

What We Heard

Climate Action Plan Update (2027-2030)

PHASE 1

City of Edmonton
Environment and Climate Resilience,
Urban Planning and Economy
December 2025
[Edmonton.ca/climatestrategy](https://edmonton.ca/climatestrategy)

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Edmonton

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The City of Edmonton acknowledges that the traditional land on which we reside is in Treaty Six Territory. We would like to thank the diverse Indigenous Peoples whose ancestors' footsteps have marked this territory for centuries, such as nêhiyaw (Cree), Dené, Anishinaabe (Saulteaux), Nakota Isga (Nakota Sioux) and Niitsitapi (Blackfoot) peoples. We also acknowledge this as the Métis' homeland and the home of one of the largest communities of Inuit south of the 60th parallel. It is a welcoming place for all peoples who come from around the world to share Edmonton as a home. Together, we call upon all of our collective, honoured traditions and spirits to work in building a great city for today and future generations.

The actions that the City of Edmonton takes to mitigate and adapt to climate change must recognize and respect the interconnected relationships between living beings and the environment. These interconnected relationships between Mother Earth and all beings are expressed in wahigicobi and wâhkôhtowin, described further in the [City of Edmonton's Indigenous Framework](#).

The project team and the authors of this report would like to express their gratitude to everyone who participated in this engagement. Your contributions have been invaluable, and we are pleased to share your insights in this report.

Executive Summary

Project Overview

The City of Edmonton is developing a Climate Action Plan Update (2027-2030) to ensure the effectiveness of the City's existing climate strategies and adapt them to changing local priorities. This initiative supports [Edmonton's Community Energy Transition Strategy and Action Plan](#) and [Climate Resilient Edmonton: Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan](#), two existing strategies aimed at reducing emissions and enhancing resilience. The actions in the Climate Action Plan Update (2027-2030) will build on the momentum the City has achieved so far in responding to a changing climate.

Engagement Approach

To support the development of the Climate Action Plan Update (2027 - 2030), the project team conducted its first of two phases of engagement between June and October 2025. Phase 1 engagement was targeted to external groups with expertise in climate action, including representatives from Indigenous nations and organizations, development industry, utilities, educational institutions, non-profits and advocacy groups. Phase 1 focused on validating the project approach, better understanding people's experiences of climate change, and identifying potential partnership opportunities through workshops, meetings, and written feedback.

What We Heard

We heard that overall, targeted partners agree with the proposed project approach and recognize the need for strong partnerships between the City and external groups to advance climate action. Concerns about flooding, drought, extreme heat and air quality were recurring themes, alongside calls for stronger management of natural assets. Feedback highlighted the need to ensure climate actions are equitable and accessible, and that the success of climate resilience initiatives depends on sustained political support, adequate funding and clear policy direction. How we responded to the feedback received is detailed in the [What We Heard](#) section of this report.

Next Steps

The findings from phase 1 engagement were used to inform the drafted 2027-2030 action concepts. Phase 2 engagement, which will include the public, will seek feedback on the drafted action concepts and is occurring from December 2025 - January 2026. The Climate Action Plan Update (2027-2030) is anticipated to go to Executive Committee and City Council for approval in mid 2026.

Project Overview

Following Edmonton City Council's declaration of a climate emergency in 2019, the City established two climate strategies to guide the City of Edmonton's climate work:

1. [The Climate Resilient Edmonton: Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan](#) (2018), which is centered around identifying the impacts of climate change and extreme weather events like fires, floods and food shortages, and what we can do to be prepared to protect our community, infrastructure and services. This strategy identifies five paths:
 - Preparing for Changing Temperatures
 - Preparing for Changing Precipitation
 - Preparing for Changing Weather Extremes
 - Preparing for Changing Ecosystems
 - Science and Evidence Based Decisions, including frameworks for decision making
2. [The Community Energy Transition Strategy](#) (2021), which is centered around four transformative pathways to achieve Edmonton's low carbon future:
 - Renewable and Resilient Energy Transition
 - Emission Neutral Buildings
 - Low Carbon City and Transportation
 - Nature Based Solutions and Carbon Capture

The objective of the Climate Action Plan Update (2027-2030) (previously known as the Climate Strategies Action Plan Renewal) is to review and update the actions outlined in both the *Climate Resilient Edmonton: Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan* (2018) and the *Community Energy Transition Strategy and Action Plan* (2021). The Climate Action Plan Update (2027-2030) will serve as a single, integrated action plan that details the actions the City will take between 2027 and 2030 to implement the aforementioned strategies.

Glossary of Key Words

Understanding what these terms mean is important when reading this What We Heard report:

- **Draft Action Concept:** Action concepts are the high-level action statements that describe what climate action the City is proposing between 2027-2030. The action concepts will be further refined through phase 2 engagement with the public and conversations with City departments. These concepts were informed by engagement feedback highlighted in this report.

- **Climate change:** the long term change in weather patterns (e.g. an increase or decrease in extreme weather events such as hurricanes, droughts or floods) over periods of time ranging from decades to millions of years.
- **Greenhouse gases (GHGs):** trap heat in the atmosphere, contributing to the greenhouse effect. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is the main naturally-occurring GHG. The most common human-produced GHGs are CO₂, methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O).
- **Resilience/resilient:** the capacity of a system to survive and thrive under changing conditions, and to maintain its functions during change (e.g. climate resilience)
- **Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA Plus):** GBA Plus is an analytical tool often used with the intention of advancing gender equality. The “plus” in the name highlights that gender-based analysis goes beyond gender, and includes the examination of a range of factors such as age, education, race, language, geography, culture, and income. GBA Plus is used to assess the potential impacts of policies, programs or initiatives on diverse groups of citizens, taking into account gender and other factors. GBA Plus helps recognize and respond to the different situations and needs of citizens.

