

# City of Delta

## Phase 1 Engagement Summary Report



Prepared By



# Summary:

Phase ONE of the Community Energy Emissions Plan (CEEP) public engagement revealed that Delta residents are concerned about the effects of climate change on their city. The residents want assistance from the City to reduce emissions and prepare for the impacts of a changing climate. Participants in this portion of CEEP engagement feel a personal sense of responsibility to help reduce emissions that contribute to climate change and are looking to the City to lead by example to support their low carbon behaviours.

## Background:

The City of Delta is in the process of developing a Community Energy Emissions Plan (CEEP). The plan will describe key actions that the City will take to reduce energy and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

The process to develop the CEEP includes two phases of public engagement to ensure the plan reflects local values and priorities. Phase 1 of public engagement was designed to better understand resident values, their vision of the future and their perception of the current state of transportation, buildings and waste. Phase 2 was designed to gather feedback on what climate-related actions residents feel are most important to reduce emissions and build benefits for the community.

*This summary report discusses the outcome of Phase 1 engagement which was completed in May 2022.*

Through a survey and two stakeholder workshops, we heard from Delta residents about their thoughts on climate change, and what Delta can do to reduce GHG emissions and prepare for the impacts of climate change. Key findings are summarized in this report and will help inform the proposed actions of the Community Energy Emissions plan.



ONE online survey



TWO stakeholder workshops



Eight key themes emerged from Phase 1 of public engagement:

1. *Public Transit*
2. *Active transportation*
3. *Vehicles*
4. *Communities*
5. *Buildings*
6. *Waste*
7. *Green spaces*
8. *Climate change impacts*



## Summary: Stakeholder Workshops

Stakeholder envisioned a future Delta where:

- Dense and complete communities have critical services like schools, shopping, etc. within walking distance.
- Green spaces are preserved and enhanced. This includes minimizing the loss of trees with new development and ensuring residents can easily access nature within walking distance of their home.

With respect to the three key sectors of transportation, buildings and waste, stakeholder agreed on the following visions:

### Transportation

Public transit and active transportation are prioritized over single-occupancy vehicles.

There are a variety of transit options within and beyond Delta, with improved transit service to Delta's industrial areas.

### Buildings

Buildings in the community are more energy efficient and resilient to climate impacts. Specifically, buildings are EV-ready, operate with low emissions and are designed with consideration for embodied carbon.

### Waste

Waste diversion rates are improved and people living in all types of housing – including multi-unit residential buildings - can easily and effectively recycle and divert organics.

Waste collection services are done with zero emissions vehicles.

*Residents expressed concern over sea level rise and flooding. They think that the dyke system in Delta should be maintained and improved to mitigate the impacts of flooding on the community.*



## Summary: Survey

The majority of respondents feel concerned about the effects of climate change on Delta. Respondents also believe the City has a role to play to assist the community in both mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Similar to other jurisdictions in BC, there is consensus that climate change is happening but less agreement on how to take action.

**Reducing the emissions** contributing to climate change



**This is called MITIGATION**

**Preparing for impacts** and reducing risks from a changing climate.



**This is called ADAPTATION**



# Community Survey

## Overview



The phase 1 community survey had a dual purpose of informing the community of the CEEP process and its importance while also getting a better understanding of values and existing experiences related to climate change and climate action. Having this information can prepare the City to effectively communicate to residents when the plan is adopted.

The City posted the survey on the “Lets Talk Delta “ page and made translated version available online and in print for community members. The City and partners sent the survey to a variety of stakeholder groups and promoted the survey on social media. The survey was open from the 16th of April to the 15th May 2022. .

The questions targeted a wide demographic of Delta residents from various areas within the city boundary, with the majority of survey respondents being from:

**North Delta 38.2%**

**Tsawassen 31.9%**

**Ladner 29%**

\*the remaining 0.9% from “other” areas



The survey received **350** responses



The survey was live for **29** days



The majority of respondents were over the age of **36** (88.6%)



