

NEIGHBOURING for Climate

A toolkit to help you get climate
ready with your neighbours!

STARTER'S
GUIDE

Pilot Program | 2023

edmonton.ca/climateneighbours



The Neighbouring for Climate program was developed
as a collaboration between *Change for Climate* and
Abundant Community Edmonton.

**CHANGE
FOR
CLIMATE**

Edmonton

Toolkit Contents

► **STARTER'S GUIDE**

Instructions to help you and your neighbours to select Action Cards and get started

ACTION CARDS

Card deck with ideas to act on climate change with your neighbours

ONLINE HUB

Links to additional resources to learn more at edmonton.ca/climateneighbours

How do we take action?

Visit edmonton.ca/climateneighbours for resources to help you learn more and complete actions on your climate action journey.

For more information about Neighbouring for Climate, contact City staff by calling 311 or email changeforclimate@edmonton.ca

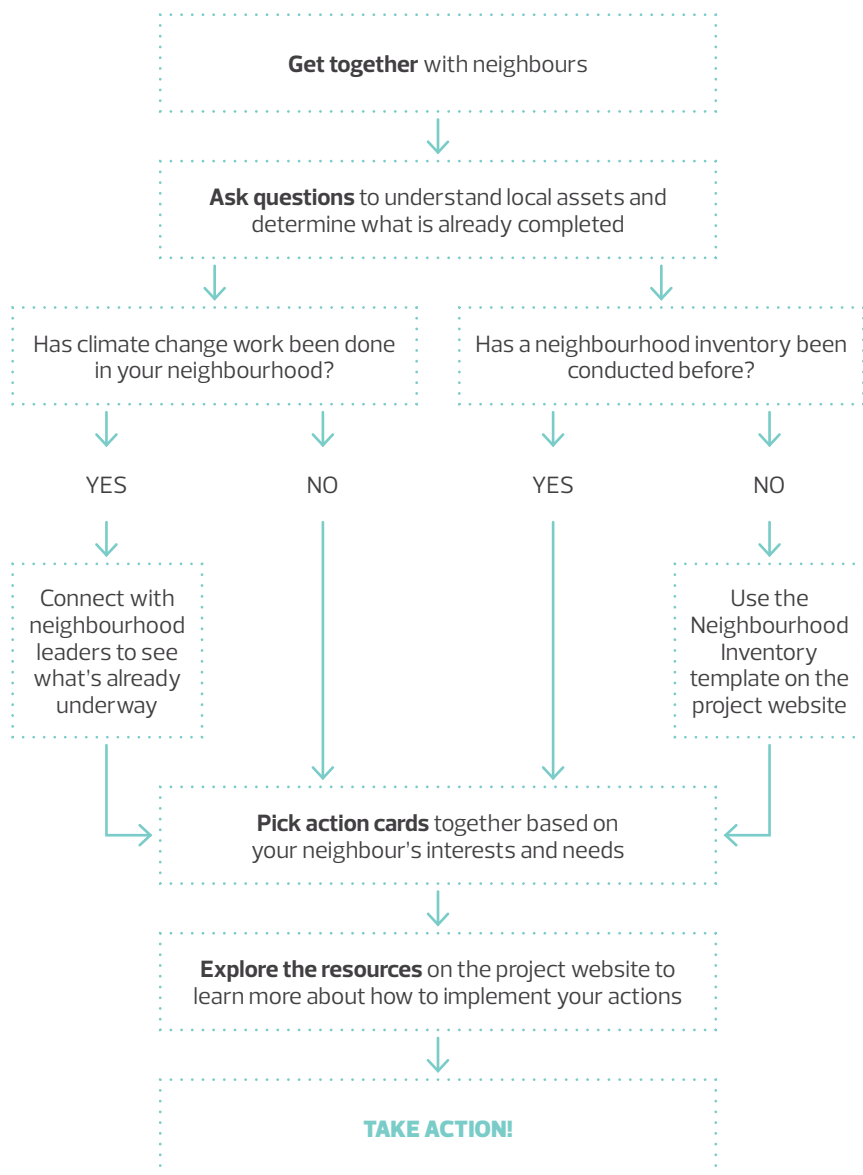
Don't have the Action Cards? Find a digital version on the project website above or contact the Change for Climate project team.

Celebrate your work! Share your actions with your neighbours and Edmontonians on social media. **#ChangeforClimate**

A BIG THANK YOU to the community members who contributed their ideas, time and expertise to the creation of this pilot program!

How can you get started?

Where to start depends on existing connections between neighbours, levels of interest and the time and resources everyone has available.



WELCOME NEIGHBOURS!

Let's tackle climate change together, block-by-block.

Addressing climate change can feel overwhelming, but together we can make progress locally! *Neighbouring for Climate* is a City of Edmonton initiative to bring neighbours together to take action on climate change.

With easy-to-use climate action cards, *Neighbouring for Climate* provides suggestions and tips for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and helping to adapt our neighbourhoods for a changing climate. As a bonus, the program also provides opportunities for neighbours to come together, save money, learn new skills, create beautiful communities and have fun.

WHO IS IT FOR?

This toolkit is for everyone. *Neighbouring for Climate* was designed with input from Edmontonians to make climate action with your neighbours as easy as possible. It allows neighbours to select actions that work best for them and their neighbourhood based on existing assets, skills and ideas.

Whether you are new to getting to know your neighbours, taking climate action or have been involved in initiatives for years, there are lots of ways to get involved and support one another, regardless of experience.

Why should we get neighbouring for climate?

Climate action is more effective when we work together. By supporting one another, we can create resilient neighbourhoods that benefit everyone.