Engagement Approach

Public Engagement Spectrum

The City of Edmonton’s [Public Engagement Spectrum](#) outlines the four levels of influence for participating in the City’s engagement process. Engagement for the Climate Action Plan Update (2027-2030) falls within the **Advise** level of the Public Engagement Spectrum, meaning participants were asked to share their feedback and perspectives on what the project team needs to consider when updating the City’s climate actions. The graphic below shows the City’s Public Engagement Spectrum:



Who We Engaged

During the first phase of the engagement process, engagement was targeted to external groups with interest and expertise in climate action. This targeted engagement involved a wide range of groups including representatives from:

- Indigenous Nations and organizations¹
- Climate-focused non-governmental organizations (NGOs), not for profits, and advocacy groups
- Environmental industry associations
- Utility companies
- Development industry associations and industry advisory groups
- Educational institutions and academics
- Select City of Edmonton Committees, such as the Energy Transition Climate Resilience Committee

A full list of groups who participated in phase 1 engagement is found in Appendix 1.

The decision was made to target phase 1 of engagement to these groups and not engage publicly due to the availability of research and engagement feedback from the public about climate change that already exists from other City-led initiatives. To avoid contributing to engagement fatigue, it was decided to leverage findings from this previous research and engagement, as described further in the [Review of Existing Engagement Feedback](#) section of this report.

The project team also invited representatives from various social support organizations, including those serving people with disabilities, youth, newcomers, 2SLGBTQIA+, racialized Edmontonians, women, and seniors. Representatives from these organizations were invited to phase 1 engagement in response to findings from the project's Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA Plus), which was conducted during planning to ensure that the engagement process was inclusive of those with diverse and underrepresented experiences. The GBA Plus outcomes identified that while climate change affects everyone, people who are already socially and economically disadvantaged are disproportionately impacted². The project team was unable to connect with representatives from

¹ Indigenous Nations and organizations were engaged through a separate engagement process that was coordinated with two other City-led climate projects, the Wildland-Urban Interface Wildfire Risk Strategy and the Climate Resilience Planning and Development Action Plan.

² This includes children, people with disabilities, Indigenous peoples, ethnic minorities, people experiencing homelessness, recent immigrants, low-income households, seniors, female-headed households, and members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. These groups are disproportionately impacted not only by the effects of climate change itself, such as extreme weather events, but also by the measures implemented to address it (see [Government of Canada](#), [Climate Institute](#) and [World Bank](#)).

invited social support organizations in this first phase of engagement, and as noted in the [What We Did](#) section of this report, the project team will adjust their approach to connecting with these groups in phase 2 engagement.

How We Engaged

From June to October 2025, the project team carried out a range of engagement activities.

Engagement Activity	Description	Format	Number of Participants
Individual and Grouped Meetings	Met with climate-focused advisory groups and committees, as well as those unable to attend the workshops	In-person and online	68
Workshops	Hosted two workshops to engage climate-focused non-profits, academics, industry and utilities	In-person	19
Written Feedback	Received written feedback from those unable to attend workshops or meetings	Email	2
Indigenous Engagement	Met with representatives from Indigenous Nations and organizations through a booth at the Indigenous People's Festival and through two Indigenous engagement workshops ³	In-person	219

³ High-level findings from the Indigenous engagement coordinated with two other City-led climate projects have been included in this report, however, more details on this engagement process and the findings will be available in a separate "What We Heard Report" scheduled for release in 2026.



Photos from the workshops hosted in July 2025.

What We Asked

The focus of the first phase of engagement was to validate the project direction, better understand people’s lived experiences of climate change, and explore partnership opportunities. The project team posed the following questions to get a better understanding of three core areas:

What We Asked	Why We Asked It
<p>What do you think of the approach this project is taking to update the City of Edmonton’s climate actions? Does it make sense? Is there anything missing?</p>	<p>To receive feedback on whether the project approach, including the draft guiding principles, made sense to participants and if there was anything that needed to be adjusted or clarified.</p>
<p>How have you seen the impacts of climate change in your life and work? In what ways have you seen these impacts? What could alleviate these impacts?</p>	<p>To learn more about participants’ lived experiences of the impacts of climate change to inform the proposed actions.</p>

What climate action work is the organization you represent involved in? What could organizations outside of the City do to support advancing climate action? How could the City support that work? What are the barriers and opportunities in your work for partnering with the City to enable better climate outcomes?

To build, and continue building, relationships with external groups working on climate action and identify barriers and opportunities to collaborate and partner.

What We Heard

The feedback considered during the first phase of engagement has been compiled, analyzed, and summarized. This includes relevant insights from previously conducted engagement and research, which were considered alongside feedback received during the phase 1 engagement period for this project. The feedback has been categorized into the following three areas:

- Project Approach
- Lived Experiences
- Partnership Opportunities and Barriers

Beginning with a review of previously conducted engagement and research, the feedback received for each of these areas is detailed below, and where applicable, what the project team has done or is doing in response to the feedback is included. A summary of the main themes heard across these three areas is included at the end.