**80.2%** of those surveyed lived in a fully detached home

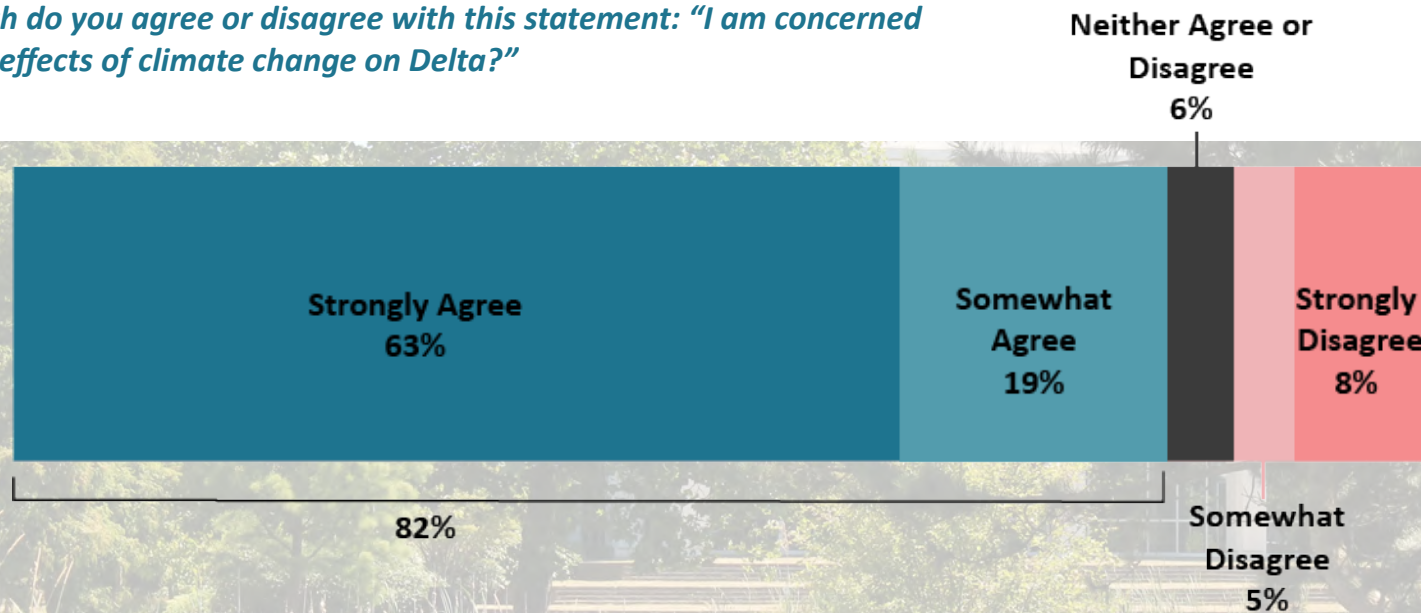


# Community Survey

## Key Findings:

**“** Action on climate change needed now. For a suburban area where transportation amounts to large amount of GHG emissions, things like car share programs in neighbourhoods, increased transit to get downtown are needed.  
- Survey Respondent

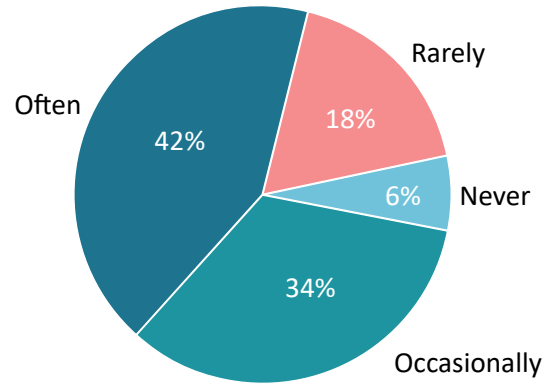
*“How much do you agree or disagree with this statement: “I am concerned about the effects of climate change on Delta?”*





## Community Survey Key Findings continued:

*“How often do you talk about climate change with your family and friends?”*



A key opportunity for the City of Delta going forward is to help residents understand what actions are most impactful so they can talk about it with their friends and family.

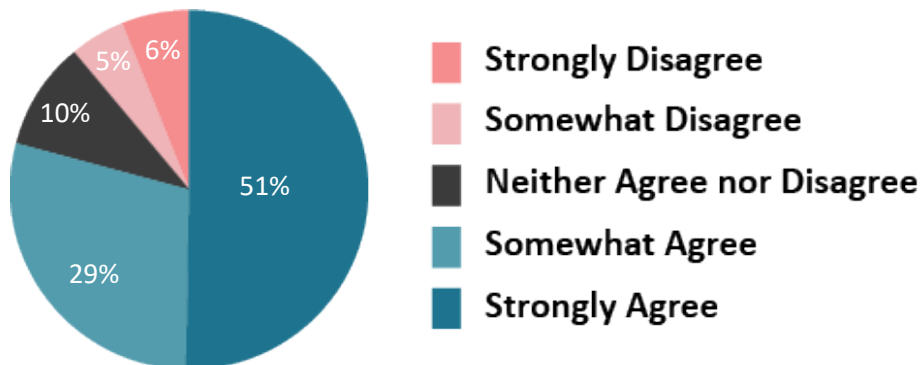
*“Although I feel like I do a lot personally (eating a plant based diet, walking to work, reducing amount of recycling/garbage that enters our home), there needs to be way more policy change and initiatives on a municipal level to truly tackle climate change.”*

