2027 Update - Climate Implementation Priorities **What We Heard and Did Report**

APPENDIX | PHASE 2

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These appendices support the **2027 Update - Climate Implementation Priorities What We Heard and Did Report**, which can be found at edmonton.ca/ClimateStrategy.

Appendix 1: Action-Specific Feedback - What We Heard and Did

Buildings and Land Use Sector

DRAFT ACTION CONCEPT:
1. LAUNCH A COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM ON WILDFIRE PREVENTION

▶

FINAL ACTION:
19. IMPLEMENT THE WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE WILDFIRE RISK STRATEGY

What We Heard

+ **Focus on High-Risk Areas and New Development**: It is important to target efforts by focusing on areas of highest wildfire risk and ensuring new development in high-risk areas incorporates fire safe design principles.
+ **Cost Effectiveness**: Applying FireSmart principles is generally not cost-prohibitive.
+ **Ensure Focus on City Lands**: Focusing on wildfire risk in existing natural areas, such as the River Valley, is more important than programming for personal property, and Indigenous partners should be consulted on traditional wildfire stewardship practices.

What We Are Doing

+ **Action 19** consolidates **Action Concepts 1 and 23** and supports wildfire risk reduction on both City land and private property. To support a focus on high-risk areas, the Wildland Urban Interface Wildfire Strategy identified the greater risk areas which will be prioritized for action.
+ The key planned activities for the action include integrating Indigenous knowledge and fire stewardship into standard practices through engagement.

DRAFT ACTION CONCEPT:
2. ADVOCATE FOR BUILDING STANDARDS THAT ADDRESS EXTREME TEMPERATURE AND AIR QUALITY RISK AND REDUCE UTILITY COSTS

▶

FINAL NEW ACTION:
4. REDUCE EXTREME HEAT AND AIR QUALITY RISKS

What We Heard

+ **Balance Standards and Affordability:** Several participants from general NGOs and advocacy groups shared concerns about enhanced building standards and housing affordability, especially for renters and people with disabilities. However, we also heard that climate events themselves increase costs for vulnerable populations through factors like increased medication needs and impact on ability to work. Related, development industry members noted concerns that increased standards may have an impact on costs.
+ **Retrofits vs. New Builds:** Some participants mentioned that it is more important to focus on

retrofitting existing buildings, as building performance for cooling has improved over time. Development industry members noted the role improved building codes play in improving performance.

+ **Low-Energy Cooling and Air Filtration Opportunities:** Several participants from climate focused NGOs and advocacy groups highlighted the importance of low energy cooling opportunities, such as shading from trees, encouraging heat pumps instead of air conditioners, and using building materials that better reflect sunlight and reduce the urban heat island effect. There were also concerns regarding increased use of electricity for cooling and air filtration.

+ **Targeted Approach:** Advocacy for building standards should focus on multi-unit buildings (e.g. apartments) in areas with higher heat and air quality risks. We also heard about the importance of working with landlords to implement solutions.

+ **Local Air Pollutants:** Several respondents mentioned air quality concerns from local burning in both parks and private property, which have an adverse impact on those with respiratory issues such as asthma. It was recommended a Bylaw should be implemented to ban woodburning.

+ Air quality and noise concerns around air blowers and lawn mowers were also raised.

What We Are Doing

+ The action has been broadened in scope to include concrete actions which can be led by the City, as well as longer term solutions through advocacy for systemic changes.

+ The refined action includes key planned activities to pursue advocacy for legislative changes to address unsafe indoor temperatures in buildings, and the delivery of education and resources.

+ In response to feedback to address the sources of local air pollutants, the activities also include evaluating and implementing regulatory tools to reduce the health impacts of poor outdoor air quality events.

+ Feedback regarding the implementation of this action, including the recommended focus on retrofits and multi-unit buildings will be shared with the city teams who will lead the action.

DRAFT ACTION CONCEPT:
3. SUPPORT ENERGY AFFORDABILITY FOR EQUITY DESERVING EDMONTONIANS

▶

FINAL NEW ACTION:
3. SUPPORT CLIMATE PREPARED AND ENERGY-EFFICIENT BUILDINGS

What We Heard

+ **Language:** There are negative perceptions with the term “equity deserving”. Clarification was requested for “energy affordability”.

+ **Protecting Renters:** We heard from general focus NGOs that renters need to be protected from increased costs and eviction due to any improvements made to housing.

+ **Integrate with Other Actions:** We heard from a climate focused NGO participant to fold this action into Action 7, so that all incentive programs offered by the City consider energy

affordability, and that city grants for affordable housing projects integrate energy efficiency.

+ **Coordinated, System-wide Solutions:** It is important to look at priority areas for energy affordability, and that the City should seek to find ways for community wide energy programs, rather than providing programs for individual buildings.

+ **Minimize Complexity:** Community energy programs should be accessible to Edmontonians, and there should be low barriers to entry.

+ **Collaborate Across Sectors:** It is important to collaborate across sectors to provide a coordinated approach to community energy programs. We also heard that collaboration could enable private partnerships for financing of improvements.

+ **Financing Options for Private Property:** The City should enable programs that assist Edmontonians to complete climate resilience retrofits on their private property. Property Assessed Clean Energy programs were highlighted.

What We Are Doing

+ **Action 3** consolidates **Action Concepts 3, 6 and 7**. As suggested, this will allow equity to be considered more broadly in programs for private property.

+ The use of the phrase 'equity deserving' has been adjusted to 'equity-seeking'.

+ Property Assessed Clean Energy financing is available in Edmonton for both residential and non-residential properties under the Clean Energy Improvement Program.

+ Feedback regarding the implementation of this action, including program design, will be shared with the City teams who will lead the action.

DRAFT ACTION CONCEPT:
4. EXPAND ELIGIBILITY OF THE EXISTING BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT GRANT

▶

FINAL NEW ACTION:
5. EXPAND ELIGIBILITY OF THE EXISTING BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT GRANT

What We Heard

+ **Site Eligibility:** Some industry members believe that the grant should not only be for brownfield sites (vacant or underutilized land that had a previous industrial or commercial use such as a gas station that requires remediation), but should be expanded to all underutilized land.

+ **Program Demand:** Development industry members mentioned that the existing grant program has had good uptake. Some members suggested focusing the grant in key redevelopment areas to catalyze revitalization and create a "snowball effect", while others noted that demand exists citywide and the grant should remain broad. We also heard general support to re-purpose underutilized land for better uses such as affordable housing.

- **Program Requirements:** We heard from Climate Focused NGOs that additional grants or increases to grant amounts need to require very high environmental and affordability standards. Utilities asked for redevelopment plans to include permeable landscaping and other low impact development requirements. We also heard from general focus NGOs that broader requirements such as for active transportation improvements, affordable housing, and low impact development/permeable landscaping be a consideration. Ensuring the grant is stackable was raised as a key issue as well as a suggestion to investigate other levers that could be utilized to increase uptake.

- **Cost Burden of Remediation:** Concerns from one climate focused NGO were mentioned on using tax dollars to support the clean-up of polluted brownfield sites, and that the corporations that caused the pollution should pay for all costs associated with the cleanup of these sites (i.e. orphaned oil wells).

What We Are Doing

- The refined action focuses on expanding the existing Brownfield Redevelopment program.

- The action includes key planned activities for developing expanded site eligibility options and implementing the updated program with expanded eligibility criteria to support expanded redevelopment of underutilized contained sites.

- Feedback regarding the implementation of this action, including site eligibility, and program requirements will be shared with the city teams who will lead the action.

DRAFT ACTION CONCEPT:
5. CREATE AND DRIVE POLICY FOR PLANNING AND DESIGN OF CLIMATE-RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

▶

FINAL ACTION:
2. SUPPORT CLIMATE RESILIENT COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DESIGN

What We Heard

- **Detailed Guidance, Clear Policy:** Climate NGOs highlighted how policy changes should provide detailed guidance, and clear requirements. We heard from development industry members that predictable requirements and Industry engagement is vital for any changes to policy.

- **Design Outcomes:** The following design considerations were mentioned by individual participants:
    - Emergency response and evacuation planning
    - Street design to accommodate snow clearing and parking
    - Accessible design for people with mobility issues
    - Encouraging more density
    - Reduce front setbacks to limit amount of lawn and increase density
    - Increasing permeability of surface material and Low Impact Development design
    - Increasing amount of urban forests and treed boulevards
    - Dedicated infrastructure for transit
    - Transit Oriented Development - Transit stations should act as community centres where

other amenities such as libraries and recreation centres are co-located
    - Ensure all neighbourhood renewals are built to 2050 goals
    - Incorporate local amenities to discourage driving

- **Data Driven Decision Making:** Educational institutions noted the need for more information on how neighbourhood design influences city-building outcomes. Climate-focused NGOs highlighted how budget constraints and aging infrastructure should factor into design decisions.

- **Consensus on Design Outcomes:** Several ideal design outcomes (listed above) were mentioned by participants. However, participants also noted that it is difficult to achieve consensus in neighbourhood design and the different tradeoffs on priorities. Determining this consensus across City departments will be important for the implementation of new policy.

- **Zoning:** We heard from several general NGOs that the density allowed in the new Zoning Bylaw should not be reduced, as that would undermine climate progress already accomplished.

- **Enforcement:** It is important to enforce regulatory changes.

What We Are Doing

- This action has been refined from the initial exploratory scope to key planned activities focused on tangible climate resilient design outcomes. Activities focus on the integration of climate resilient design outcomes within the planning policy framework.

- The refined action focuses on clear, detailed guidance by centering policy and regulatory updates around tangible design outcomes with measurable benefits for climate resilience while balancing other City priorities. Prioritized design outcomes will be informed by a cost-benefit analysis in order to capture the lifecycle costs of the proposed changes to neighbourhood design.

- Feedback regarding the implementation of this action, including specific design outcomes, will be shared with the city teams who will lead the action.

DRAFT ACTION CONCEPT:
6. PROVIDE COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING TO PREPARE FOR MAJOR CLIMATE RISKS

▶

FINAL ACTION:
3. SUPPORT CLIMATE PREPARED AND ENERGY-EFFICIENT BUILDINGS
&
15. PRESERVE, PROTECT AND ENHANCE URBAN FOREST AND GREENERY

What We Heard

- **Incentives:** Development industry participants noted the need for potential programs to be more clearly defined, and noted the importance of incentives for private properties.

- **Reducing Red Tape for Action:** Some participants mentioned that there are areas the City

could reduce barriers to actions community groups are already trying to take, such as development guidelines for community leagues, and the amount of oversight the City requires for things like rain barrels on public or community lands.

+ **Education:** Several groups highlighted the role of education in preparing for major climate risks. Participants noted the importance of early and proactive preparation and education, and the role education can play in creating a sense of personal responsibility for climate preparation before a major event occurs. Utility providers mentioned the importance of incentive programs to include education, to ensure buy-in for specific incentives. General NGOs mentioned the importance of programming being accessible for people with cognitive, sensory, and mobility disabilities.

+ **Actions Beyond Programming:** Some participants suggested that the City look beyond community programming, and focus on other levers such as stormwater infrastructure improvements and policy or regulatory changes for landscaping.

+ **Role of Partnerships:** Collaboration can improve community-level preparedness, such as neighborhood watches during power outages. Participants also noted that community leagues could act as hubs for climate programming, and emphasized that coordination between the City and EPCOR is important for implementation.

+ **Adaptation vs. Energy Transition:** Some climate-focused NGOs said that the focus should be on energy transition, not preparing for climate risks for this action.

+ **Regulatory and Policy Levers:** Policy and regulatory levers are more effective than community programming and should be explored.

What We Are Doing

+ **Action 3** consolidates **Action Concepts 3, 6 and 7**. This will allow mitigation and adaptation measures to be considered together where appropriate, as well as allow for the inclusion of equity considerations in all relevant private property programs. Private property initiatives were consolidated with other related initiatives into **Action 15**.

+ The action includes key planned activities for education as well as incentives to implement high-impact energy efficiency, renewable energy and adaptation measures.

+ Stormwater management and tree canopy activities are included in the “Nature & Water” sector actions.

+ Feedback regarding the implementation of this action, including program design and partnerships will be shared with the city teams who will lead the action. While there are limitations on the City's ability to regulate, Actions 2 and 13 include activities for policy and standard changes within City authority.

DRAFT ACTION CONCEPT:
7. PROVIDE PROGRAMS AND INCENTIVES FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION, BUILDING RETROFITS AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

▶

FINAL ACTION:
3. SUPPORT CLIMATE PREPARED AND ENERGY-EFFICIENT BUILDINGS

What We Heard

+ **New Buildings vs. Retrofits:** There were varying opinions regarding if incentives for renewable energy should focus on new construction or building retrofits. Some climate NGOs noted that focus on new construction will help reduce the need for future retrofits to meet energy efficiency and renewable energy goals. However, many other climate NGOs highlighted how retrofits need greater support and that solutions already exist for new builds.

+ **Education & Information Sharing:** Incentives alone are not sufficient and need to be paired with robust educational initiatives and outreach. In particular, we heard that more education and resources are needed for building owners about the value of retrofits and energy-efficiency, including the full lifecycle cost of ownerships, and businesses that provide retrofit services. Partnerships with other organizations should be leveraged to amplify reach.

+ **Building Code:** The City should advocate to the Province to mandate higher tiers of the Building Code along with accessibility and design standards that make buildings usable for all people.

+ **Incentives:** Varying messages around incentives were advanced. Generally, it was agreed that incentives are needed, especially if looking to stimulate deep or net-zero retrofits. However, we also heard program design is essential to ensure that incentives don't go to people who would have completed the retrofit regardless of incentives.
  Different types of incentives should be explored, including non-monetary incentives and increasing development fees for projects not meeting energy efficiency targets.
  City incentives, such as social housing projects, should be tied to climate and affordability mandates. Many recommended that incentives should be income tested or have an equity focus.

+ **Program Design:** Simple programs with easy application processes are needed including clearer information for builders and contractors regarding eligibility requirements. If possible, programs should align with provincial and federal programs.

  Programs should be in the market for long durations to avoid uncertainty and disruptions, and that incentives should be tied to measurable performance outcomes such as benchmarking programs to allow for program evaluation.

  Successful programs should ensure local job creation.

+ **Natural Gas:** We heard from one climate NGO that Natural Gas should be banned to accelerate the energy transition, especially in new buildings.

+ **Accelerated Approach:** Programming should shift from single-building retrofits to neighborhood focused incentives that leverage lifecycle data.

The City should pursue bulk purchasing programs and direct install to facilitate access and increase adoption of retrofit measures.

+ **Net Zero:** Net zero messaging can scare people off. We also heard that programs should be tied to net zero targets.

+ **Greener Energy Source:** Given the growth of the city and the scale of the retrofit need, attention needs to be paid to ensuring a greener grid and not only on reducing energy use.

+ **Technologies:** Technologies that advance climate goals, such as heat pumps, pre-engineered builds, and balcony solar should be considered.

+ **Building Size:** Smaller homes need to be advanced as a solution.

+ **Commercial/Non-residential:** The focus is often on residential homes, but programs also need to address the energy efficiency of non-residential buildings. These buildings account for half of building emissions in the city.

+ **Underserved Audiences:** There are many underserved audiences and it is critical they be considered.

+ **Multi-unit housing**: We heard from development industry members that there are unique considerations for larger residential properties and that split incentives create barriers for tenants to access City programs. We also heard of barriers for condo boards to participate in climate resilience measures. We heard that tailored solutions and technologies need to be advanced.