Review of Existing Engagement

As part of the first phase of engagement, the project team reviewed existing City of Edmonton engagement relevant to the Climate Action Plan Update (2027-2030). This was done to help narrow the focus of targeted engagement during phase 1, reducing overlap with recent engagement opportunities at the City. This review focused on findings from City-led engagement and research related to climate issues. The review included the following documents:

- [Climate Change and Energy Perceptions Report 2024⁴](#)
- [What We Heard Report Climate Resilience Planning and Development Action Plan Part 2 of 2](#)
- [What We Heard Report Alberta Climate Ready Homes - Edmonton](#)
- [Wildland-Urban Interface Wildfire Risk Strategy Wildfire Perceptions Survey Results](#)

⁴ At the time of reviewing existing engagement and research, the [2025 results of the Climate Change and Energy Perceptions Report](#) were not yet available. The 2025 results will be considered as part of the second phase of engagement.

The goal of reviewing this existing engagement and research was to gain a better understanding of public perceptions regarding climate change, and insights into actions community members are taking to protect themselves from its effects. Additionally, the review aimed to gather residents' opinions on what the City should do in response to these challenges. The insights from this review of existing engagement and research has been incorporated into the analysis of what we heard below.

Project Approach

What We Heard		What We Are Doing
1.	<p>Focus on Updating Actions: Most participants agreed with the project approach of focusing on updating the actions rather than updating the strategies, noting that the targets set out in the strategies are still relevant.</p>	<p>The project approach remains focused on updating the actions for the next budget cycle (2027 -2030). The targets set out in the strategies will not be updated.</p>
2.	<p>Coordination and Accountability: Participants agreed with the focus on clear roles, accountability and transparency in the proposed project approach. Feedback suggested early involvement of relevant experts, cross-department collaboration, and a structured “who does what” framework to streamline implementation and avoid delays. Establishing accountable roles for each community partner were seen as key to building trust and sustaining engagement.</p>	<p>Development of draft action concepts involved ongoing discussions with departments across the City of Edmonton to ensure that teams responsible for implementation have been involved from the beginning to help shape the action concepts.</p> <p>The refined actions will include a greater level of detail compared to the draft action concepts being shared as part of phase 2 engagement. Implementation of these actions will include a monitoring and evaluation plan that provides accountability in roles and responsibilities for City of Edmonton teams.</p>
3.	<p>Transparency and Accountability in Monitoring and Metrics: Participants agreed about the need for regular updates on the City's progress towards its climate goals, including outcomes and lessons learned. People stressed the need for better modelling and tracking to measure progress toward climate targets, with some recommending leveraging new and emerging technologies like AI. Sharing</p>	<p>The City has developed a comprehensive public dashboard to provide transparent updates on its progress towards climate goals. This dashboard shares tangible examples of success and key action outcomes. The dashboard reflects the current actions identified within the two existing climate strategies. It will be updated following the presentation of the Climate Action Plan Update (2027-2030) to City Council, to reflect the final new actions and targets. This will help track progress and support decision making.</p>

	<p>tangible examples of success and tracking the timeline performance of action implementation were seen as important.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Prioritization and Targeting: Participants encouraged the project team to focus on low-hanging fruit and high-risk hazards first, prioritizing actions that deliver benefits beyond climate, such as operational, environmental, financial, economic, and social benefits. They agreed with the draft guiding principle of “Near-term benefits with long-term impacts” and suggested carefully assessing potential unintended consequences of climate initiatives.</p>	<p>Potential action concepts were identified and prioritized using a standard evaluation criteria. This criteria weighed the potential benefits of doing an action over the expected effort needed for that action. Benefit criteria included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Immediate benefits with sustained impacts ● Alignment with existing core services and other City goals ● Greenhouse gases reduction potential ● Potential to reduce risk from climate hazards ● Economic impact potential ● Potential to improve equity and support reconciliation efforts <p>Effort criteria included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Financial costs ● Whether the work can be delayed or if it is critical for unlocking future action ● Internal complexity ● External complexity ● Ability to implement
<p>5.</p>	<p>Equity and Inclusivity: Comments emphasized the importance of integrating equity in the project approach, ensuring that the voices of those most affected are heard and engaging diverse participants to inform decisions. We heard that engaging partners and community members early in project planning can help reduce resistance, inform design choices, and improve implementation.</p>	<p>Equity, inclusivity and reconciliation outcomes were considered as part of the evaluation criteria used to prioritize draft action concepts.</p> <p>For phase 2 engagement on the draft action concepts, the project team has planned a variety of approaches to reach diverse populations, such as pop-up booths across the city. In addition, demographic information will be collected through the phase 2 survey to better understand the priorities of specific populations that may experience unique risks associated with climate hazards.</p> <p>Insights from equity-deserving groups will help to inform refinements to the draft action concepts, and equity considerations for each action will be included in the final updated action plan.</p>