-Delta Resident

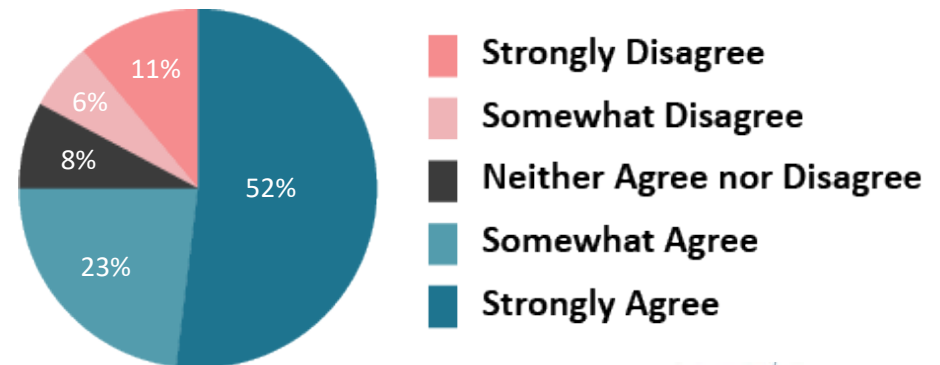
*75% of survey respondents felt it was important for the City of Delta to assist residents and businesses to reduce emissions that cause climate change.*

*80% of survey respondents felt it was important for the City of Delta to assist residents and businesses to prepare for the impacts of a changing climate.*

*“It is important for the City of Delta to assist residents and businesses to reduce emissions that cause climate change.”*



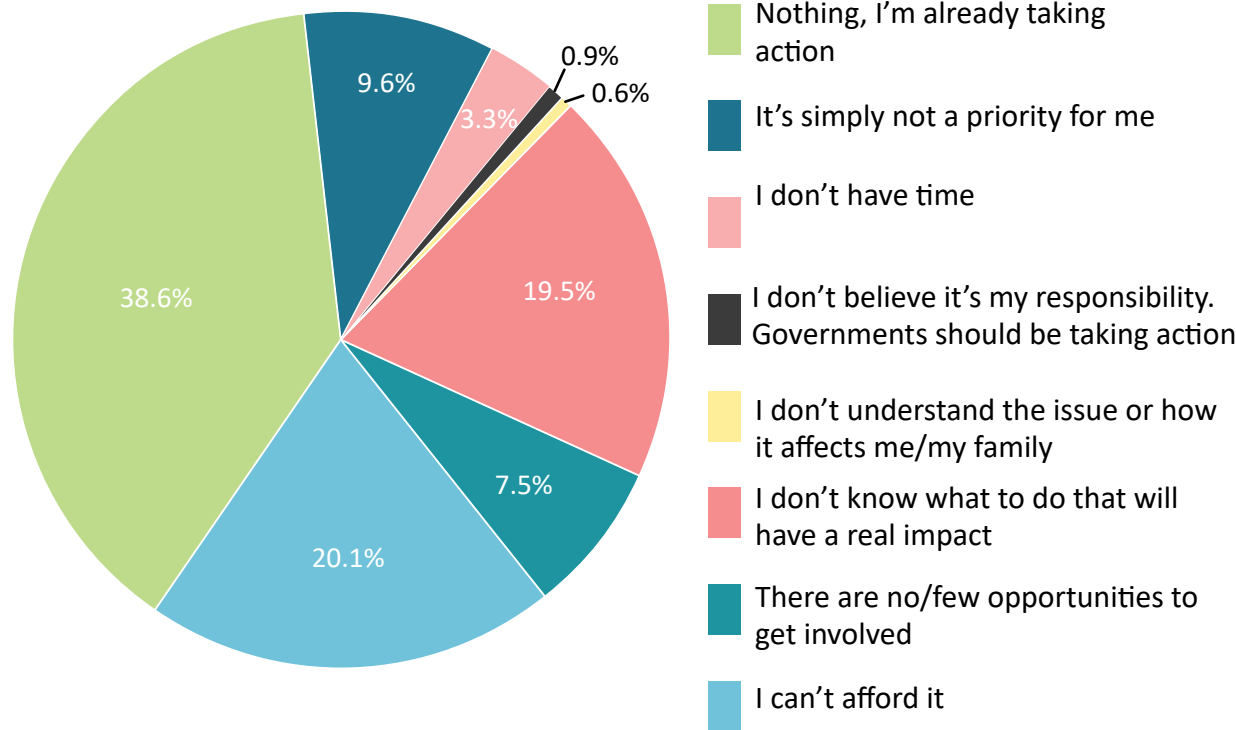
*“It is important for the City of Delta to assist residents and businesses to prepare for the impacts of a changing climate.”*





