

Assessing Actions

There are many ways to evaluate the adaptation actions that have been identified. Two options are described below, but feel free to use other decision-making tools or processes to support your prioritization. Using the information that came from your assessment, select whether the action is going to be carried forward into your action short list. Provide a justification for why or why not.

Drivers and Constraints

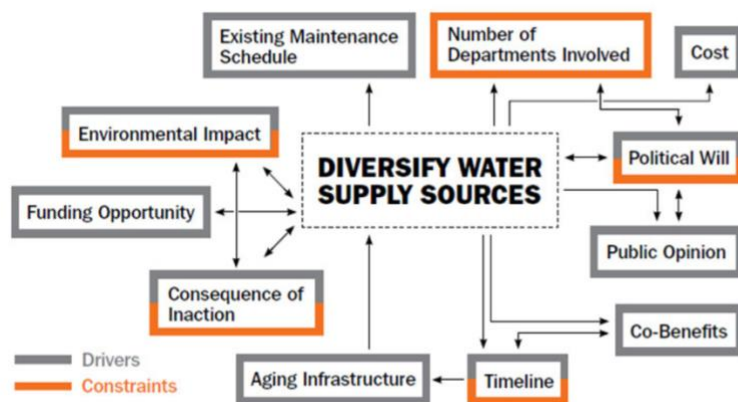
For each of the adaptation actions listed, develop a concept map (see the image below for an example) to identify both drivers and constraints for each action and consider the factors that may influence their implementation.

In many cases, the drivers of an action will be the co-benefits and/or opportunities that would result from the implementation of that action. For example, the availability of a grant from the federal government to replace aging road infrastructure might spur action on this front.

Constraints, on the other hand, are the issues (or perceived issues) that may prevent actions from being implemented.

Some factors that may influence implementation include:

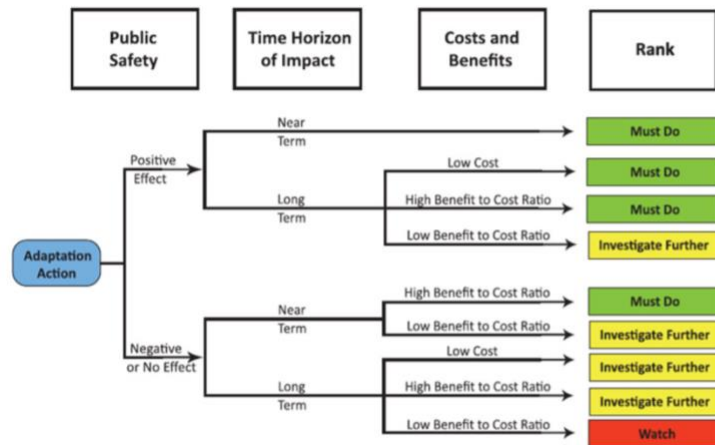
- Political will
- Staff capacity
- Costs
- Competing or short timelines
- Provincial or Territorial legislation
- Funding opportunities
- Actions Co-benefits



Decision Tree

Another option your team can use to create a finalized list of adaptation actions is a decision tree. For each of the adaptation actions listed, you can use a decision tree to determine whether to move an action forward. The exhibit below is an example of a potential decision

tree. In this example, your team asks three questions (or applies three filters) to categorize actions as "Must Do," "Investigate Further" or "Watch." These questions are examples of filters that can be used but they can be changed to reflect your priorities.



The first question looks at the effect this adaptation action would have on public safety. The second question considers the time horizon in which this impact is projected to occur. The third question compares the benefit that this action would have on public safety relative to the cost to implement the action. Actions that will have a positive effect on public safety at a relatively low cost will be considered "Must Do."

Key Questions for Prioritizing Actions

Regardless of how you choose to prioritize your actions, below are some key questions you may want to consider when choosing what actions will be included in your final adaptation plan.

- Do you have enough scientific information?
- Who has the authority in your local government to enact adaptation actions? Are they already involved in the planning process?
- How much time do you need to develop and implement each action?
- What resources do you have already? What else might you need? Are these internally or externally available?
- How will the environment be impacted? Is this impact positive or negative?
- Will the action have implications for mitigation activities?
- What are the potential avoided costs if an action is implemented (if known)?
- Who/what will benefit? (i.e. general public, specific demographics such as high-risk groups or low-income populations, specific species, future generations, etc.)
- What type of benefit will occur? (i.e. prevent loss of life, preserve human health and safety, limit economic disruption, avoid infrastructure damage, etc.)
- Will this action accomplish another priority for my community (i.e. a win-win solution)?
- Can this action be planned and implemented by existing local government staff, or will it require outside experts, consultants, etc.?

- Is the project time sensitive? Would the action need, or benefit from, a certain window of opportunity (i.e. already planned projects, license renewals, favourable real estate market, state legislative sessions, code and plan revisions, etc.)?