

WHO ARE WE?

EcoPlan is an award winning, multidisciplinary firm of urban and rural planners, communications specialists, designers, environmental professionals, and decision analysts. Effective communication is key to our work, and we specialize in bridging the gap between knowledge and action. We have local and global experience in city and urban planning, strategic planning and decision support, resource and environmental management, and local economic development.

In addition to our broad-based community planning work, we have established a reputation for our leading-edge training approach and capacity-building tools. Our training methods and capacity-building resources have included week-long, immersive practitioners' workshops; interactive half-day and full-day training sessions; guidebooks and learning resources; and step-by-step planning guides on a variety of topics, including planning for climate change adaptation and mitigation, green infrastructure planning, sustainable transportation planning, health impact assessments, local economic development, and collaborative planning, relationship building and resource management with indigenous governments.



CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING GUIDES

WHAT IS IT?

Capacity building can involve multi-day workshops, interactive online webinars, well-constructed learning resources, and step-by-step planning guides that users can work through at their own pace.

At EcoPlan International, we have collaborated with a range of partners to develop user-friendly training manuals, planning guides, and workshop materials. We have facilitated training and capacity building events for international agencies, indigenous organizations and governments, non-governmental organizations, community groups and others.

As practicing planners engaged in a variety of projects at a range of scales, we are able to ground our training materials in real-world practice and offer practical, firsthand experience.



CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING GUIDES

Providing people with the information, tools and processes for making better planning decisions.

WHAT MAKES OUR APPROACH DIFFERENT?

We bring the same leading-edge approach to our capacity building resources as we do our planning work.

Participatory and collaborative: Complex planning problems (e.g., climate change adaptation, local economic development, housing, transportation) are best approached by bringing together a variety of perspectives and people from different backgrounds. Our capacity building work strives to bring a diversity of perspectives into the classroom, while our publications are developed for a range of audiences and user groups.

Values-based: Getting a good understanding of what really matters is a cornerstone of any capacity-building program or resource tool. Our development process is values-based, meaning we frame the learning approach and tools in relation to a set of core learning objectives and values identified by the community or organization we are working with.

Structured decision making: All planning problems involve decision making. Making decisions can be difficult, which is why we emphasize separating facts from values, and people from the problem. Our training tools and resource publications incorporate our award-winning strategic planning approach, which uses new methods from the decision and behavioural sciences. This approach helps make distinguishing between—and improving upon—alternatives more transparent, objective and defensible.

Accessible and engaging products: A successful resource guide or training manual is one that is both easy to use and used often. We believe that through plain language, augmented by rich graphics and an intuitive organization, a good guidebook can make complex tasks and difficult ideas easy to understand and apply. From process design, to learning resource and guidebook development, clear and effective communication is the key to our approach and an objective we carry into all stages of our work.



Graphics from *Planning for Climate Change*

OUR WORK

Here are some highlights. For a full list of capacity building and training guides, please visit our website at www.ecoplan.ca

- *Promoting Local Economic Development through Strategic Planning* (5 volumes); UN Habitat
- *Planning for Climate Change: a strategic, values-based approach for urban planners*; UN Habitat
- *Palestine Regional Planning Guide*; UN Development Programme
- *Local Economic Development Toolkit*; UN Habitat
- *A Path Forward: A Regional Planning Toolkit for Treaty First Nations* (guidebook and resource materials); Province of BC
- *Health Impact Assessment* (guidebook); Metro Vancouver, Canada
- *Green Infrastructure Network Resources Guide*; Metro Vancouver, Canada
- *Promising Pathways: Strengthening Engagement and Relationships with Aboriginal Peoples* (guidebook); Parks Canada