## Community Survey Key Findings continued:

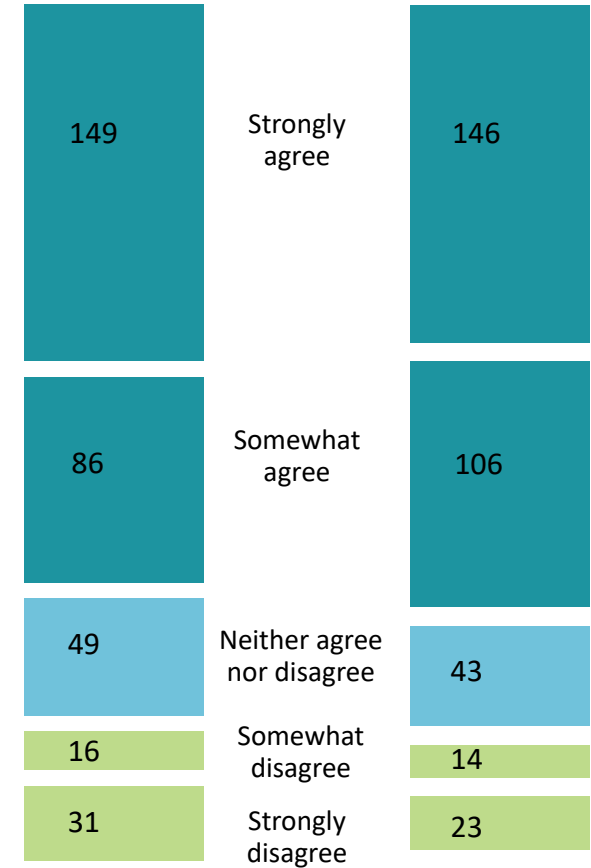
*“What is the most important barrier that stands in your way, if any, when it comes to taking action to reducing your carbon footprint?”*



Other than those respondents who indicated they are already taking action, almost half of respondents (n=157) are limited by cost or uncertainty of what the opportunities are to take action.



*“I think it is fair to offer incentives or subsidies to make sure everyone has access to low carbon technology.”*



*“We need to act on climate change in a way that doesn't worsen economic inequities.”*

These questions evaluate support for efforts to address equitable access to climate solutions; for each question, over 70% of respondents show support for actions that address equitable access to climate solutions.



# Stakeholder Workshop

## Key Findings:

The City of Delta hosted two stakeholder workshops on April 5th, 2022 as part of Phase 1 community engagement for the CEEP development.

The first was for City staff and the second for Joint Committee Members.

The events were interactive, two-hour virtual sessions facilitated by Community Energy Association. The City of Delta invited a cross section of City staff to participate in the first workshop, and directly outreached to members of the Committees of Council to attend the second workshop.

The goal of these first workshops was to provide stakeholders with an opportunity to articulate a vision for the community - what does Delta look like in 20 years if the City has implemented low carbon, resilient solutions? Thereafter, participants were asked to document what the current state is in the city specifically with respect to transportation, buildings and waste.



Stakeholders were asked what their “Visions for 2040” would look like. Some of their responses included:

*“People can easily & effectively recycle and divert organics, even people in multi-unit residential buildings and small businesses. Waste is all recycled / reused, or used for energy.”*

*“Taking care of the planet is integrated in to the curriculum throughout our schools.”*

*“Everyone has easy walking access to nature.”*



*The stakeholder groups were assigned to one of two breakout groups to focus on particular sectors. These sectors were chosen because they account for the majority of community emissions and they are areas where the City has authority to directly influence. The groups were:*

### **1-Transportation**

### **2-Buildings and Waste**

*The groups were asked to keep the following questions top of mind throughout their brainstorming sessions:*

- *How will the community benefit?*
- *What unique local factors should we consider?*
- *What will help these strategies succeed?*
- *Who (groups & organizations) can be collaborators?*







## Stakeholder Workshop Key Findings continued

A vision for a low carbon Delta in 2040

### 1. Public transit

Participants envision reliable, convenient and electrified public transit that benefits those who need it most. Residents hope to see a variety of transit options within and beyond Delta. Lastly, residents would like improved transit service to Delta's industrial areas.