What We Are Doing

+ **Action 3** consolidates **Action Concepts 3, 6 and 7**. This will allow mitigation and adaptation measures to be considered together where appropriate, as well as allow for the inclusion of equity considerations in all relevant private property programs.

+ The action includes key planned activities for education as well as incentives for residential and non-residential properties across new builds and retrofits. This action will contribute to a greener grid through incentives for renewable energy on private property. **Action 21** and other initiatives will also further that goal.

+ Feedback regarding the implementation of this action, including barriers for underserved audiences, program design, new technologies and net zero messaging will be shared with the City teams who will lead the action.

Transportation Sector

DRAFT ACTION CONCEPT:
8. ADVANCE BUS RAPID TRANSIT PROJECTS FROM PLANNING TO DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

▶

FINAL ACTION:
6. ADVANCE TRANSIT IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

What We Heard

+ **Dedicated Bus Lanes:** Advocacy groups suggested that bus lanes must be prioritized over vehicle traffic congestion, and that it is important for dedicated lanes to be provided in high congestion areas to ensure buses can move efficiently and quickly, providing fast, alternative options for Edmontonians. We also heard that bus lanes must not be combined with bike lanes, and should not be accessible to ride share/taxis. Bus priority would need to be enforced.

+ **Accessibility:** Efforts should be taken to ensure the overall bus fleet is accessible to people with disabilities, who may rely on DATS, to improve access to the overall transit system.

+ **Electric Buses:** Some climate NGOs said the City should stop purchasing diesel buses, and purchase more electric buses, with integrated charging points for buses along bus routes.

What We Are Doing

+ The action has been broadened in scope to focus on a variety of bus transit improvement projects.

+ The refined action includes key planned activities for advancing Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and implementing Transit Priority Measures (TPM), which are upgrades to existing transit to make it more fast and efficient.

+ Feedback regarding the implementation of this action, including accessibility, BRT Design, and electric buses will be shared with the City teams who will lead the action

DRAFT ACTION CONCEPT:
9. INCORPORATE CLIMATE RESILIENT MEASURES AT TRANSIT FACILITIES TO IMPROVE COMFORT AND SAFETY FOR TRANSIT USERS

▶

FINAL ACTION:
14. INCORPORATE CLIMATE RESILIENT DESIGN PRACTICES INTO THE CITY'S DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS

What We Heard

+ **Making Transit More Comfortable:** We heard that transit facilities and bus shelter improvements will help make transit use more comfortable, especially considering routes with longer wait times and a changing climate. From a general NGO group, we heard the importance of making sure design changes are accessible for people with disabilities of all types.

+ **Maintenance and Safety:** We heard some concerns regarding bus shelter vandalism and the potential for increased costs of maintaining upgraded facilities. Related to this, some

participants mentioned safety concerns that bus shelter improvements may cause unhoused residents to stay in bus shelters.

What We Are Doing

+ **Action 14** consolidates **Action Concepts 9 and 18**

+ This action is incorporated in Action 14 to align transit facility improvements with ongoing updates to City design and construction standards. This approach allows feedback regarding accessibility, user comfort, and maintenance costs to be addressed through the same technical framework that guides similar City assets. Including transit facilities in these updates allows the City to balance cost-effective design with climate improvements.

+ Feedback regarding accessibility, comfort, safety, maintenance, cost and design considerations will be shared with the City teams leading Action 14.

DRAFT ACTION CONCEPT:
10. EXPAND THE ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION NETWORK IN PRIORITY AREAS

▶

FINAL ACTION:
7. EXPAND THE ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION NETWORK

What We Heard

+ **Dedicated Bike Infrastructure:** The majority of participants believe that new bike infrastructure should be protected and separated from other users (i.e. vehicles and pedestrians) to ensure safety and usability for all ages and abilities in all seasons. One participant mentioned that those who are deaf/hard of hearing or blind/low vision need to be considered when designing infrastructure, especially in consideration of e-bikes and scooters. One participant mentioned the importance of considering future bike traffic volumes when designing the network now, so that there are less challenges later on.

+ **Winter Maintenance:** Several participants mentioned the importance of expanding winter clearance standards for bike infrastructure, especially for shared-use paths. Concerns were mentioned regarding local street bikeways, and how they are unsafe in winter.

+ **Enforcement and Closures:** There is a need for stronger enforcement of vehicles parking in bike lanes, and to not close pathways during special events or construction.

+ **Pedestrian Safety:** Pedestrian safety should be a priority in addition to bike infrastructure. This includes filling missing sidewalk links and improving crossing times to make walking more convenient. We heard concerns with e-bikes and e-scooters which may block sidewalks, making it more difficult to walk.

+ **Supporting Bike Share:** Several participants mentioned concerns with e-bike and e-scooter share programs and conflicts they create with pedestrians. One participant suggested the City support the creation of docking stations for these programs, so that scooters and bikes can only be parked at certain locations.

+ **Focus on priority Areas:** Development industry participants suggested that infrastructure improvements and requirements should be focused on, where key corridors are identified. One climate NGO mentioned the importance of connecting the active transportation network with arterial roadways.

+ **Accessibility:** We heard from General Focus NGOs that it is important to make sidewalks and trails sufficiently wide for mobility devices. We also heard that adequate seating is required for people to rest.

What We Are Doing

+ **Action 7** consolidates **Action Concepts 10 and 11.** The action has been broadened in scope to include active transportation expansion and active transportation improvements.

+ The refined action includes key planned activities for expanding the active transportation network in priority areas based on the Bike Implementation Plan and implementing secure bike parking to enhance bike infrastructure and safety.

+ Feedback regarding the implementation of this action, including accessibility, bike share, maintenance, active transportation design, and safety will be shared with the City teams who will lead the action.

DRAFT ACTION CONCEPT:
11. EXPAND SECURE PUBLIC BIKE PARKING OPPORTUNITIES IN PRIORITY AREAS

▶

FINAL ACTION:
7. EXPAND THE ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION NETWORK

What We Heard

+ **Focus on Safety:** Some general NGOs highlighted that secure bike parking facilities should focus on safety, to help make people feel more comfortable locking up their bikes for extended periods of time.

+ **Integration with ARC:** One participant mentioned the potential of using existing infrastructure, such as ARC transit cards, for managing access to bike parking facilities.

+ **Accessibility:** General NGOs advanced that accessible vehicle parking should not be reduced to provide bike parking. We also heard that to ensure bike parking is usable, bike lockers and showers should be provided in key locations. One general NGO mentioned that bike parking facilities should be easily accessible by the active transportation network.

+ **Other Opportunities:** We heard from some participants that bikes should be allowed on transit at all hours (Note: This is already allowed), and that bike parking should be required for private developments.

What We Are Doing

+ **Action 7** consolidates **Action Concepts 10 and 11**. The action has been broadened in scope to include active transportation expansion and active transportation improvements.

+ Updating bike parking standards for City facilities and building public bike parking are identified as key planned activities to support active transportation infrastructure.

+ Feedback regarding the implementation of this action, including accessibility and other considerations will be shared with the City teams who will lead the action.

DRAFT ACTION CONCEPT:
12. ENCOURAGE AND FACILITATE VEHICLE TRANSITION AND THE BUILDOUT OF ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING FACILITIES IN PRIORITY AREAS

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FINAL ACTION:
8. EXPAND THE ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV) CHARGING NETWORK BY CO-LOCATING STATIONS ON CITY LAND THROUGH THIRD-PARTY DELIVERY

What We Heard

+ **Support Those Without At-Home Charging Access:** Regarding where to focus priority, a climate NGO mentioned the importance of providing public charging infrastructure in convenient locations such as at grocery stores and street curbs, for those who do not have charging opportunities at home, and that partnerships should be leveraged to develop charging stations. Another climate NGO mentioned supporting chargers at community leagues.

+ **Balance Mode Shift and EV Incentives:** One general NGO mentioned that EVs should not be incentivized by the City, and that efforts should go towards other modes like transit or walking. We also heard that EV charging stations should not reduce barrier-free parking stalls. One participant mentioned that reduced parking rates for EVs could be a way to incentivize the uptake of EVs over traditional vehicles.

What We Are Doing

+ The refined action focuses on expanding the electric vehicle (EV) charging network by leveraging third party investment in EV charging infrastructure co-located at priority City locations and supporting those without home charging access.

+ The City will facilitate the placement of chargers on existing municipal sites rather than providing direct grants or selling land. This market-based approach attracts private investment while maintaining the primary use of City facilities.

+ Feedback regarding the implementation of this action, including ensuring barrier-free parking stalls are not impacted, will be shared with the City teams who will lead the action.

DRAFT ACTION CONCEPT:
13. ADVANCE THE DECARBONIZATION OF THE CITY'S BUS, LIGHT-DUTY AND HEAVY-DUTY VEHICLE FLEET

▶

FINAL ACTION:
9. ADVANCE THE DECARBONIZATION OF THE CITY'S BUS, LIGHT-DUTY AND HEAVY-DUTY VEHICLE FLEET

What We Heard

+ **Defining Lower Emission Alternatives:** Various perspectives shared what lower emission alternatives should be pursued. Utility providers mentioned that a broad range of opportunities should be considered, not just electrification. A specific example was that compressed natural gas (CNG) in combination with renewable natural gas (RNG) buses often have a lower purchase cost than electric buses, but still offer lower emissions than diesel buses. We heard strong support from utility providers for renewable natural gas. In contrast, we heard from climate NGOs that EV technology is rapidly progressing, and that future investments should focus on this technology, rather than existing/conventional technologies. Climate NGOs also specifically mentioned how battery technology is greatly improving in cold-weather performance, which was a concern mentioned by some of the general public. A general NGO mentioned that hydrogen should not be pursued.

+ **Nuisance Reduction:** One general NGO participant mentioned the importance of electric machinery in reducing fleet noise, especially for those who are neurodivergent, as well as reducing local emissions from fleet vehicles for those who are sensitive to emissions.

+ **Charge Stations:** Climate NGOs mentioned that more local fast charging stops (i.e. pantograph chargers) along transit routes should be provided, in addition to charging stations at vehicle storage areas, to improve the performance of EV buses.

+ **Procurement and Testing to Reduce Risk:** We heard from Climate NGOs the importance of testing new technologies, working directly with suppliers, and purchasing from established companies for lower emission investments.

What We Are Doing

+ The action has been developed to be open to various technology opportunities. Reduced noise pollution has been added as a health and safety outcome.

+ This action will focus on deploying technologies that meet operational and performance requirements, based on studies and trials.

+ Feedback regarding the implementation of this action, including the importance for additional charging infrastructure, testing, and procurement to reduce risks, will be shared with the City team who will lead the action.

Infrastructure Sector

DRAFT ACTION CONCEPT:
14. SUPPORT RESILIENCE HUBS IN COMMUNITIES

▶

FINAL ACTION:
10. SUPPORT RESILIENCE HUBS IN COMMUNITIES

What We Heard

+ **Accessible Information, Communication and Access:** Resilience hubs should be accessible facilities located in areas reachable for people with disabilities, supported by significant efforts to provide accessible information and ensure those in need are aware of the hubs and have the means to reach them. Members of the public highlighted how it is important that resilience hubs be accessible by preventing strong odors (perfume) and smoking. We heard from Indigenous Partners how important it is to consider the unhoused population and their unique barriers to accessing shelters. People need access to places where they feel safe. This includes cultural considerations.

+ **Operation Times and Resourcing:** Questions were asked about the opening hours of resilience hubs, and whether they will be operating 24/7 during prolonged extreme weather events. We also heard that it is important to have professional resources at hubs to provide wrap-around support.

+ **Support Existing Facilities:** We heard from one climate NGO that it is important to leverage existing facilities including transit facilities to support this service. We also heard that other community resilience measures, such as community gardens, should be easier to develop, and that the City should simplify processes for this.

What We Are Doing

+ The scope of this action has been further refined to consider accessibility, operational, and resourcing needs.

+ Key activities include establishing selection criteria for Resilience Hubs based on infrastructure, operations, and social services, while also accounting for transportation requirements. It also includes pursuing partnerships with local organizations to address unique requirements and expand the network.

+ Feedback regarding the implementation of this action will be shared with the City teams who will lead the work. Please note that transit shelters and community gardens are excluded from this scope, as Resilience Hubs are intended to be community facilities capable of delivering a wide range of services during extreme weather events.

DRAFT ACTION CONCEPT:
15. INTEGRATE CLIMATE-RELATED RISKS AND EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS INTO EMERGENCY RESPONSE MANAGEMENT PLANNING AND PREPAREDNESS

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FINAL ACTION:
11. INTEGRATE CLIMATE-RELATED RISKS AND EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS INTO EMERGENCY RESPONSE MANAGEMENT

What We Heard

+ **Partnering with Building Owners:** A development industry member shared that emergency planning is often done at a municipal level, but building owners need clear, actionable guidance and defined roles during emergency events, including training. The City could play a role in providing this guidance and coordination.

+ **Public Facilities:** General NGOs mentioned that more public facilities, such as water fountains and washrooms, are needed as part of the City's coordinated emergency response, disaster relief and crisis response planning. One participant suggested that the City not force encampments to close during extreme weather events.

+ **Risk Assessment:** One climate NGO participant noted that current efforts should focus on getting an accurate assessment of risk for different climate events, to then implement plans for those risks in future budget cycles.

+ **Public Awareness and Education:** Climate and general NGOs highlighted that emergency preparedness requires a heavy focus on public education with opportunities to leverage programs such as "Get Ready in the Park". Ensuring accessibility of information across all stages of emergency preparedness and emergency response management, including evacuation, sheltering, and emergency communications was also seen as important.

What We Are Doing

+ This action has been further developed and includes considerations for robust social services during emergencies.

+ The action includes key planned activities such as evolving our municipal climate and environmental hazard assessments, and enhancing emergency response training and exercises to manage large-scale events.

+ Feedback regarding the implementation of this action, including potential for partnering with the public and general emergency response planning, will be shared with the City teams who will lead the action.

DRAFT ACTION CONCEPT:
16. INCORPORATE NEW WEATHER EXTREMES AND SHIFTING SEASONS INTO BUSINESS CONTINUITY PLANS AND STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR CITY SERVICES, CIVIC EVENTS AND PROGRAMMING

▶

FINAL ACTION:
12. INTEGRATE EXTREME WEATHER AND SHIFTING SEASONS INTO BUSINESS CONTINUITY PLANS, OPERATIONS, SERVICES AND CIVIC EVENTS

What We Heard

+ **Snow Clearing:** Several participants mentioned business planning during extreme snowfall (Note: during this engagement period, Edmonton experienced a large amount of snowfall). Specifically, one general NGO mentioned the special consideration needed for people with disabilities and how service disruptions impact them (i.e. paratransit). We heard that the City should prioritize snow clearing and enforce clearing pathways so that people who need to use transit can access it. We also heard that roads and sidewalks need to be cleared after major thaw events, not just snow events.

+ **More Detail Required:** Some participants mentioned that more details on this action are required, and that wellbeing of City staff should be considered during these extreme weather events.

+ **Risk Assessment:** One climate NGO participant noted that current efforts should focus on getting an accurate assessment of risk for different climate events, to then implement plans for those risks in future budget cycles.

What We Are Doing

+ This action has been further refined to clarify scope and include details on proposed activities, and how they consider the wellbeing of City staff and Edmontonians.

+ Modernizing business continuity programming in anticipation of climate-related service disruptions, updating operational plans to identify resourcing needs, and updating health and safety protocols for City staff are part of the proposed activities.

+ Feedback regarding the implementation of this action, including accounting for impacts of extreme weather events on roads and pathways, will be shared with the City teams who will lead the action.

