

NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS & POLICY MAKERS

Who is this
pathway for?

This pathway is intended for national governments and central policy actors: ministries and agencies responsible for housing, public works, environment, infrastructure, planning, finance, and emergency management. It also supports national development agencies, regulators, and institutions involved in long-

term infrastructure planning, climate governance, and disaster preparedness. It provides a clear roadmap for those shaping national strategies and legal frameworks to drive systemic adaptation across the buildings and construction sector.



National governments hold a primary responsibility to protect public health, safety, and well-being. In the face of climate change, this means ensuring that buildings and infrastructure are adapted to a wide range of evolving risks. Heatwaves, floods, wildfires, and other extreme

events threaten lives, economic stability, and critical services. Governments must integrate adaptation into building policies to secure safe, healthy, and liveable environments for all. Adapted infrastructure ensures continuity of essential services and safeguards vulnerable populations.

National governments also have a unique mandate to coordinate cross-sectoral adaptation efforts, aligning infrastructure policy with climate objectives and providing funding, legal frameworks, and technical guidance.

Their decisions shape the enabling environment for local governments, private actors, and communities. Moreover, they must uphold international climate commitments (e.g., Paris Agreement, NDCs), making systemic adaptation not only a national necessity, but a global responsibility.

Set the course for systemic, inclusive adaptation across the built environment.

Many governments have started integrating adaptation into national climate strategies, but sector-specific roadmaps for

buildings are still rare. Short-term progress means clarifying roles, launching national adaptation plans, and revising funding programs. By the

medium term, policy tools and investment frameworks must fully integrate resilience. Long-term, governments must mainstream adaptation across

ministries and sectors, making it a foundational pillar of national development policy.

NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS & POLICY MAKERS

Short-Term Actions

Actions	Resources & case studies	KPIs
Select a Standardized Climate Scenario and Facilitate Access to Climate Data	IPCC AR5 WGII Chapter 15: Adaptation Planning and Implementation	% of ministries and agencies using the same reference scenario in policy planning
Build Knowledge, Partnerships, and Policy for Resilience	UNFCCC Adaptation Committee's Toolkit for Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning for NAP Processes	Frequency of consultations and published recommendations
Reform Legal and Administrative Frameworks to Empower Local Governments	IPCC AR6 WGII Chapter 6 Cities, Settlements and Key Infrastructure	% of municipalities with delegated adaptation or resilience authority
Legislate for Accountability and Incentives	EU Technical Guidance on Adapting Buildings to Climate Change and its best practice guide	Number of policies or frameworks updated to integrate resilience

Medium-Term Actions

Actions	Resources & case studies	KPIs
Develop a National Adaptation Plan/Roadmap Taking Critical Infrastructure Into Account	Toolkit for Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning for National Adaptation Plan Processes (Nap Global Network & UNFCCC)	Number of ministries and agencies contributing to the plan's drafting
Adopt and Promote Future-Oriented Building Codes and Standards	Output of the Global Resilience Dialogue	Share of national building and energy codes updated with resilience clauses
Review and Adjust National Government Funding Programs for New Builds and Retrofits	UNFCCC's Toolkit for engaging the private sector in National Adaptation Plans	Number of resilience-focused funding instruments launched (grants, loans, tax credits)

Long-Term Actions

Actions	Resources & case studies	KPIs
Develop a National Implementation and Enforcement Plan with Local Adaptation Options	UNFCCC's National Adaptation Plans 2024 Progress report	% of municipalities adopting locally adapted resilience implementation plans



Short-term actions

Select a Standardized Climate Scenario and Facilitate Access to Climate Data

Goal: Provide a consistent, transparent, and accessible reference framework for climate risk assessment and adaptation planning.

Description: National governments should select a standardized reference climate scenario (e.g., RCP 4.5 or 8.5) that will guide all adaptation policies in the buildings and construction sector. This ensures coherence across national strategies, local planning, and private-sector investment decisions. To support this, governments must establish multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms at national and subnational levels that guarantee alignment across policy, planning, and implementation.

In parallel, governments must act as data facilitators, aggregating, validating, and disseminating high-quality,

disaggregated climate and hazard data. Whether sourced nationally or from global institutions, this data should be made publicly accessible in formats usable by municipalities, developers, insurers, and communities. Collaboration with scientists and local stakeholders will ensure the data is both comprehensive and actionable.

