

WHAT WE HEARD

Climate and Environment Strategy Phase 2 Engagement Summary





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Engagement Context

The Climate and Environment Strategy will be the City's guide for making decisions that foster a resilient urban and natural environment. The City, other levels of government, partners, businesses and residents all have a role to play in meeting the environmental and climate challenges we are facing today and over the coming decades.

The Climate and Environment Strategy is the latest in a series of City policies to guide our next decade of planning, decision-making, and action in key areas, including Mobility, Economy, Public Safety, Parks & Public Space, Infrastructure & Phasing, and upcoming Community Wellbeing Strategies. These are in support of the Official Community Plan, Council's Strategic Plan, Corporate Business Plan, and the City's Financial Plan.

Engagement Objectives

This purpose of the Phase 2 engagement was to share the draft Strategy with the public and interested parties for feedback. Our community benefits from a rich diversity of backgrounds, lived experiences, cultures and languages, and the Strategy aims to reflect the needs and priorities of a range of voices.

The objectives of the engagement process were to hear from a broad cross section of the community, including those who were engaged in phase one, and to ensure that input is meaningfully incorporated into the Strategy.

How We Engaged

A variety of activities and tools were used to engage community members and receive their input on the Strategy, for a period of approximately six weeks from September 6 to October 13, 2023.

Phase two engagement included:



Established consultation processes were followed to receive input from **Sḵw̱wú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation)** and **səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation)**



Committee meetings and workshops with a range of interest groups and partner organizations



Communications outreach including website, social media, print and e-newsletters promoted the engagement opportunity as well as relevant background information



A **Let's Talk Survey** provided opportunity for input from the broader public. An accompanying summary document was translated into Farsi, Simplified Chinese, and Tagalog.



Pop-ups around the City – such as at the Civic Plaza and Library, Mahon Park and Shipyards – raised awareness and allowed for one-on-one conversations with residents.



Targeted outreach to organizations representing equity-deserving communities – including the Women's Centre, Tween Advisory Group, Lookout Health and Housing Society, and the North Shore Neighbourhood House.



Who We Heard From

Survey Respondents



A total of 135 people
participated in the survey.



80% of respondents

live in the City of North Vancouver.



57% of respondents

were older than 45 years old. Only 3% of respondents were under 25 years old.



59% of respondents

were homeowners, which is representative of overall City demographics.



12% of respondents

self-identified as being new to Canada (less than 5 years).



10% of respondents

self-identified as not primarily speaking English or French at home.



22% of respondents

self-identified as having a single-income household.



Who We Heard From

Local First Nations Review of the Draft Strategy

Sḵw̓xwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) and səliwətał (Tseil-Waututh Nation) each provided feedback through their respective review processes.

The local First Nations’ comments will be considered and included in the final draft. The feedback is included in the summarized themes throughout this report.

Interest-holder Engagement

Youth Groups	Community Groups	Community Partners	City & Community Committees
<p>Tween Advisory Group</p> <p>Teen Advisory Council</p>	<p>Vancouver Humane Society</p> <p>Plant-Based City Movement</p> <p>North Shore Force of Nature Alliance</p>	<p>Vancouver Coastal Health</p> <p>Table Matters</p>	<p>Advisory Planning Commission</p> <p>Integrated Transportation Committee</p> <p>Community Housing Action Committee</p> <p>CNV4Me Task Force</p>

What We Heard

Concerns About Climate Change

A deep concern about climate change was heard emphatically from the community.

Taking Action Now

Many survey respondents stressed that climate change is occurring now, and we need to take urgent action and act as a leader. The Strategy needs to have a clear direction and be implemented with measurable targets and metrics tracking our progress.

Heat and Wildfires

One of the major concerns heard was regarding extreme heat, including the need for climate resilience and a lack of cooling infrastructure in many buildings. Nearby wildfire events had respondents concerned about emergency responses, the health of the environment, and air quality. It will be important to create spaces that are safe for all during extreme heat and wildfire smoke events.





