Climate Action Plan

What We Heard

From September to November 2023, City staff engaged with the community including a variety of specific audiences and organizations on reducing carbon pollution and energy use in order to support the development of a Climate Action Plan.

This infographic provides a summary analysis of key insights and input offered through the community engagement period. Additional project information is available at LetsTalkCoquitlam.ca/ClimatePlan.

During these discussions, in which more than 1,100 people participated, the focus was on understanding the level of support for the proposed long-term approaches for each proposed priority area within the Climate Action Plan. We also wanted to understand the challenges people face around taking climate action, as well as what inspires them. The community engagement process used an equity-centred approach to engage broadly while supporting meaningful and equitable inclusion of diverse voices, particularly those traditionally underrepresented including youth, vulnerable and marginalized communities.

What We Did

10 interviews with community organizations serving vulnerable or marginalized communities to inform engagement approach

Public survey

435 submissions

Council Advisory Committee discussions*

44 participants across four committees with a relevant mandate

Seven in-person 'pop-up' events throughout the community

engaging over **350** people

Five community group engagement sessions

engaging over **65** participants

One engagement session with the Urban Development Institute

UDI

engaging **40** attendees

Two online information sessions

engaging **22** attendees

Two public event presentations

engaging over **130** attendees

Three youth-focused events

engaging over **100** youth

Visits to LetstTalkCoquitlam.ca/ClimatePlan

Let's Talk Coquitlam

1,500+ visits

Over 48,000 people reached on the City's social media channels (Facebook, Instagram)

48,000+ people

** Council Advisory Committees engaged: Economic Development Advisory Committee, Multiculturalism Advisory Committee, Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee, and Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee.*

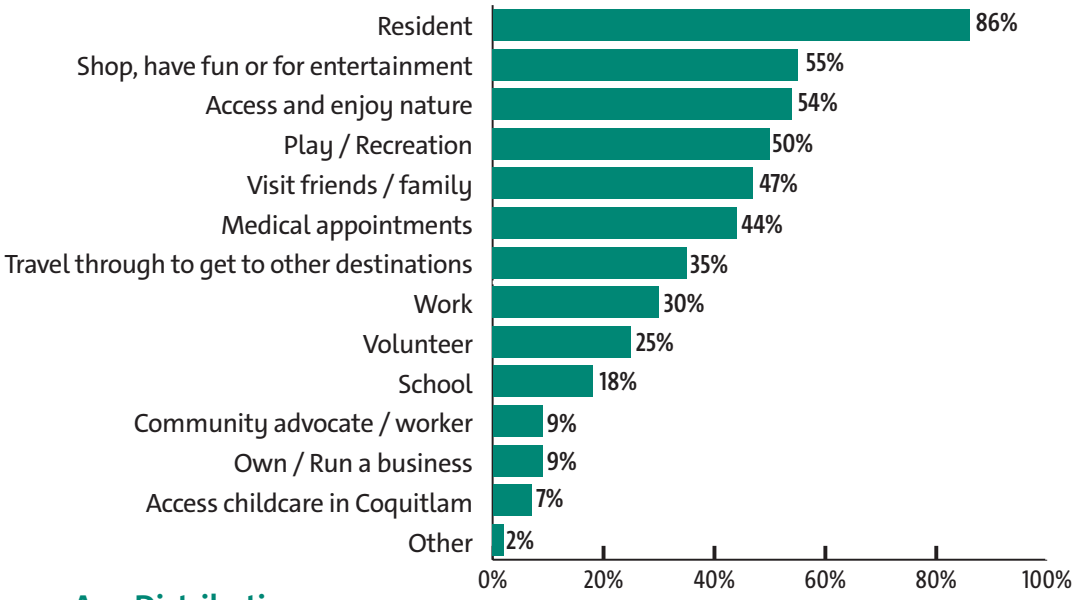
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What We Heard

Who We Heard From (Survey Respondents*)

Connection to Coquitlam

86% of respondents said they live in Coquitlam.