DRAFT ACTION CONCEPT:
17. ADVANCE CLIMATE RESILIENCE IMPROVEMENTS FOR CITY INFRASTRUCTURE

▶

FINAL ACTION:
13. ADVANCE IMPROVEMENTS FOR EXISTING CITY INFRASTRUCTURE TO IMPROVE ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CLIMATE READINESS

What We Heard

+ **Lifecycle Costs and Co-benefits:** Utility providers and general NGOs shared that policy for infrastructure should prioritize co-benefits and life-cycle costs. By tracking the costs of climate-related renewal and material performance, the City can better inform future decisions and prioritize improvements for the locations that need renewal the most.

+ **Reducing Heat:** One Indigenous partner mentioned that reducing the heat absorption of public roads should be considered through interventions such as higher reflective road surfaces and more natural solutions in road design.

+ **Integration with Utility Partners:** Utility providers mentioned the importance of coordinating infrastructure upgrades between areas the City is responsible for vs. areas utility providers are responsible for, to improve efficiency. One academic participant mentioned the importance of planning for power outages.

+ **Sequencing:** We heard from one climate NGO that **Action 14** should be completed before this action.

What We Are Doing

+ The action has been adjusted to prioritize upgrades that will bring the greatest benefits.

+ **Action 22** includes activities to support grid efficiency and resiliency and collaboration with utility partners.

+ Feedback regarding the implementation of this action, including cost tracking, sequencing, and reducing heat absorption of public roads, will be shared with the City teams who will lead the action.

DRAFT ACTION CONCEPT:
18. INCORPORATE CLIMATE RESILIENT DESIGN PRACTICES INTO THE CITY'S DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS

▶

FINAL ACTION:
14. INCORPORATE CLIMATE RESILIENT DESIGN PRACTICES INTO THE CITY'S DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS

What We Heard

+ **Natural Solutions:** More natural assets, such as Low Impact Development (LID) and boulevards, should be considered over engineered solutions for climate resilience (i.e. drainage). We heard from Indigenous partners that land should not be viewed from a colonial mindset (i.e. not viewing land as a resource or commodity).

+ **Standards with Clear Direction on Compromises:** Multiple participants shared that standards need to be improved to provide more direction when making design tradeoff decisions. One example from a development industry representative was regarding topsoil requirements for development, where existing topsoil must be remediated to a high standard above what occurs naturally. We also heard from climate NGOs to look at jurisdictions with climates similar to what Edmonton's is expected to change to to understand best practices.

+ **Consider Embodied Carbon:** We heard from climate NGOs that embodied carbon outcomes need to be considered when setting design standards. We also heard from development industry reps that sidewalk and pavement widths should be reduced to reduce the amount of hard-surfacing.

+ **Procurement Practices:** Prioritize local and social procurement practices.

What We Are Doing

+ This action has been refined to ensure that updates are integrated efficiently and in alignment with existing processes.

+ Feedback regarding the implementation of this action will be shared with the City teams who will lead the action.

Nature and Water Sector

DRAFT ACTION CONCEPT:		FINAL ACTION:
19. OPTIMIZE URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE	▶	15. PRESERVE, PROTECT AND ENHANCE TREE CANOPY AND URBAN LANDSCAPES

What We Heard

- **Critical Importance of Urban Forest:** All types of participants shared the importance the urban forest is to Edmontonians providing shade, reduction of urban heat island effects, stormwater management and improving air quality. We heard that urban forests should be considered critical infrastructure.

- **Importance of Private Canopy:** Climate NGOs, General NGOs and Utilities mentioned that it is essential to also consider private canopy as an asset which should be expanded and protected. It was suggested that canopy targets on private property should be established. It is also important to consider an economic value for mature trees to restrict removal since planting new trees does not adequately compensate for the ecosystem service for many years.

- **Tension between Trees and Development and Wildfire Risk:** Mature trees need to be protected during development and redevelopment. We also heard that the best way to protect trees is to limit greenfield development and increase densification. Several respondents mentioned how increased urban canopy also increases wildfire risk.

- **Accessibility:** Increasing the urban canopy should not come at the cost of accessibility and clear travel zones.

- **Implementation Considerations:** Several implementation suggestions were put forward:
    - Plan tree selection and ongoing maintenance in advance during neighbourhood renewal rather than implement retroactive watering plans.
    - Increase infill and new development soil depth to at least 300mm. This will increase soil moisture and retention providing greater resilience and reduce stormwater runoff while promoting better root development.
    - Implement green infrastructure in all City redevelopment in the River Valley Bylaw area.
    - Promote Low Impact Development (LID) programs on private property.
    - Avoid harm and loss of mature trees resulting from City inspections.
    - Consider planting trees following natural ecosystem principles, for example, in locations where water naturally accumulates.
- **Dutch Elm Disease:** Public education campaigns are needed around dutch elm disease and other diseases. We also heard that the City needs a plan to mitigate losses.

- **Pesticide and Fertilizer Use:** Indigenous partners highlighted how insects and animals are part of the ecosystem and feed each other. Preservation and balance should be employed rather than pesticides. We also heard from NGOs that pesticide and fertilizer use should be severely curtailed given their ecosystem impacts including river pollution.

- **Pest and Risk Management Frameworks:** Climate NGOs highlighted that pest and risk management frameworks should be incorporated into the actions. By using a risk-based

framework and vulnerability management, prioritization of tree health, monitoring and rapid response strategies can be achieved.

What We Are Doing

+ **Action 15** consolidates **Action Concept 19 and elements of 6**. The scope of this action has been modified to include all of Edmonton's urban forest (public and private trees), as well as other urban landscaping (i.e. other beneficial plantings). This change underscores the importance of the urban forest as identified by participants.

+ Key planned activities include updating watering and soil maintenance programs, protecting tree health by upgrading site conditions, and improving our pest and disease management programs; as well as activities that encourage tree care and resilient landscaping practices on private property.

+ Implementation considerations, including those surrounding pesticide and fertilizer use and their interactions with land, water, and ecology, will be shared with the City teams who will lead the action.

DRAFT ACTION CONCEPT:
20. GROW AND PROTECT THE URBAN FOREST AND NATURAL ASSETS

▶

FINAL ACTION:
16. STEWARD AND SAFEGUARD NATURAL AREAS

What We Heard

+ **Education:** The public needs more education on behaviour in naturally sensitive areas and the impact of certain activities on wildlife, vegetation and bodies of water.

+ **Indigenous Stewardship and Knowledge:** We heard from Indigenous partners that ceremonial sites, community gardens and agricultural lands need to be returned to Indigenous stewardship not sold as assets for development. In addition, traditional sites should be re-naturalized with Indigenous park rangers.

  Incorporating edible vegetation and native medicinal plants is important.

  We also heard from Indigenous Partners wondering how this Action will integrate the 2050 planning for the urban forest canopy the City worked with Elders and Knowledge Holders to establish.

+ **Valuation Method:** Any monetary valuation of ecosystem goods and services needs to account for all factors such as the benefits greenspace provided during COVID.

What We Are Doing

+ The scope of this action has been revised to focus on natural areas, based on feedback provided for **Actions 15** and **16**.

+ Key planned activities for this action includes increased stewardship efforts in natural areas and

safeguarding natural areas through purchase of lands within priority areas of the River Valley and Ravine system.

+ Considerations of Indigenous Stewardship and Knowledge has been included through two new actions. **Action 1** establishes a foundational commitment to ongoing engagement as a lens for all Climate Implementation Priorities, while **Action 19**, focuses on integrating Traditional Ecological Knowledge within the City's land-use planning and development process.

+ Implementation considerations, including those surrounding monetary valuation of ecosystem goods and services, will be shared with the City teams who will lead the action.

DRAFT ACTION CONCEPT:
21. DEVELOP A WATER MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK THAT INCORPORATES WATER SECURITY AND DROUGHT PREPAREDNESS

▶

FINAL ACTION:
17. IMPROVE WATER SECURITY BY PROTECTING URBAN WATERSHED HEALTH

What We Heard

+ **Protect & Respect:** Indigenous partners and many other respondents highlighted the importance of our watershed and the need for a holistic approach to its protection. This feedback emphasized the importance of acting from a place of respect and honor for water, specifically for the North Saskatchewan River, while recognizing that waterways have a right to existence.

+ **Urgency & Importance:** The urgency of action was re-iterated and the fundamental ecological importance of waterways and wetlands was advanced by many.

+ **Scope Clarification:** Local drought and North Saskatchewan river drought are two different issues and respondents wondered what the water management framework intends to address. Utilities also wondered how the Water Management Framework would align and work with EPCOR's Integrated Watershed Management Strategy, Source Water Protection Plan and Drought Resiliency Plan and the City's Green Edmonton Strategy.

+ **Partnerships & Connection:** It was suggested the City should partner with other municipalities along the North Saskatchewan River to align action and stewardship. It was also highlighted that since water in the North Saskatchewan River comes from upstream, implementation will only be possible with watershed-level partnerships.
+ We also heard that urban activities affect others along waterways and that issues with urban systems can impact others such as the watermain break in Calgary.

+ **Preserve & Re-use:** The City should be preparing for a permanently more arid ecosystem by modeling future climate risks and adopting proven solutions from historically similar jurisdictions. This includes recycling stormwater, filtering wastewater, and collecting snowmelt and rainwater for building systems and irrigation..

+ **Natural Solutions:** Consideration should be given to natural solutions versus engineered

solutions through careful cost-benefit analyses, specifically for drainage and natural water flow such as LID, boulevards, rivers, and streams. Indigenous participants also asked to reframe our thinking where problems are integrated with solutions, such as capturing flood hazards to become drought resilience solutions.

+ **Tree Stress:** The link between actions related to the urban forest and natural landscapes and the drought management plan was highlighted.

+ **Drought Pricing:** It was suggested a demand management tool with a hierarchy of use (e.g. golf courses, car washes, etc.) be implemented during drought periods.

+ **Educational Campaign:** A campaign to prompt water conservation should be developed and implemented.

What We Are Doing

+ This action language and scope has been refined to highlight the importance and interconnectedness of the work we must do to protect our urban watershed.

+ Key planned activities include developing a drought resilience plan focusing on corporate water consumption, and applying municipal levers to implement watershed health targets and protections into land use planning and civic operations. It also includes support for water re-use and conservation and to approach the water cycle from a holistic perspective rather than discrete actions.

+ Feedback regarding the implementation of this action, such as collaboration with key partners and utilities and understanding the nuances of engineered and nature-based solutions, will be shared with the City teams who will lead the action.

+ Please note that setting water rates is out of scope for this action, as that is in the purview of EPCOR Water Services. The City has a Corporate Water Shortage Response Plan which focuses on achieving corporate reductions during water scarcity events.

DRAFT ACTION CONCEPT:
22. EXPAND FLOOD HAZARD MAPPING TO INCORPORATE CREEKS AND RAVINES AND PREPARE A FLOOD DEFENCE STRATEGY

▶

FINAL ACTION:
18. DEVELOP A RIVER AND CREEK FLOOD RESILIENCE STRATEGY

What We Heard

+ **Implementation Concerns:** Ecological intelligence is required to avoid infrastructure investments that might fail. We heard that flooding can occur anywhere and under different forms.

+ **Integrate with other Hazards:** Flood hazard should not be considered in isolation.

+ **Monitoring & Partnerships:** Frequent and early detection monitoring of creeks, rivers and tributaries is required. Working with upstream districts will be essential. We also heard that working and learning from other similar municipalities would be beneficial.

+ **Natural Assets:** The retention of natural assets can be more impactful than engineered solutions.

What We Are Doing

+ The scope of this action has been refined to provide more clarity.

+ Key planned activities include expanding our knowledge of creeks, rivers, and tributaries, and developing a strategy that evaluates a spectrum of flood risk reduction options to implement. These considerations include policy approaches to development, nature based solutions, and infrastructure investments.

+ Feedback about implementation, including leveraging other municipalities' learnings and partnerships, will be provided to the City teams leading this action.

DRAFT ACTION CONCEPT:
23. IMPLEMENT A VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM TO REDUCE WILDFIRE RISK

▶

FINAL ACTION:
19. IMPLEMENT THE WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE WILDFIRE RISK STRATEGY

What We Heard

+ **Indigenous Knowledge:** Partnerships with Indigenous organizations and the integration of Indigenous knowledge and practices is essential. We heard that controlled burns should be paired with land reclamation projects and managed ecosystem replacement that includes native species, edible landscapes and Indigenous agriculture.
  We heard that educating surrounding communities on the importance and reason for controlled burns is essential.

+ **Include Private Property:** Vegetation should also be managed on private property and that educational support will be required. We also heard that assisted support would be required for those unable to implement measures such as seniors.

+ **Prohibited Weeds:** We heard about the importance of managing prohibited weeds which spread quickly and which create wildfire risks when dry.

+ **Integrated Community Approach:** Wildfire touches several municipal emergency services, utilities, building owners and tenants. We heard an integrated approach is required where everyone participates in wildfire risk mitigation planning.

+ **Wildfire Risks other than Vegetation:** Consideration should also be given to wildfire risks arising from encampments, densification policies and waste management.

What We Are Doing

+ **Action 19** consolidates **Action Concepts 1** and **23** and supports wildfire risk reduction on both City land and private property.

+ The key planned activities for the action have been refined to reflect planned integration of Indigenous knowledge and fire stewardship into standard practices through engagement. It also includes increasing wildfire awareness and preparedness though a community engagement program and collaboration with neighbouring jurisdictions.

+ Feedback about implementation, including managing weeds and wildfire risks other than vegetation, will be provided to the City teams leading this action.

Low Carbon Energy and Waste Sector

DRAFT ACTION CONCEPT:
24. ENABLE COMMUNITY LED RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS

▶

FINAL ACTION:
21. STIMULATE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT IN RENEWABLE ENERGY BY ENABLING PROJECTS CO-LOCATED ON CITY PROPERTY

What We Heard

+ **Enable Solar at Public Facilities:** Several groups expressed support of enabling solar installations at existing City facilities, such as recreation centres, parking lots or land near highways. We heard greater support for leveraging these types of sites over reducing greenspace for solar installations.

+ **Focus on Community Level Solutions:** Climate NGOs highlighted the importance of looking at larger-scale projects at the community level, to create pathways to net-zero neighbourhoods. Academics built on this, highlighting the importance of focusing on community solutions rather than individual solutions, especially from an equity perspective. We heard from a few participants that the City should focus incentives on these larger, community-scale projects that could benefit more people.

+ **City as an Enabler, Supporter and Educator:** The City should play a role in reducing barriers, sharing information, and acting as a facilitator of community-led projects. The City should ensure the entire process of developing a community renewable energy project is clear. This includes identifying who potential interested groups are and advertising the opportunities to the public. One educational institution mentioned the idea of having a portal for this process that is interactive and supports potential interested groups.

+ **Regulatory Changes:** There may be barriers with microgeneration regulations from the Province.

+ **Ownership and Purchasing Models:** It was suggested that co-ops be explored as an ownership model. We also heard interest in solar credits for use in the winter, and long-term purchasing agreements with community owners.

What We Are Doing

+ The action recognizes the importance of community level solutions and leveraging City facilities and other appropriate properties to expand and accelerate renewable energy generation.

+ Feedback regarding the implementation of this action will be shared with the City teams who will lead the action.