SOCIAL BENEFITS

Working with our neighbours on climate change:

- Improves our ability to prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies
- Increases feelings of safety
- Reduces isolation and creates a sense of community
- Provides opportunities to share skills and knowledge

HEALTH BENEFITS

Reducing the impacts of climate change also improves our health:

- Walking and biking reduce emissions and provide exercise
- Growing and sharing produce provides healthy food
- Clearing ice and resolving water pooling makes our neighbourhoods safer

RESILIENT NEIGHBOURHOODS

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Neighbours can improve environmental health by:

- Decreasing GHG emissions and improving energy efficiency
- Improving drought tolerance, expanding healthy habitats and supporting native species
- Improving air and water quality
- Reducing the amount of waste entering the landfill

FINANCIAL BENEFITS

Coming together as a community can help us save money by:

- Buying in bulk
- Saving energy, transportation and maintenance costs
- Reducing the impacts of flooding and the cost of recovery
- Reusing items that your neighbour no longer wants

SEASONS: Change with the weather

➔ **Start here if...** you are looking for something to do at a specific time of year.

SEASON:



1. Sort the Action Cards based on the **Season** you would like to get together and complete an action.
2. Sort further using the **Tags** to find actions that work.

Tip: If the optimal season is coming to an end, "Event" actions might be helpful to accomplish an action quickly together.

3. **Take action!**
4. If you're ready to take on more, look for other actions in the same Season to accomplish other actions before the weather changes.

Include everyone who is interested.
Find ways to support and involve neighbours with a variety of needs and abilities.

CONVERSATION STARTERS: Don't know how to reach out for the first time? Try these the next time you see your neighbours.

Tip: Print-at-home postcards can be found on the project website.

"Hello! I live next door and am getting to know my neighbours. Did you know there are ways we can help each other in a local emergency?"

"I noticed you have a beautiful garden. Would you be interested in using your skills to help out your neighbours?"

"Hi, neighbour. I just learned about some neat yard improvements we could make together. Do you want to come over for a coffee and talk about some ideas?"

EFFORT: Take the easy (or hard) route

➤ **Start here if...** you have limited time or are looking for a challenge.

1. Sort the Actions Cards based on **Level of Effort**.
2. Sort further using the **Tags** to find actions that work with the time and resources you and your neighbours have available.

Tip: "Low Cost" actions might be helpful if you have limited resources.

3. **Take action!**

EFFORT:



Low



Medium



High

TAGS: Make it customized

➤ **Start here if...** you want actions that are tailored to your local needs and resources.

1. Sort the Actions Cards based on the **Tags** that are most important to you.
2. Sort further by looking at the **Level of Effort** required.
3. **Take action!**

TAGS:



Low Cost



Family Friendly



Event



Bulk Buy



City Permission

Everyone can contribute. Think about the different skills, tools or experiences neighbours can offer each other.

What's in the card deck?

The action card deck provides the information you and your neighbours will need to start climate action on your block or in your neighbourhood.

TOPIC CARDS

Introduce the topic areas and why they are important in addressing climate change.

Each topic has several actions to choose from.

ACTION CARDS

Actions neighbours can undertake together.

Includes a variety of information to help you choose what works best for your neighbourhood and suggestions on how to take action.

BLANK CARDS

Write down new ideas to share with others and keep track of what you and your neighbours have done.

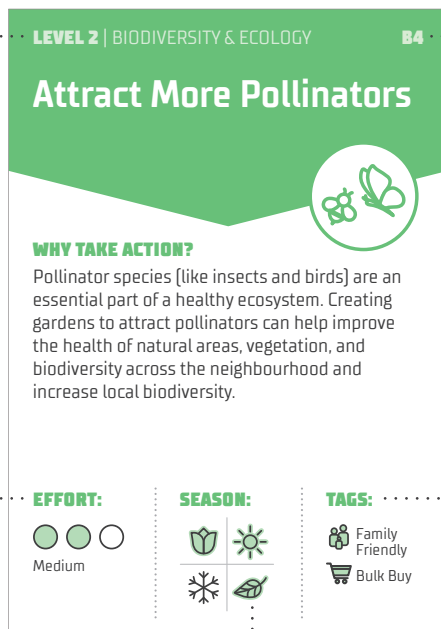


Learn more: A library of resources to help you with *how* to take action can be found at edmonton.ca/climateneighbours

How do you use the Action Cards?

The cards are designed to be sorted, shared and discussed – so sit around a kitchen table with your neighbours and just play! Though some of the actions can be done solo, we recommend getting together with your neighbours for even more benefits and fun.

If you are looking for some help to get started, the next pages outline some options to help you find the actions that will work best on your block.



Level indicates if an action is a good starting place or is more advanced

Card ID is a unique number to identify each action

Level of Effort to complete the action

Tags indicate special features or requirements to help narrow down your selection

Season shows the best time of year to *prepare* (no colour) or *complete* (colour) a seasonal action

STARTER CARDS: Get the ball rolling

➤ **Start here if...** you are new to climate change action or don't know your neighbours.



1. Select a **Starter Card** to choose a beginner action to help you take the first step.
2. **Take action!**
3. When you're ready to take your next step, choose another Starter Card or move on to the Topic Cards.

TOPIC CARDS: Follow your interests

➤ **Start here if...** you or your neighbours are passionate about a specific topic related to climate change.



1. Select a **Topic Card** you and your neighbours are most interested in exploring.
2. Select a **Level 1 Action Card** to help you lay the groundwork.
3. **Take action!**
4. Look at other levels under the same topic to advance your work. Take action again!

Be efficient. Think about actions that will address multiple issues or opportunities within your neighbourhood.