



Edmonds Climate Action Plan

OPEN HOUSE EVENT SUMMARY

This document summarizes activities and feedback collected from the **Edmonds CAP Engagement Open House Event**.

EVENT OVERVIEW

Date & Time	Thursday, February 18, 2021 6:00-7:45pm
Location	Online - Zoom Meeting
# of Participants	60 (including 1 call-in user, 1 host and 7 panelists)

EVENT GOALS

The workshop aimed to achieve the following objectives:

- Educate the public about the Climate Action Plan (CAP).
- Inform the Edmonds community about ways they can participate and contribute to the CAP.
- Gather preliminary feedback on draft CAP strategies, actions, and implementation.

EVENT FORMAT

This event featured an introduction from the Mayor, a brief overview of the Climate Protection Committee, and a presentation from the City of Edmonds and ESA (the lead consultant for the Edmonds CAP) about the CAP. Participants answered several polling questions to gather information about opinions and attitudes about the CAP process. The remainder of the event served as a question-and-answer session, with an opportunity for participants to leave final thoughts and questions in an interactive online *Mural* board at the end.

EVENT THEMES

Many attendees felt that the business sector has a lot of responsibility for addressing climate change.

- One participant commented: “I think too much focus is on individuals. The greatest impact will come from businesses and policy changes.”
- Panelists added that the City looks forward to working with the business community, which will be a large factor in enabling Edmonds to meet the greenhouse gas emissions reduction goal. Several businesses have already started implementing sustainability measures through the EnviroStars Green Business program.
- One person added that the importance of the CAP will be to “incorporate reduction of GHG into activities by city government, residents and businesses.”



- One attendee asked whether Edmonds has considered partnerships with neighboring cities. The panelists noted that this is a strategy they intend to pursue, collaborating with other cities and the county.

Attendees supported the strategies of improving efficiency of both new buildings as well as existing buildings and infrastructure.

- One person noted that they would like to have local competitions to help meet the goal of improving efficiency of new buildings.
- One person affirmed that reducing electricity consumption and energy intensity of existing buildings by sector “will be a powerful move forward.” Another participant added that the City should not forget to “provide resources for business and residential tenants.”
- One person asked if the Edmonds government has the authority to mandate no new natural gas hookups in all new building construction, and the panel noted that there are limitations on what city can legally do, but this measure is something they will be watching for and considering.

Attendees expressed interest in the transportation strategies for the CAP and encouraged the City to consider how Edmonds might encourage bike and e-bike use.

- One person “loves” the idea of reducing vehicle miles travelled by improving transit systems. Another suggested that the City “explore a system of alternative modes of travel coordinated with transit” to meet this goal.
- Several participants expressed enthusiasm for electric vehicle charging stations and new bike lane connections to encourage an increase in bike users.
- A participant noted that e-bikes are an important piece in reducing emissions and asked the City to consider supporting this aspect of an alternative transportation plan. The panelists noted that Bikes and e-bikes are an evolving opportunity, and added that ensuring safe bike paths, especially near schools, is an option that they are considering.
- One person asked if the transportation aspect of the CAP includes “adding sidewalks, sidewalk repair/maintenance, and ADA accessibility to make areas more ‘walkable’.”

Several people were interested in strategies involving trees and land management.

- Two people asked the City to promote tree health in the city, either by stopping mature trees from being clear-cut by developers or by enhancing the tree canopy. Panelists noted that the tree code is focused on retaining more trees when sites are developed, and this code is being considered at City Council right now. Additionally, using trees for carbon sequestration is a strategy that is being considered and will be addressed in the CAP.
- One person suggested that the city consider “purchase of land for food forests.”



- One person expressed the desire that Edmonds control “the development sprawl and watershed issues,” while another was interested in marsh restoration.

Participants expressed interest in utilizing carbon sequestration technology.

- Prompted to provide examples of carbon sequestration technology, the panelists described examples such as injecting carbon into the ground, capturing carbon dioxide out of atmosphere for use (ex: carbonating soft drinks), or new developments that are looking into putting CO₂ into concrete.