

What is HCA's Role?



**Building Resilience and Managing
Change in our Watersheds**
**Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation in
the Hamilton Conservation Authorities**
Watersheds Workshop
June 16, 2011

HCA's Programs



HCA's

Focus



- Water Management
- Natural Areas and Built Heritage
- Outdoor Recreation
- Conservation Education and Awareness
- Corporate Sustainability

HCA Core Mandate



- ❖ Regulatory responsibilities for Hazard Management for Flooding and Erosion
 - Prevention
 - Protection
 - Emergency Preparedness and Response

- ❖ Legal Agreements and Memorandum of Understanding with various agencies for ecosystem protection

Our Principles: Some Terms



Adaptive Environmental Management

Learning by doing and making adjustments to our actions when we learn

Information-based Decision –making

We will seek out and use information on which to base our decisions

Precautionary Approach

We will err on the side of the environment in our deliberations

Collaboration

We will seek out and build partnerships from all sectors on common goals and end points

What have we been seeing lately.....



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Projected Changes and Associated Impacts in Ontario

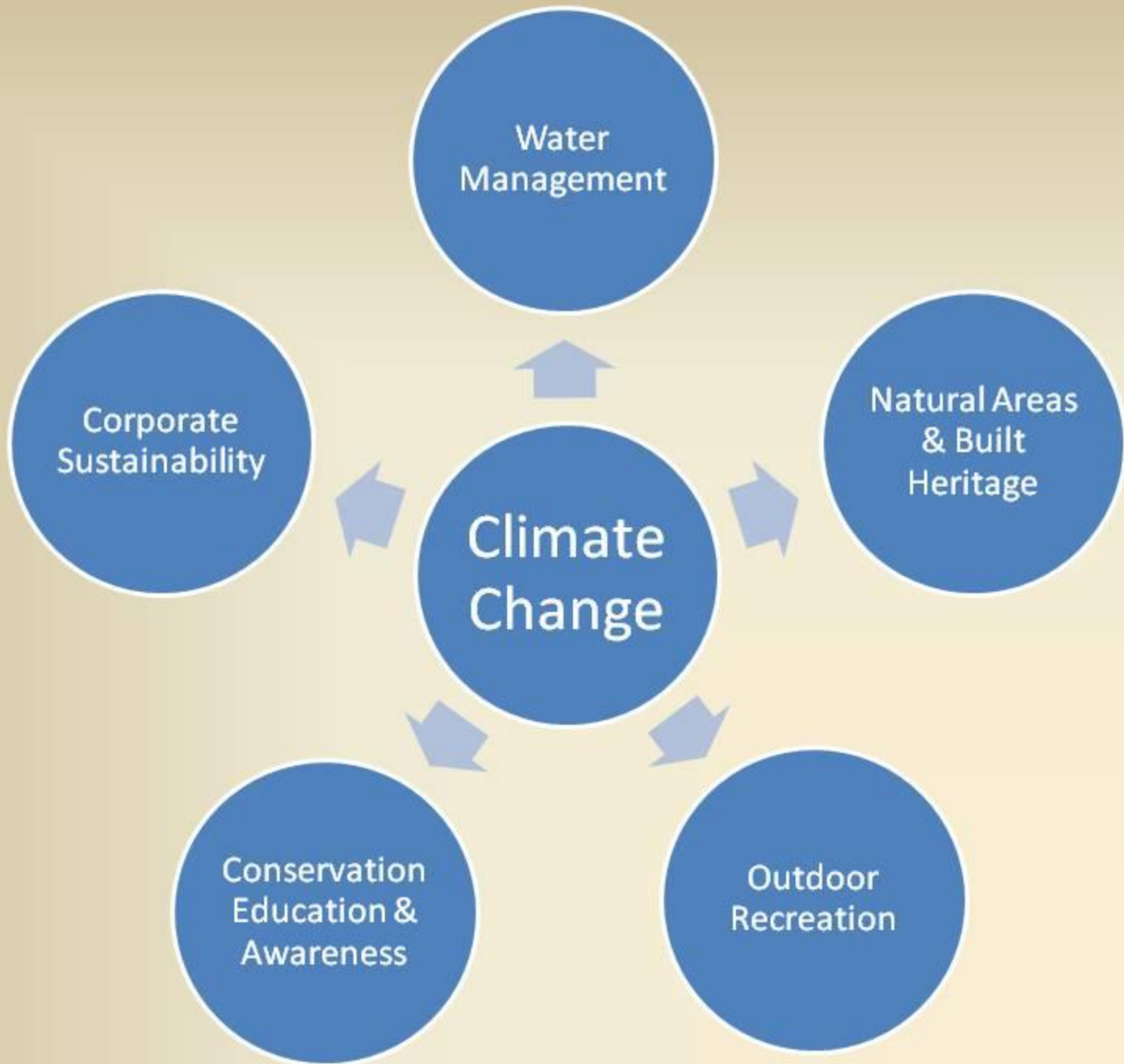


- Infrastructure
- Water
- Agriculture
- Health
- Communities at Risk
- Forests
- Ecosystems

What are CAs Considering for Adaptive Strategies



- Implementing riparian buffers
- Enhancing and restoring wetlands
- Reforesting
- Putting more storage back on the landscape
- Raising awareness of the impact of northward migration of flora, fauna and disease
- Reviewing and if needed adjusting dam operations
- Implementing good risk management policies
- Maintaining a current watershed plan
- Building Demonstration Projects -Education



Understand the Science

Climate Adaptation and Mitigation

1. Improved Understanding of the Climate
2. Integrated Climate Assessments
3. Mitigation and Adaptation
4. Literate Public

Weather Ready State

1. Reduced loss of life and Property
2. Improved Water Management
3. Healthy People, communities
4. Secure Reliable Infrastructure

Resilient Communities and Economy

1. Reduced Impacts from extreme events
2. Adopt Adaptive Risk Management Approach

Healthy Watersheds

1. Improved understanding of ecosystems
2. Healthy Habitats
3. Safe Drinking Water

Deliver the Information and Understanding

- *Seek opportunities to influence and collaborate*
(Ontario Climate Change Directorate is not formed, policies, advice and assistance not available)

What does this mean to HCA and our Partners



We need to continue to manage:

- Our watersheds (features, their functions and linkages) in the face of ongoing and future issues
- Our contributions of loading to Cootes Paradise and Hamilton Harbour
- Future issues including growth, redevelopment, aging infrastructure, deterioration in water quality, flooding and changing climate
- Within the context of Integrated Watershed Management to address these issues in a proactive manner
- Our programs with climate change as an additional but integrated consideration. These will be small changes initially as we work towards our endpoints



Next Steps



- Continue to dialogue with staff, HCA Board, CA Foundation and our partners to work towards a Strategy by December 2011
- Increase HCA's understanding of how the climate is changing and the potential impacts on a local basis e.g. downscaling and vulnerability analyses
- Apply this understanding to HCA's plans and operations with "no regrets" integrated adaptation and mitigation strategies
- Assess the need for policy and guidelines e.g. Stormwater management
- All of the above will be periodically reviewed and updated.

Thank You

