

Background The Alps are particularly affected by climate change. Temperatures in this region increased at more than twice the global average rate in the last century, and further warming is already unavoidable. Consequences may include thawing of permafrost, melting glaciers and extreme events

such as heavy precipitation and long periods of drought. Climate change will bring major changes to your economy, environment and society. Adverse consequences can be reduced or avoided, and future development potential safeguarded, through adaptation. It's time to take action now!



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General

Energy

Health

**Spatial
Planning**

Biodiversity

Natural
Hazard

Agriculture

Water

Forestry

Tourism

Spatial Planning

WHY?

Spatial planning organizes, coordinates and manages socio-economic activities of all sectors in space. Because of its cross-cutting steering capacity, spatial planning has fundamental influence on adapting spatial development to climate change. Extreme weather events like longer periods of heat or floods caused by heavy precipitation increasingly threaten settlements, agricultural land, infrastructure, lives and future development in the Alps. Due to the longevity of the built environment and other land uses, it is therefore necessary to fully consider climate change in the planning decisions of today.

Incorporate climate change adaptation into spatial planning

- Check if your planning policies, regulations, instruments, and procedures are fit to cope with climate change
- Provide practice-relevant information, data, planning guidelines and work aids, raise climate-awareness, and enhance cooperation with sector planning and stakeholders

HOW?

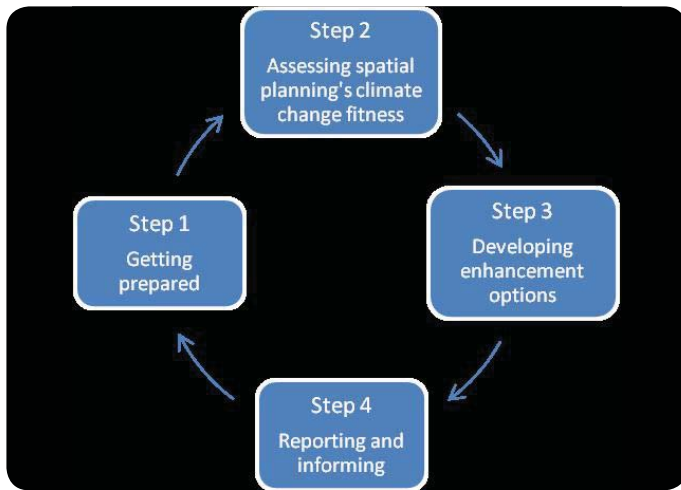
Take account of changing risks

- Secure flood retention, river runoff spaces and enforce stricter zoning and building restrictions
- Do not designate building land or permit constructions in flood risk and other hazard areas

Consider heat and other bioclimatic stresses in urban development

- Preserve air circulation corridors and open spaces for cold and fresh air supply of settlement areas
- Maintain, create and network open, green and blue spaces in urban areas





GUIDE FOR SPATIAL PLANNERS

The CLISP-Project (Climate Change Adaptation by Spatial Planning) developed first approaches how spatial development can be climate-proofed. A tool for spatial planners for assessing the climate change fitness of their spatial planning policies gives guidance, and offers an easily understood, step-by-step approach to reviewing whether the planning instruments in place are able to cope with the expected impacts of climate change and, if necessary, to identify appropriate enhancement options. [Further information \(en\)](#)



GREEN NETWORK GRAZ

The so-called urban climate effect, characterized inter alia by higher average temperatures and pollution levels, will be further reinforced by climate change. Green and open spaces serve an important function in climate regulation and can counteract the temperature rise in cities. The project “Green Network” in the city of Graz is an effort to improve the urban climate and the quality of life of the city’s residents. Its aim is to link existing green and open spaces by means of connecting paths and green elements. The Green Network is not only a strategy paper on urban development, it also serves as the basis for urban planning, zoning, and for opinions on building applications. [Further information \(de\)](#)



You can take action now!

Together with

- National and regional administration
- Researchers and experts on climate change adaptation
- Civil society organizations such as NGOs
- Entrepreneurs



Download this factsheet and share it

Service Further measures, tools, practical examples and information on how to adapt to climate change can be found at www.c3alps.eu

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About C3-Alps The C3-Alps initiative is conducted by a transnational consortium of 17 partners from all Alpine countries. The partnership combines authorities responsible for climate adaptation policies on national and regional levels and expert institu-

tions that support national and European adaptation strategies. C3-Alps is coordinated by the Environment Agency Austria and is co-funded by the Alpine Space programme, through the European Regional Development Fund – European Territorial Cooperation.