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

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Edmonton

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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.

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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%).

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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

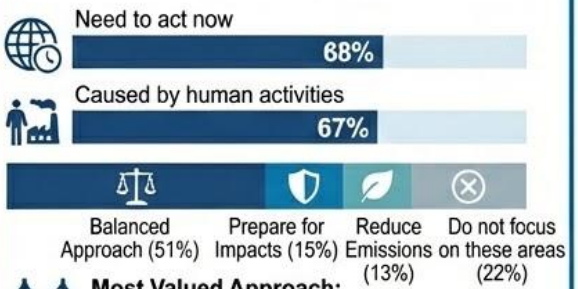
- The majority of respondents consider all proposed nature and water goals important. The top three goals are protecting the health of the City tree canopy and green spaces (88%), reducing wildfire risk by managing vegetation (88%), and preparing for droughts and water shortages (87%).

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)



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

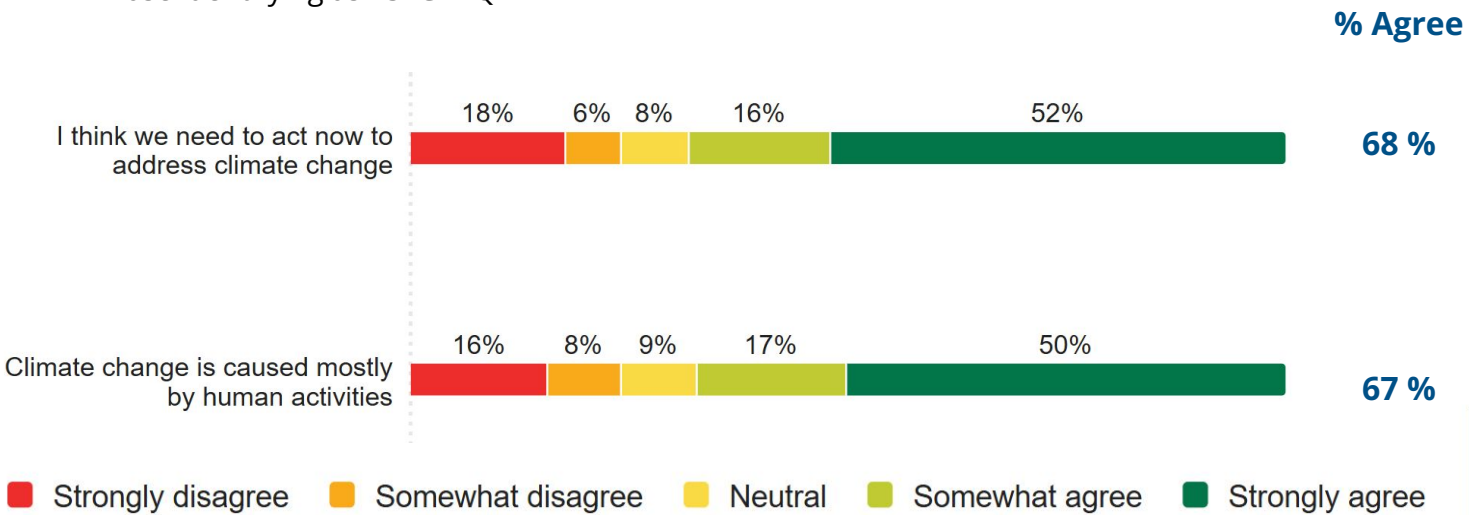
73%
Address extreme temp/air quality

Detailed Results
Climate Perception and Action

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:

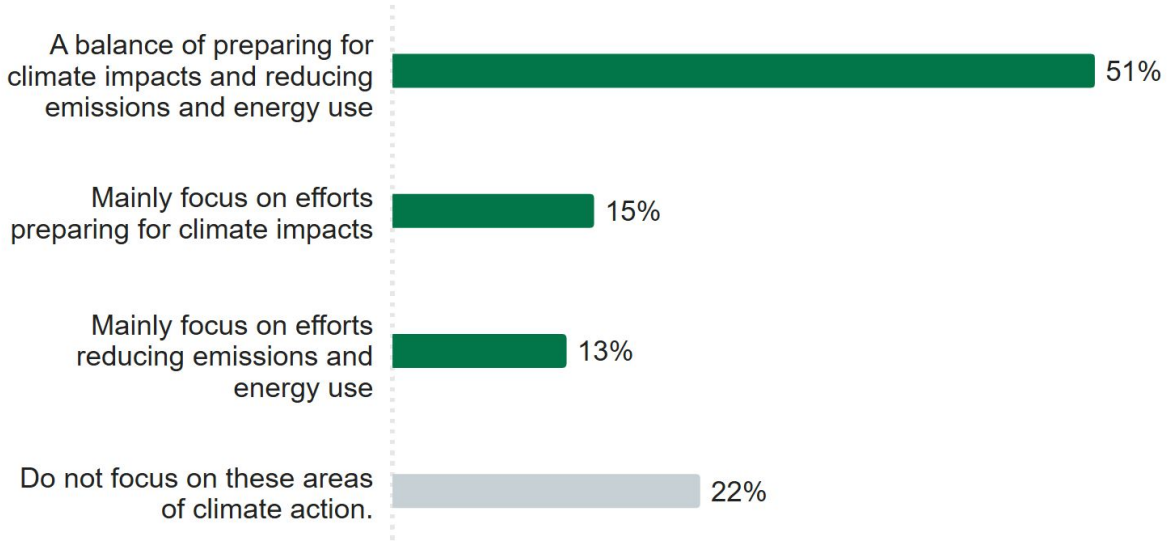
- Women
- Those born outside Canada
- Persons with disabilities
- Those under 35 years of age
- Those identifying as 2SLGBTQIA+