<p>6.</p>	<p>Gap in Post-disaster Assessment: Post-disaster assessments were noted as a critical missing element from the project approach, with one participant noting that these assessments are crucial to resilience against extreme events.</p>	<p>The project team has developed draft action concepts that reflect the importance of integrating climate science and risk assessment information into the City's emergency management program.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Need a Guiding Principle Specific to Communications and Engagement: Several participants stressed that how climate initiatives are communicated is just as important as what is communicated. Messaging about the project should focus on immediate benefits of climate action, such as health, affordability, and operational savings, rather than fear-based climate messaging. It was suggested that another guiding principle specific to communications and engagement is needed in the project approach.</p>	<p>The project does not have a guiding principle specific to communications and engagement. However, the need for effective communication and engagement is reflected in the action development approach. Phase 2 engagement and outcomes of the project will be framed through co-benefits such as improving safety and health, reducing pollution, growing the economy and creating jobs, saving people money, and creating innovation opportunities for post-secondary institutions, students, and market leaders.</p> <p>The City acknowledges the critical importance of effective communications and engagement for climate action and plans to progress it through the implementation of the Climate Action Plan Update (2027-2030)</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Additional Support Needed to Connect with Social Support Organizations: One social support organization shared that while they appreciated being invited, climate action is outside the scope of their day-to-day work and they are not funded to participate in these kinds of engagement.</p>	<p>To reduce barriers and encourage participation from social support organizations, the project team will offer financial honorarium for participation in phase 2 engagement targeted workshops to those who may experience barriers to participating. Offering honorarium to those who need it helps reduce barriers that some may experience related to the costs of engaging, including taking time off work, covering transportation and childcare, and other needs.</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>Information Transparency and City Leadership: In general, people want the City to provide clear, accessible information on climate impacts and solutions, such as the costs of infrastructure damage, or the benefits of net-zero development.</p> <p>Participants noted that public awareness improves when the City showcases successes and aligns utilities and municipal policies with climate goals. In addition,</p>	<p>Climate solution leadership stands as a foundation of the Community Energy Transition Strategy and Action Plan. This will not change through the update and the City remains committed to demonstrating leadership in its own decision making, actions and advocacy.</p> <p>Draft action concepts reflect this continued commitment, with many action concepts focused on corporate efforts to improve resilience to climate impacts and to reduce corporate greenhouse gas emissions.</p>

<p>people want to see the City lead by example through stronger standards and clearer direction, such as requiring net-zero-ready buildings, avoiding new development in flood-prone areas, and prioritizing permits for green projects. Many said the City could set the tone for change by using its own policies and investments to show what's possible.</p>	<p>As mentioned in item 3, in order to enhance transparency, the City developed a public dashboard to track progress towards climate goals. This dashboard helps the City to showcase success by highlighting projects that implement the climate actions.</p>
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Lived Experiences

What We Heard		What We Are Doing
<p>10.</p>	<p>Extreme Heat: Many participants brought up extreme heat and the issue of overheating in buildings, particularly for vulnerable populations. Extreme heat also affects public spaces, bus shelters, and other city assets.</p> <p>Suggested mitigations included the use of cooling standards, shading, boulevard trees, and heat-resilient materials.</p>	<p>The draft action concepts were developed considering the feedback we heard from participants on extreme heat and the need for support during extreme heat events. Draft action concepts propose to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide safe public spaces for Edmontonians during extreme heat events. • Optimize the management of and expand the urban forest to reduce the impacts of the “urban heat island effect” where urbanized areas are warmer than their surrounding rural counterparts. • Improve the design of transit facilities to improve resilience to extreme heat and other climate hazards. • Help people adapt to extreme heat through community and home retrofits. • Support advocacy to other levels of government for building standards to address extreme temperatures.
<p>11.</p>	<p>Wildfire Smoke and Poor Air Quality: Wildfire smoke and poor air quality are impacts of climate</p>	<p>The draft action concepts help address the impacts of wildfire smoke and poor air quality in Edmonton</p>

	<p>change that are front of mind for many participants. They noted that these impacts affect breathing, mobility, and the ability to participate in outdoor activities and community events. Suggested mitigations included accessible public clean-air spaces, expanded air quality monitoring and clear communication about how people can protect themselves. In addition, specific supports for recreation and large outdoor events are needed, including support with contingency planning, temporary clean-air shelters, and grants.</p>	<p>through a number of ways. Like extreme heat, poor air quality can impact public spaces, homes and transportation. The draft action concepts propose to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide safe public spaces for Edmontonians during poor air quality events • Improve the design of transit facilities to improve resilience to poor air quality and other climate hazards. • Include new weather extremes and climate hazards into the planning of civic events and programming. • Support advocacy to other levels of government for building standards to address poor air quality and extreme temperatures.
<p>12.</p>	<p>Flood and Drought Risk: We heard about how climate change increases flood and drought risks, affecting tributary creeks, reservoirs, and stormwater infrastructure. Participants advocated that potable water should be treated as a precious resource and proactive water management strategies should be prioritized, including greywater and blackwater recycling, rain gardens, low-impact development (e.g. incorporating permeable surfaces), multipurpose storage, preemptive water management, and natural water capture. We also heard that planning beyond standard 100-year flood events improves long-term resilience. Accounting for natural assets and investing in ecological restoration supports sustainable urban and regional environments.</p>	<p>The draft action concepts were developed considering the feedback from participants and propose to address both flood and drought hazards in a number of ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand the City’s understanding of flood hazards in Edmonton’s River Valley and Ravine System. • Plan and prepare for drought conditions by ensuring water is conserved and protected. • Support Edmontonians to take action through programs to support resilient landscaping practices. • Incorporate climate data into the City’s vegetation management to improve the health, suitability and resilience of trees and vegetation with changing weather conditions.
<p>13.</p>	<p>Changes in Plant Hardiness and Spread of Invasive Species: Changes in plant hardiness and the spread of invasive species threatening biodiversity due to the impacts of climate change was another area we heard about. Suggested responses include strategic restoration, native</p>	<p>The draft action concepts were developed considering the feedback from participants on the impacts of climate change on plant health. The draft action concepts propose to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support efforts to identify climate resilient species and increase diversity.