DRAFT ACTION CONCEPT:
25. COLLABORATE WITH PARTNERS TO ADVANCE UTILITY REGULATION AND PROGRAMS THAT REDUCE ENERGY USE AND INCREASE GRID RESILIENCE

▶

FINAL ACTION:
22. COLLABORATE WITH UTILITY PARTNERS ON INITIATIVES THAT INCREASE GRID RESILIENCE AND THAT REDUCE ENERGY USE AND COSTS

What We Heard

+ **Benefits of Demand-Side Management:** We heard from Utilities the importance of a demand-side management enabling framework in Alberta that would allow utilities to lead energy saving programs for customers. We heard that these programs allow for significant financial savings for both utilities and customers.

+ **Importance of Partnering with EPCOR:** The importance of working with EPCOR, Edmonton's electricity distribution provider, to ensure our electricity grid is resilient by leveraging energy storage was highlighted.

+ **Focus on Actions where the City Controls the Outcome:** The City should not utilize resources for advocacy work. The Province needs to enable demand-side management. We heard the focus should be on actions where progress can be measured.

What We Are Doing

+ **Action 22** consolidates **Action Concepts 25** and **32** to combine initiatives advancing the future of our electricity grid.

+ The action recognizes the potential for demand-side management policies and utility-led programs. Demand-side management falls under provincial jurisdiction, with a late 2025 mandate from the Premier signaling a shift toward enabling these electricity policies and ongoing engagement from the Alberta Utilities Commission for time-varying rates to support.

+ The City will support utilities and Edmonton's electricity distribution provider (EPCOR Transmission and Distribution Inc.) to advance this action. The City will also work with key partners to reduce red tape to facilitate renewable energy adoption.

+ Feedback will be shared with the City teams who will lead the action.

DRAFT ACTION CONCEPT:
26. IDENTIFY ALTERNATIVE FUNDING OPTIONS FOR CITY CLIMATE RESILIENCE PROJECTS

▶

FINAL ACTION:
26. IDENTIFY ALTERNATIVE FUNDING OPTIONS FOR CITY EMISSION REDUCTION AND CLIMATE PREPAREDNESS PROJECTS

What We Heard

+ **Utility Savings:** A reserve fund could be established with the realized utility savings from energy-efficiency measures.
+ **Consider all Emissions:** Infrastructure projects should consider material efficiency to reduce the total greenhouse gas emissions of a project, in addition to operational emissions.
+ **Costs of Infrastructure Projects:** Long-term financial impacts need to be considered, including maintenance and operation costs. We also heard that infrastructure solutions should be economically feasible.

What We Are Doing

+ The refined action remains focused on identifying and securing funding for climate resilient City projects.
+ The action includes key planned activities to explore alternative funding options for future climate projects and to identify and secure alternative funding to reduce emissions and mitigate risk from climate hazards for City projects.
+ Feedback regarding the implementation of this action, including cost of infrastructure projects and emissions will be shared with the City teams who will lead the action.

DRAFT ACTION CONCEPT:
27. FURTHER EXPAND EDMONTON'S DISTRICT ENERGY NETWORK INTO IDENTIFIED OPPORTUNITY AREAS

▶

FINAL ACTION:
24. ENABLE DELIVERY OPTIONS FOR DISTRICT ENERGY

What We Heard

+ **Renewable Energy Source:** It is important to use renewable energy instead of natural gas for District Energy networks.
+ **Address Adoption Barriers:** A mechanism to ensure buildings connect to the district energy system is essential, including factoring in costs.
+ **Opportunity Areas:** Sources of wasted heat should be included in the criteria for identifying opportunity areas.
+ **Affordability:** It is important to consider who is financing the system and the rate impact when

expensive assets need to be replaced.

+ **City Expansion:** District Energy should be considered when expanding into new areas where District Energy systems can be included as part of the initial design and planning.

+ **Partnerships:** There was support for the expansion of District Energy through partnerships with the private sector.

What We Are Doing

+ This action has been refined to focus on enabling external delivery models for district energy.

+ Feedback regarding the implementation of this action will be shared with the City teams who will lead the action.

DRAFT ACTION CONCEPT:
28. INSTALL SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) CANOPIES WITH VEHICLE CHARGERS AND BATTERY STORAGE AT CITY FACILITIES

▶

FINAL ACTION:
25. INSTALL SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) CANOPIES WITH INTEGRATED VEHICLE CHARGERS AT CITY FACILITIES

What We Heard

+ **Expand the Scope:** Several respondents mentioned that Solar Photovoltaic systems should be installed at every appropriate facility, including public facing facilities, and that installations should not be limited to canopies.

+ **Simple and Impactful:** We heard support for this action and how PV systems can easily be implemented with demonstrated benefits.

What We Are Doing

+ The refined action remains focused on installing solar PV systems with integrated vehicle chargers at select facilities.

+ **Action 13** includes activities to implement climate upgrades at City facilities, which may also include solar PV systems. **Action 21** includes activities to enable community projects on City property.

+ Feedback regarding the implementation of this action will be shared with the City teams who will lead the action.

DRAFT ACTION CONCEPT:
29. EXPLORE OPTIONS TO GENERATE USEFUL ENERGY FROM GAS THAT IS CAPTURED AT THE CLOVER BAR LANDFILL

▶

FINAL ACTION:
26. EXPLORE OPTIONS TO GENERATE ENERGY FROM GAS THAT IS CAPTURED AT THE CLOVER BAR LANDFILL

What We Heard

+ **Renewable Natural Gas Potential:** Support for renewable natural gas initiatives with mention that this renewable natural gas can be used as a revenue source for the City and leveraged to decarbonize fleet and City facilities. We also heard how important it is to capture methane emissions which is a potent greenhouse gas.

+ **Regulations:** Questions were asked about how the City manages the methane emissions from landfills and what is being done to reduce the impacts of this greenhouse gas more generally.

+ **Expand the Scope to all Landfills:** The City should be looking at capturing emissions to produce renewable natural gas at all appropriate facilities and not only the Clover Bar Landfill.

What We Are Doing

+ This action has been refined to include activities to explore how landfill gas learnings can be applied to other significant sources of methane in Edmonton.

+ Feedback regarding the implementation of this action, including the importance of reducing methane emissions, and opportunities to decarbonize the City fleet and facilities, will be shared with the City teams who will lead the action.

DRAFT ACTION CONCEPT:
30. ADVANCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN SUSTAINABLE FUELS FROM WASTE

▶

FINAL ACTION:
26. EXPLORE OPTIONS TO GENERATE ENERGY FROM GAS THAT IS CAPTURED AT THE CLOVER BAR LANDFILL

What We Heard

+ **Mixed Support:** Some respondents highlighted the importance of promoting and supporting biofuels. It was also identified as an opportunity for economic development with Scandinavia being given as a model to emulate.
  Other respondents advanced that Academia or the Provincial Government would be best suited to pursue such initiatives and this should not be something the City pursues. We heard skepticism about the viability of sustainable fuels as an economic opportunity.

What We Are Doing

+ This action has been removed, and some activities have been integrated into **Action 26** to continue advancing partnerships with Academia and other orders of government to advance sustainable fuel opportunities.

DRAFT ACTION CONCEPT:
31. REDUCE FOOD WASTE WITHIN EDMONTON'S FOOD SYSTEM

▶

FINAL ACTION:
27. ADVANCE WASTE REDUCTION AND DIVERSION INITIATIVES WITH A FOCUS ON ORGANIC WASTE

What We Heard

- **Equity:** Accessibility, dietary restrictions, and those in situations of food insecurity need to be considered.
- **Support:** The City should be doing even more to reduce food waste.
- **Circular Economy:** Circular economy principles should guide this action.
- **Implementation Suggestions:** Several suggestions on implementing this action were provided, such as:
  - Public food segregation bins
  - Urban farming
  - Program to donate leftover food from events and festivals to those experiencing food insecurity
  - Anaerobic food digester program
  - Education initiatives such as publicizing the food waste roadmap at community leagues and events
  - Facilitate participation by simplifying the process
  - Compost food waste to use in parks
  - Collect Christmas trees for mulch
  - Fine stores and restaurants for food waste

What We Are Doing

- This action has been refined to focus on advancing waste reduction and diversion initiatives, in alignment with the City of Edmonton's Waste Reduction Roadmaps.
- The action will include activities to reduce the disposal of edible food, which helps support reliable access to sufficient, affordable and nutritious food for Edmontonians
- Feedback regarding the implementation of this action will be shared with the City teams who will lead the action.

DRAFT ACTION CONCEPT:
32. REDUCE BARRIERS AND RED TAPE FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY IN EDMONTON

▶

FINAL ACTION:
22. COLLABORATE WITH UTILITY PARTNERS ON INITIATIVES THAT INCREASE GRID RESILIENCE AND THAT REDUCE ENERGY USE AND COSTS

What We Heard

- **Financial Impacts:** Complexity and delays lead to negative financial impacts which can lead to renewable energy projects being abandoned.

+ **Education:** More information is needed to allow Edmontonians to confidently determine how and whether to pursue renewable energy projects. This should include information on the value proposition.

+ **Lifecycle Emissions:** It is necessary to consider the full lifecycle emissions for solar photovoltaic and other renewable energy sources. We also heard that depletion of resources and impacts in other communities need to be taken into account.

+ **Microgeneration Regulation:** Advocacy to allow for production of energy exceeding building electricity use should be pursued.

+ **Balcony Solar:** The City should enable balcony solar technology which is prevalent in other jurisdictions such as Germany. We heard that such technology allows more people, including renters, to benefit from renewable energy generation.

+ **Microgrids:** The City should be promoting microgrids which are small-scale localized power grids that can operate autonomously when needed.

What We Are Doing

+ **Action 22** consolidates **Action Concepts 25** and **32**. The Action looks at the future of Edmonton's electricity grid more broadly. The City will work with key partners to reduce red tape to facilitate renewable energy adoption.

+ Feedback including the description of financial, education and regulatory barriers will be shared with the City teams who will lead the action.

Appendix 2: Full Analysis of Quantitative Survey Responses

The survey had both quantitative (answers with pre-defined selection options) and qualitative (open-ended responses) questions and collected optional demographic information from respondents.

Quantitative responses from all 3,849 participants (2,855 from the Edmonton Insight Community and 994 from the open link) were analyzed and are summarized in the relevant sections of this What We Heard report. In addition to the overall results, this report also includes a sub-group analysis to identify differing perspectives among various residents of Edmonton (e.g., by age, gender, identity, income, or region). It is important to note that the respondent pool is a voluntary sample and is not statistically weighted to be representative of the entire Edmonton population. Therefore, while the insights are valuable, the results reflect the views of the respondents only and should be interpreted with caution when making inferences about the general population as a whole. When differences between sub-groups are mentioned in this report, it is because the variation is noteworthy. In simple terms, we are highlighting instances where a specific group's views are considerably different from the average response or from other groups. Specifically, variations of 10% or more are typically reported.

Climate Action Plan Survey Report

Prepared by Corporate Research

February 2026

CRIC CANADIAN RESEARCH INSIGHTS COUNCIL LE CONSEIL DE RECHERCHE ET D'INTELLIGENCE MARKETING CANADIEN
Client-Side Member

SHARE YOUR VOICE SHAPE OUR CITY

Edmonton

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Edmonton

Background and Objectives

Background

The City of Edmonton is doing a Climate Action Plan Update (2027 - 2030) to ensure its existing climate strategies remain effective and adapt to changing local priorities. These actions are being designed to improve both City operations and the wider Edmonton community. The City conducted this survey to gather public input to inform refinements to the Climate Action Plan Update.

Research objectives

The primary objectives of this survey were to understand how Edmontonians perceive the benefits of the action impacts and how the actions respond to their lived experience.

Methodology and Rationale

The survey was administered online from January 5 to January 30, 2026. A total of 3,849 residents of Edmonton from across the city participated. The invitation to participate was distributed through two primary channels to ensure broad reach: direct email invitations to Edmonton Insight Community (EIC) members and an open link made publicly available.

The findings* in this report summarize the responses from all 3,849 participants (2,855 from the EIC and 994 from the open link). In addition to the overall results, this report also includes a sub-group analysis to identify differing perspectives among various residents of Edmonton (e.g., by age, gender, identity, income, or region). It is important to note that the respondent pool is a voluntary sample and is not statistically weighted to be representative of the entire Edmonton population. Therefore, while the insights are valuable, the results reflect the views of the respondents only and should be interpreted with caution when making inferences about the general population as a whole.

When differences between sub-groups are mentioned in this report, it is because the variation is noteworthy. In simple terms, we are highlighting instances where a specific group's views are considerably different from the average response or from other groups. Specifically, variations of 10% or more are typically reported.

**The findings summarize responses from closed-ended questions only. Open-ended questions are not included in this report.*

Main Findings (1/2)

Climate Perception and Action

- Over two-thirds of respondents agree that we need to act now to address climate change (68%) and climate change is caused mostly by human activities (67%). Agreement is higher among women, those born outside Canada, persons with disabilities, those under 35 years of age, and those identifying as 2SLGBTQIA+.
- 51% of respondents prefer a balanced approach between reducing emissions and preparing for climate impacts. 15% prioritize efforts toward preparing for climate impacts, and 13% favor focusing on reducing emissions and energy use.
- The majority of respondents view all proposed city approaches as important to make climate action happen. Infrastructure projects (79% importance) are the most valued approach.

Infrastructure

- The top two infrastructure goals respondents find important are ensuring support during extreme weather events (80%) and providing safe places during extreme weather events (79%).

Main Findings (2/2)

Low Carbon Energy & Waste

- The top two low carbon energy and waste goals respondents find important are reducing city landfill emissions by converting waste into low-carbon energy (76%) and making installing renewable energy easier by providing improved education and permitting support (75%).

Mobility

- The top three mobility goals are improving transit comfort and safety in extreme weather (76%), providing faster, reliable transit (73%), and building pathways for walking and cycling (68%).

Nature and Water

- The majority of respondents consider all proposed nature and water goals important. The top three goals are protecting the health of the City tree canopy and green spaces (88%), reducing wildfire risk by managing vegetation (88%), and preparing for droughts and water shortages (87%).

Buildings & Land Use

- The majority of respondents consider all proposed building and land use goals important. The top three goals are supporting the cleanup of old vacant commercial or industrial sites (77%), reducing household utility bills and emissions through energy-efficient building programs (76%), and addressing extreme temperature and air quality in living spaces (73%).

