

Climate Change and Archives

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BC Archives Awareness Week

November 15, 2023



Agenda



Introduction



Mitigation &
Adaptation



Climate Justice



Climate Action



Discussion

Climate Change

Refers to the long-term shifts in average global or regional weather patterns:

- Temperature
- Precipitation
- Wind patterns
- Sea level



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A human intervention to reduce emissions or enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases.

Climate Mitigation, IPCC Glossary

”

Approaches to Mitigation

Reduce emissions of archives facilities.

Invest in efficient spaces.

Reduce emissions of archival work.

“

Changes in processes, practices, and structures to moderate potential damages or to benefit from opportunities associated with climate change.

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Climate Adaptation, UNFCCC

Approaches to Adaptation

Strengthen disaster planning.

Assess facilities for their resiliency.

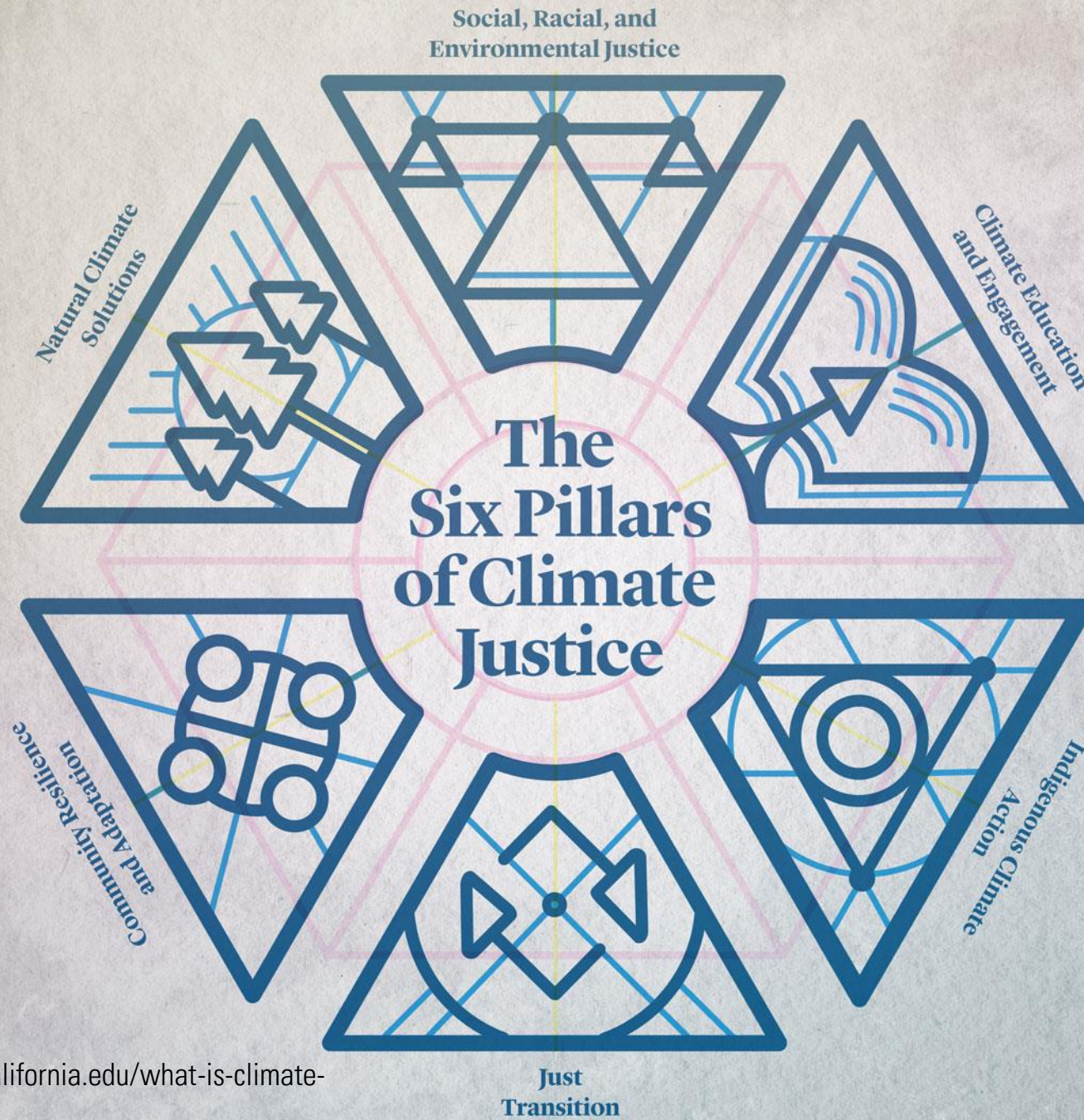
Evaluate archival work through the lens of sustainability.