By providing both a standardized climate scenario and open access to disaggregated climate data, governments reduce uncertainty, promote consistency in design and planning, and enable all other stakeholders to make climate-informed decisions.

- [Canadian Centre for Climate Services](#) provides a central information portal with links to climate data and services, offering training and support, including a climate services support desk, and links to datasets including [climatedata.ca](#)
- Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium's [Design Value explorer](#) provides future-shifted climatic design data for Canadian buildings for different degrees of global warming.
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) [Chapter 15: Adaptation Planning and Implementation](#) (AR5 WGII) Provides guidance on how governments can set scenarios, engage sectors, and coordinate adaptation planning

INPUT INDICATORS

Measure the resources required to deliver

- Existence of a nationally adopted reference climate scenario (e.g. RCP/SSP)
- Number of datasets and climate models made publicly available

LEADING INDICATORS

Looks forward at future outcomes and events

- % of ministries and agencies using the same reference scenario in policy planning
- Frequency of updates and validation cycles of the climate data platform.

LAGGING INDICATORS

Looks back at whether the intended result was achieved

- Reduction in inconsistencies between national and local adaptation plans
- Improved consistency in adaptation policies across regions.
- Proportion of sectoral plans and regulations aligned with the national reference scenario.

Action 1

Resources

KPIs

Build Knowledge, Partnerships, and Policy for Resilience

Goal: Create the institutional and regulatory foundations for climate-resilient planning and construction.

Description: National governments should build territorial knowledge systems that generate reliable climate and hazard data and make them accessible at national and subnational levels. To ensure policies are practical and enforceable, governments must also form National-Local Technical and Practitioner Advisory Groups, bringing together private sector actors, local governments, academics, community leaders, and builders. These groups will co-develop building codes and standards that align with national climate goals while remaining locally relevant.

Alongside these mechanisms, governments should review and adjust national policy frameworks to ensure they support climate-responsive and innovative construction models. Frameworks must be flexible enough to integrate new

scientific data, resilience practices, and evolving hazards over time. Governments must also provide clear legal and regulatory signals across planning, building codes, rental laws, and real estate disclosures. This includes setting minimum resilience standards that reflect local risks and making resilience a visible, enforceable element of the built environment. Critically, governments must also revise legal and regulatory frameworks to enable microgrids and decentralized energy production.

By combining data, expertise, inclusive advisory processes, and regulatory clarity, national governments lay the groundwork for builders, property managers, insurers, developers, and local authorities to plan, invest, and build with confidence in a climate-resilient future.

INPUT INDICATORS

Measure the resources required to deliver

- Existence of inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms
- Existence of a national-local advisory group
- Number of advisory groups established at national and regional levels.
- Diversity of stakeholder representation (public/private/academic).
- Review and revision of sectoral adaptation policies

LEADING INDICATORS

Looks forward at future outcomes and events

- Frequency of consultations and published recommendations.
- Inclusion of advisory outputs in building codes or policy updates.

LAGGING INDICATORS

Looks back at whether the intended result was achieved

- % of building code revisions incorporating adaptation provisions
- Measurable improvements in compliance or enforcement efficiency.
- Inclusion of adaptation metrics in national progress reports (e.g., NDCs, NAPs).

Action 2

KPIs

Reform Legal and Administrative Frameworks to Empower Local Governments

Goal: Grant municipalities and regions the authority, resources, and autonomy to implement adaptation measures effectively.

Description: National governments must undertake legal and administrative reforms to ensure that subnational authorities can revise planning rules, enforce adaptation standards, and lead locally tailored initiatives. This involves clarifying responsibilities, decentralizing key powers, and supporting the necessary legislative changes. Budgeting processes should also be reformed so local governments can access credit, manage predictable funding streams, and

demonstrate administrative readiness.

Local authorities, for their part, should advocate for reform and show that they can manage these new responsibilities effectively. By aligning national reforms with local preparedness, governments create a governance framework that enables place-based adaptation, while ensuring accountability and coherence across all levels.

