

Climate Change Adaptive Strengths in Rural Communities

Despite some traits that make rural communities vulnerable to certain climate risks, these communities are also equipped with inherent strengths that can be utilized for climate adaptation.

Rural communities often have strong social capital.



What is social capital?

Social capital describes the strength of the networks, relationships and trust within a community, and how these aspects drive the community member's ability to work together.



Indications of strong social capital include: diversity, a sense of belonging, trust, mutual assistance, reciprocity, compatible social norms and sharing of ideas.

A culture of innovation and creativity has helped farmers adapt to the periodic drought cycles common in the Canadian prairies.



Innovation will be a key element for agricultural adaptation as growing seasons shift, viable crop species for regions change, and precipitation becomes more erratic and unpredictable.

Rural residents may be more equipped to cope with extreme events than urban residents.



Self sufficiency and mutual assistance are both traits that may assist rural residents in their response to the extreme events and slow-onset changes that come with climate change.