What We Heard

Feedback on Pathway 1: Less Grey, More Green

Of all the objectives in this Pathway, survey respondents prioritized the following:

- ⇒ **Position the environment and climate priorities at the core of land use and transportation planning, and at the foundation of decision-making.**
54% of respondents
- ⇒ **Protect and grow the City's park and public space system, natural areas, urban forest, and habitat connectivity.**
55% of respondents

Environment at the Forefront

Many respondents said it was important for all policy decisions to be made with an environmental lens, and that the City should act with urgency. In addition, drinking water management was a concern because of increasing heat, drought, and wildfires.

Healthy Ecosystems

Because of the benefits provided by healthy environments and ecosystems, many stated that it is essential that we protect, grow and restore the natural areas in the city. This is important for native species, wildlife, and quality of life for residents.



What We Heard

Feedback on Pathway 2: Climate Resilient Buildings

Of all the objectives in this Pathway, survey respondents prioritized the following:

- ⇒ **Transition to high efficiency, zero carbon building standards that are adapted to a changing climate and extreme weather events.**
60% of respondents

City Leadership

We heard that the City should show leadership to reduce emissions and support the electrification of new and older buildings. Respondents stated that one way to help reduce emissions would be to continue support and incentivize the transition to renewable energy sources for the Community Energy System.

Affordability

Affordability was one barrier identified as community members stated they were worried about the inequality and unaffordability of electrification and higher performance standards for buildings. It will be important to ensure the cost does not fall to those who are struggling to make ends meet, and that there are government rebates available.



What We Heard

Feedback on Pathway 3: Connected Neighbourhoods

Of all the objectives in this Pathway, survey respondents prioritized the following:

- ⇒ **Create a City of low carbon and resilient neighbourhoods that provide easy access to daily needs and greenspace within a short walk or roll from home.**

63% of respondents

The top three elements that respondents indicated they would like to see in their neighbourhoods as part of a complete community were:

- Grocery options (69% of respondents)
- Parks and open greenspaces (59% of respondents)
- Trails, paths and walking/rolling routes (59% of respondents)

Other responses included libraries and more recreational opportunities such as art galleries or swimming pools.

Safer Streets & Active Transportation

The City should focus on reducing car dependency to reduce carbon emissions from transportation, create safer streets for pedestrians and cyclists, and decrease noise and air pollution. Tree canopy and bus shelters provide rest areas and shade for comfortable walking routes and connection to transit.

Supporting the Move to Zero Emission Vehicles

Many respondents stated that they would like to see the transition to zero emission vehicles, such as electric vehicles, but understand that it is not the end-all solution to reducing carbon emissions from transportation.

What We Heard

Feedback on Pathway 4: Empowered Choices

Of all the objectives in this Pathway, survey respondents prioritized the following:

- ⇒ **Increase the recovery and recycling of resources such as food and construction materials to reduce waste.**

59% of respondents

Reducing Waste

A circular economy would be welcome, and the City needs to take leadership on mandating more waste diversion and reduction through policy and supporting repair workshops. Comments also included the need for education on buying sustainably, avoiding environmentally harmful products (e.g. artificial turf lawns), sharing resources and tools and reducing consumption.

Leadership & Education

The City should act as a leader and provide more education and resources allowing residents to understand how to make the biggest impact with their choices, whether through transportation options, and/or buying sustainably and local.

Local Food

Respondents would like to see more education and opportunities to eat locally grown food and plant-based diets, including resources to grow their own food. However, concerns for the rising cost of living need to be considered and mitigated to make low impact choices.