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A human-centred approach to addressing climate change...and sharing the burdens and benefits of climate change and its impacts equitably and fairly.

”

Climate Justice, IPCC Glossary



<https://centerclimatejustice.universityofcalifornia.edu/what-is-climate-justice/#climate-education-engagement>



Approaches to Climate Justice

Collect records documenting the environment, climate change, climate action, and/or climate justice.

Connect people to records and resources on these topics.

Centre climate justice in climate action plans at your institution.

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Heightened distress
related to the climate
crisis.

Climate Anxiety, Galway & Field, 2023

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Examples: Climate Action

Collections
and services

Committee
work

Outreach

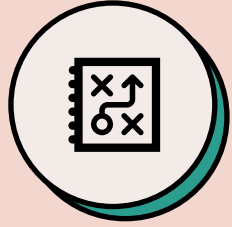
Internal
policies

Collaboration

Strategies for Archival Community



Talk about the impact of climate change on archives.



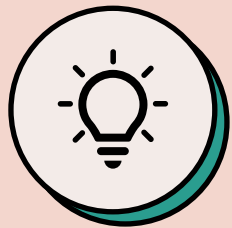
Develop regional and profession-wide strategies.



Advocate for archives in broader climate adaptation initiatives.

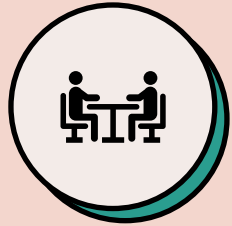


Prioritize sustainability and resiliency as principles of archival work.

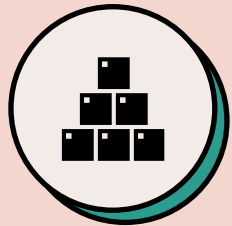


Identify areas of improvement.

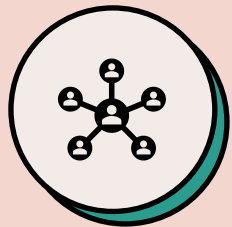
Strategies for Archival Community



Partner with climate change and sustainability experts.



Acquire records documenting activities in these areas.



Connect people with resources on climate change.

Resources

- Pendergrass, Keith L., et al. (2019). Toward environmentally sustainable digital preservation. *The American Archivist* 82:1, 165–206, <https://doi.org/10.17723/0360-9081-82.1.165>
- Eira Tansey (2015). Archival adaptation to climate change. *Sustainability: Science, Practice and Policy*, 11:2, 45-56, DOI: 10.1080/15487733.2015.11908146
- T. Mazurczyk, et al. (2018). American archives and climate change: Risks and adaptation. *Climate Risk Management* 20, 111-125, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.crm.2018.03.005>
- Oliver, Amanda (2021). The impact of climate change on Canadian archives. *Records Management Journal*, 31:3, 284-302, <https://doi.org/10.1108/RMJ-10-2020-0035>

Resources Cont'd

- [Climate Change Impacts on Libraries and Archives course](#)
- [The Green New Deal for Archives](#)
- [Open Climate Campaign](#)
- [Climate Action Strategy – American Library Association](#)

Thank you

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