

RESILIENT PEOPLE, RESILIENT COMMUNITIES: BUILDING URBAN CLIMATE  
RESILIENCE THROUGH CULTURAL ECOSYSTEM SERVICES by Roya Karimi-Boushehri

The anthropogenic consequences of climate change can disrupt culturally valued ecosystems in urban centers, contributing to social stressors and exacerbating the vulnerabilities of residents.

This paper discusses how the impacts of climate change can be combatted by employing the components of cultural ecosystem services (CES). CES are the intangible and non-monetary benefits that society receives from nature, but they are often overlooked within the practice of urban planning. This paper aims to bridge the gap between CES and climate resilience in the field of urban planning, by examining how components are currently used in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Edmonton's planning and policy documents are reviewed, and a keyword search is completed to further understand whether CES is used to bolster urban climate resilience. The study found that although the components of CES are prevalent throughout Edmonton's planning and policy practices, CES is not often employed as a tool to increase urban climate resilience.

This paper recommends expanding conversations about climate resilience in urban planning to allow for a holistic approach, and to encourage public engagement and participation.

Furthermore, the study recommends using CES components to unite different professional practices as a means to facilitate multi-disciplinary climate resilience.

Key words: urban planning, climate change adaptation, Edmonton, cultural services, ecosystem valuation