

edge environment capability statement

climate change adaptation services

No

01

catalysing change with scientific integrity



edge environment

A research, consultancy and education business with a focus on the building industry and its related areas. Our staff are experienced in communicating complex science to organisations to bring about change.

edge environment: shaping a climate change-appropriate built environment

Climate change is a reality and adapting the built environment – our homes, workplaces and industrial buildings – to changing weather patterns is arguably as important as mitigation efforts. edge environment is contributing to the global adaptation effort with research and consultancy including the following projects:

selection of projects

climate change risk and adaptation research

Australian Greenhouse Office and Building Research Inc in New Zealand

Climate change will affect the built environment in a range of ways that have potential implications for both the existing building stock and the design of new buildings. Through its research, edge environment is gaining a profound understanding of climate change and the opportunities and challenges it poses to industry and governments in Australia and New Zealand.

In this cross-disciplinary project, climate change impacts were based on 50- and 100-year climate projections. This Australian study was based on climate projections for 2030 and 2070 for thirteen locations chosen to span seven of the eight climate zones used by the Australian Building Codes Board. It included:

- **Climate change aspects:** changes in temperatures, humidity, tropical cyclones and intense storms, wind speed, rain, hail, solar radiation, flooding and bushfires;
- **Social aspects:** effects climate change may have on the social, lifestyle and health needs of Australians at home, in the workplace and in the community;
- **Technical aspects:** options for reducing the vulnerability of Australian residential and commercial buildings, including possible benchmarks; and
- **Financial aspects:** the financial costs of the various options identified for reducing the vulnerability of Australian residential and commercial buildings.

how building design and regulations can address climate impacts

Paper for the Australian National University (ANU) Centre for Climate Law and Policy

edge environment carried out a study for the ANU and presented to environmental lawyers, barristers and judges on how the building industry is likely to adapt to climate change and a carbon-constrained economy. The paper focused on adaptation measures and the opportunities that are available to early adopters. The paper was well received and feedback has included how edge environment enhanced the law profession's understanding of the opportunities available to industry.

climate change science briefs and support

WWF International for the release of the IPCC's fourth assessment report by the WG2 in Brussels 2007, and to WWF Australia leading up to the APEC meeting in Sydney in 2007

edge environment is helping NGOs to interpret climate change implications. Edge environment staff provided a summary of the IPCC's fourth assessment report for a policy briefing document by WWF Australia for the APEC and ABAC delegates highlighting how APEC countries will be at the front line of climate change impacts and therefore have a strong imperative to act decisively to avoid dangerous levels of warming and irreversible damage to ecosystems. This requires that global warming be limited to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels.

The APEC region will also determine whether the worst impacts of dangerous climate change will be avoided. Energy generated from coal, oil and other fossil fuels as well as deforestation are the two main sources of global greenhouse gas emissions. APEC economies presently account for approximately 60 per cent of the world's energy generation and use – mostly sourced from coal and oil.

sustainability strategy

Northern Territory Government, Department of Planning and Infrastructure (NT DPI)

edge environment ran workshops and developed a comprehensive report to help the NT DPI understand how climate change and sustainability will affect the Northern Territory, and help them to develop suitable policy mechanisms. This involved a stakeholder survey and workshops to establish a strategic plan.

The project included proposals for cross-government coordinated action, for fostering a best practice voluntary programme in addition to regulation and for adapting existing standards, tools and methods for relevance to Northern Territory climatic conditions and lifestyles. The plan also considered the needs of remote and indigenous communities, and addressed climate change impacts on the Territory as well as appropriate mitigation and adaptation responses.