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.

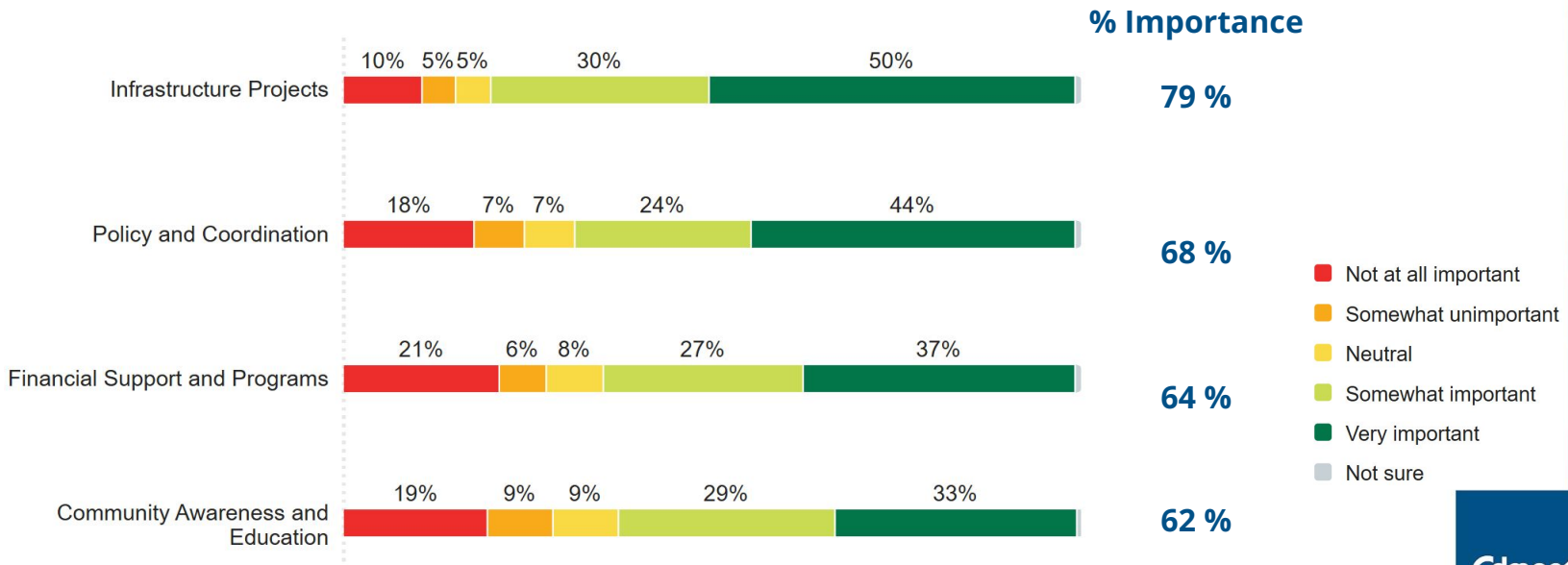


Support for a balanced approach is higher among women (vs. men) and among those who agree that we need to act now to address climate change (vs. those who disagree). Prioritization of emissions reduction is higher among those under 35 years of age, those whose primary mode of transportation is bike,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