Key Findings

Climate Perception & Action
(Base: n=3,849)

Need to act now
68%

Caused by human activities
67%

Balanced Approach (51%) | Prepare for Impacts (15%) | Reduce Emissions (13%) | Do not focus on these areas (22%)

Most Valued Approach: Infrastructure Projects (79% importance)

Infrastructure
(Base: n=2,684)

80% Ensure support during extreme weather events

79% Provide safe places during extreme weather events

Low Carbon Energy & Waste
(Base: n=2,264)

76% Reduce city landfill emissions

75% Easier renewable installation (education & permitting)

Mobility
(Base: n=2,618)

76% Improve transit comfort/safety

73% Faster, reliable transit

68% Building pathways for walking/cycling

Nature and Water
(Base: n=2,584)

88% Protect tree canopy/green spaces

88% Reduce wildfire risk

87% Prepare for droughts

Buildings & Land Use
(Base: n=2,485)

77% Support cleanup of sites

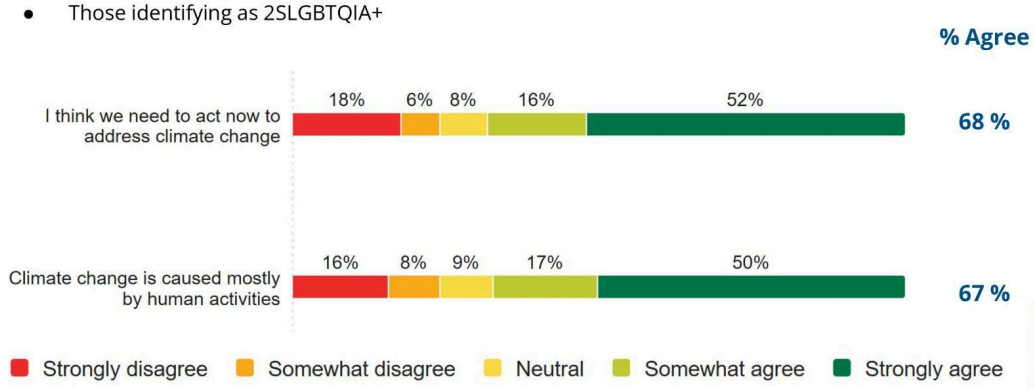
76% Energy-efficient building programs

73% Address extreme temp/air quality

Perception of Climate Change

Over two-thirds of respondents somewhat to strongly agree that we need to act now to address climate change (68%) and climate change is caused mostly by human activities (67%).
Agreement is higher among:

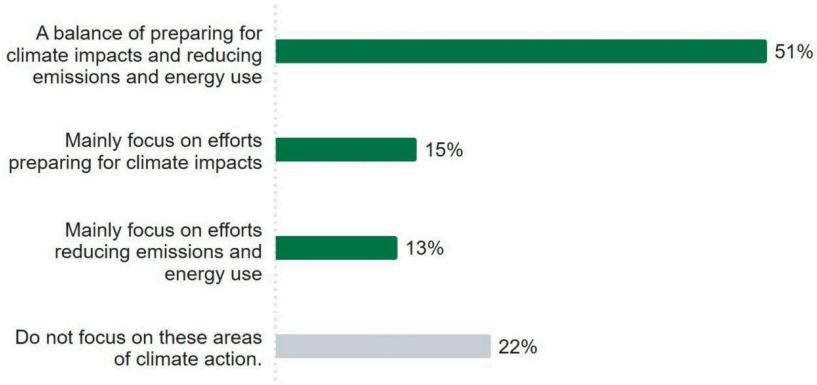
- Women
- Those born outside Canada
- Persons with disabilities
- Those under 35 years of age
- Those identifying as 2SLGBTQIA+



Q14. The next few statements are about how you personally feel about climate change. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
Base: All Respondents (N=3,849)

Priority of Resource Allocation

Over half of respondents (51%) prefer a balance between preparing for climate impacts and reducing emissions and energy use. Meanwhile, 15% prioritize efforts toward preparing for climate impacts, and 13% prefer focusing on reducing emissions and energy use.



Support for a balanced approach is higher among women (vs. men) and among those who agree that we need to act now to address climate change (vs. those who disagree). Prioritization of emissions reduction is higher among those under 35 years of age, those whose primary mode of transportation is bike, e-bike, or public transit, and those who agree that we need to act now to address climate change.

Q1. The actions in the Climate Action Plan Update will fall under two main goals: Reducing Emissions and Energy Use and Preparing for Climate Impacts. Over the next four years (2027–2030), how would you prioritize the allocation of City resources between the two main goals? Please select one option that best reflects your priority.
Base: All Respondents (N=3,849)

Importance of Climate Approaches

The majority of respondents view all proposed city approaches as important for climate action over the next four years. Infrastructure Projects receive the highest level of support, with 79% of respondents rating them as somewhat to very important. Policy and Coordination are also highly valued at 68%, followed by Financial Support and Programs at 64% and Community Awareness and Education at 62%.

Q2. The City uses various approaches to achieve its climate goals. While there are many ways the City can act, the following list includes four major approaches under consideration: Infrastructure Projects, Policy and Coordination, Financial Support and Programs, and Community Awareness and Education. Over the next four years (2027-2030), how important do you feel these approaches are to make climate action happen in Edmonton?
Base: All Respondents (N=3,849)

Importance of Climate Approaches- Sub-Group Analysis

- The perceived importance of all climate approaches is higher among:
  - Those under 35 years of age
  - Women and 2SLGBTQIA+ respondents
  - Those who agree that we need to act now to address climate change
- Respondents living in central areas are more likely to find Policy and Coordination important compared to those in other regions.
- Lower-income households (under $60,000) are more likely to find Policy and Coordination , Financial Support and Programs, and Community Awareness and Education important compared to those with a household income of $150,000 or more.

Q2. The City uses various approaches to achieve its climate goals. While there are many ways the City can act, the following list includes four major approaches under consideration: Infrastructure Projects, Policy and Coordination, Financial Support and Programs, and Community Awareness and Education. Over the next four years (2027-2030), how important do you feel these approaches are to make climate action happen in Edmonton?
Base: All Respondents (N=3,849)

Detailed Results
Infrastructure

This section focuses on how the City assesses, prioritizes and builds infrastructure (like roads, city buildings, bridges and transportation systems like the LRT) and provides municipal services.

Importance of Infrastructure Goals

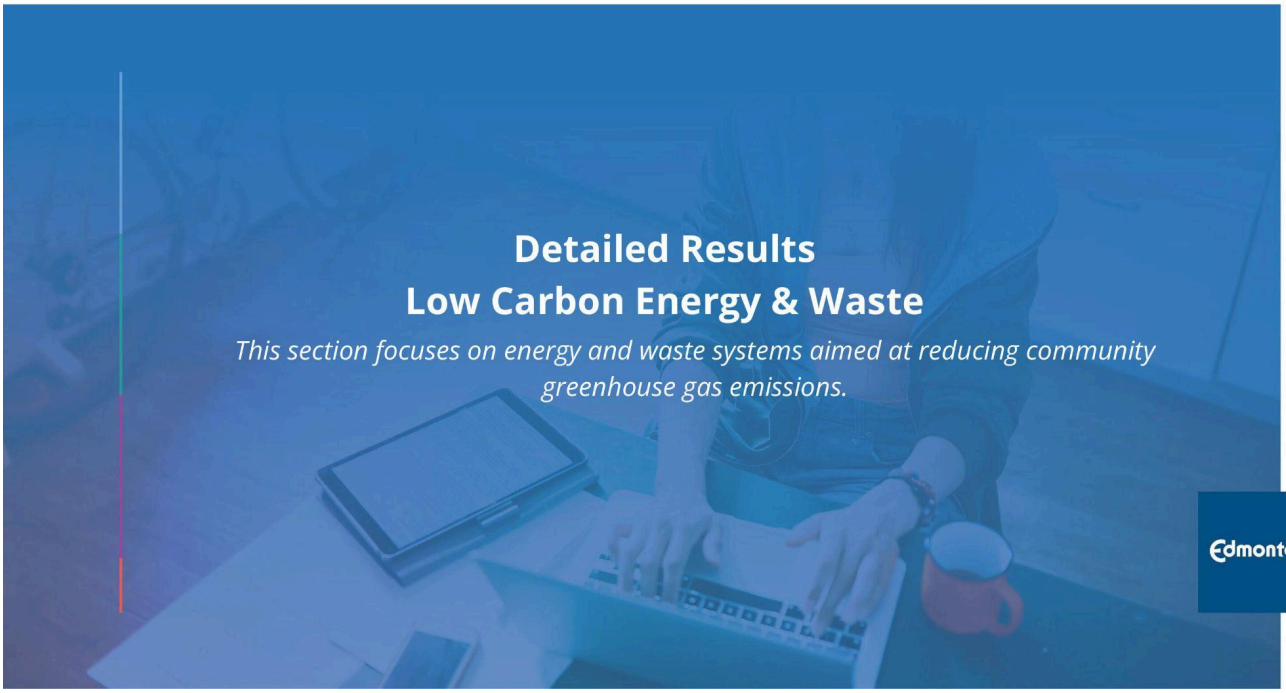
The majority of respondents consider all proposed infrastructure goals important. The top two goals respondents find somewhat to very important are ensuring support during extreme weather events (80%) and providing safe places during extreme weather events (79%).

Q4. How important is it to you that the City focuses on the following goals over the next four years (2027–2030)?
Base: Respondents who choose Infrastructure topic (N=2,684)

Importance of Infrastructure Goals- Sub-Group Analysis

- The perceived importance of all infrastructure goals is higher among:
  - Women
  - 2SLGBTQIA+ respondents
  - Those under 35 years of age
  - Low-income households (under $60,000)
  - Respondents who use public transit as their primary transportation
  - Those agreeing that we need to act now to address climate change
- Respondents living in central areas are more likely to find “reducing energy use by applying higher emission reduction standards in City infrastructure projects” important compared to those in other regions.

Q4. How important is it to you that the City focuses on the following goals over the next four years (2027–2030)?
Base: Respondents who choose Infrastructure topic (N=2,684)

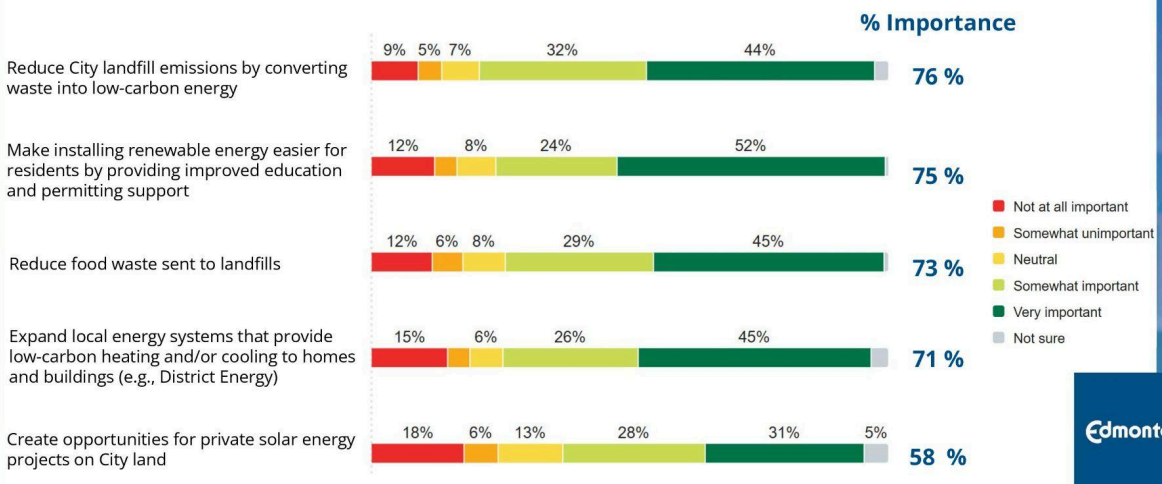


Detailed Results
Low Carbon Energy & Waste

This section focuses on energy and waste systems aimed at reducing community greenhouse gas emissions.

Importance of Low Carbon Energy & Waste Goals

The majority of respondents consider all proposed low carbon energy and waste goals important. The top two goals respondents find somewhat to very important are reducing city landfill emissions by converting waste into low-carbon energy (76%) and making installing renewable energy easier by providing improved education and permitting support (75%).



Q6. How important is it to you that the City focuses on the following goals over the next four years (2027–2030)?
Base: Respondents who choose Low Carbon Energy & Waste topic (N=2,264)

Importance of Low Carbon Energy & Waste Goals- Sub-Group Analysis

- The perceived importance of all low carbon energy and waste goals is higher among:
  - Those under 35 years of age
  - Women
  - 2SLGBTQIA+ respondents
  - Respondents who use public transit as primary transportation
  - Those agreeing that we need to act now to address climate change
- Low-income households (under $60,000) are more likely to find reducing city landfill emissions, reducing food waste, and expanding local energy systems important.
- Respondents living in central areas are more likely to find expanding local energy systems important compared to those in other regions.

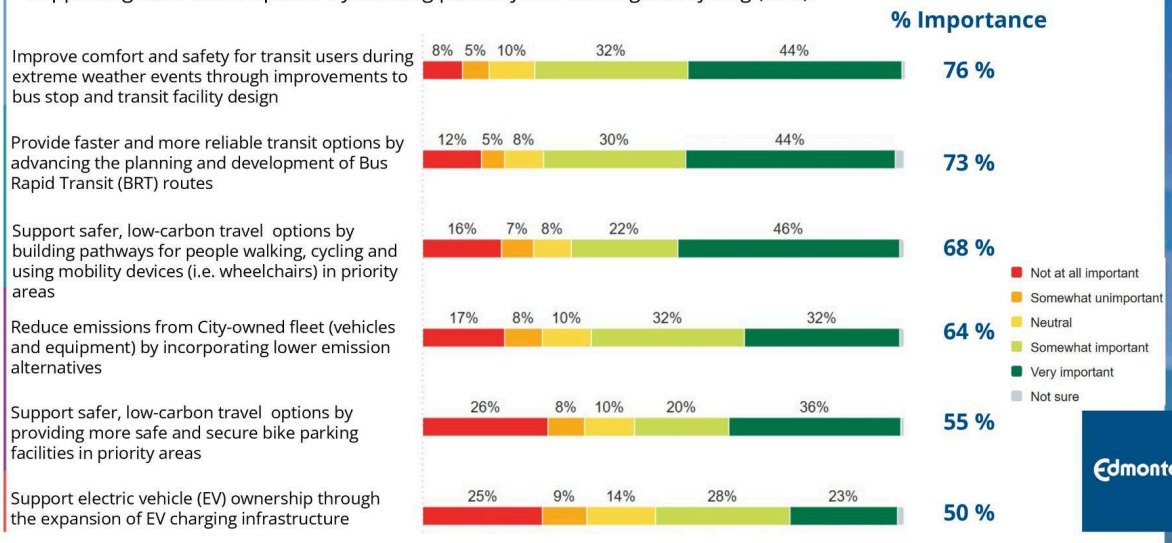
Q6. How important is it to you that the City focuses on the following goals over the next four years (2027–2030)?
Base: Respondents who choose Low Carbon Energy & Waste topic (N=2,264)

Detailed Results
Mobility

This section focuses on how people move throughout Edmonton, and the types of infrastructure and facilities provided to support that movement and reduce emissions from transportation.

Importance of Mobility Goals

The top three mobility goals respondents find somewhat to very important are improving comfort and safety for transit users during extreme weather events (76%), providing faster and more reliable transit options (73%), and supporting safer travel options by building pathways for walking and cycling (68%).