Action 3

INPUT INDICATORS

Measure the resources required to deliver

- Number of legal reforms enacted to delegate planning/enforcement powers
- Existence of national-local coordination, training and support mechanisms.
- Existence of a formal local adaptation mandate or delegated authority to the local level

LEADING INDICATORS

Looks forward at future outcomes and events

- % of municipalities with delegated adaptation or resilience authority
- % of local governments trained in adaptation governance.

LAGGING INDICATORS

Looks back at whether the intended result was achieved

- Increase in local governments implementing climate-adapted zoning codes
- % of local governments with active climate adaptation plans or resilience regulations.
- Documented reduction in procedural bottlenecks for local adaptation enforcement.

KPIs

Legislate for Accountability and Incentives

Goal: Hold stakeholders accountable for climate risks while encouraging investment in resilience.

Description: National governments should adopt legislation that makes climate risk assessment and disclosure a mandatory component of financial, insurance, and real estate practices. This includes requiring banks and insurers to integrate resilience considerations into underwriting, loan eligibility, and premium-setting. At the same time, laws should create incentives for private investment in adaptive materials, technologies, and infrastructure such as preferential financing terms, tax credits, or insurance discounts.

By combining accountability mechanisms with incentives for resilience, governments can steer market behavior toward long-term adaptation while ensuring that risks are neither ignored nor externalized. This approach creates a level playing field, encourages innovation, and reduces systemic vulnerability across the buildings and construction sector.

Action 4

INPUT INDICATORS

Measure the resources required to deliver

- Existence of legislation linking resilience to financing and insurance mechanisms

LEADING INDICATORS

Looks forward at future outcomes and events

- Number of policies or frameworks updated to integrate resilience.
- % of financial products integrating resilience requirements
- Share of new public projects using climate risk assessments and undertaking adaptation actions

LAGGING INDICATORS

Looks back at whether the intended result was achieved

- Reduction in climate-related economic losses across the built environment.
- Reduction in uninsured climate-related damages

KPIs

- UNFCCC's [NAP overview](#) describes how national governments can establish institutional arrangements, engage stakeholders and integrate adaptation into planning processes as well as how adaptation planning links national and local levels, and how legal/administrative reforms support sub-national implementation.
- UNFCCC Adaptation Committee's [Toolkit for Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning for NAP Processes](#) helps governments set up institutional knowledge, M&E, and stakeholder partnerships required to maintain resilience policy and build capacity across sectors
- The [EU's technical guidance on adapting buildings to climate change](#) is accompanied by a [best practice guide](#) and details what to assess (hazards, vulnerabilities), how to rate resilience, and which measures to prioritize. The technical Guidance includes elements on standardised

resilience metrics, which can feed into legislation on building resilience disclosure, insurance requirements and incentives. It includes discussion on building code and planning law aspects, which national policy-makers can draw on when decentralising authority and reforming building regulation frameworks.

- IPCC [AR6 WGII Chapter 6 Cities, Settlements and Key Infrastructure](#) details the role of governance, infrastructure and multi-level coordination in resilience. Valuable for policy-makers revising frameworks for buildings & construction in line with adaptation goals. It also highlights the importance of integrating resilience into infrastructure, financing and regulatory mechanisms, which is directly relevant to creating laws for disclosure, incentives, and market accountability.

Resources

Medium-term actions

Develop a National Adaptation Plan or Roadmap Taking Critical Infrastructure Into Account

Goal: Identify climate risks, vulnerabilities, and adaptive solutions specific to the buildings and construction sector, establishing a clear national pathway to resilience.

Description: Create a robust and detailed plan that outlines strategies for reducing vulnerabilities to climate change impacts (e.g., extreme weather, sea-level rise, temperature changes). Integrate sector-specific solutions, considering regional variations and prioritizing critical infrastructure.

- UNFCCC [Updated technical guidelines for the National Adaptation Plan \(NAP\)](#) process provides a structured framework for governments to formulate, implement and update adaptation plans. Useful for building a roadmap that incorporates the built-environment, infrastructure and buildings & construction sectors.
- The [Toolkit for Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning for National Adaptation Plan Processes](#) (Nap Global Network & UNFCCC) helps governments set up systems to track progress of the adaptation plan, including critical infrastructure and building sectors, ensuring ongoing iteration and alignment with national goals.
- This [EU Technical Guidance](#) is sector-specific to buildings and provides an approach for governments to guide building-resilience policy based on standardised hazard and scenario frameworks