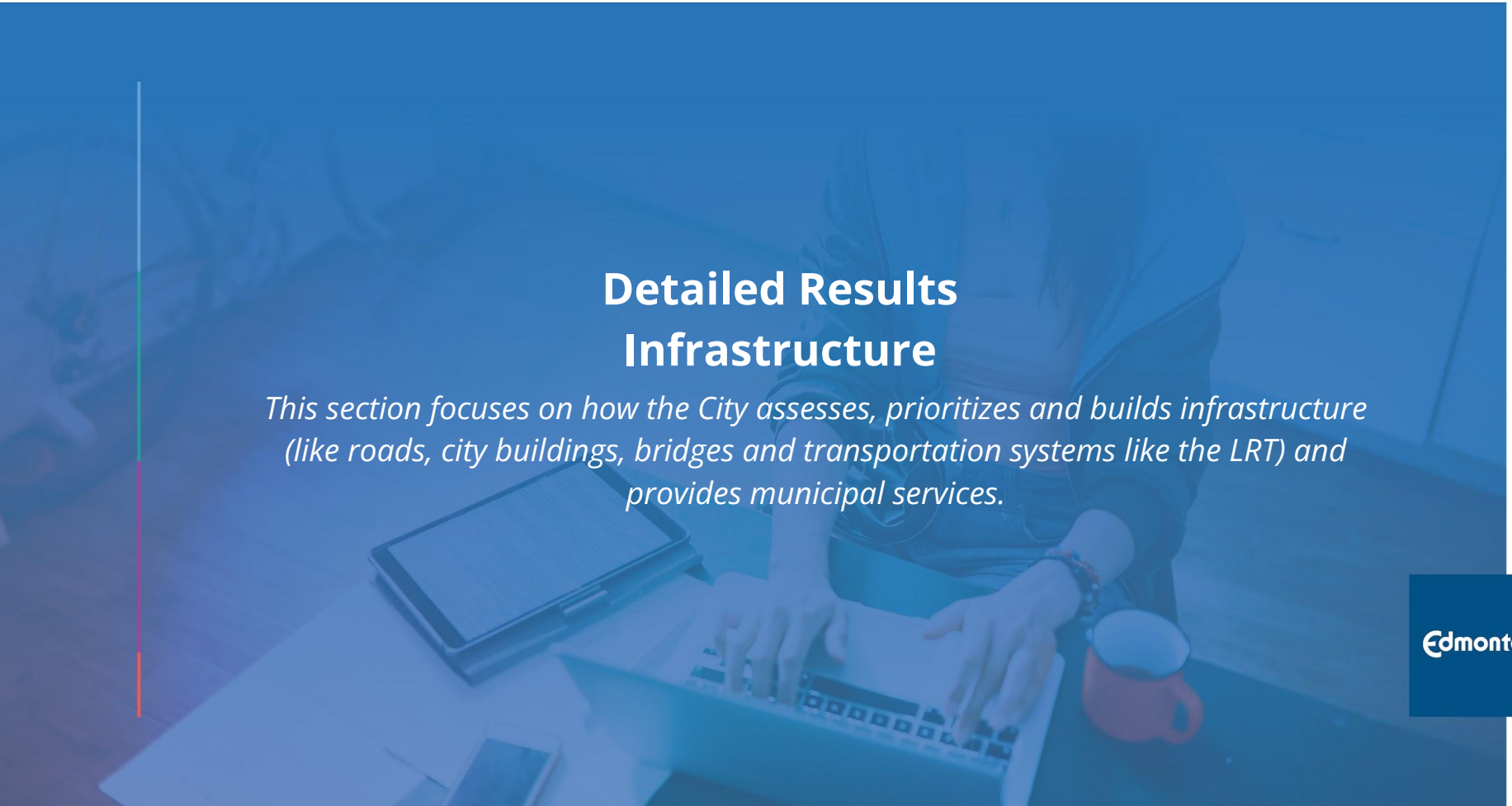
Importance of Climate Approaches- Sub-Group Analysis

- 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)

