

Modeling change: benefits and limitations of climate projections for adaptation planning

JOEL FINNIS

*Department of Geography, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador
A1B 3X9, Canada*

As concerns surrounding climate change grow, so does demand for reliable information on likely impacts. Climate models are the primary tool available to provide this information. However, while these models have provided considerable insight into the workings of the climate system, their capacity to inform adaptation planning remains limited. In order to effectively use climate projections, stakeholders must become familiar with the limitations of these models and their output, and reframe their questions (and potentially their decision-making strategies) to better reflect model capacities. Towards this end, the capabilities and limitations of the latest model products are presented, along with concrete examples of their potential use.