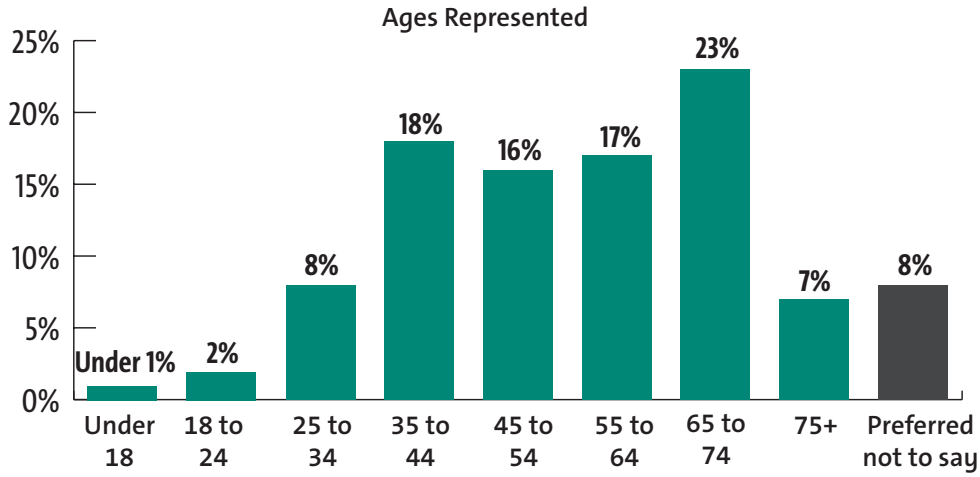


All Coquitlam neighbourhoods were represented. The highest representation came from:

1. **17%** Central Coquitlam
2. **13%** City Centre
3. **13%** Burquitlam/ Lougheed
4. **9%** Northeast Coquitlam/ Burke Mountain
5. **8%** Westwood Plateau

Age Distribution

While we heard from people of all ages, survey participants were largely older with 63% being 45+. The largest age group represented was 65 to 74 year olds (23%). *8% of participants preferred not to share their age category.*



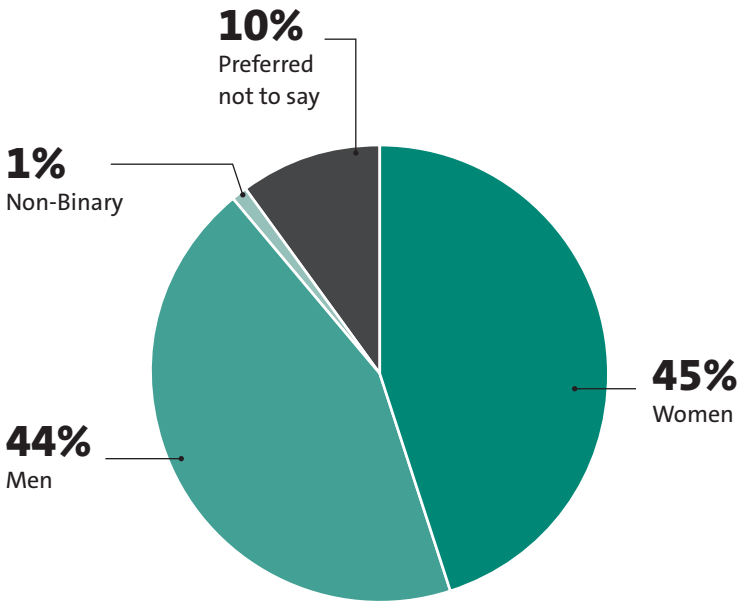
** The demographic results presented in this document only cover survey participants. In addition to the survey, staff actively engaged with underrepresented groups and equity-deserving communities to ensure a well-rounded representation of Coquitlam's diverse community.*

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What We Heard

Gender Identity

Of survey participants, 45% identify themselves as women, 44% as men, and 1% as non-binary. *10% of participants preferred not to share their gender identity.*



Additional Identities / Lived Experiences

Survey participants included those with a variety of identities, backgrounds, and lived experiences. The top five represented categories by the participant or those in their household include:

52%
Long-term resident of Coquitlam (10 or more years)

17%
Children / youth (18 and under) in their household

14%
Single income household

13%
From a racialized community / person of colour

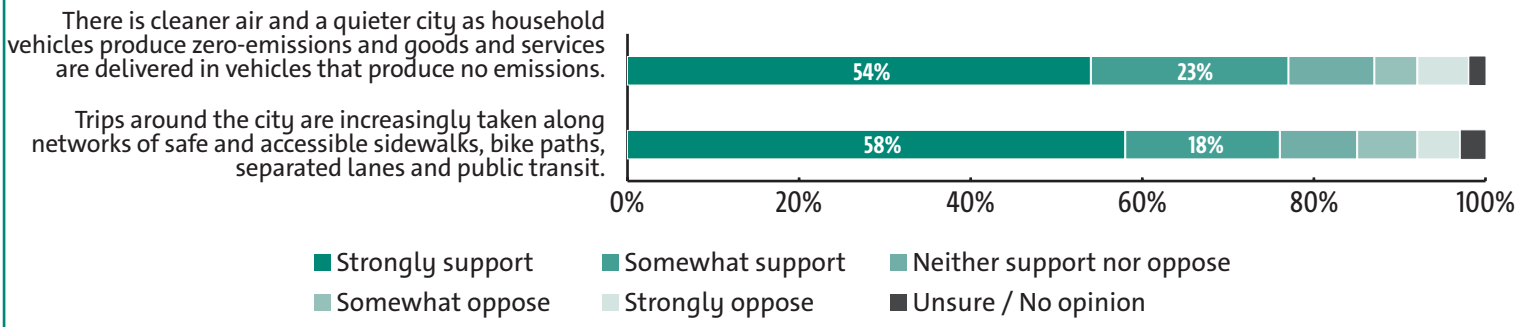
10%
Live with a physical disability and /or mobility challenges

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What We Heard

How We Move

Level of Support for Proposed Long-Term Approaches



Top Barriers to Reducing Carbon Pollution and Energy Use by Priority Area

1. **51%** Public transportation does not meet participant's needs
2. **43%** Concern about safety when not using a vehicle
3. **38%** High cost of changing transportation methods / routes
4. **20%** Not being able to work remotely or have flexible work options
5. **17%** Accessibility challenges in changing transportation methods / routes

Top Motivators to Reducing Carbon Pollution and Energy Use by Priority Area

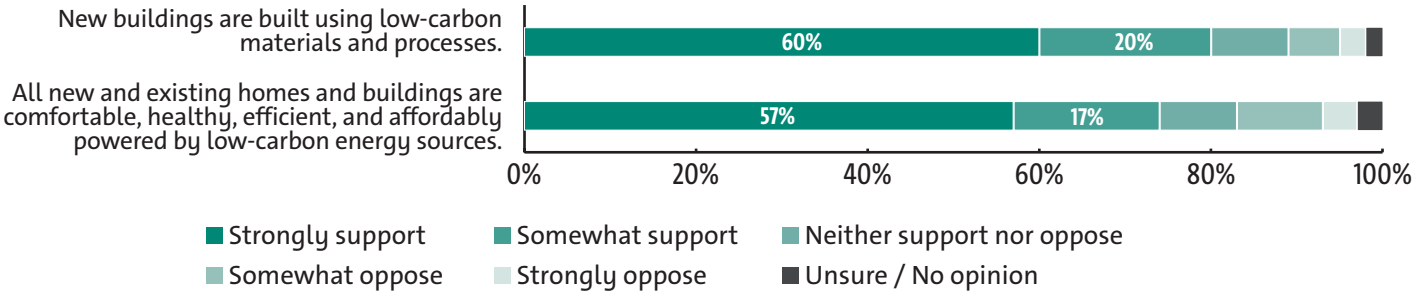
1. **49%** Knowing that efforts have a positive impact on the environment and future generations
2. **44%** Saving money
3. **42%** Fear of current / future impacts of climate change
4. **34%** Access to financial incentive programs
5. **27%** Knowing that efforts support improved physical, mental and social health