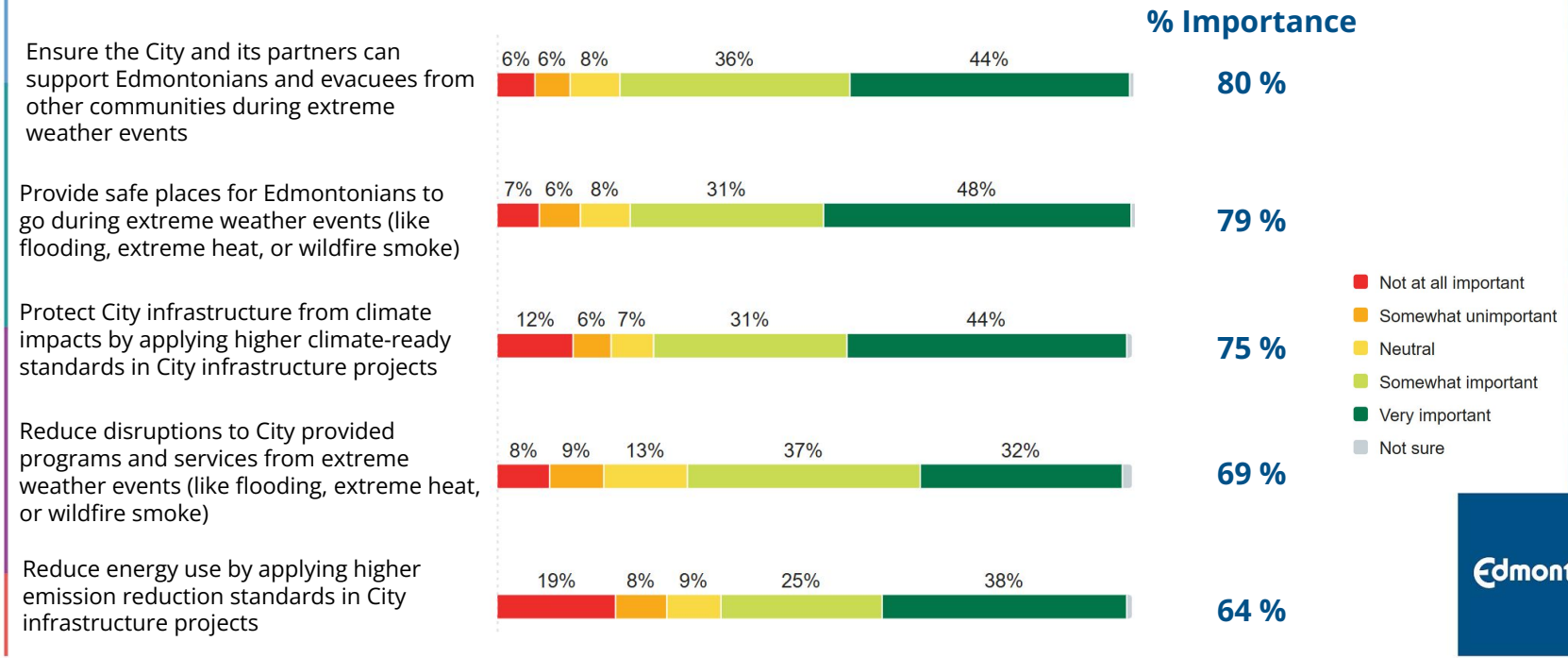
Detailed Results
Infrastructure

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.

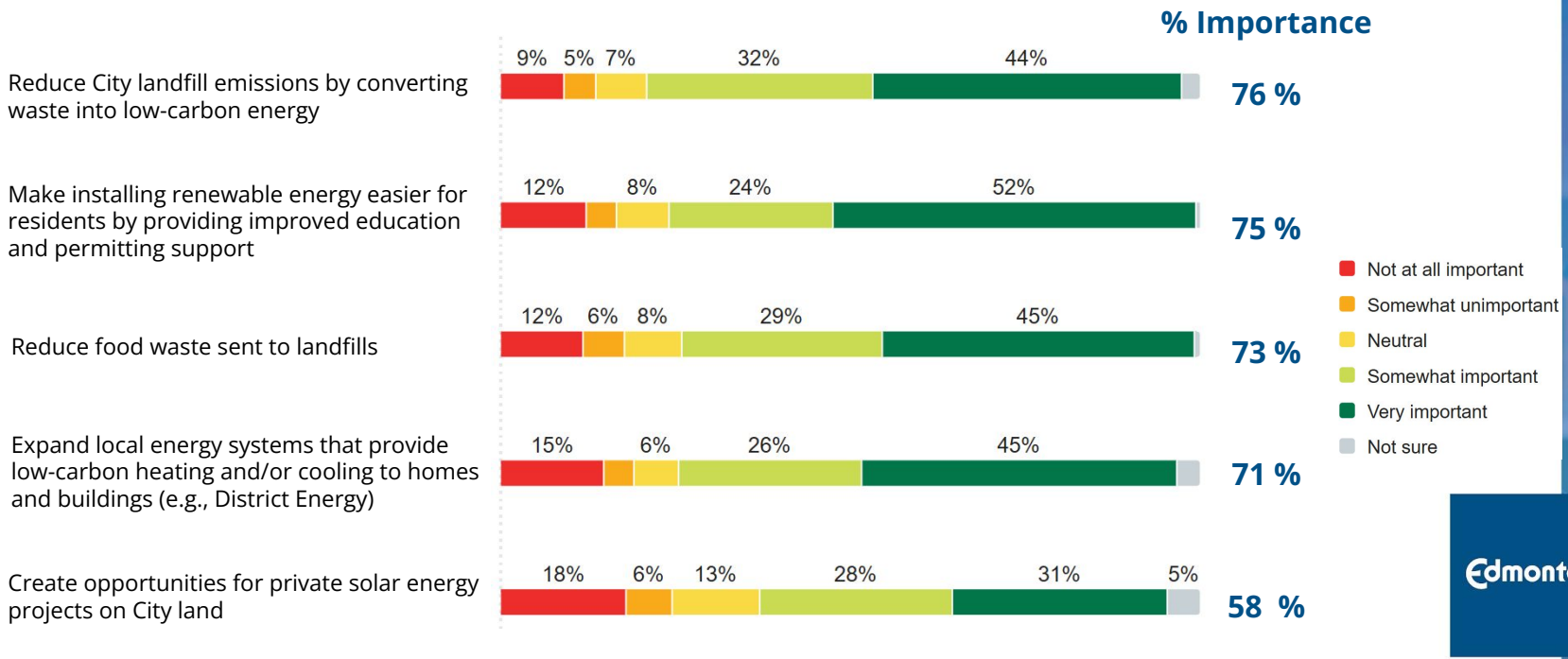
Q4. How important is it to you that the City focuses on the following goals over the next four years (2027–2030)?
Base: Respondents who choose Infrastructure topic (N=2,684)