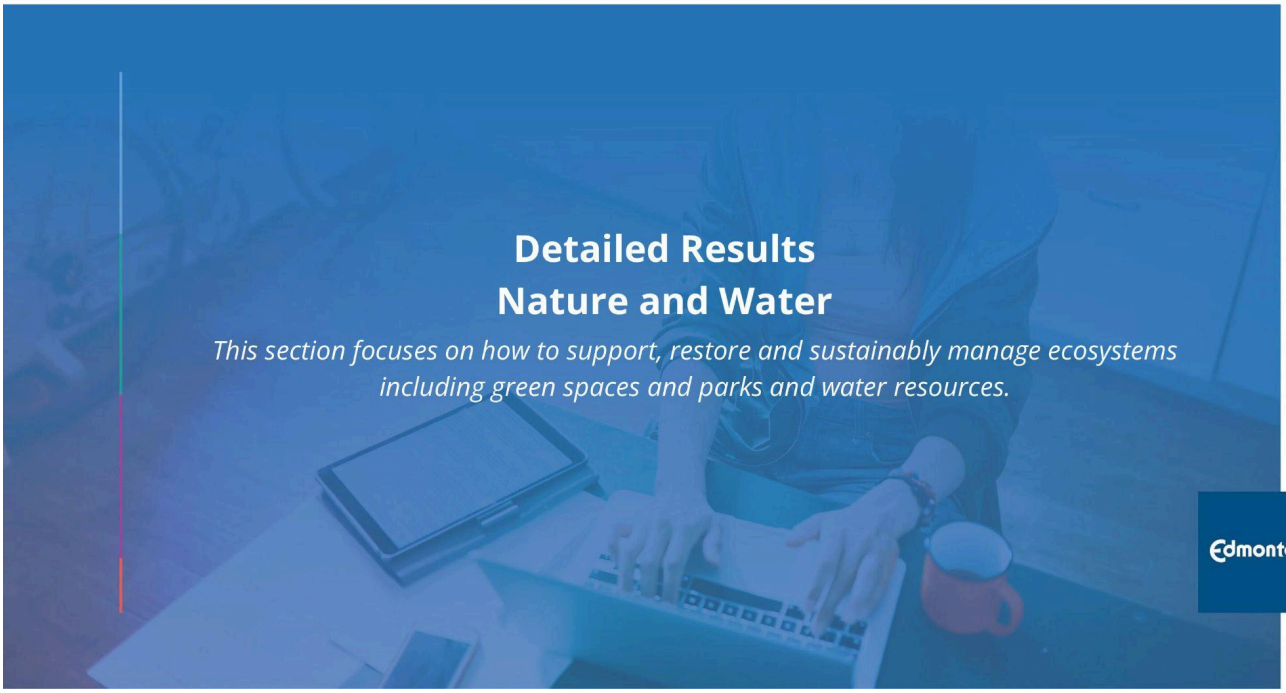


Q8. How important is it to you that the City focuses on the following goals over the next four years (2027–2030)?
Base: Respondents who choose Mobility topic (N=2,618)

Importance of Mobility Goals- Sub-Group Analysis

- The perceived importance of all mobility goals is higher among:
  - Those under 35 years of age
  - 2SLGBTQIA+respondents
  - Respondents who use public transit as primary transportation
  - Those agreeing that we need to act now to address climate change
- Respondents who live in central regions, as well as those who walk or cycle as their primary transportation, also show higher support for secure bike parking and building walking and cycling pathways.
- Low-income households (under $60,000) are more likely to prioritize "improving transit comfort and safety during extreme weather events through improvements to bus stop and transit facility design" and "supporting safer, low-carbon travel options by building pathways for walking, cycling, and mobility devices" compared to high-income households.

Q8. How important is it to you that the City focuses on the following goals over the next four years (2027–2030)?
Base: Respondents who choose Mobility topic (N=2,618)

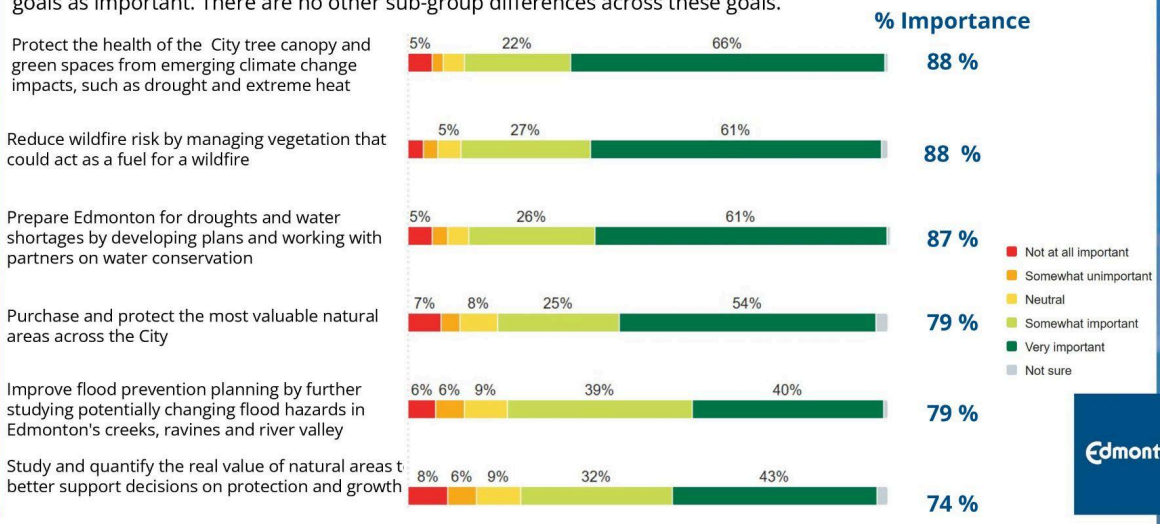


Detailed Results
Nature and Water

This section focuses on how to support, restore and sustainably manage ecosystems including green spaces and parks and water resources.

Importance of Nature and Water Goals

The majority of respondents consider all proposed goals important. The top three goals respondents find somewhat to very important are protecting the health of the City tree canopy and green spaces (88%), reducing wildfire risk by managing vegetation (88%), and preparing for droughts and water shortages (87%).
Those who agree that we need to act now to address climate change are more likely to view all nature and water goals as important. There are no other sub-group differences across these goals.



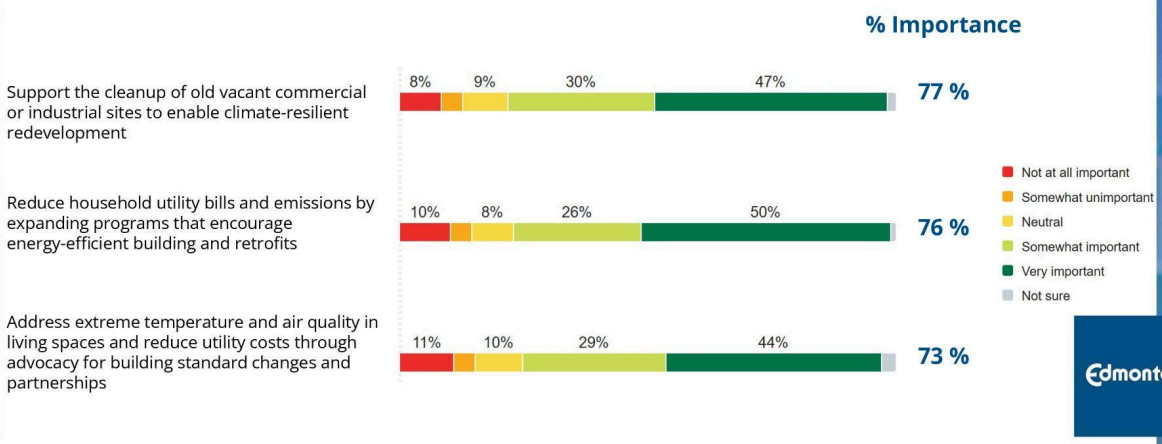
Q10. How important is it to you that the City focuses on the following goals over the next four years (2027–2030)?
Base: Respondents who choose Mobility topic (N=2,584)

Detailed Results
Buildings & Land Use

This section focuses on the design and construction of private buildings (residential and commercial) and neighbourhoods to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve energy efficiency and withstand climate impacts.

Importance of Buildings & Land Use Goals (1/2)

The majority of respondents consider all proposed building and land use goals important. The top three goals respondents find somewhat to very important are supporting the cleanup of old vacant commercial or industrial sites (77%), reducing household utility bills and emissions through energy-efficient building programs (76%), and addressing extreme temperature and air quality in living spaces and reducing utility costs through advocacy for building standard changes and partnerships (73%).



Q12. How important is it to you that the City focuses on the following goals over the next four years (2027–2030)?
Base: Respondents who choose Mobility topic (N=2,485)

Importance of Buildings & Land Use Goals (2/2)

Q12. How important is it to you that the City focuses on the following goals over the next four years (2027–2030)?
Base: Respondents who choose Mobility topic (N=2,485)

Importance of Buildings & Land Use Goals- Sub-Group Analysis

- The perceived importance of all building and land use goals is higher among:
  - Those under 35 years of age
  - Women
  - 2SLGBTQIA+ respondents
  - Low-income households (under $60,000)
  - Respondents who use public transit as primary transportation
  - Those agree that we need to act now to address climate change
- Respondents who use bikes or ebikes as their primary mode of transportation show higher support for improving access to energy-saving options and renewable energy for low-income respondents and addressing extreme temperature and air quality in living spaces through building standard advocacy.

Q12. How important is it to you that the City focuses on the following goals over the next four years (2027–2030)?
Base: Respondents who choose Mobility topic (N=2,485)

Demographics

Edmonton Residence	N= 3849
Yes	98%
No	1%
Prefer not to answer	1%
Years Lived in Edmonton	**N= 3849**
Less than 1 year	<1%
1 to less than 3 years	2%
3 to less than 5 years	3%
5 to less than 10 years	6%
10+ years	89%
Prefer not to Answer	<1%
Age	**N= 3849**
Under 35	14%
35-64	51%
65+	33%
Prefer not to Answer	1%

Identity	N= 3849
Racialized / vis. minority	10%
Persons with disabilities	12%
Indigenous	3%
New to Canada (<5 years)	1%
Born outside of Canada	8%
2SLGBTQIA+	10%
Other	6%
None of the Above/Prefer not to Answer	62%
Gender	**N= 3849**
Male	45%
Female	48%
Gender minority	4%
Prefer not to answer	4%

Demographics

Education	N= 3849
No certificate, diploma or degree	1%
High (secondary) school diploma or equivalency certificate	11%
Postsecondary certificate or diploma below bachelor level/Apprenticeship or trades certificate	27%
Bachelor's degree	28%
University certificate or diploma above bachelor level	7%
Degree in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine or optometry	2%
Master's degree	16%
Earned doctorate	4%
Other/Prefer not to answer	4%

City Employee	N= 3849
Yes	6%
No	93%
Prefer not to answer	1%
Region	**N= 3849**
South West	31%
South East	16%
Central	21%
North West	16%
North East	15%
Prefer not to answer/Don't know	3%
Income	**N= 3849**
Under 60,000	19%
60,000 to 99,999	23%
100,000 to 149,999	22%
150,000 and over	23%
Prefer not to answer	13%

Demographics

Primary Transportation	N= 3849
Car/truck/van/motorcycle as DRIVER	72%
Car/truck/van/motorcycle as PASSENGER	6%
Public Transit (bus, LRT, DATS, On-Demand Transit)	10%
Walking	5%
Biking/ E-scooter / E-bike	4%
Other/Prefer not to answer	3%
Secondary Transportation	**N= 3849**
Car/truck/van/motorcycle as DRIVER	15%
Car/truck/van/motorcycle as PASSENGER	25%
Public Transit (bus, LRT, DATS, On-Demand Transit)	12%
Walking	26%
Biking/ E-scooter / E-bike	10%
Only have one mode of transportation	6%
Other/Prefer not to answer	5%

Rent Own Status	N= 3849
Own	80%
Rent	15%
Prefer not to answer	5%
Type of Housing	**N= 3849**
Single-detached	68%
Condo	10%
Apartment	7%
Row house/Townhouse	6%
Duplex/Semi-detached	6%
Other/Don't know	3%

About Corporate Research

Corporate Research is a centralized team within the City Manager's Office, Chief Communications Officer Branch, that supports all market research and public opinion research work for the entire organization.

Our team provides full service market research and public opinion research consultancy, manage corporate tools such as the Edmonton Insight Community which is City's online survey panel of 25,000 Edmontonians, provide education and training on research best practices, and advance corporate research standards. We utilize statistically relevant methodologies, providing robust insights, and support unbiased data driven decision making. Online/phone/mail-in/intercept surveys and focus group discussions are the most commonly used methods and techniques by the City.

Corporate Research is a corporate member of the Canadian Research Insights Council (CRIC), committing to ethical and high-quality research. Our practice is aligned with industry-leading standards such as the ICC/ESOMAR Code and the CRIC's Public Opinion Research Standards.

Appendix 3: Full Analysis of Open-Ended Survey Comments

Analysis Method of Open-Ended Survey Responses

Open-ended (qualitative) responses from the survey were analyzed by randomly selecting 600 responses for each question, coding each response, and describing the prevalent themes. The complete set of open-ended responses were provided to project team members to review in detail as they implement all actions. The What We Heard report includes a high-level thematic summary of the below analysis.

Infrastructure Sector

The first open-ended question asked about personal experiences with City infrastructure in a changing climate. As the survey's first open-ended prompt, it generated broad feedback. The summary below covers a detailed analysis of a random sampling of 600 comments from the 1,163 total received (the complete dataset has been forwarded to action teams for further analysis).

+ A major priority is building **high-quality, climate-resilient infrastructure** (88 comments), especially with City-owned facilities. Respondents also mentioned the need to maintain existing infrastructure (26 comments) and ensure good drainage and flood resilience (13 comments).

+ Many respondents asked the City to **reduce spending and focus on core services** (87 comments). These comments frequently overlapped with those who believe climate action is either unnecessary (51 comments) or outside the City's jurisdiction (29 comments).

+ Respondents mentioned concerns about **personal affordability** and the municipal tax burden during a cost of living crisis (44 comments).

+ Even among those supporting climate initiatives, there were calls for **fiscal responsibility** by ensuring a return on investment and providing cost-benefit analyses (32 comments). Others wrote that upfront costs are a barrier to low-income Edmontonians, and that incentives or rebates could help with climate action adoption for all Edmontonians (16 comments).

+ There is support for the **energy transition**, sustainability and reducing emissions (83 comments). Respondents expressed the urgent need for reducing emissions and pivoting from carbon-intensive practices. They expressed interest in expanding solar energy and implementing higher standards for energy efficiency in buildings. They also suggested **focusing on adaptation** to current climate impacts (13 comments).

+ The need for **emergency readiness** and **climate-resilient evacuation centres and community hubs** available in times of crises was raised in 42 comments. Some mentioned specifically the need to support evacuees from other communities, while others were concerned about this taking away resources from Edmontonians. Some wrote generally about the need to ensure Edmonton is ready for emergencies.

+ Respondents expressed the need for **safe, air-conditioned indoor spaces during extreme heat** (39 comments), with some suggesting that City facilities should prioritize this access and others mentioning that shelter spaces should have more hours to support this role. Similarly, the need for **heated bus shelters and safe indoor spaces during extreme cold** (34 comments) was highlighted, and some were concerned about failing infrastructure during cold weather. Respondents also mentioned the increasing need to **manage wildfire smoke and the risk of wildfires** (25 comments).

+ Respondents mentioned the **importance and urgency of climate action** and support for the City moving forward on climate action in 35 comments. Some respondents would like to see **more education** on these topics (22 comments) and some emphasized the need for **collaboration with other levels of government and community partners** (17 comments).

+ **Supporting vulnerable people** in the changing climate was seen as critical (30 comments). Respondents expressed concern about vulnerable and unhoused people not having places to go during extreme weather events and calls for making climate-resilient infrastructure more accessible for vulnerable people. **Supporting people with disabilities** was also flagged for transit accessibility, snow clearing, air pollution, and emergencies (16 comments).

+ Feedback on **environmental protection** spoke to the benefits of the tree canopy (e.g. in providing shade), the benefits of green and open spaces, and the importance of minimizing development in the river valley (28 comments).

+ While this question focused on infrastructure, respondents also commented on **transportation and mobility**. Respondents expressed a need for expanded public transit with better amenities like summer air conditioning (52 comments), alongside improvements for walking and cycling (21 comments). Others focused on the importance of road maintenance and traffic flow (25 comments). On traffic flow, some mentioned that slow or congested traffic results in more idling time and increased emissions from vehicles. Snow and ice clearing was raised in 49 comments, which was especially relevant when this survey was live in January 2026.