	<p>species planting, and targeted management of invasive species to protect ecological systems.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop new design standards for supportive infrastructure to improve water retention and nutrient availability. • Protect and maintain urban trees.
<p>14.</p>	<p>Urban Trees and Ecological Health: Some participants brought up how aging urban trees, canopy loss, and the slow pace of replacement pose a threat to ecological resilience. It was recommended that tree preservation should be prioritized independently from other initiatives (e.g., solar installations) to maintain long-term environmental benefits.</p>	<p>The health of urban trees and ecological networks are addressed through the project teams’ proposed approach to climate resilient vegetation management. The project team is proposing draft action concepts that aim to improve the health of urban trees and ecological networks by incorporating climate data into vegetation management, which will help healthier trees grow larger, faster, and live longer.</p>
<p>15.</p>	<p>Energy Transition and Low Carbon Technologies: There was strong interest in various low carbon technologies such as geothermal systems, heat pumps, solar PV, and other low-carbon energy technologies. Participants noted that scaling up adoption, particularly in commercial buildings, requires clear action plans, cost reduction strategies, and consideration of lifecycle efficiency. Strategic district energy systems were suggested for more effective and equitable transitions. However, we also heard that decisions about district energy, hydrogen, natural gas, renewable natural gas, and other technologies should focus on overall greenhouse gas reduction and lifecycle costs, rather than selecting a single “winner.” Some noted that ground source heat pumps offer superior environmental and cost benefits in cold climates and should be considered alongside air-source heat pumps for long-term planning.</p>	<p>The draft action concepts were developed considering the feedback we heard from participants with a diverse approach to low carbon technologies. The draft action concepts propose to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify alternative funding options through the City’s energy efficiency savings to reinvest in corporate climate resilience projects. • Identify local opportunities for community led renewable energy projects. • Improve access to renewable energy for equity deserving Edmontonians. • Advance the development of sustainable fuels from waste. • Continue to expand the district energy network. • Encourage and facilitate expansion of electric vehicle charging infrastructure.
<p>16.</p>	<p>Climate Resilience in Built Infrastructure: Participants discussed opportunities for integrating climate resilience into built infrastructure, with some recommending focusing on air-source heat pumps, ground-source heat pumps, and district geothermal systems to</p>	<p>The draft action concepts were developed considering the feedback we heard from participants on opportunities for integrating climate resilience into built infrastructure. The draft action concepts propose to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop programming and incentives to

	<p>provide the most immediate and accessible opportunity to reduce emissions and improve resilience in buildings. It was suggested that training, technical workshops, and education for Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) companies can help ensure high-quality installations and long-term efficiency.</p>	<p>support Edmontonians in improving energy efficiency and accessing renewable energy generation technology.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address information gaps and provide greater support for residential and non-residential renewable energy adoption. <p>The draft action concepts do not identify specific technologies; however, the proposed programs will integrate the feedback from this engagement in program design.</p>
<p>17.</p>	<p>Accessible and Climate-Resilient Mobility: Participants noted that improvements are needed in connectivity, convenience, and safety for active and public transportation, including climate-proofing bus stops, expanding transit routes and frequency, and enhancing bike lane infrastructure.</p>	<p>The draft action concepts were developed considering the feedback we heard from participants on opportunities to improve active and public transportation. The draft action concepts propose to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand the transit network with continued development of the Bus Rapid Transit project. • Provide safe and protected bike storage infrastructure. • Continue the expansion of the active transportation network. • Improve the design of transit facilities to improve resilience to climate hazards.
<p>18.</p>	<p>Waste and Low Carbon Practices: We heard that low-waste initiatives, such as composting and plastic reduction, remain crucial for overall climate resilience and community engagement. Similarly, we heard that construction and demolition waste should be actively managed to minimize environmental impacts, with a focus on reuse and material efficiency as part of resilient building practices.</p>	<p>Much of the feedback on low-waste initiatives is being explored through the Industrial, Commercial, Institutional Waste Roadmap. Draft action concepts specific to this project related to waste are focused on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from landfills through the development of a renewable natural gas facility and the reduction of food waste in landfills.</p>
<p>19.</p>	<p>Funding and Financial Support: Participants emphasized the need for more consistent and inclusive funding for climate action, including accessible grants, loans and financial incentives.</p>	<p>The draft action concepts propose new programs that can support Edmontonians through incentives, education and capacity building as well as the expansion of the existing Brownfield Redevelopment</p>

	<p>Current programs often leave people out because of eligibility rules or caps that don't match real costs. Participants want the City to advocate for better provincial and federal funding structures, simplify grant requirements, and ensure that financial support reaches those who need it most.</p>	<p>Grant. The proposed additional supportive programming includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programming and education to mobilize individuals, organizations and neighbourhoods to adapt to, and prepare for, climate hazards such as wildfire smoke, extreme heat, flooding and other extreme weather events. • Programming and incentives to improve access to renewable energy and energy efficiency retrofits. <p>The proposed programs are focused through an equity lens, often with support directed towards low-income applicants who may experience energy poverty or who could not otherwise access retrofits. The specific scope of the proposed programs will consider financial impacts to the City and Edmontonians.</p>
<p>20.</p>	<p>Incentive Design and Participation: Feedback highlighted that climate action incentives are most effective when paired with tangible benefits, such as linking financial support to energy efficiency or social outcomes, and making sustainable choices the default option. Furthermore, participants encouraged the City to embed energy efficiency and climate requirements into existing City programs, such as business or façade improvement grants, using them as levers to advance climate targets. They also recommended that all City-funded projects meet minimum environmental standards to ensure consistency and accountability.</p>	<p>As mentioned above, the draft action concepts propose a number of additional support programs and incentives as well as the expansion of the existing Brownfield Redevelopment Grant. The proposed additional programs link support to energy efficiency and resilience, seeking to support vulnerable and low-income citizens.</p> <p>Beyond the Brownfield Redevelopment Grant, climate change requirements have been embedded within other grant programs such as the Storefront Improvement Program and the Affordable Housing Investment Program.</p> <p>Through the Climate Resilience Policy (C627), new City-owned buildings, or buildings that are more than 33% funded by the City, must meet minimum environmental standards.</p>
<p>21.</p>	<p>Affordability, Access, and Community-Based Solutions: We heard that the rising costs of materials, energy, and transportation are making it increasingly difficult for residents to adapt to</p>	<p>The draft action concepts propose a mix of incentive programs and community-based solutions. The draft action concepts propose to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify local opportunities for renewable