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What We Heard

How We Build

Level of Support for Proposed Long-Term Approaches



Top Barriers to Reducing Carbon Pollution and Energy Use by Priority Area

1. **57%** High cost of making upgrades
2. **29%** Challenges finding trusted and qualified contractors
3. **26%** Not qualifying for existing rebate programs
4. **21%** Challenges obtaining approvals from landlord, strata council, or co-operative
5. **12%** Challenges obtaining approvals where permits are required

Top Motivators to Reducing Carbon Pollution and Energy Use by Priority Area

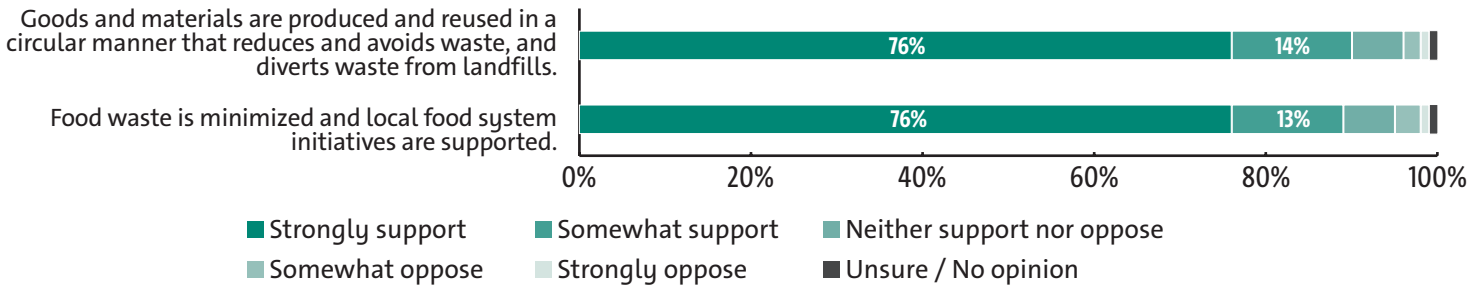
1. **54%** Knowing that efforts have a positive impact on the environment and future generations
2. **51%** Fear of current / future impacts of climate change
3. **43%** Saving money
4. **40%** Access to financial incentives programs
5. **25%** Knowing that efforts support improved physical, mental and social health

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What We Heard

How We Consume

Level of Support for Proposed Long-Term Approaches



Top Barriers to Reducing Carbon Pollution and Energy Use by Priority Area

1. **50%** Limited consumer choices for sustainable goods and services
2. **29%** High cost of available sustainable goods and services
3. **20%** Limited choices in what they can consume
4. **15%** It is confusing to separate garbage, green waste and recycling
5. **8%** High cost of making upgrades

Top Motivators to Reducing Carbon Pollution and Energy Use by Priority Area

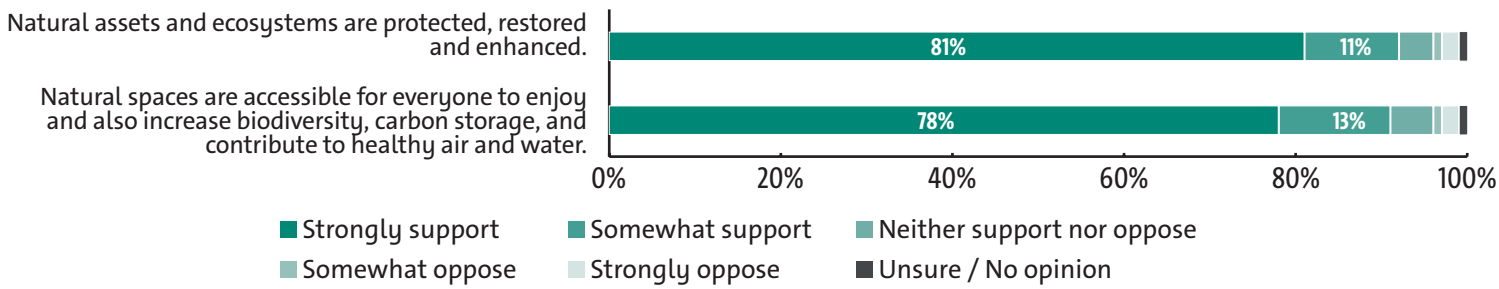
1. **66%** Knowing that efforts have a positive impact on the environment
2. **51%** Fear of current / future impacts of climate change
3. **43%** Knowing that efforts support improved physical, mental and social health
4. **28%** Receiving financial incentives for waste reduction efforts
5. **18%** Interest in new, innovative technologies

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What We Heard

How We Steward

Level of Support for Proposed Long-Term Approaches



Top Barriers to Reducing Carbon Pollution and Energy Use by Priority Area

1. **47%** Don't know what actions the City is doing to support our ecosystems
2. **25%** Don't know what actions they can take to support our ecosystems
3. **13%** Time-consuming to take actions for ecosystems
4. **12%** Onerous cost and maintenance of natural assets
5. **9%** High cost and/or tradeoffs of taking actions for ecosystems

Top Motivators to Reducing Carbon Pollution and Energy Use by Priority Area

1. **51%** Knowing that efforts have a positive impact on the environment and future generations
2. **40%** Interest in new, innovative solutions
3. **40%** Knowing that efforts support improved physical, mental and social health
4. **38%** Access to financial incentives programs
5. **37%** Fear of current / future impacts of climate change

Climate Action Plan

What We Heard

Actions to Reduce Carbon Pollution and Energy Use

The top five actions participants already take or would be most likely to take to reduce their carbon pollution and energy use before 2030 were:

87%
Adopt energy-efficient behaviours

81%
Separate my garbage, recycling and green waste more

76%
Shop locally

75%
Decrease use of single-use items

60%
Take fewer trips in a car

Climate Action Plan Considerations

The top five actions participants think are the most important actions that the City should invest in to reduce carbon pollution before 2030 were:

1. Support the urban forest and natural areas
2. Plan for complete communities with access to amenities near homes
3. Invest in and advocate for convenient and reliable public transit
4. Expand active transportation infrastructure
5. Explore and expand opportunities for renewable energy / electrification

The top five principles participants want the City to consider in designing and implementing policies and programs that support climate action and resilience were:

1. Affordability
2. Effectiveness
3. Flexibility
4. Equity
5. Minimal burden to residents

Open-Ended Feedback

In addition to the open-ended feedback collected through conversations with advisory committees, community and other groups, almost 48% of survey participants shared additional feedback on their obstacles, motivations, concerns, and thoughts on the proposed approaches. When creating the Climate Action Plan, staff will consider this information to help identify opportunities for the City to reduce carbon pollution and energy use and to shape a more resilient climate future for Coquitlam.

Climate Action Plan

What We Heard

Key Insights

Based on the feedback received across all engagement activities, the following insights and considerations will help inform the draft Climate Action Plan:

- *Strong support for climate action and proposed approach to priority areas* – Overall, there is strong support from participants that the City should take action on and respond to climate change. Each long-term approach received somewhat or strong support from participants in the range of 74% - 92%.
- *Motivators for climate action* – Community members are already taking action to reduce GHG emissions, and knowledge that efforts have a positive impact on the environment and future generations was identified as a top motivator across all priority areas. Other top motivators included saving money, fear of current / future impacts of climate change and knowledge that efforts support improved physical, mental, and social health.
- *Barriers to climate action* – There are still many barriers and challenges for community members to take action on climate change. Top barriers across the priority areas included high costs, lack of sufficient public transportation, limited consumer choices for sustainable goods and services, and lack of information or understanding of climate change and how to take action.
- *Equity, Diversity and Inclusion* – As seen in recent climate-related events, marginalized and vulnerable community members are disproportionately impacted by climate change. Feedback from youth, in particular, showed a strong interest in climate action, but reported being worried about current and future impacts of climate change and what they have the ability to influence and take action on. It will be important to continue to bring an equity-focused approach throughout plan implementation.



