Arctic Adaptation Exchange – Portal Governance

The following policies are intended to provide guidance on the governance of the Arctic Adaptation Exchange, and establish the terms and the mechanism under which the Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) may provide input to the University of Alaska-Fairbanks on the administration and development of the portal after 1 April 2015.

1. Guiding Principles for the Governance of the Arctic Adaptation Exchange

   a. The administration and development of the portal shall further the following objectives:

      i. Enhance access to relevant adaptation resources so that Arctic residents, researchers, and decision-makers can exchange experiences, lessons learned and best practices; and

      ii. Facilitate innovation, and the creation of new practices and tools that support adaptation decision-making, including adaptive capacity indices.

   b. In substantive decisions pertaining to the design, structure, and functionality of the Arctic Adaptation Exchange, balanced representation will continue to be sought from its three primary user groups:

      i. Arctic community members;

      ii. Decision-makers in the public and private sectors;

      iii. Researchers and academics.

   c. The following principles shall guide all decisions regarding the dissemination of information resources pertaining to indigenous communities and traditional knowledge on the Arctic Adaptation Exchange. In practice, this means that the dissemination of such resources

      i. shall be undertaken with the goal of providing a net benefit to indigenous communities and/or traditional knowledge holders, and will in no way harm the interests of these communities and/or traditional knowledge holders;

      ii. shall require those submitting the information resource to confirm that, to the best of their knowledge, the resource has been created and published with the consent of that community and/or the traditional knowledge holders, and adequately credits contributing knowledge holders;
iii. shall only be undertaken if these communities and/or traditional knowledge holders consent to sharing said resource(s), and may be removed at the request of these communities and/or traditional knowledge holders by submitting an expression of concern to the portal administrator.

2. The Advisory Committee to the Arctic Adaptation Exchange
   
a. Purpose

   i. The Advisory Committee will function at a strategic level, providing advice and direction to the University of Alaska-Fairbanks on the ongoing administration and development of the Arctic Adaptation Exchange;

   ii. The Advisory Committee will provide, at a minimum, annual updates to the SDWG on the status of the portal.

b. Composition and Administration

   i. An Advisory Committee to the Arctic Adaptation Exchange will be created as an informal sub-body of the Arctic Council’s Sustainable Development Working Group;

   ii. The Advisory Committee will be comprised of SDWG representatives from:

      • The United States of America
      • Canada
      • The Aleut International Association
      • Gwich’in Council International
      • Additional representatives from Arctic Council States, Permanent Participant organizations or new partner institutions or organizations may also be considered by the Advisory Committee

   iii. The Chair of the SDWG will also be invited to sit on the Advisory Committee;

   iv. The mandate and role of the Advisory Committee will be reviewed at the completion of the United States Arctic Council Chairmanship in the Spring of 2017.

c. Meetings

   i. The Advisory Committee will hold meetings on a bi-annual basis, with additional meetings as needed, to receive updates from the portal administrator, review the status of, and discuss proposed developments for the Arctic Adaptation Exchange.