INPUT INDICATORS

Measure the resources required to deliver

- Existence of a multi-ministerial task force for adaptation in buildings and infrastructure
- % of national climate budget allocated to developing and implementing the adaptation plan
- Availability of national-scale hazard and exposure maps for critical infrastructure

LEADING INDICATORS

Looks forward at future outcomes and events

- Number of ministries and agencies contributing to the plan's drafting
- Frequency of stakeholder consultations held (builders, local authorities, CSOs, utilities)
- Proportion of critical infrastructure assets assessed for climate risks

LAGGING INDICATORS

Looks back at whether the intended result was achieved

- Publication and official adoption of the National Adaptation Plan/Roadmap
- % of critical infrastructure covered by resilience plans or adaptation projects
- Integration of adaptation priorities into national development and construction codes

Action 1

Resources

KPIs

Adopt and Promote Future-Oriented Building Codes and Standards

Goal: Mandate that new and existing buildings adhere to standards that account for future climate risks.

Description: Develop or endorse building codes that incorporate projected climate risks, ensuring resilience and adaptability of new constructions and retrofitted structures. Align with national and international goals for net-zero emissions and explore integrating nature-based solutions (e.g., green roofs, urban forests) to complement traditional resilience measures.

Action 2

- [Output of the Global Resiliency Dialogue - principles for resilient building codes and standards](#), developed by Canada, US, NZ and Australian building codes developers and researchers.
- This [foundational report](#) provides an assessment of how climatic design data relevant to users of the National Building Code of Canada and the Canadian Highway Bridge Design Codes might change as climate continues to warm. The methodologies and data described in this report underpin the transformation of the Canadian National Model Codes to begin designing for future climate scenarios with the publication of the 2025 Codes.
- [Codes, Standards and Guidance for Climate Resilience in Canada](#) illustrates a national programme for embedding resilience (including nature-based solutions) into codes, standards and infrastructure. Useful as a model for policy makers updating building codes for future climate risk.
- World Bank's [Stronger Building Codes for a Safer, More Resilient Future](#) report provides valuable context on how national adaptation efforts for infrastructure and buildings should include resilient design, hazards and future climate risks.
- GFDRR's [Building Regulation for Resilience resource hub](#) offers many tools and reports, especially its 2015 [Building Regulation For Resilience Report](#).
- [Resilient Building Codes Toolkit](#) (US HUD Exchange) is a design and briefing check-list oriented to building codes and resilience upgrades.
- [Strong Building Codes for a Safer, More Resilient Future](#) is a World Bank review of building codes for resilience & disaster risk. Useful for manufacturers advocating with policymakers to ensure material and systems performance standards (durability, hazard tolerance) are embedded in regulations, linking to life & property safety.

Resources

INPUT INDICATORS

Measure the resources required to deliver

- Number of outdated codes or standards under review

LEADING INDICATORS

Looks forward at future outcomes and events

- Share of national building and energy codes updated with resilience clauses

LAGGING INDICATORS

Looks back at whether the intended result was achieved

- Reduction in losses from climate-related building failures

KPIs

Review and Adjust National Government Funding Programs for New Builds and Retrofits

Goal: Ensure public funding aligns with climate resilience priorities for both new constructions and retrofits.

Description: Conduct a systematic review of national funding programs for buildings to identify and integrate resilience measures. Adjust funding criteria to prioritize projects that demonstrate climate adaptation features, aiming for resilient, and low-carbon designs, starting with identified critical infrastructure.

- UNFCCC's [Toolkit for engaging the private sector in National Adaptation Plans](#) helps governments review and structure public-funding programmes (including retrofits) to incentivize adaptation and private sector participation
- Canada's [Climate Resilient Built Environment Initiative \(CBRE\)](#) states that research and standards feed into public infrastructure funding and public-sector codes. Shows example of national research and funding aligning with resilience in buildings and infrastructure; useful for governments reviewing public programmes to ensure resilience criteria are included.
- The [EU-level Technical Guidance on Adapting Buildings to Climate Change](#) offers a detailed technical foundation for defining what constitutes climate resilience in buildings, serving as a reference for funding eligibility and policy alignment. Complementing this, the accompanying [best practice guide](#) showcases real-world examples to help stakeholders apply the guidance in practice.

Action 3

Resources