

CLIMATE CHANGE: A LENS FOR THE ACT WELL-BEING INDICATORS

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THE HONEYCOMB

Climate change affects all the cells of well-being honeycomb and connects them to one another.

Because it connects us with future generations, and with the rest of the planet, it **is a permanent lens through which well-being can be viewed.**



RESILIENCE

Due to the amount of greenhouse gases that humans have already emitted, and the slow rate at which society is progressing to a net zero emissions: **Global heating will continue.**

In order for sustained well-being, **communities will need resilience in order to recover quickly** from the shocks caused by the supercharged climate.



TRANSFORMATION

In order to limit global heating, thereby curbing climate change and avoiding its greatest risks, net **human emissions must drop to zero** in the next 20 years or so.

This **will require dramatically transformed communities** that work, move, live and learn in new ways that are aligned with a low carbon society.



CLIMATE AND WELL-BEING

Examining the well-being “honeycomb” through the lens of climate change, requires us to ask:

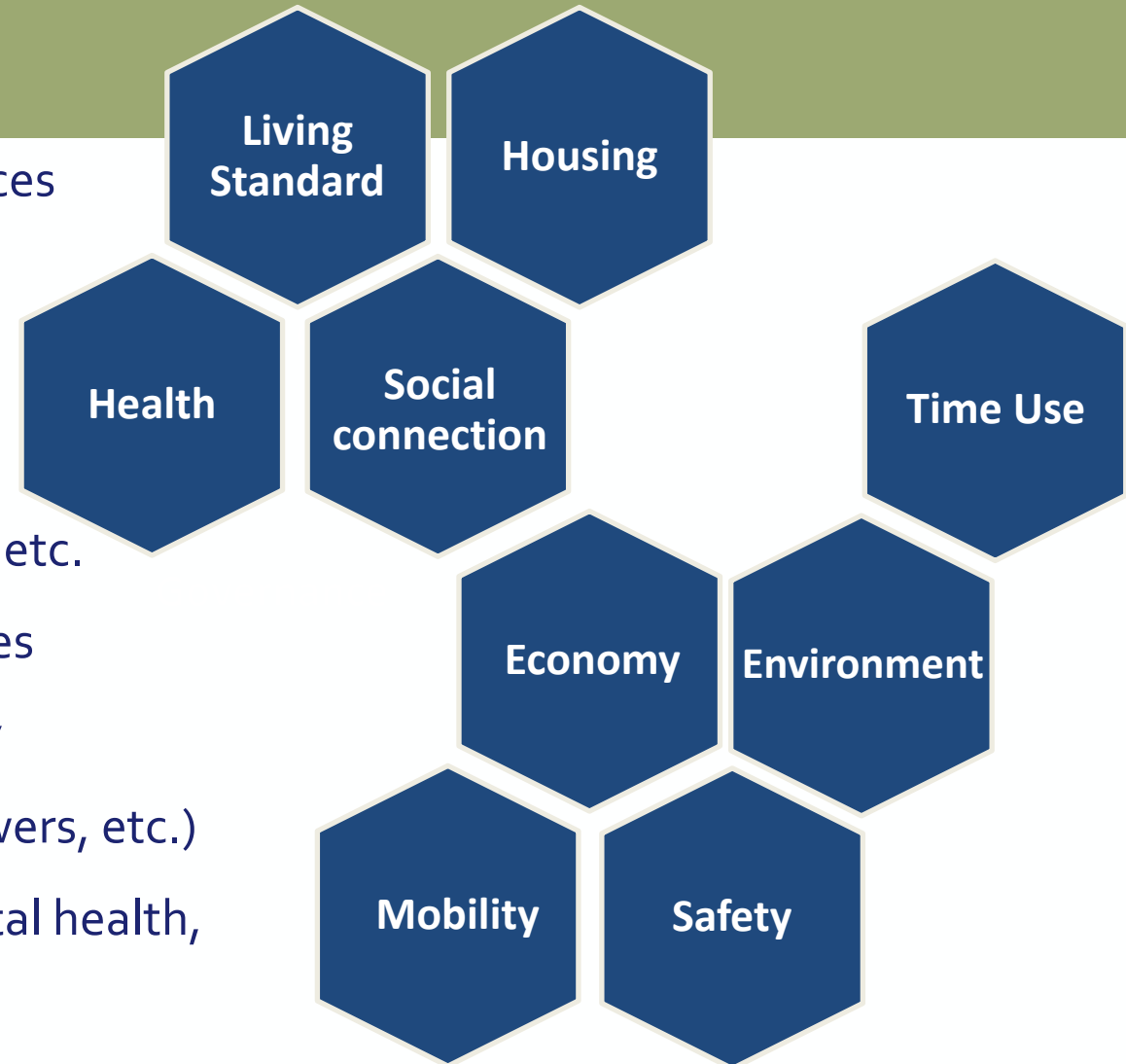
“How will climate change affect the ability of different ACT communities to respond resiliently and transform quickly in every aspect of their well-being?”