	<p>climate change. Many noted that climate-friendly choices (such as green energy retrofits) remain out of reach for low-income households and that rebates or incentive programs should be expanded, income-tested, and easier to access. Participants also noted evolving market forces, such as shifts in the insurance and energy sectors, could create both risks and opportunities for local climate action.</p> <p>In addition, participants felt that tackling climate change should not fall on individuals alone. Instead of expecting every household to buy their own solar panels or heat pump, they want to see more community-level solutions, such as shared renewable systems, distributed energy projects, and City-owned infrastructure that benefits everyone.</p>	<p>projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve access to community renewable energy solutions and energy efficiency upgrades for low-income Edmontonians and those who don't own homes suitable for solar installations. • Continue to expand the district energy network to improve access to local low-carbon energy sources. • Provide support to enable Edmontonians to adapt to climate hazards. • Improve access to renewable energy and energy efficiency retrofits. <p>The specific scope of the proposed programs will consider financial impacts to the City and Edmontonians.</p>
<p>22.</p>	<p>Targeted Education and Awareness: People want focused, practical guidance rather than general information, with some noting that resources alone (like pamphlets) are often insufficient. Educating residents on how renewable energy investments can save money and providing practical supports such as helping homeowners plan for heating system upgrades, retrofit coaches, concierge services, and specialized advice for building owners can help individuals navigate complex processes, including the Clean Energy Improvement Program (CEIP) or renewable energy installation. Hands-on guidance and highlighting co-benefits, such as cost savings, energy efficiency, and health improvements, can help increase uptake.</p>	<p>The draft action concepts were developed considering the feedback provided by participants and propose educational programs focused on barriers identified by citizens and engagement participants. The draft action concepts propose to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address information gaps and provide greater support for Edmontonians pursuing renewable energy solutions and energy efficiency retrofits. <p>Communication is a foundational element of the implementation of the strategies and the City will continue to explore alternative ways of educating and engaging citizens to build community resilience through its programs.</p>
<p>23.</p>	<p>Innovation and Technology: Comments highlighted emerging solutions, including self-repairing roads, advanced air filtration, automation in buildings, and early defect</p>	<p>The project team will be using a standard template to develop the detailed actions, and this template will include a prompt for the project team to consider innovation and technology opportunities when</p>

	<p>detection technologies. Pilots and testing were encouraged to ensure scalability and effectiveness. Participants also emphasized the importance of considering the full lifecycle impacts of climate technologies, such as end-of-life management for solar panels.</p>	<p>developing the details of each action concept.</p>
<p>24.</p>	<p>Commercial vs. Residential Focus: Many noted that commercial buildings present significant climate impact opportunities, often greater than residential buildings, and that commercial owners may be motivated by energy cost savings. Access to data for tenant paid utilities can be a barrier to building owners in understanding consumption and optimizing energy use.</p>	<p>The City has been running a Commercial Building Energy Benchmarking Program since 2017. This program is designed to improve building energy efficiency by providing owners with information about their building’s energy use. Through this program, the City continues to work with building owners to break down barriers to access to energy use data.</p>
<p>25.</p>	<p>Building and Infrastructure Design and Standards: Feedback emphasized the importance of designing for all climate impacts, including extreme weather, temperature fluctuations, and wildfire risks. Suggestions included resilient road materials, climate-ready stormwater systems, and upgrades to City-owned and private buildings to handle heat, freeze-thaw cycles, and flooding.</p>	<p>The draft action concepts were developed considering the feedback we heard from participants on City buildings and infrastructure. The draft action concepts propose to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identify City assets that are most exposed or vulnerable to climate risks and use climate risk prioritization to inform asset investment. ● Incorporate climate resilient standards into the City’s Design and Construction Standards that ensure that all City infrastructure is constructed to a consistent standard for operation and maintenance.
<p>26.</p>	<p>Equitable Access: We heard about the importance of ensuring climate actions do not disproportionately impact low-income households, renters, or marginalized communities, including the risk that rents increase due to renovations to improve energy efficiency.</p>	<p>The draft action concepts were developed considering the feedback we heard on equitable access to housing. The draft action concepts were developed with an equity lens, and a number of proposed action concepts were developed to help mitigate the impacts of climate change on low-income households. The draft action concepts propose to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reduce energy poverty in Edmonton by improving access to renewable energy for low-income Edmontonians.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop programs to help Edmontonians adapt to climate hazards. • Improve access to renewable energy and energy efficiency retrofits. • Advocate to other levels of government for building standards to address extreme temperature and air quality in living spaces and reduce utility costs. <p>Work related to building affordable housing is outside the scope of this project, however, affordability is a lens that the project team considered to inform draft action concepts.</p>
<p>27.</p>	<p>Mental Health and Eco-Anxiety Support: Participants want the City to recognize and address the psychological impacts of climate change through research, programming, and community support to reduce stress and build resilience.</p>	<p>No draft action concepts propose direct support for mental health and eco-anxiety; however, existing programs like Neighbouring for Climate and the proposed provision of public spaces for Edmontonians to go to during climate emergencies and extreme weather events would help build community resilience through the protection of public health and safety.</p>
<p>28.</p>	<p>Inclusive Planning for Climate Migration: Some participants brought up the need to plan for and support evacuees from local and regional communities experiencing climate emergencies, including ensuring access to housing, social services, and emergency support.</p>	<p>The draft action concepts include focus on how the City can better consider climate-related risks and extreme weather events in its emergency response management planning and preparedness. This is intended to help the City continue to support evacuees from local and regional communities experiencing climate emergencies.</p>

