outcomes from the risk assessment will be summarized in a resilience roadmap to guide next steps for climate adaptation planning. During the next phase of planning, we will work with partners across the University and beyond to identify specific and implementable resilience actions to address our highest risks and priorities and build on existing initiatives and our common strengths to thrive under future conditions.

An Inclusive Approach

Engagement with the Royal Roads community at local, regional and global scales is being led through an equity-informed process to create space for the diverse experiences and priorities of the diverse Royal Roads community and meaningfully incorporate them into the risk assessment and the resilience roadmap.

The project also incorporates a low carbon resilience lens to understand how climate risks and resilience opportunities intersect with the University's carbon emissions reduction goals.

The project is guided by a cross-departmental Advisory Group and supported by faculty who are subject-matter experts in the climate and resilience planning field. The assessment also involves a range of University departments in the process and looks for opportunities to collaborate with members of the broader University community and other potential partners.

Our climate risk assessment framework is robust, cutting-edge, and tailored to the University's unique context to include the needs of the University community both on campus and around the globe. We designed the framework to consider both local and worldwide impacts of climate change – an approach that goes beyond current regional best practices and will add to the discourse on how best to consider cross-dependencies and global considerations in climate risk assessments of other organizations, agencies, or institutions. Our framework also includes more than just the direct impacts of individual climate hazards and also accounts for *cascading impacts* (i.e., when one hazard triggers other interconnected hazards, for example, extreme rainfall that causes landslides) and *compound hazards* (i.e., when multiple climate-related events occur at the same time, for instance, wildfire smoke rolling in during a heat wave).

Join the Conversation

We'd love to hear from you! We would like to understand your concerns and priorities for addressing the impacts of climate change on RRU campuses. We are also interested in how you could personally be impacted by climate change hazards at home or on campus, whether or not you visit RRU campuses regularly.

Equipped with this knowledge, we will be better able to meet your needs and develop strategies that protect what you value most. Your input will directly inform the climate risk assessment and the development and prioritization of future actions.

You are invited to participate in one or more of the following engagement opportunities (see the project website for up-to-date timeline and links to participate):

- **Survey** about climate risks and opportunities for improving resilience (open from May 22 to June 29, 2024)
- **Workshops** (Virtual workshop – June 26, 2024, & In-person workshop – November 2024)
- **Focus Groups** (key interest holder groups – by invite only)

Next Steps: From Planning to Action

Once the engagement is completed, we will analyze all feedback received, incorporate it into the climate risk assessment and use it to develop the resilience roadmap.

Developing the resilience roadmap is just the starting point of a longer, collaborative journey. As the process evolves, we will announce opportunities to get involved in the next stages of climate resilience planning for the Royal Roads community.