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)

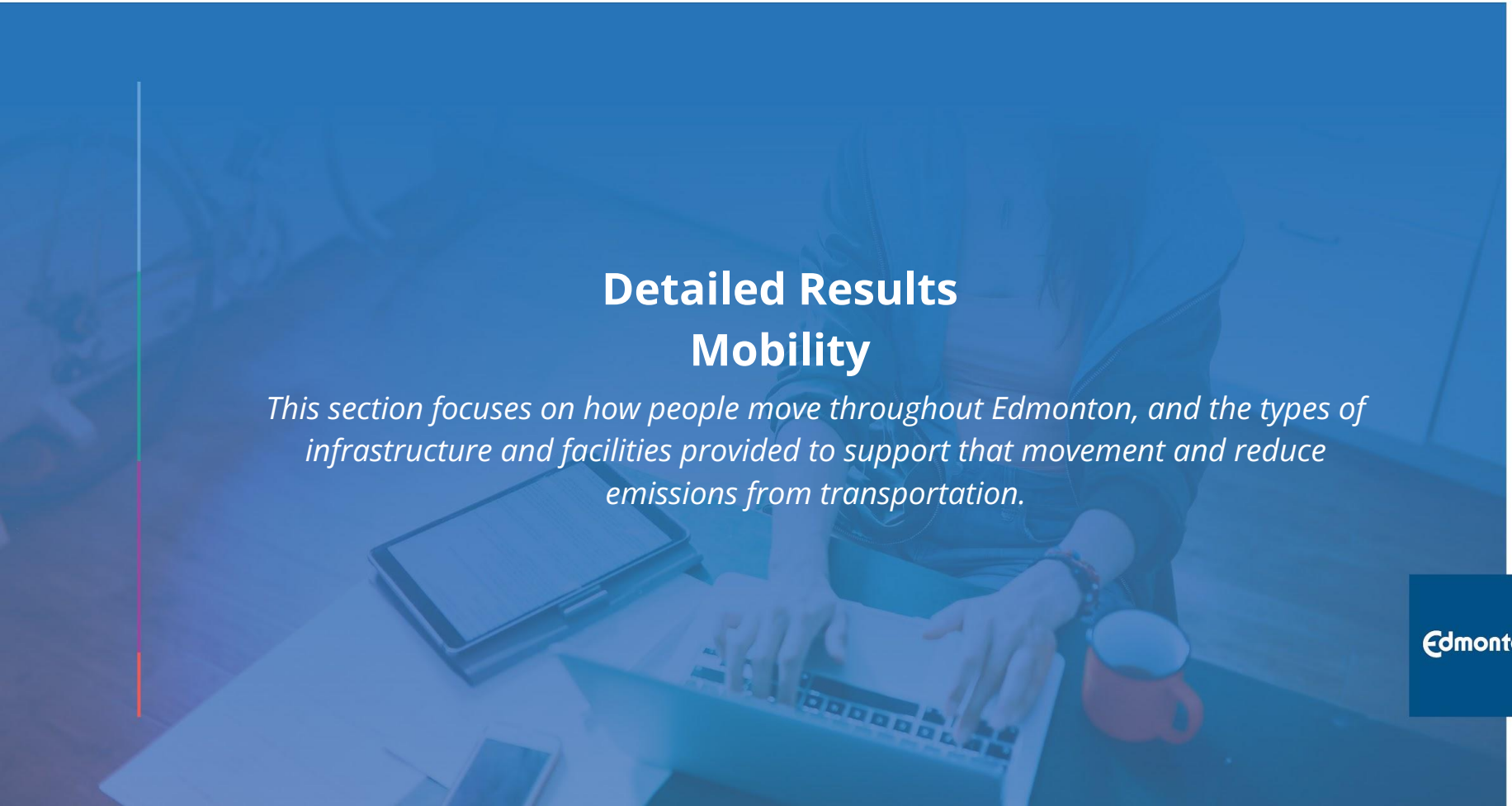
Importance of Low Carbon Energy & Waste Goals- Sub-Group Analysis

- 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)