Partnership Opportunities and Barriers

What We Heard		What We Are Doing
<p>29.</p>	<p>Collaboration Across Sectors: Many emphasized that climate challenges are too complex for any single organization to address. Strong partnerships among municipalities, universities, industry, utilities, non-governmental organizations, and other levels of government are</p>	<p>As standard practice, the City aims to build relationships with other organizations, community members, and other levels of government to identify collaboration opportunities.</p> <p>The draft action concepts reinforce the City's</p>

	<p>essential for addressing complex challenges, avoiding duplication, sharing expertise, enabling data-driven decision making, and reaching broader communities. Examples include living labs at the University of Alberta (research projects that use the university’s campus as a testing ground for sustainability solutions), youth climate programs, and coordinated air quality monitoring.</p>	<p>commitment to collaboration and advocacy through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with partners to continue research and development in sustainable fuels from waste. • Advocacy in collaboration with partners to advance utility regulations and programs. • Advocacy for building standards that address extreme temperature, air quality risk and reduce utility costs. <p>In addition, during phase 2 of public engagement, the project team will continue conversations on potential partnership opportunities for the draft action concepts to inform the development of the final detailed actions.</p>
<p>30.</p>	<p>Clarifying Roles and Leverage: Participants emphasized the need for clarity on what the City is actually implementing versus what it plans to implement. Organizations such as EPCOR, ATCO, and post-secondary institutions aim to identify areas where they can align their efforts to support City goals without creating barriers, and explore how the City can leverage its influence through municipally-owned or affiliated entities. To do that, these organizations need clarity on what action the City is currently taking so that they can support accordingly. In addition, participants highlighted the importance of coordination between the City and other partners such as EPCOR and ATCO in responding to climate change.</p>	<p>The guiding approach for the Climate Action Plan Update (2027-2030) includes a commitment to focused implementation and accountability. It proposes to identify internal action leaders as well as opportunities for external partners to support action implementation.</p> <p>All actions are planned to be achievable in the 2027-2030 budget cycle to ensure clear, measurable progress and dedicated funding.</p> <p>As mentioned above, the City is developing a public dashboard to track progress towards climate targets and update the status of each action.</p>
<p>31.</p>	<p>Funding and Financial Support: Participants emphasized that meaningful collaboration depends on adequate funding and financial support. Many said the City often expects others to deliver programs without providing financial support, which creates a significant barrier to participation. Smaller organizations can leverage</p>	<p>The guiding approach for the Climate Action Plan Update (2027-2030) includes a commitment to creating pathways to partnership. At this time, the project team has not yet explored all avenues for partnerships. Feedback received during phase 2 of engagement, as well as ongoing refinements of the actions, will further identify partnership opportunities.</p>

	<p>limited funding to accomplish significant work, but often lack the necessary operational resources. Participants emphasized that financial and human resource support, such as paid youth internships or staff funding, enables partners to deliver results effectively, scale programs, and maintain long-term engagement. Participants also highlighted the need for assistance in accessing grants and navigating complex funding systems, noting that many opportunities remain unused.</p>	
<p>32.</p>	<p>Intergovernmental Context: Feedback on partnerships reflected the importance of the City coordinating with provincial and federal governments, particularly around funding access and regulatory frameworks, such as new legislation on adding hydrogen into the natural gas supply, to ensure consistency, access to funding, and technical feasibility. By coordinating with provincial programs and federal initiatives, such as affordability supports or green homes programs, local efforts can be amplified and receive technical, financial, and regulatory backing.</p>	<p>As standard practice, the City aims to build relationships with other organizations, community members, and other levels of government to identify collaboration opportunities.</p> <p>Where possible, the City coordinates with provincial and federal governments to further both climate and affordability programs.</p>
<p>33.</p>	<p>Education, Awareness, and Storytelling: Many noted that the City can amplify the impact of programs by supporting existing education and awareness campaigns, rather than duplicating efforts already led by non-governmental organizations and industry. Sharing success stories, technical knowledge, and tangible benefits (such as energy savings or health improvements) helps increase engagement and public trust. People suggested using content creators, influencers, and relatable storytelling to reach broader audiences, and tailoring framing to align with residents' values and priorities.</p>	<p>The guiding approach for the project includes a commitment to creating pathways to partnership. At this time, we have not yet explored all avenues for partnership. The City is open to exploring opportunities for partnership to support education and information sharing, and is seeking to identify these opportunities during phase 2 of public engagement. This work is anticipated to be done through the next phase of detailed action development.</p>

<p>34.</p>	<p>Advocacy and Policy Alignment: Participants identified opportunities to support the City by advocating for regulatory and policy changes, coordinating with provincial and regional governments, and assisting the City in responding to political and social challenges. This includes advancing climate-friendly utility regulations, supporting building energy labelling, and engaging the public on contentious issues in ways that build consensus.</p>	<p>As standard practice, the City aims to build relationships with other organizations, community members, and other levels of government to identify collaboration opportunities.</p> <p>The draft action concepts reinforce the City's commitment to collaboration and advocacy through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with partners to continue research and development in sustainable fuels from waste. • Advocacy in collaboration with partners to advance utility regulations and programs. • Advocacy for building standards that address extreme temperature, air quality risk and reduce utility costs.
<p>35.</p>	<p>Balance Competing Interests: Participants flagged that partnerships must navigate tensions between infill development, solar access, and other urban planning priorities, ensuring that collaboration does not create conflict with community objectives.</p>	<p>The Climate Action plan Update (2027-2030) proposes to identify actions that provide co-benefits and progress sustainable growth outcomes.</p>

Main Themes Heard Throughout

Across feedback received about the project approach, peoples’ lived experiences with climate change, and partnership opportunities and barriers, several main themes emerged.

