

# **On-line Community of Practice (CoP) for Climate Change Adaptation**

## **New Brunswick Environmental Network**

### **About the New Brunswick Environmental Network**

The New Brunswick Environmental Network (NBEN), established in 1991, is a non-profit communications network that links together over 100 non-profit environmental organizations in New Brunswick. The role of the NBEN is to improve communication and co-operation among environmental groups and between these groups, government and other sectors. The NBEN provides educational opportunities for its member and associate groups and encourages the growth of the environmental movement in New Brunswick. The NBEN is not an advocacy group and does not take positions on any issue.

### **Overview**

Land use planners, engineers and environmental non-government organizations have been engaged in adaptation for many years in New Brunswick. Each sector has different roles to play in adaptation, and each faces different barriers and challenges in advancing adaptation on the ground. They also often work in isolation when trying to address adaptation challenges. The overlapping interests of those three sectors to advance natural infrastructure understanding and expertise as a risk management approach to reduce the impacts from climate change make the topic a valid one to build a community of practice, undertake learning exercises, develop and implement some pilot projects, provide training, and build expertise and experience that can be used by the province of NB to integrate into funding decisions (e.g., infrastructure) and into regulatory frameworks.

### **Target Audience**

The primary users of CoP will be:

- Land use planners working for municipalities and regional service commissions;
- Engineers including those working for municipalities and local service districts, consultants, and academics;
- Environmental non-governmental organizations;
- Land surveyors and landscape architects.

Initially, most of the users of the online platform will be from New Brunswick, but the capacity to expand it across Canada and beyond will be an important feature.

## Detailed Description

The purpose of the project is to develop an online platform for knowledge-sharing, networking and conducting discussions among diverse stakeholders. The following is a description of what is to be included in the online interface:

- An interactive map which will allow users to view natural and nature-based infrastructure projects across Atlantic Canada (and some beyond that). (This map has already been created by NBEN and is just to be included on the website)
- Resources section for links to other websites, funding programs and to share documents.
- Call for Knowledge Forum for members to post messages.
- Newsfeed-Ability for members to post news.
- Calendar-Ability to post upcoming events such as trainings and webinars.
- Access to the past Webinars or video recordings.
- Newsletter-Optional subscription.
- E-mail Notifications about new Posts-Optional Subscription, limit to number of mails/month.
- Member Profile- a) Name, title, organization, location, field of work which is searchable.
- Private messaging between members.
- Ability to track user stats.
- Ability to connect with a social media platform – Facebook/Instagram/Twitter

## Scope of Work & Technical Requirements

### Phase 1-

- Researching and finalizing the details of the online platform which includes the following:
  - Bilingual framework (An English version and a French version that can be easily toggled back and forth; content posted by members will appear in the language posted. The NBEN will provide translations of text as needed.)
  - Interactive map (already created) for CoP1
  - Search function
  - Call for knowledge forum
  - Calendar
  - Membership, member profiles and private messaging between members
  - Users' ability to post materials (via member login)
  - Possibly uses at least one of the platforms already used by the NBEN
    - Joomla! (used for [www.nben.ca](http://www.nben.ca), the [Eco-Forum](#), and the [Eco-Community](#))
    - CiviCRM (used for our contact database, [Green Pages](#), and [Earth Ed](#))

- Attractive and user-friendly look and feel

#### Phase 2-

- Development of a fully-functional on-line platform determined during Phase 1.

#### Phase 3-

- Testing and feedback on on-line platform to ensure functionality.
- Finalization and launch of platform.

#### **Principal Point of Contact**

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