

REGIONAL CUMULATIVE EFFECTS ASSESSMENT (RCEA)

What is Regional Cumulative Effects Assessment (RCEA)?

Regional Cumulative Effects Assessment (RCEA) is a process used to assess and manage the long-term, cumulative impacts of multiple activities within a specific region. It goes beyond the scope of individual projects, considering the combined environmental, social, cultural, and economic effects of activities across an entire region. RCEA is forward-thinking, focusing on sustainability and proactive management, while traditional Cumulative Effects Assessments (CEA) tend to focus on the impacts of individual projects in isolation.

BEST PRACTICES FOR EFFECTIVE RCEA

Clear Boundaries & Timeframes:

Defines the region and time scale for assessing effects.

Stakeholder Collaboration: Involve diverse groups (governments, Indigenous communities, industry) in co-developing strategies.

Data Integration: Combine environmental, socioeconomic, and spatial data to model cumulative effects.

Adaptive Management: Adjust strategies based on new information and changing conditions.

Long-Term Monitoring: Track cumulative impacts and mitigation success over time.

WHY IS RCEA IMPORTANT?

Comprehensive Impact Assessment:

RCEA captures regional impacts often missed in individual project focused CEAs.

Long-Term Sustainability: It supports strategic, sustainable development by addressing long-term impacts on ecosystems and communities.

Scenario-Based Planning: RCEA models potential pathways to guide sustainable development.

Proactive Management: Identifies cumulative impacts early, allowing for efficient mitigation and policy planning.

Resilience and Adaptation: Enhances regional resilience by preparing for future challenges such as climate change.



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DID YOU KNOW?

Manitoba has held one RCEA, which was a joint effort between Manitoba Hydro and the Government of Manitoba.

A series of RCEA Reports were published by Manitoba Hydro with results from the different phases of the RCEA process. See the Manitoba Hydro [website](#) for more information.

The Clean Environment Commission also held a public hearing to review the results of the RCEA. See the Clean Environment Commission [website](#) for more information.

**RCEA FRAMEWORK**

- 1. Initiation and Governance:** RCEAs begin by establishing clear governance and stakeholder involvement, ensuring broad participation and resources.
- 2. Scoping:** Identify key values (e.g., biodiversity, water quality), pressures (e.g., climate change, development), and geographic and temporal scales.
- 3. Retrospective Assessment:** Review historical trends and baseline conditions to understand past cumulative effects and their causes.
- 4. Prospective Assessment:** Model future scenarios to predict potential cumulative effects and assess their implications for regional values.
- 5. Decision-Making and Implementation:** Translate findings into actionable recommendations with clear implementation plans, ensuring effective governance and accountability.

RCEA provides a comprehensive, proactive approach to managing cumulative impacts. By integrating environmental, social, and economic factors, RCEA fosters sustainable, resilient development while promoting collaboration and informed decision-making to safeguard the region's future.



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For more info, use this QR code to visit the [Project page](#) on the Manitoba Eco-Network website.