Example Quotes from Survey Respondents

"Like most challenges, climate change related events have an increased impact on disadvantaged populations. I'd like the city to clearly communicate how resources and supports can be accessed by low income, disabled, elderly and/or unhoused Edmontonians." - Survey Respondent

"The City needs to lead by example. City buildings and infrastructure need to be climate-resilient so that, in the event of a climate catastrophe, we can find refuge in the city's buildings." - Survey Respondent

"I place a heavy emphasis on the importance of preparing our city to handle the impacts of climate change in the long term, that means taking measures to futureproof the city's infrastructure to ensure that the city can function safely and smoothly as we face the repercussions of our climate crisis." - Survey Respondent

"Climate change goals should [align] with increase[d] affordability for low income Edmontonian[s]. I would like to see increases in active transport, better building codes and energy efficiency." - Survey Respondent

Energy and Waste Sector

The second open-ended question asked about personal experiences with energy and waste systems in a changing climate. The summary below covers a detailed analysis of a random sampling of 600 comments from the 927 total received (the complete dataset has been forwarded to action teams for further analysis).

Energy Sector

+ There is **support for renewable energy** from respondents (132 comments), with many writing about solar energy and some suggesting nuclear energy. A variety of concepts or terms were captured under this theme: carbon neutral, net zero, renewable energy, clean energy, and alternative energy.

+ Respondents wrote about the **impact on their taxes and personal affordability** in 93 comments. There was also varying feedback on the **perceived return on investment**: some felt that renewable energy would be more expensive than it is worth, while others saw it as an opportunity to save money. Many asked for the City to keep costs in mind, and to share with the public what the cost impact of this work will be.

+ Respondents mentioned that the City should provide more **education on renewable energy and climate action**. They asked the City to encourage greater adoption of renewable energy approaches through interactive programs and information on how Edmontonians can reduce their energy use and shift to renewable energy on a budget (42 comments).

+ Respondents expressed the need to **reduce spending and focus on core services** (40 comments). These comments had a stronger focus on lowering the priority of climate action and prioritizing core needs, compared to those who focused on tax reductions and personal affordability in the previously-mentioned theme.

+ Many respondents expressed interest in **financial incentives on energy and utilities** like grants and rebates (65 comments). Others shared they would like to install solar energy systems but cannot afford the cost. Some suggested incentives for both homes and businesses to encourage renewable energy. Relatedly, respondents also mentioned the need to **reduce energy and utility costs** (27 comments).

+ Respondents asked the City to **make permitting processes easier** for solar and neighbourhood energy projects and to allow greater flexibility in where residential solar panels can be installed (24 comments).

+ While there was support for renewable energy like solar, respondents shared preferences for ownership and location of solar energy. Many **opposed the idea of private ownership of solar** projects on City land, preferring publicly-owned solar projects that benefit Edmontonians (23 comments). They wrote that **solar installation should be prioritized on existing infrastructure**, like City-owned building rooftops, warehouses, and parking lot covers, rather than on green space (16 comments). Respondents suggested that the **City could provide renewable energy** and use it as a revenue stream (14 comments). Across 24 comments, respondents said that the **City should lead the way with solar panels** on City-owned buildings and land, which could help generate revenue to benefit Edmontonians.

+ Respondents expressed a need to **require or encourage sustainability in new buildings** (24 comments). Specific suggestions focused on heat pumps, higher energy efficiency standards, geothermal heating, solar panels, and limiting demolition. Some respondents said that requiring or encouraging new builds to be sustainable is a systems-level change needed for high impact rather than relying on individual homeowners. Some respondents specifically suggested requiring solar infrastructure in new builds (10 comments).

+ Some felt that the goals **will not have an impact**, whether due to the global scale of climate change or the perception that renewable energy sources are not effective (13 comments).

+ Some called for banning or limiting the use of gas stoves, wood-burning fire pits, and new gas line connections in buildings to **reduce fossil fuel use** (12 comments).

Waste Sector

+ Many respondents were interested in **education on waste management** (62 comments). They wrote about the need for simplified and accessible public education on waste sorting, food waste, waste reduction, celebrating existing efforts, recycling and where to bring specific products for proper recycling. Some of the suggestions focused on encouraging Edmontonians to improve their waste management practices.

+ Respondents indicated **suggested changes to waste management** (50 comments) such as incinerating waste to produce energy, implementing programs to reduce food waste, swapping plastic blue bags with blue bins, and more.

+ 44 comments spoke about the need to **reduce landfill waste**, with many specifically talking about limiting food waste.

+ While some **supported Edmonton's existing waste management** approach, especially the green bin system (23 comments), many demanded to **expand recycling and composting** in multi-unit buildings, apartments, and businesses (37 comments) and provide **easier access to EcoStations and recycling centres** (15 comments).

+ Respondents suggested requiring **businesses to follow waste management plans** (21 comments), such as mandating commercial food waste diversion (food banks or compost), mandating recycling and composting, reducing waste, and reducing the use of plastics. Some said that other options could be providing financial incentives to encourage businesses to adopt better waste practices.

General

+ There were suggestions to **ensure energy and waste goals are realistic** (32 comments). Mostly, respondents were concerned about the capacity of waste management systems to meet our aspirations, the need for energy systems to be effective and have a good return on investment, and the need for responsible and well-researched decision making to ensure goals can be achieved. Some respondents questioned whether renewable energy sources are reliable and cost effective. Respondents also stressed that consideration should be given to **systemic versus individual responsibility**, recognizing that corporations and governments are important for making change (17 comments)

+ Many felt that **multi-unit homes and renters are overlooked in energy and waste** approaches (28 comments). They indicated that as residents of multi-unit buildings, they do not have control over waste and recycling and cannot implement renewable energy systems. Some said that

improved access to waste, recycling, and compost stations would be helpful. Some condominium residents wrote that the City could help support solar panel installation in condo buildings, particularly as it is the condominium board who makes the decision, not individual renters. They wondered what options can be provided for renters to take action on waste management and renewable energy.

+ There was a call to **reduce emissions**, with some connecting emissions to inefficient traffic movement (causing idling) and others referring to methane pollution from waste disposal and infrastructure (28 comments). Similarly, respondents wrote about the need to reduce energy and our carbon footprint (19 comments), recognizing that there are some good approaches to renewable energy but that bringing down energy use is critical.

+ Some respondents expressed the City should **protect the environment and River Valley** (19 comments). They wrote about protecting green space, avoiding solar farms on undeveloped or agricultural land, and ensuring the River Valley is respected.

+ They mentioned reminders that **provincial and federal governments** can have a larger impact and some expressed frustration that the province is not taking action on renewable energy (18 comments).

+ Some respondents were **skeptical about climate change** (15 comments).

+ Some suggested **ideas for partnerships** with community organizations, social programs that are Indigenous-led, community food gardens, programs reducing food waste, and others (13 comments). They said the City should work with organizations already doing some of this work.

+ Other feedback discussed the single use bylaw (3 in favour and 9 against), the opportunity to reduce costs through improved waste management (8 comments), concerns about the impact of infill and zoning (9 comments), the need for the City to stay out of the energy industry (6 comments), the importance of reducing water usage (6 comments), the need for proper maintenance of energy and waste systems (5 comments), and support for district energy (4 comments).

Example Quotes from Survey Respondents

> *"I will repeat this many times. While the individual is good to bring to the side of Climate Awareness. Industries, Corporations, and Governments have FAR broader reaching impacts. Every answer made in this survey will be relative to the big players and how they should be acting." - Survey Respondent*

"We installed solar panels on our house due to the grants offered. For many it would be unaffordable without subsidies." - Survey Respondent

"As a renter, I have no say in how my landlord approaches energy, or waste management. So clear City policy and implementation are vital." - Survey Respondent

"Edmonton could be carbon negative and it would make virtually no impact on the world. Don't bankrupt residents to make yourselves feel good when it's not going to make a difference to the climate." - Survey Respondent

Mobility Sector

The third open-ended question asked about personal experiences with moving around Edmonton in a changing climate. The summary below covers a detailed analysis of a random sampling of 600 comments from the 1,397 total received (the complete dataset has been forwarded to action teams for further analysis).

Transit

+ Respondents want **more frequent, convenient, reliable, and faster transit** options (128 comments). They suggested improving bus routes with greater frequency for more convenient travel, and some said that the bus takes too long to make sense for their daily needs. Some mentioned expanding the LRT to northwest Edmonton, St. Albert, and the airport. Many wrote that improving transit is key to achieving the goals of this sector of the Climate Action Plan.

+ They expressed **concerns about safety and comfort on the LRT and buses** (71 comments). Respondents called for prioritizing security, safety, and enforcement to manage violence and drug use and improving comfort on transit.

+ Respondents expressed interest in **improving the bus waiting experience** with shelters at all bus stops, benches, and improved design to keep people warm in the winter and cool in the summer (36 comments).

+ Some suggested **expanding the LRT routes**, making it safer, and making it more convenient (27 comments).

+ Some expressed interest in **reducing or eliminating transit fares** to encourage use, help with affordability, and reduce car dependency (20 comments).

+ Some respondents support **low-emission public transit** (17 comments) and specifically electric buses (5 comments), while others wrote that **electric buses are not effective** and not a good use of money (18 comments).

+ **Support for Bus Rapid Transit** (BRT) was shared by 13 respondents, describing it as a more efficient transit method than LRT and something that is needed for faster travel across the city. A few (5 respondents) **spoke against BRT**, seeing it as redundant or inefficient.

+ Some respondents suggested **adding park-and-ride lots** at bus and LRT stations for greater convenience and accessibility (5 comments).

Cars

+ Respondents expressed the **need to improve traffic flow and fixing roads** (57 comments), with some writing that Edmonton relies on cars and should not sacrifice vehicle lanes for alternative transit. These respondents suggested that improving traffic lights and addressing bottlenecks would help **lower emissions by reducing vehicle idling** (9 comments).

+ Many respondents advocated for **making Edmonton less car-dependent** (31 comments), writing about walkable neighbourhoods, improved access to amenities and services, and denser development. There were also suggestions for increased **cooperation between cars and bikes** (3 comments) and **increased enforcement** to reduce speeding and parking in dedicated bike and bus lanes (4 comments).

+ There was mixed feedback on electric vehicles (EVs). Some respondents expressed support and asked for a **robust EV charging network** with infrastructure to support it (11 comments) and **options for apartments and multi-unit housing** (20 comments). Those who expressed opposition wrote that **EVs have significant carbon footprint** with their battery technology and are unreliable or **not effective in Edmonton's winter climate** (22 comments). Some felt that the **City should not be involved** in building EV charging stations (9 comments).

+ A few respondents suggested **hydrogen vehicles** (3 comments).

+ There were suggestions to **retrofit existing parking lots and increase parking fees** (6 comments), provide better **street parking** to accommodate neighbourhood density (6 comments), and general **improvements to parking** for greater convenience (3 comments).

Biking

+ Many saw **bike lanes as unnecessary**, with feelings that they are expensive, disruptive to traffic, minimally used, and not useful during winter months (83 comments). Those who expressed support for bike lanes want the city to be **more bike-friendly** and to have bike lanes properly maintained year-round (50 comments). They also wrote that a major barrier to biking is the **lack of secure bike parking** at destinations and at LRT stations (17 comments). Some want the City to better **enforce rules for cyclists** and scooter users who ignore traffic signs or speed on shared paths (7 comments).

Accessibility and Pedestrians

+ Across 61 comments, respondents expressed **accessibility issues**. The main concerns were about poor snow clearing of sidewalks and street corners and inconvenient or insufficient bus stops, which make moving through the city challenging or unsafe for people with disabilities. Comments also recommended easier access to DATS and reduced wait times and improved accessibility for people with disabilities who rely on cars for transportation (e.g. parking).

+ Many respondents want the City to **improve pedestrian infrastructure**, such as wider sidewalks, elevated crosswalks, and accessible public washrooms (57 comments). Some also asked for **improved maintenance of sidewalks** (5 comments).

+ Some respondents identified the need to focus on **safe and accessible infrastructure** for walking, rolling, and biking (25 comments). They said that making active transportation safer may encourage people to choose walking, rolling, and biking over using cars. **Shared use paths** were recommended as effective and safe options and preferable to bike lanes (18 comments).

+ Respondents wrote that **vulnerable populations** need safe, warm alternatives during the winter, rather than simply being removed from transit centers (10 comments).

General

+ There were 66 comments arguing that Edmonton is a “winter city” and that the City should **plan mobility around these colder temperatures**, including less focus on bike infrastructure, improved snow removal, and understanding electric vehicle capabilities in cold weather. Many wrote that **improving snow clearing** is a critical necessity (78 comments). There were suggestions to improve **street snow clearing** (30 comments) and to better **clear sidewalks and bike lanes** so pedestrians and those using mobility aids can move safely (47 comments).

+ Respondents expressed concerns about **personal and fiscal affordability**, with respondents wanting the City to stop what they see as financial waste on climate projects (67 comments). There were also suggestions to **reduce overall spending and focus on core** municipal services like road repair and basic infrastructure (25 comments).

+ The need to **reduce emissions** and carbon footprints was emphasized in 34 comments, many who support reducing car dependency via public transit and active transportation. Some cautioned against relying on electric vehicles due to resource impacts.
+ Some respondents were **skeptical about climate change** (12 comments).
+ Respondents expressed the need to focus on **preparing for extreme weather events**, including building resilient infrastructure, and that this provides a high value to Edmontonians (9 comments).
+ Some respondents wrote that active transportation and roadways must be included in plans for **catastrophic events**, and snow windrows and bike lanes must not get in the way of emergency vehicles (6 comments).
+ Some respondents suggested **combatting urban sprawl** by infilling central neighborhoods like Blatchford and requiring denser community development (14 comments).
+ Respondents suggested that the City should **educate drivers on the necessity of mobility infrastructure** and work with businesses to encourage transit and bike use (11 comments).

Example Quotes from Survey Respondents

> *"Make the city more bike friendly with bike lanes. Having walkways properly cleared to minimize impact on travel, especially for the elderly/vulnerable communities. Better schedules for residential street clearing with snow." - Survey Respondent*

> *"If you are going to invest in public transit it needs to be safe to travel on. Put the money into security, with enforcement, before you put any more into equipment purchase or construction." - Survey Respondent*

> *"It should not take 4 times as long to take transit to work as it would to drive." - Survey Respondent*

> *"Stop spending money on bike lanes. We live in a province where it snows for six months of the year. People need vehicles. The majority of Edmontontonians do not live down town and cannot walk to work." - Survey Respondent*

Nature and Water Sector

The fourth open-ended question asked about personal experiences with green spaces, parks, and water resources in a changing climate. The summary below covers a detailed analysis of a random sampling of 600 comments from the 1,036 total received (the complete dataset has been forwarded to action teams for further analysis).

Green Spaces and Nature

+ Many respondents mentioned **green spaces as important** (121 comments), with comments writing about supporting Edmontonians' health, biodiversity, carbon sinks, reducing air pollution and heat, and supporting flood mitigation.

+ Many respondents felt positively about **protecting natural areas and the River Valley** (108 comments). There were concerns about selling off public lands, the potential loss of natural areas and the River Valley, and development in green spaces. Some respondents **expressed disagreement with further development** in floodplains and the River Valley (44 comments).

+ Some respondents suggested the City plant **hardy, native vegetation**, supporting flood and drought resilience and contributing to biodiversity (49 comments).

+ Respondents suggested **nature-based approaches**, including naturalization, Indigenous ways of knowing, rainwater collection, and allowing vegetation and animals to regulate their environments naturally (38 comments).