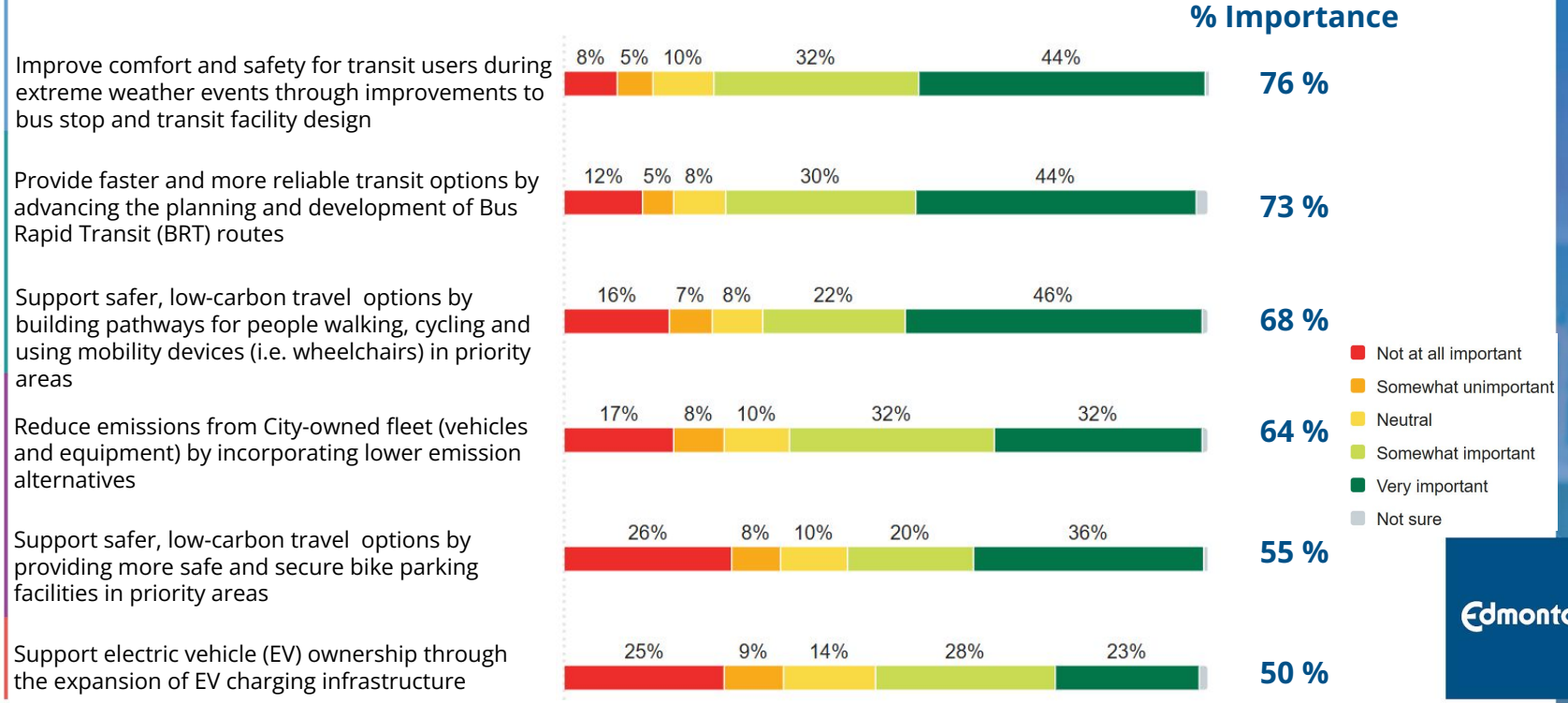
Detailed Results
Mobility

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)

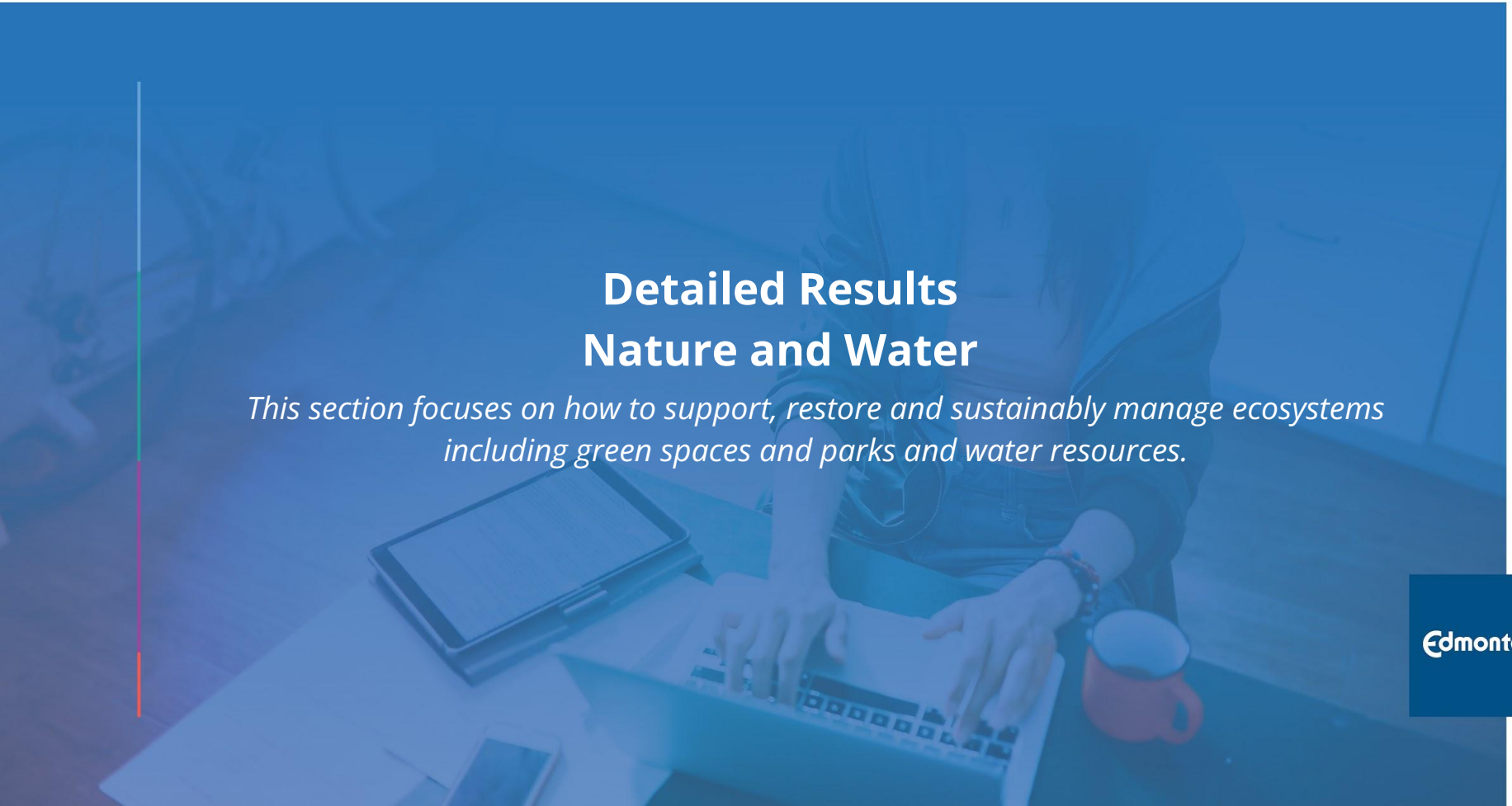
Importance of Mobility Goals- Sub-Group Analysis

- 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)

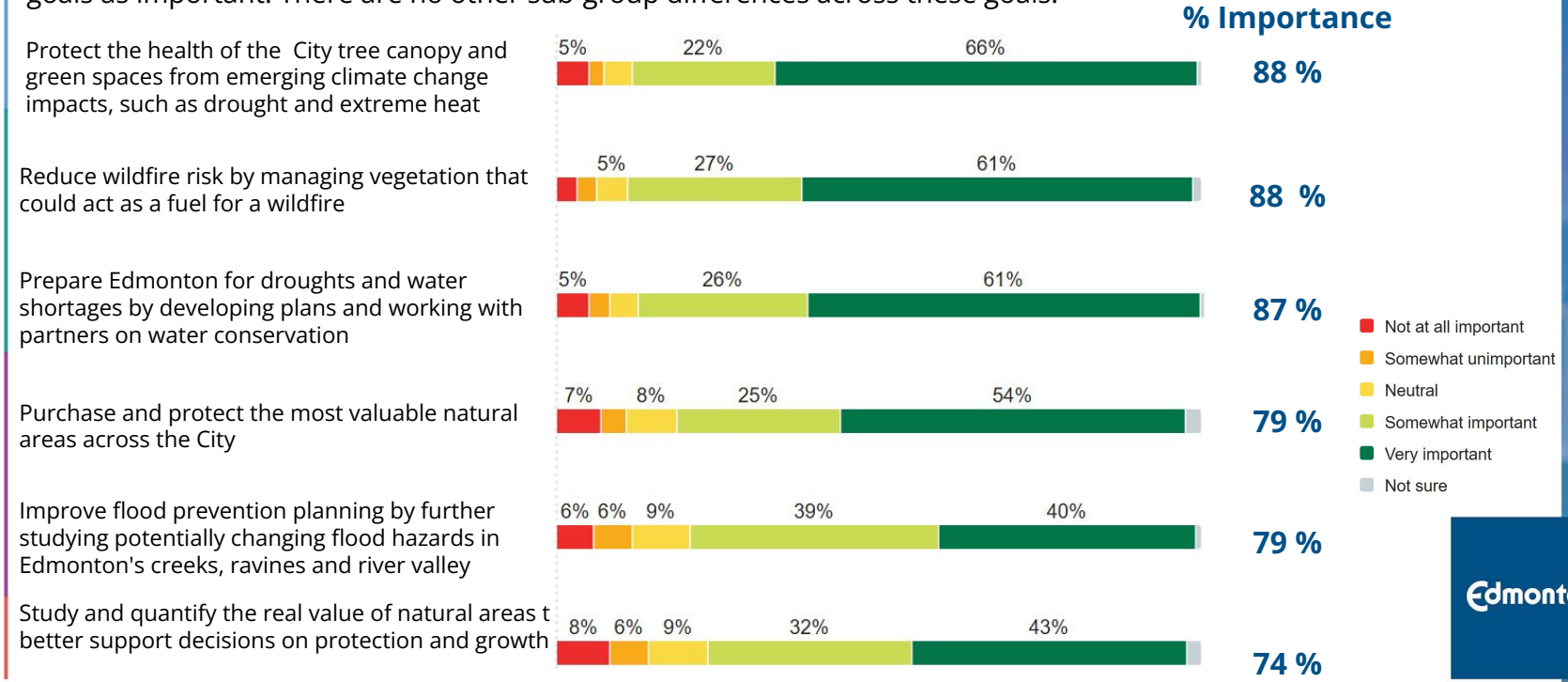
Detailed Results
Nature and Water

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

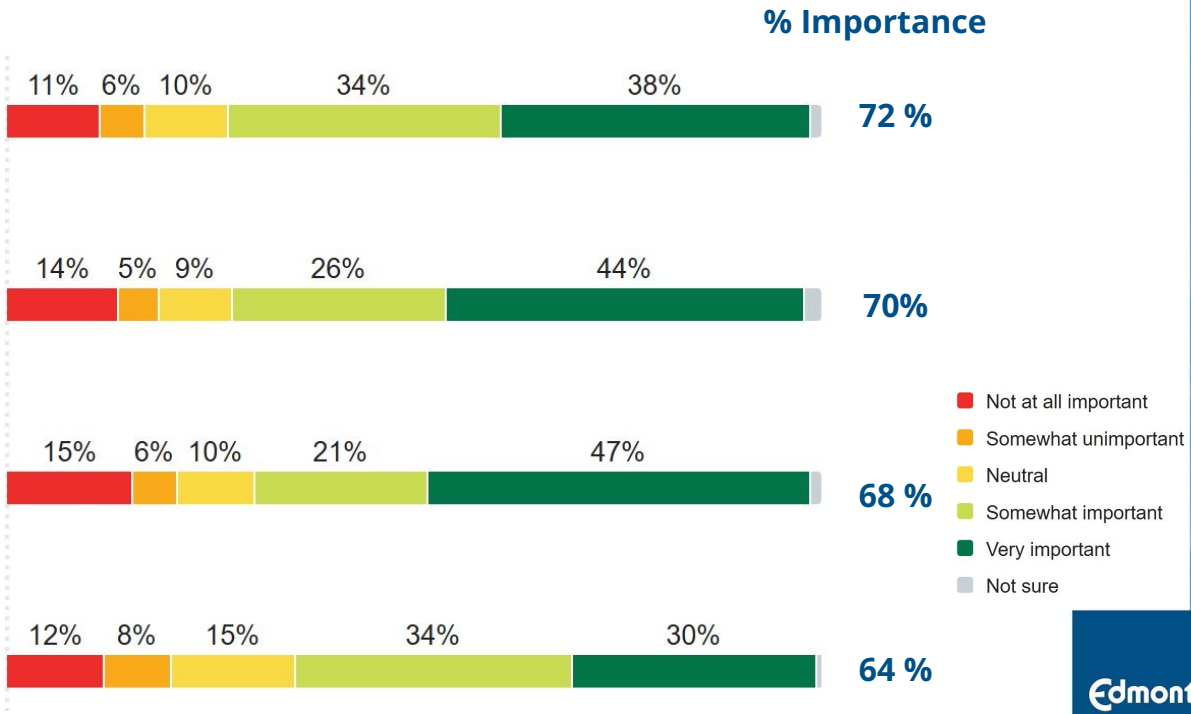
This section focuses on the design and construction of private buildings (residential and commercial) and neighbourhoods to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve energy efficiency and withstand climate impacts.

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)

Survey Demographics

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.

Have questions?
We're here to help.

Email: **research@edmonton.ca**

edmonton.ca/surveys

edmonton.ca/insightcommunity