What We Heard

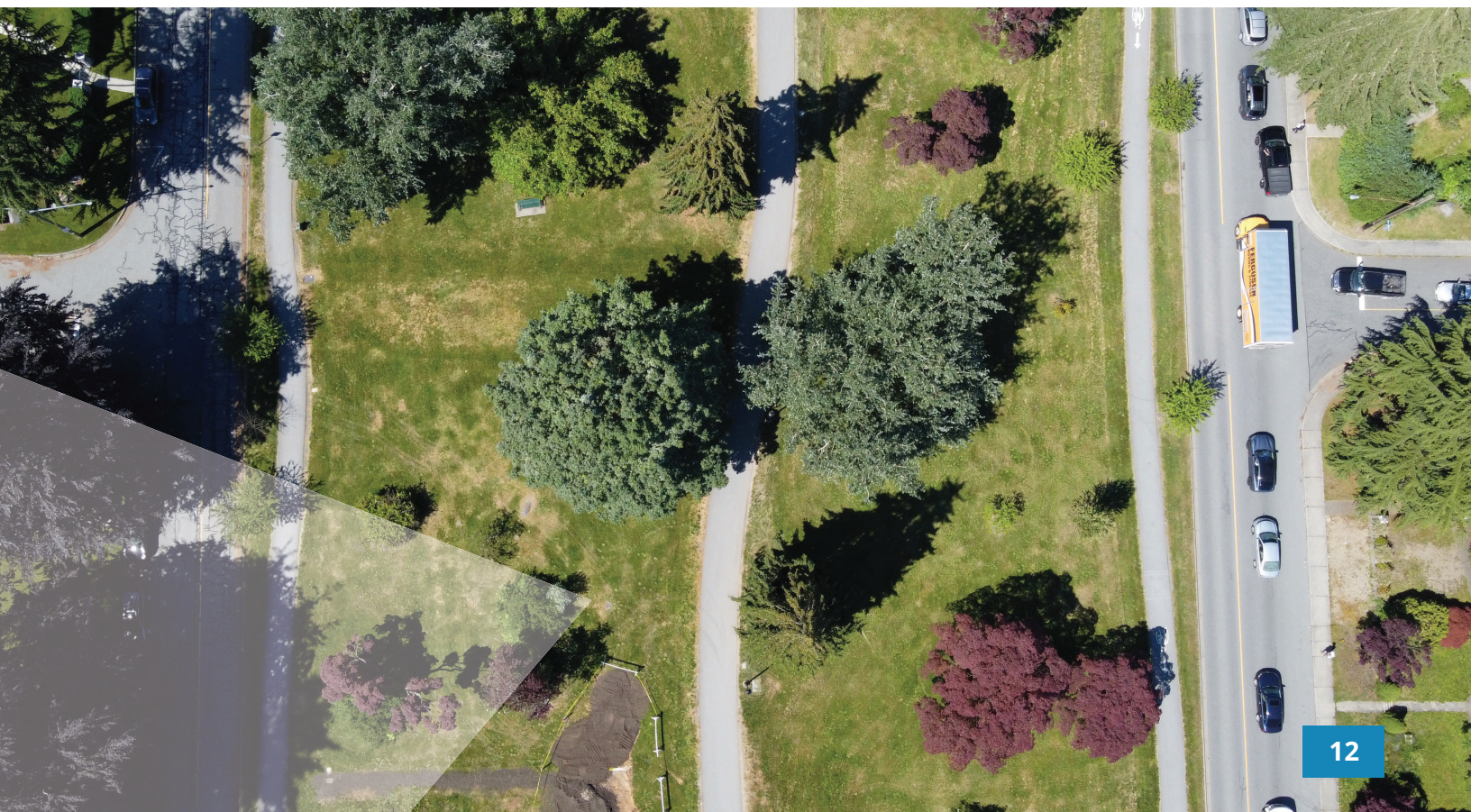
Additional Feedback

Opportunities for Individual Action

It is important to highlight in the Strategy where individuals can take action, such as transitioning to a low impact diet or electrification of their homes and vehicles. However, it is essential for the focus to be on the actions that the city has the greatest ability to take action on and the highest contributors of emissions in the City, such as the transportation and building sector.

Tracking our Progress

Many stated it would be important to include metrics and targets as part of the Strategy to help measure progress to reduce emissions and to adapt. These metrics and targets would be essential for monitoring and evaluation to ensure the Strategy is on track and for transparency to the public. It will be important to prioritize the work that will truly make a difference towards achieving net zero.



Key Takeaways



Urgency of climate action was heard across all engagement input.



Concerns about hotter temperatures, wildfires, and the health of the environment.



Respondents are seeking City leadership on actions.



Safe streets for everyone was emphasized as one of the key priorities.



Metrics and targets will be important to tracking our progress.



Considerations need to be in place to help combat the high cost of living.

Thank You for Participating

Thank you to everyone who shared their experience and provided input on the Climate and Environment Strategy Phase 2 Engagement report.

The input is being reviewed by the project team and will be considered as the project moves forward.