### 2. Active transportation

Participants envision more cycling routes and more sidewalk infrastructure to encourage active transportation. They imagine e-bikes replacing personal vehicles and children getting safely to and from school by active modes of transportation.

### 3. Vehicles

Residents hope that, in the future, a personal vehicle is not required to live in Delta, but those vehicles that remain are zero emissions. They would like to see more fast charging infrastructure and EVs become more affordable. With fewer vehicles and reduced tailpipe emissions, there will be less air and noise pollution coming from Delta's roads.

### 4. Communities

Participants imagine dense, complete communities, where services and amenities – like schools, stores, and workplaces – are located within walking distance from all residences.

### 5. Buildings

Participants envision that homes will be surrounded by green assets like trees to provide clean air and cooling help during heat waves. New buildings are energy efficient and use low carbon heating/cooling and have low embodied emissions (i.e. less concrete). Existing buildings including schools and homes have been renovated easily to be energy efficient and have healthy indoor air.

### 6. Waste

Waste diversion rates are improved and people living in all types of housing – including multi-unit residential buildings - can easily and effectively recycle and divert organics. Participants would also like to see zero emissions waste collection services.

### 7. Green spaces

Participants envision a future where natural assets are preserved and expanded in the community, including the tree canopy and key climate adaptation assets like Burns Bog. They would also like to ensure that community members are able to easily access nature within walking distance from their homes.





## Stakeholder Workshop Key Findings continued

The current state of transportation, buildings and waste in Delta

### 1. Public transit

Participants noted that there is a lack of public transit service in many areas of Delta, particularly in the industrial areas, and that existing schedules are inconvenient and inefficient.

### 2. Active transportation

Participants describe the current cycling network as disjointed, although they note that there have been some recent improvements. Further, trails are often built for recreation rather than commuting. They do not think that the sidewalk infrastructure is adequate, especially in industrial areas.

### 3. Vehicles

Workshop participants note that Delta is currently a vehicle-oriented community with lots of congestion with growing ferry and truck traffic. There is a belief that EV adoption is hampered by high cost of vehicles, limited charging options and long wait times at those fast chargers that do exist. It was noted that the City's EV strategy, when implemented, will make charging easier especially for residents in multi-unit buildings.

### 4. Communities

Participants describe Delta as lacking residential density, with most homes being single family dwellings. The parks and recreation trails were noted as valuable assets that build community well-being.

### 5. Buildings

Participants are concerned about the high embodied carbon in new buildings, in particular concrete, and the vulnerability of some new developments to floods, erosion, etc. There remains a high reliance on fossil fuels heating systems and a growing demand for inefficient air conditioners.

It was further noted that it is difficult and expensive to do energy retrofits and that growth in building stock isn't meeting the needs of a diverse community.

### 6. Waste

Participants note that it is difficult for people in multi-unit residential buildings to properly recycle and divert organics. There is concern about illegal dumping and the over-use of plastic and styrofoam containers.

### 7. Green spaces

Participants feel that Delta has a rich heritage of natural assets, including Burn's Bog and agricultural areas. However, they are concerned that trees are being lost to new developments.

A note about climate change impacts from stakeholder workshops Similar to survey respondents, workshop participants expressed concern over sea level rise and flooding. They think the dyke system in Delta should be maintained and improved to mitigate the impacts of flooding on the community. They also think that retaining and adding green spaces will reduce the potential for storm water flooding by increasing ground infiltration while also providing shade during extreme heat events.



*"Cycling in Delta just isn't safe."*

*"Transit is not reliable and takes a long time..."*

*"Older multi family buildings don't provide EV charging."*

-stakeholder workshop participants

# Next Steps:

The City of Delta initiated Phase Two of CEEP community engagement in May 2022. Two additional stakeholder workshops will be held as well as a second survey aimed to understand which specific climate actions are most important to community members.

All information including FAQ around CEEPs and municipal climate action in general is available on Let's Talk Delta: <https://letstalk.delta.ca/communityenergy>

*The City would like to extend a thank you to those who took time to participate and contribute their views.*