Answering this question requires **measuring effects with indicators.**



INCREASED HEAT AND HEATWAVES

- ➔ Need for climate appropriate homes & workplaces
- ➔ Increased health risks, particularly vulnerable populations (elderly, isolated, homeless, poor)
- ➔ Decreased time outside at certain times of day affecting students, sport and social gatherings, etc.
- ➔ Effects on living infrastructure and natural spaces
- ➔ Considerable effects for some sectors of society (e.g., construction, landscaping, homeless, growers, etc.)
- ➔ Increased personal stress, affecting crime, mental health, work productivity, domestic violence, etc.



MORE HIGH FIRE DANGER DAYS

- ➔ Fire safe homes and workplaces required
- ➔ Increased reliance on emergency services, regional support, and personal community
- ➔ Increased health risks, direct and indirect (e.g., burns, poor air quality, mental stress)
- ➔ Need for increased fire-fighting capability
- ➔ Personal safety concerns
- ➔ Potential loss of infrastructure and natural spaces
- ➔ Learning to thrive in high fire danger
- ➔ Potential for severe, negative economic impact



MORE EXTREME WEATHER & STORMS

- ➔ Negative economic and personal consequences due to damage to person and property, and interruptions to business and daily life
- ➔ Increased reliance on emergency services and personal community
- ➔ Personal safety concerns
- ➔ Damage to infrastructure and natural spaces
- ➔ Inability to secure insurance on some properties
- ➔ Distrust in institutions not seen to be responding appropriately, with associated mental health risks



LESS COLD WEATHER RAINFALL

- ➔ Water management even more crucial
- ➔ Increased drought affects flora and fauna
- ➔ Some ecosystems no longer viable
- ➔ New requirements for natural, grey, and waste water management
- ➔ Living infrastructure highly vulnerable
- ➔ Potential for food shortages/price increases
- ➔ Transition to drought-resilient life becomes norm
- ➔ Some economic sectors no longer viable without major transition



ALTERED ECOSYSTEMS

- ➔ Valuing the economic and social benefits of healthy ecosystems
- ➔ Cross-border ecosystem issues become urgent
- ➔ Fostering sense of identity as part of larger ecosystem
- ➔ Nourishing micro ecosystems in personal spaces
- ➔ Supporting transition of land use and growers
- ➔ Acknowledging and assuaging a sense of ecosystem loss
- ➔ Creation and maintenance of appropriate ecosystem "safe zones"
- ➔ Increased monitoring and reporting of endangered ecosystems



TRANSITION TO NET ZERO EMISSIONS

- ➔ New industries and skills become paramount, with systemic changes to economy
- ➔ Building standards radically altered/improved
- ➔ Altered transportation modes supported
- ➔ Changed relationships with external regions
- ➔ Reframing of waste and consumption
- ➔ Evolving understanding of relationship to natural world
- ➔ Zero-emissions is a principal tenet of responsibility
- ➔ Community justice implemented for transition cohesion
- ➔ Radical innovation in physical and social application



POSSIBLE CLIMATE WELL-BEING INDICATORS (1)

- ➔ Average ACTHers rating for homes (separately for sold and leased once the latter is available)
- ➔ Hospital (physical and mental) admissions, and mortality versus climate extreme events
- ➔ Level of awareness and satisfaction of ACT government climate strategy
- ➔ Self-assessed sense of safety during extreme climate-related events
- ➔ Average NABERS ratings for public infrastructure (hospitals, schools, shopping centers, etc)
- ➔ Systematic measurement of changes in the urban heat island effect across the ACT
- ➔ Incidence of respiratory disease and other air-quality indicators correlated with climate events and temperature
- ➔ Correlation between crime and domestic violence with climate extremes, especially temperature
- ➔ Cost, type, and amount of energy use per capita (measured in kWh or MJ as appropriate)

POSSIBLE CLIMATE WELL-BEING INDICATORS (2)

- ➔ Residential and commercial energy use correlated with temperature
 - ➔ Average Green Star rating for new building and development projects
 - ➔ Active transport use measured against temperature and climate extreme events
- and, related to ACT government policy in place (CC Strategy and Living Infrastructure):**
- ➔ Annual reporting against ACT legislated interim GHG emissions for 2020, 2025, 2030, 2040, and 2045.
 - ➔ ACT travel data reported at least every two years on a range of journey types (CCS Action 9.2)
 - ➔ Measure of government decisions, policies, and procurements that consider social cost of carbon and climate adaptation costs (CCS Action 5.5)
 - ➔ Progress against 30% tree cover and 30% permeable surfaces target (Living Infra. Action 2)