Governance, Policy and Resources: Participants emphasized that the success of climate resilience initiatives depends on sustained political support, adequate funding and clear policy direction. Concerns were raised about affordability for residents and businesses as well as the City’s ability to prioritize climate actions within its budget. Grants, incentives and supportive legislation were seen as critical for individual and community-level action.

Engagement, Awareness and Partnerships: Participants highlighted the need for transparent communication, accessible education, and inclusive engagement to build trust and shared ownership of climate initiatives. Strong partnerships were seen as essential, whether with other municipalities, higher levels of government, industry,

advocacy organizations or educational institutions. Collaboration across sectors was viewed as a key driver of innovation and collective progress.

Project Design, Delivery and Innovation: Feedback reflected both appreciation for current projects and suggestions for improvement. Participants noted where approaches were working well, where gaps existed, and where additional considerations could strengthen delivery. Innovation and technology were identified as opportunities to accelerate climate action, while attention to building standards, infrastructure maintenance and the balance between residential and commercial priorities were seen as foundational to long-term resilience.

Social Well-Being and Equity: Climate resilience was strongly connected to quality of life. Participants indicated that climate actions must be equitable and accessible, particularly for vulnerable populations. Affordable housing, mental health and access to recreation and outdoor programming were raised as important dimensions of resilience. Mobility and connectivity were also highlighted, with calls for safe, accessible and convenient transportation options that reduce barriers and support community well-being.

Natural Environment and Resilience: The natural environment was recognized as both vulnerable to climate impacts and vital to resilience. Concerns about flooding, drought, extreme heat and air quality were recurring themes alongside calls for stronger management of natural assets. Participants stressed the importance of protecting and restoring ecosystems, with a focus on urban trees, native species and ecological restoration. Waste reduction, greenhouse gas emissions reduction and the transition to cleaner energy were seen as critical to mitigating climate risks and building a healthier, more sustainable future.

Next Steps

Engagement feedback during phase 1 was vital in informing the focus of the draft action concepts, and the project team would like to thank all participants once again for their input. The summary of what we heard and what we did in this report details how initial targeted engagement informed project decisions.

Phase 2 engagement will occur from December 2025 to January 2026, and at this time, both those targeted groups engaged in phase 1 and the public will have the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft action concepts. Insights from this second phase of engagement will inform refinements to the action concepts.

The final Climate Action Plan Update (2027-2030) will be presented to Council in mid 2026.

For any questions, please contact climatestrategyandplanning@edmonton.ca.

For additional information, visit the [Climate Strategies website](#).

Appendix 1: List of Participants

Phase 1 engagement included four tactics: individual and grouped meetings; two workshops; written feedback; and Indigenous engagement coordinated with two other City-led climate projects.

Individual and Grouped Meetings

- June 18, 2025 meeting with members of the Energy Transition Leadership Network (ETLN)
- July 24, 2025 meeting with members of Emissions Neutral Buildings Industry Advisory Group (ENBIAG), which included representatives from BILD, IDEA, Edmonton Construction Association, ATCO, Solar Alberta, Smart Sustainable Resilient Infrastructure Association (SSRIA), Stantec, and EPCOR
- July 28, 2025 meeting with members of the City of Edmonton's Energy Transition Climate Resilience Committee (ETCRC)
- August 6, 2025 meeting with a representative from the University of Alberta's Sustainability Council
- August 7, 2025 meeting with a representative from Solar Alberta
- August 7, 2025 meeting with representatives from ATCO
- August 7, 2025 meeting with representatives from the Home Energy Efficiency Team (HEET)

Workshops

July 21, 2025 workshop with NGOs and academics included representatives from the following organizations:

- University of Alberta
- Environmental Law Centre
- Paths for People
- Edmonton Youth for Climate
- Climate Justice Edmonton
- Canadian Red Cross
- Edmonton River Valley Conservation Coalition
- North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance

July 29, 2025 workshop with industry and utilities included representatives from the following organizations:

- Alberta Ecotrust Foundation
- EPCOR
- Boundless Renewables Consulting
- BILD Edmonton Metro
- Community Energy Association
- Award Evolution Inc.
- Alberta Low Impact Development Partnership
- Infill Development in Edmonton Association

Written Feedback

Written feedback was received via email from Boundless Renewables Consulting and Alberta Capital Airshed.

Indigenous Engagement

Indigenous engagement included three tactics: A community pop-up booth at the Indigenous People's Day festival in Borden Park, a Climate Partners Roundtable event, and a Regional Climate Gathering event. While the community

pop-up targeted the general public and members of the urban Indigenous community, the other two events included specific participants.

For the Climate Partners Roundtable event, 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, 16 participants attended the Regional Climate Gathering, representing eight Nations:

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

Three other Nations 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
- Kainai Nation (Blood Tribe)
- Lac Ste. Anne Métis Community Association