+ Some expressed the need to **protect wildlife** habitats and support wildlife corridors with improved natural area connectivity (21 comments). There were suggestions about ways to increase biodiversity and better support wildlife in natural areas.

+ Respondents wrote that **trails need to be better maintained** to prevent erosion and improve safety, while recognizing the impact of recreation in natural areas (17 comments).

+ Conversely, some were **concerned about naturalization**, with some considering it a fire hazard and others seeing naturalized areas as visually unappealing (13 comments).

+ Some suggested adding **more amenities to green spaces** like public washrooms, benches, tables, and drinkable water taps (12 comments).

+ Some respondents called for a **ban on pesticides** and de-icing products (10 comments).

Trees

+ Respondents wrote about the need to **protect trees** (68 comments). Respondents felt that mature trees are important for climate resilience but there has been significant loss of mature trees due to development.

+ Some respondents suggested **regulating trees on private property** in 34 comments. A few suggested that trees being removed should be replaced with new trees (4 comments).

+ The need to **expand the tree canopy** was shared through 41 comments, with some suggesting specific areas like parking lots and new developments.

+ **Tree health** is seen as important, with concerns shared about poor maintenance of damaged or diseased trees and insufficient watering (30 comments).

+ **Cooling benefits of the tree canopy** were highlighted in 36 comments, with respondents saying that trees can noticeably reduce the urban heat island effect.

Water

+ **Water conservation was flagged as an urgent priority** in 65 comments, with several suggesting enabling Edmontonians to conserve water through rainwater collection and grey water use. Many wrote that water conservation is the most important part of this action plan, and some emphasized that freshwater is a finite resource.

+ **Flood mitigation and planning** was flagged in 47 comments, with concerns about continued development in flood prone areas and interference with natural drainage systems like green spaces.

+ Some respondents shared ideas on **stormwater management** to reduce the risk of floods during heavy rainfall, including using native plants and permeable surfaces to manage runoff, using rainwater collection systems, and storing snow in more intentional locations (17 comments).

+ Some respondents suggested creating **water reservoirs** in preparation for drought and wildfire season (15 comments).

+ Some respondents emphasized the **importance of water treatment and clean drinking water** (9 comments).

+ A few raised **concerns about high water use** in data centres, yards, and golf courses (7 comments).

Wildfire

+ Respondents stressed the importance of **wildfire risk reduction** (48 comments), with some mentioning that it is a core responsibility of the City and some urging coordination with other levels of governments.

+ **Fuel reduction** was mentioned in 41 comments, including the need to reduce deadfall and manage trees and long grasses and criticisms that the City should better manage and care for vegetation.

+ There are concerns about **fire risks related to encampments**, particularly in the River Valley, with some suggesting that encampments damage green spaces (14 comments).

+ **Controlled burns** were suggested by some as a solution to manage fire risk (5 comments).

General

+ **Public education and communication** is considered essential for achieving climate action goals (37 comments). Some of the suggested areas of education included cooling effects of the tree canopy, moving away from traditional lawns, promoting native species, wildfire risk, water conservation, among other ideas.

+ Some respondents expressed concerns about **personal and fiscal affordability** (37 comments), with a few mentioning that studies and research already exist on this topic. There was also a suggestion to **reduce overall spending and focus on core municipal services** (23 comments).

+ **Community involvement**, including partnerships with organizations, introducing volunteer initiatives, and supporting existing work, is seen as essential to climate action (23 comments). Suggestions included tree planting initiatives, general support of Edmontonians on a volunteer basis, and stronger partnerships with NGOs and Indigenous Peoples in relation to managing green spaces.

+ **Indigenous guidance** was mentioned as an important consideration in climate action, calling for Indigenous Peoples to be engaged and compensated for their traditional ecological knowledge and controlled burn expertise (18 comments).

+ Respondents flagged concerns about **water infrastructure maintenance** (14 comments) and water shortages that could arise without proper maintenance, with some using Calgary's water main break as a catastrophic example and others focusing on infrastructure to reduce flooding. Some suggested **improving infrastructure design** standards to deal with flooding (10 comments).

+ Across 14 comments, respondents were **skeptical of climate change**. Five comments suggested that the City's actions will have **little to no impact** globally on climate change.

+ **Incentives** were identified as a cost-effective way to achieve climate goals including tree and shrub planting, using native plant species, and naturalizing green spaces (10 comments).

+ **Reducing emissions** was specifically identified in 8 comments, with some suggesting the emissions reductions benefits of nature-based solutions.

+ Seven comments focused on **using green space for growing food**, such as through community gardens.
+ Suggestions for **supporting vulnerable people** included generally addressing homelessness, providing safe places for unhoused people, increasing funding for social work, and removing anti-homeless infrastructure (7 comments).
+ Some shared a general sense of **urgency to protect against climate disaster** (7 comments).
+ Various sentiments on **the role of the City in climate action** were shared, including whether climate action is under municipal jurisdiction and sentiments that the province should be taking more action (5 comments).
+ **Accessibility** was emphasized in the context of river valley access, sidewalks being removed for water conservation systems, and general access to natural areas (4 comments).
+ Miscellaneous comments covered a wide range of topics, including specific facility requests and planning principles (63 comments).

Example Quotes from Survey Respondents

"I love the river valley and all the green spaces throughout Edmonton. I really appreciate having so many well maintained public parks that are easy to access near my home. I think that planting native, drought resistant plants and using city land to limit the effects of climate disasters is a good use of tax dollars." - Survey Respondent

"At the scale of a city, a plan for climate resiliency must attempt to minimize the urban heat island effect." - Survey Respondent

"There is literally NOTHING more important than protecting and conserving green space. There needs to be a concerted, driven effort to create more emphasis on planting native: native species planting initiatives (especially flowering plants, grasses, and trees), increasing dedicated green space, maintaining (and therefore NOT paving) the river valley corridor." - Survey Respondent

"How is it that the city lets an abundance of mature trees be removed continually by developers and then wonders if they should be protecting the canopy? The contradiction here is astounding. The mature neighbourhood I live in has lost a massive amount of healthy mature trees of 60 - 70 year old trees on private lots at the hands of developers without the least bit of concern from the city." - Survey Respondent

Buildings and Land Use Sector

The fifth open-ended question asked about personal experiences with climate resilience and efficiency of buildings and neighbourhoods in a changing climate. The summary below covers a detailed analysis of a random sampling of 600 comments from the 1,001 total received (the complete dataset has been forwarded to action teams for further analysis).

+ Many respondents expressed interest in **improving design standards, building codes, and permitting processes** for energy efficiency and climate resilience (158 comments). Some wrote about the need to mandate the use of improved building materials, reduced emissions, and energy efficiency in new builds. Others felt that mandates should be avoided, and developers should be incentivized or educated to design with improved energy efficiency. Improvements to permitting were suggested to reduce timelines and costs, with many arguing that complex or slow permitting discourages climate-resilient development.

+ Many respondents asked the City to **reduce spending and focus on core services** (115 comments). Some felt that it was outside of the City's jurisdiction. Others expressed **skepticism about climate change** (31 comments).

+ Some respondents expressed an interest in **improving energy efficiency** through strengthened design standards for new construction and through affordable retrofit options for existing homes, particularly for middle and low income households (106 comments).

+ Many respondents **supported incentives, grants, and rebates for building energy retrofits** to improve affordability, help people reduce risk, and inspire people to use renewable energy (104 comments). Some wrote that incentives allow people to choose whether they upgrade, and that by making retrofits more affordable, people are more likely to consider them. Some respondents preferred to have the market determine retrofits rather than the use of government-funded incentives.

+ Respondents had **mixed feedback about infill and density** (99 comments). Some wrote that infill developments have led to removing mature trees, caused issues with solar light capture with increased building heights, and created hazards due to crowding. Some expressed support for infill and described it as essential for reducing urban sprawl and the city's carbon footprint. Some

mentioned the need for protecting green spaces and access through neighbourhoods when increasing density.

+ Respondents expressed **concerns about affordability**, specifically the risk that new standards and mandatory retrofits would increase the cost of housing (90 comments). Many wrote about the cost-benefits of encouraging retrofits, with some arguing that any increase to taxes is concerning to them and would mean they are less able to do retrofits in their homes. Some were worried that landlords would pass the costs on to their tenants.

+ Many respondents expressed **support for solar panels and heat pumps** with calls to better support multi-unit buildings and remove limits on resident-installed solar panels (72 comments).

+ Many respondents argued that the **City should focus on policy and regulations, not funding** private property climate initiatives that some feel are the jurisdiction of the provincial and federal governments, while others identified that developers have a role to play (71 comments). Some also mentioned that **education and communication** should be a key role for the City to support energy efficiency and retrofitting and encourage climate-resilient development (70 comments).

+ Respondents shared concerns about the **loss of mature trees and green spaces** from development (59 comments). They described these as essential for managing heat waves, improving air quality, and mitigating flood risk. Many advocated for green roofs and a private property tree bylaw.

+ The need to **support low-income households, renters, senior, disabled and homeless populations** was identified in 51 comments. Respondents advocated for solutions on extreme heat, energy costs, accessible building designs, and financial aid for retrofits.

+ Some respondents expressed **support for cleaning up vacant and derelict sites** and many wrote that owners, not the public, should cover the costs of cleanup (51 comments). Some noted that cleanup of vacant and derelict sites has benefits extending beyond climate. **Affordable housing** opportunities were identified for repurposing vacant buildings and in the context of cost of living increases, recognizing that retrofits could make housing less affordable upfront (13 comments).

+ The need to **reduce emissions** was mentioned in 44 comments, with some respondents recommending that natural gas lines and urban sprawl be discouraged to help reduce emissions.

+ There were calls for **mandating fire-resistant materials** and increased spacing between homes to protect from fire spread, including advocating for building code improvements (42 comments).

+ Some respondents noted they want **mature neighbourhoods to be supported with retrofits** rather than demolition, to advance climate goals while preserving mature neighbourhood character (41 comments).

+ Concerns were raised about **lack of extreme heat, wildfire smoke, and retrofit support for apartment** buildings (38 comments). Respondents asked for programs to work with landlords, condominium boards, and owners to support retrofits, establish heat requirements, and improve air filtration, while protecting tenants from cost increases.

+ Respondents called for **improved resilience of infrastructure** to protect Edmontonians and essential services from floods, wildfire, and energy crises, with some highlighting risks in specific neighbourhoods, the need for public facilities to serve as shelters, and changes to demand in the electrical grid (37 comments).

+ There is interest in **lowering the cost of energy**, specifically utility bill fees (26 comments), with some sharing frustrations that any savings from energy-efficient upgrades are negated by utility fees, while others shared that alternative energy like solar panels is attractive because it helps them lower their energy bills. Some suggested prioritizing usage costs over fixed fees.

+ Some respondents felt that these actions will **not have an impact** on climate changes (18 comments).

+ Other comments (24) covered a range of topics including general support, general disapproval, the importance of air quality, and confusion about some of the goals.

Example Quotes from Survey Respondents

> *"For homeowners, energy efficient upgrades are very expensive. In previous programs, the financial incentives were too small to justify the work. The incentives need to target middle class families. Lower income brackets shouldn't be expected to pay for energy upgrades, and higher incomes should be able to pay for it on their own." - Survey Respondent*

> *"The City's biggest levers are policy & regulation. We have tried voluntary measures: they have gotten us past 1.5 degrees of warming. It is time for regulations, wherever you can enforce them." - Survey Respondent*

> *"I personally know of people who invested in solar panels when encouraged by the city and now have sun restrictions due to infill/multiplex builds going in next to them.." - Survey Respondent*

"Please institute a maximum acceptable temperature for rentals. High heat kills people, particularly disabled and elderly people." - Survey Respondent

"Focus on core services. Climate resiliency is not a city responsibility. I will do this myself so long as my tax bill doesn't prevent me from having enough money to do it." - Survey Respondent

Other Feedback

The final open-ended question asked if respondents had anything else to share on the Climate Action Plan Update. The summary below is a high-level thematic summary of a random sampling of 600 comments from the 1,492 total received (the complete dataset has been forwarded to action teams for further analysis).

+ Concerns about spending and municipal jurisdiction and the need to focus on core services
+ General support for the project and gratitude for the City's work on climate action
+ Urgent need for stronger climate action, with the recognition that climate change is an emergency and there is a need to lead by example to support future generations
+ Perception that climate action in Edmonton will not have enough impact on global climate change and cause Edmonton to bear additional costs
+ Perception that climate change is not real or not impacted by humans and the perception that climate change is due to natural causes
+ Interest in focusing City funds on preparing infrastructure for extreme weather, wildfire, droughts, and floods
+ Concern that industries, corporations, and developers are main contributors to emissions and that individuals might bear the burden of additional costs rather than the larger contributors
+ Concerns about specific policies or services like bike lanes, LRT expansion, infill developments, and single-use plastic bans
+ Ideas to use financial incentives, public education, and affordability to encourage climate action and extreme weather preparedness rather than relying on regulations or penalties

Appendix 4: List of Engagement Participants

Climate Action Plan Update Workshops

At the workshops held in January 2026, the following organizations were represented:

- 2 individuals not attending on behalf of an organization
- Accessibility Advisory Committee of Edmonton
- Alberta Ecotrust Foundation
- ATCO Energy Systems (Gas)
- BILD Edmonton Metro (3 representatives)
- BOMA Edmonton and North
- Canadian Red Cross
- CanREA
- City of Edmonton Youth Council
- Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues
- Edmonton River Valley Conservation Coalition
- Environmental Law Centre
- EPCOR (4 representatives)
- Global Shapers Community Edmonton
- IDEA (2 representatives)
- Iron and Earth
- North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance
- Paths for People
- Polluter Pay Federation
- Residential Infill Working Group
- SCAN (Seniors for Climate Action Now) (3 representatives)
- Solar Alberta
- SSRIA
- University of Alberta (3 representatives from different areas of the University)
- YEG Bike Coalition

From First Nations and Métis governments and associations and urban Indigenous organizations, the following groups participated:

- Friends of Michel Society
- Kehewin Cree Nation
- Otipemisiwak Métis Government (4 representatives)
- Papaschase First Nation Band 136 Association (2 representatives)

+ St. Albert Riverlot Métis Association (3 representatives)
+ Sunchild First Nation
+ Tsuut'ina Nation (2 representatives)
+ Yellowhead Tribal Council

Indigenous-Specific Engagement

For the Climate Partners Roundtable event in September 2025, which was a joint initiative between three climate projects, there were 14 participants in attendance representing the following organizations:

+ Alberta Inuit Women's Association
+ Yellowhead Tribal College
+ Otipemisiwak Métis Government
+ Edmonton Aboriginal Seniors Centre
+ Trade Winds to Success
+ University of Alberta
+ kihêw waciston (MacEwan University's Indigenous Centre)
+ Creating Hope Society

For the Regional Climate Gathering event in September 2025, which was a joint initiative between three climate projects, 16 participants attended, representing 8 Nations, Bands, and Associations:

+ Enoch Nation
+ Horse Lake First Nation
+ Otipemisiwak Métis Government
+ Papaschase First Nation
+ Papaschase First Nation Band 136 Association
+ St. Albert Riverlot Métis Association
+ Tsuut'ina Nation
+ Whitefish Lake First Nation #128 (Goodfish Lake)

Three other Nations, Bands, or Associations were interested in the Regional Climate Gathering session but were unable to attend and were contacted with the opportunity to arrange separate meetings:

+ Alexander First Nation
+ Blood Tribe
+ Lac Ste. Anne Métis Community Association
+ Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations