



Edmonds Climate Action Plan

Results from the Community Survey #1

The Edmonds Climate Action Plan (CAP) provides a roadmap for the City of Edmonds and its citizens to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and achieve their climate goals—carbon neutrality by 2050—with community solutions and individual actions.

In 2020, the City of Edmonds began updating the CAP to better meet the needs and goals of the community. As part of this process, we asked Edmonds’ residents to complete a survey and provide feedback on the proposed strategies of the CAP, identify potential actions that individuals can take to support climate action, and identify potential barriers and challenges in implementing the CAP strategies to reduce Edmonds’ carbon footprint.

This survey was open from March 29th to May 3rd, 2021. This survey was released on the Edmonds CAP webpage (www.edmondsclimate.com), was announced with a postcard sent to 4,000 randomly selected households, and 600 paper surveys were mailed to randomly selected houses in Edmonds.

Their responses are detailed below.

Summary

In total, we received a total of 415 responses. We received 320 web survey responses and 95 paper survey responses.¹ Some additional demographic information about the survey response are below:

- 285 survey respondents lived in Edmonds.
- 102 survey respondents lived and worked in Edmonds.
- 305 survey respondents provided optional gender demographics, and 354 survey respondents provided optional racial demographics.²

Race and Ethnicity	
White or Caucasian	254
Black or African American	7
Latino, Latina, or Latinx	9
Asian or Asian American	15
Native American, American Indian or Alaska Native	4
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	2
Multiracial	15
I prefer not to say	48

Gender	
Male	135
Female	170

¹ We conducted a sensitivity analysis between the paper surveys and web responses using three different survey questions. Our sensitivity analysis showed that there were not statistically significant differences between the responses from our paper survey and web survey. Therefore, we combined the responses from both versions into a single analysis.

² These respondents were racially representative of Edmonds.

Survey Results

The following survey results from the sections of survey, [linked here](#).

Concern about climate change

Regional climate impacts

Regional climate impacts will affect all of Puget Sound. The following regional climate impacts ranked the highest for concerns amongst Edmonds' survey respondents, based on the rating scale where: 4 = Extremely concerned, 3 = Somewhat concerned, 2 = Neutral, 1 = Not concerned.

Paper Survey Responses

Regional Climate Impact	Level of Concern (average)	Percent Distribution of Responses			
		Extremely concerned	Somewhat concerned	Neutral	Not concerned
Increased wildfires	3.71	77%	17%	4%	1%
Poor air quality	3.61	68%	27%	4%	1%
Loss of habitat and species	3.60	67%	28%	3%	2%
Loss of regional snowpack in winter	3.45	58%	32%	7%	3%
Drought/water security	3.43	54%	35%	10%	1%
Increased insect pests that threaten crops and trees	3.38	52%	38%	5%	4%
Sea level rise and coastal erosion	3.37	56%	30%	9%	5%
Flooding and mudslides	3.30	47%	40%	9%	4%
Increased temperatures and heat waves	3.29	56%	25%	12%	8%

Online Survey Responses

Regional Climate Impact	Level of Concern (average)	Percent Distribution of Responses			
		Extremely concerned	Somewhat concerned	Neutral	Not concerned
Increased wildfires	3.23	60%	18%	7%	15%
Loss of habitat and species	3.15	56%	19%	10%	10%
Poor air quality	3.09	52%	21%	10%	17%
Increased insect pests that threaten crops and trees	2.96	43%	26%	15%	16%
Flooding and mudslides	2.94	44%	24%	14%	17%
Drought/water security	2.92	46%	20%	15%	19%
Sea level rise and coastal erosion	2.91	43%	26%	10%	21%
Loss of regional snowpack in winter	2.90	44%	24%	9%	23%
Increased temperatures and heat waves	2.83	42%	23%	10%	25%

Local climate impacts

Regional climate change will affect the lives of Edmonds' residents. The following climate impacts ranked the highest for concerns amongst Edmonds survey respondents, based on the rating scale where: 4 = Extremely concerned, 3 = Somewhat concerned, 2 = Neutral, 1 = Not concerned.

Paper Survey Responses

Local Climate Impact	Level of Concern (average)	Percent Distribution of Responses			
		Extremely concerned	Somewhat concerned	Neutral	Not concerned
Well-being of future generations	3.57	67%	27%	3%	3%
Local natural, open spaces	3.38	55%	31%	11%	3%
Public health	3.31	53%	30%	13%	4%
Urban trees and maintained landscapes	3.29	45%	43%	10%	3%
Seniors and vulnerable populations	3.15	45%	33%	15%	7%
Public infrastructure	3.05	33%	46%	13%	8%
Economic vitality of the Edmonds community	3.04	33%	46%	14%	7%
Homes and property values	2.87	26%	43%	24%	8%

Online Survey Responses

Local Climate Impact	Level of Concern (average)	Percent Distribution of Responses			
		Extremely concerned	Somewhat concerned	Neutral	Not concerned
Well-being of future generations	3.07	56%	14%	12%	19%
Local natural, open spaces	2.92	47%	21%	11%	22%
Public health	2.85	44%	21%	10%	24%
Urban trees and maintained landscapes	2.70	34%	26%	17%	23%
Seniors and vulnerable populations	2.69	34%	26%	14%	26%
Public infrastructure	2.60	29%	28%	18%	26%
Economic vitality of the Edmonds community	2.49	23%	31%	18%	28%
Homes and property values	2.34	15%	33%	22%	30%

Responsibility to act on climate change

There is strong consensus that Edmonds survey respondents believe all entities are responsible for acting on climate change. There is a slight preference for more action from individuals and federal government.

	Individuals	Federal government	Large businesses and companies	State government	Small businesses	City government
<i>Paper</i>	80%	81%	82%	76%	71%	73%
<i>Online</i>	71%	66%	65%	61%	56%	53%

Level of support for CAP strategies

A majority of respondents said they believed it is important for the Edmonds CAP to address transportation, buildings and energy, and waste and natural resources. Many of the proposed strategies receive high amounts of support. Additional details on each of these focus areas are detailed below.

		Percent Distribution of Responses				
		I strongly Agree	I somewhat agree	I neither agree or disagree	I somewhat disagree	I strongly disagree
Climate action is good for businesses in Edmonds	<i>Paper</i>	46%	23%	19%	4%	7%
	<i>Online</i>	35%	17%	14%	8%	25%
Climate action can help me save money and resources	<i>Paper</i>	39%	24%	23%	9%	4%
	<i>Online</i>	27%	20%	15%	8%	29%
Climate action is good for the health and livability of my community	<i>Paper</i>	66%	20%	9%	1%	4%
	<i>Online</i>	54%	10%	8%	9%	19%

Buildings and Energy

Level of support for existing strategies

Level of support was ranked on the following scale: 5 = I strongly agree, 4 = I somewhat agree, 3 = I neither agree nor disagree, 2 = I somewhat disagree, 1 = I strongly disagree.

CAP Strategy	Level of Support (average)		Average Level of Support (<i>Paper</i> + <i>Online</i>)
	<i>Paper</i>	<i>Online</i>	
Replace fossil fuels with renewable energy resources for energy supplied to the community	4.34	3.55	3.74

CAP Strategy	Level of Support (average)		Average Level of Support (Paper + Online)
	Paper	Online	
Improve efficiency of existing buildings and infrastructure	4.51	3.8	3.97
Improve efficiency of new buildings	4.64	4.21	4.31

CAP Strategy		Percent Distribution of Responses				
		I strongly agree	I somewhat agree	I neither agree nor disagree	I somewhat disagree	I strongly disagree
Replace fossil fuels with renewable energy resources for energy supplied to the community	Paper	65%	21%	3%	9%	3%
	Online	53%	8%	7%	5%	27%
Improve efficiency of existing buildings and infrastructure	Paper	51%	23%	10%	3%	13%
	Online	47%	22%	11%	4%	16%
Improve efficiency of new buildings	Paper	78%	14%	5%	1%	2%
	Online	63%	17%	6%	5%	9%

Potential newly identified strategies

- Incentives/tax credits to public buildings, businesses, and homeowners to convert to renewables, electric heat pumps, etc.
- Regulations/building codes for new buildings, require new buildings to meet LEED certification standards
- Reduced charges for non-peak usage
- Education
- Replacing gas appliances
- Permeable pavement
- Plant trees
- Focus on water use efficiency
- Greenery in buildings (i.e. green roofs)
- Balance renewable energy use with fossil fuel use
- Housing policy – build more homes to prevent sprawl
- Reduce market regulations
- Targeted incentives for multi-family housing owners
- Conduct carbon emissions assessment of schools
- Community solar
- Allow for private sector innovation
- Move to nuclear energy
- Eliminate new commercial building construction
- Conduct marketing promotion for sustainable buildings
- Expand curbside recycling to include products accepted by Ridwell
- Reduce energy use/lighting
- Transition between fossil fuel and other resources
- Invest in hydroelectric power
- Invest in wind energy

Transportation

Level of support for existing strategies

Level of support was ranked on the following scale: 5 = I strongly agree, 4 = I somewhat agree, 3 = I neither agree nor disagree, 2 = I somewhat disagree, 1 = I strongly disagree.

CAP Strategy	Level of Support (average)		Average Level of Support (Paper + Online)
	Paper	Online	
Reduce VMT through more sustainable land use patterns (transit-oriented development, local efficiency)	4.18	3.49	3.65
Reduce VMT by improving transit systems	4.48	3.73	3.91
Reduce VMT by promoting active transportation	4.12	3.40	3.57
Promote carpooling and vehicle sharing	4.19	3.61	3.75
Promote electric vehicles and other low-carbon vehicles	4.25	3.65	3.79

CAP Strategy		Percent Distribution of Responses				
		I strongly agree	I somewhat agree	I neither agree nor disagree	I somewhat disagree	I strongly disagree
Reduce VMT through more sustainable land use patterns	<i>Paper</i>	51%	28%	16%	3%	3%
	<i>Online</i>	41%	20%	9%	9%	22%
Reduce VMT by improving transit systems	<i>Paper</i>	65%	25%	8%	1%	2%
	<i>Online</i>	47%	20%	9%	6%	17%
Reduce VMT by promoting active transportation	<i>Paper</i>	46%	30%	20%	2%	3%
	<i>Online</i>	36%	18%	16%	10%	20%
Promote carpooling and vehicle sharing	<i>Paper</i>	48%	35%	12%	3%	3%
	<i>Online</i>	33%	29%	17%	7%	14%
Promote electric vehicles and other low-carbon vehicles	<i>Paper</i>	57%	26%	10%	4%	4%
	<i>Online</i>	49%	14%	11%	4%	21%

Potential newly identified strategies:

- Work from home/shorter work weeks
- Office SOV travel reduction
- Incentives for non-SOV travel
- Education
- Purchasing carbon offsets
- Mass transit, walking/biking trails
- Switch to electric engines in landscaping equipment
- Reducing car tab costs, subsidies for EVs and hybrids, EV charging infrastructure
- Rezoning Edmonds (denser housing, more housing, walkability)
- Improved bus service
- Parking by local businesses (to encourage shopping locally)

- Tackling truck, train, and ferry emissions
- Voluntary rationing programs
- Carbon capture
- Discourage SOVs (ie by raising parking rates)
- Address carbon emissions from agriculture
- Garbage to energy
- Carbon taxes
- Affordable green energy upgrades
- Tackle litter
- Land and tree preservation
- Promote reusing
- Develop local living-wage jobs
- “Golf cart community designation”
- Address emissions from air travel
- Eliminate water pollution
- Develop vehicle sharing programs
- Plant trees
- Last mile services and parking garage near transit hubs
- Electrify public transit
- Land management
- Encourage home businesses
- Promote micro-mobility
- Limit road expansion
- Develop renewable energy

Opposition Comments:

- Climate change is natural/good
- It isn't the government's job to regulate this
- This is a waste of money
- Climate change isn't real
- We should be focusing on China

Waste and Natural Resources

Level of support for existing strategies

Level of support was ranked on the following scale: 5 = I strongly agree, 4 = I somewhat agree, 3 = I neither agree nor disagree, 2 = I somewhat disagree, 1 = I strongly disagree.

CAP Strategy	Level of Support (average)		Average Level of Support (Paper + Online)
	Paper	Online	
Increase carbon sequestration	4.34	3.76	3.9
Reduce material consumption, waste generation, and resource depletion	4.51	3.86	4.02

CAP Strategy		Percent Distribution of Responses				
		I strongly agree	I somewhat agree	I neither agree nor disagree	I somewhat disagree	I strongly disagree
Increase carbon sequestration	Paper	57%	27%	11%	1%	3%
	Online	53%	12%	13%	4%	19%
Reduce material consumption, waste generation, and resource depletion	Paper	71%	15%	11%	1%	2%
	Online	54%	14%	10%	5%	16%

Potential newly identified strategies

- Variable rates for energy consumption
- Renters to pay taxes
- Urban forests (and maintenance of)/remove emergency tree ordinance
- Requiring businesses to use compostable containers/tax businesses that use single-use materials
- Requiring building deconstruction over demolition
- Rain barrel and composting program
- Outreach and education
- No more bike lanes
- Team up with Ridwell to recycle waste
- Tax plastic manufacturers
- There are also worries about the cost versus benefit of this.
- Charge for plastic bags
- Bioregenerative farming
- Make recycling easier
- Reduce water and sewer service costs while increasing costs of water usage
- Rebates/incentives for recycling
- Forest management
- Nuclear energy
- Fund healthy eel grass beds
- Raingarden s and bioswales
- Reduce development on undeveloped land
- Focus on maintaining rural forests
- Promote backyard composting

Support for all strategies

Level of support was ranked on the following scale: 5 = Very important, 4 = Somewhat important, 3 = Neutral, 2 = Not important, 1 = Not important at all.

Strategy Area		Level of Support (average)	Percent Distribution of Responses				
			Very important	Somewhat important	Neutral	Not important	Not important at all
Buildings and Energy	<i>Paper</i>	4.30	52%	34%	9%	3%	2%
	<i>Online</i>	3.60	43%	20%	9%	10%	18%
Transportation	<i>Paper</i>	4.36	50%	41%	4%	3%	1%
	<i>Online</i>	3.79	48%	22%	7%	8%	15%
Waste and Natural Resources	<i>Paper</i>	4.43	62%	24%	11%	2%	1%
	<i>Online</i>	3.83	51%	18%	10%	7%	14%

Individual actions

In addition to City-led strategies, the City understands that both City strategies and individual actions by residents will be necessary to achieve its climate action goals of carbon neutrality by 2050. In doing this, the City asked survey respondents two key questions: 1) What individual actions are they already doing that supports climate action goals?; and 2) What individual actions are they willing to do to support climate action goals? Summary of responses are detailed below.

Actions that residents are already doing

Popular actions that respondents are already undertaking include regularly recycling, shopping at local businesses, and using reusable and compostable containers and beverage bottles. Answers are displayed as percent distribution of responses, and respondents were able to select multiple actions. Answers that are bolded indicate that there was more than a 10% difference between the paper survey respondents and online survey respondents.

Action	Paper	Online
Regularly recycle	92%	81%
Save energy at home and work by turning off lights and water, using energy-saving light bulbs, etc.	94%	74%
Use reusable and compostable containers and beverage bottles, or bring my own	66%	58%
Shop at local businesses, in bulk, and/or at re-use or thrift stores	63%	58%
Invest in home energy improvements, such as installing insulation and efficient windows, heating, and/or appliances	64%	55%
Buy locally produced food and/or products	58%	49%
Regularly compost	52%	50%
Eat less meat and more vegetable protein	48%	41%
Wash my laundry in cold water	43%	41%
Combine trips in my car or carpool with others at least once a week	45%	34%
Drive a vehicle that gets more than 30 MPG in the city	53%	32%
Take public transit, walk, or ride a bike to a destination at least once a week	38%	34%
Air or line dry my laundry	19%	14%
Participate in a renewable energy program through my local utility	25%	12%
Purchase or drive an all-electric or zero-emissions vehicle	13%	8%
Invest in solar panels for my home or business	12%	6%
Other (see below)	1%	15%

Other:

- Solar panels
- Native plants
- Ridwell
- EV charging stations
- Business with green investment companies
- Growing own food
- Getting politically involved
- Using public transit
- Walking/ driving less
- Working from home
- Owning efficient cars
- Lowering home thermostat
- Plant based diet
- Energy efficient appliances
- Avoiding delivery services

Actions that residents are willing to do

Respondents were most interested in purchasing or driving an EV and investing in solar panels for their home or business. Answers are displayed as percent distribution of responses, and respondents were

able to select multiple actions. Answers that are bolded indicate that there was more than a 10% difference between the paper survey respondents and online survey respondents.

Action	Paper	Online
Purchase or drive an all-electric or zero-emissions vehicle	38%	35%
Invest in solar panels for my home or business	36%	27%
Participate in a renewable energy program through my local utility	25%	20%
Invest in home energy improvements, such as installing insulation and efficient windows, heating, and/or appliances	24%	14%
Drive a vehicle that gets more than 30 MPG in the city	17%	14%
Regularly recycle	12%	3%
Eat less meat and more vegetable protein	16%	8%
Take public transit, walk, or ride a bike to a destination at least once a week	13%	8%
Regularly compost	21%	11%
Buy locally produced food and/or products	12%	7%
Wash my laundry in cold water	11%	6%
Air or line dry my laundry	13%	6%
Use reusable and compostable containers and beverage bottles, or bring my own	14%	5%
Save energy at home and work by turning off lights and water, using energy-saving light bulbs, etc.	15%	4%
Shop at local businesses, in bulk, and/or at re-use or thrift stores	14%	3%
Combine trips in my car or carpool with others at least once a week	5%	2%
Other	1%	11%

Challenges and barriers for climate action

Finally, the City wanted to identify what challenges and barriers were preventing Edmonds' residents from pursuing individual climate action. Respondents identified costs or resources as being the largest barrier to climate action, both for the Edmonds CAP and their individual action. Answers that are bolded indicate that there was more than a 10% difference between the paper survey respondents and online survey respondents.

Challenges and barriers	Paper	Online
Cost or Resources - I have other competing economic demands in my life that are more important to me and my family	40%	33%
Level of care and interest - I do not think there is enough of a crisis that I personally need to do anything to reduce the risks of climate change	15%	14%
Realizing benefits - I don't plan to live in my current home long enough to recover the costs of making changes to my home to reduce its carbon footprint. OR I live in an apartment and cannot make the types of changes that are needed to reduce my carbon footprint.	20%	11%

Challenges and barriers	Paper	Online
Time commitment - I do not have enough time to think about climate change	17%	7%
Outside forces - I feel that the changes need to be at larger scale than what I can do as an individual- nothing I do will make any difference	29%	20%