

City of Delta

Phase 2 Engagement

Summary Report



Delta

Prepared By



Summary:

Background:

The City of Delta is in the process of updating its 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 ONE of the (CEEP) public engagement revealed that Delta residents are concerned about the effects of climate change on their city. It focused on finding out from the residents and stakeholders what their future vision for Delta looked like, as well as their current perceptions on the state of transportation, buildings and waste.

In Phase TWO of the public engagement, we heard from stakeholders again. The focus in the second phase was to look at strategies that are known to be the most effective to start lowering GHG emissions now, and trying to do so in creative and locally relevant ways.

This way we know the strategies are going to be : *relevant, beneficial and successful to the community* .

The key findings from both the stakeholder workshops and the community surveys are summarized in this report and will help inform the proposed actions of the Community Energy Emissions Plan.



TWO stakeholder workshops



TWO community surveys



Stakeholder Workshop

Overview

The City of Delta hosted the two stakeholder workshops on May 2022 as part of Phase Two community engagement for the CEEP development.

The first workshop 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 Phase Two workshops focused on actions the City can take to lower emissions from community buildings and travel within the city - buildings and transportation are the biggest sources of GHG emissions in the City of Delta and they are sectors that the City has jurisdiction to monitor and influence.

The objective of both workshops was to document which actions participants thought were a priority and how, at implementation, they can build benefits for residents.

Three key themes emerged:

- 1. Vehicles & Transportation**
- 2. Active Transportation**
- 3. Buildings & Communities**





Stakeholder Workshops Overview continued:

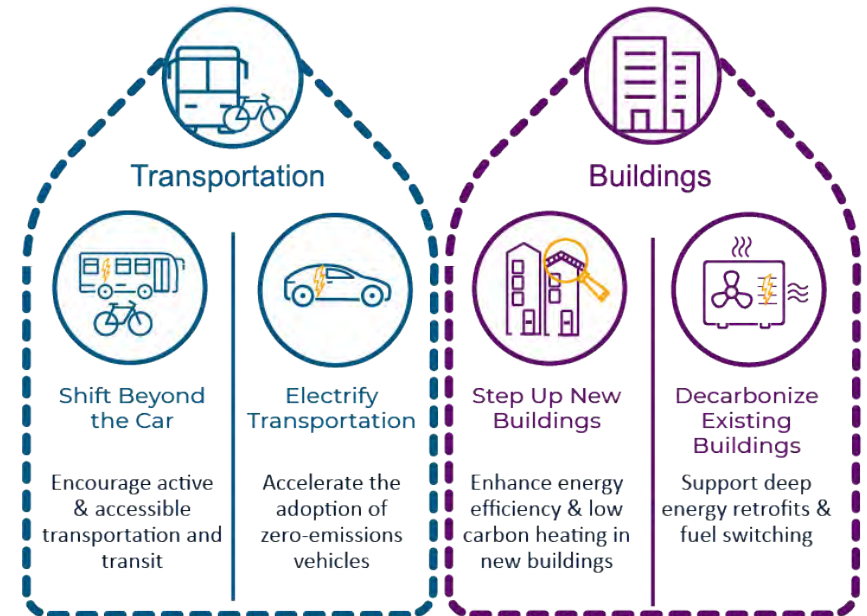
In each of the two workshops, participants took part in group conversations around either Transportation or Buildings. Topics discussed in each group were:

1-Transportation:

- Electrify Passenger Transportation
- Shift Beyond the Car

2-Buildings

- Decarbonize Existing Buildings
- Step Up New Buildings



The stakeholders were asked to keep the following questions in mind throughout their discussions:

1. What will help these strategies succeed?

- What already exists to support this?
- Barriers and challenges

2. Who can be collaborators?

- Catalysts/potential for collaboration
- Local groups and organizations

3. What unique factors should we consider?

- Priority places
- Spaces and groups

4. How will the community benefit?

- Co-benefits
- How will everyone benefit/be included (equity)?



Stakeholder Workshop

Key Findings: **Strategies** reviewed and discussed

1. Vehicles & Transportation

Participants hope to encourage the use of Electric Vehicles (EVs) with a focus specifically on charging infrastructure. This included design, funding and building of public EV charging networks, enabling charging at home in both new and existing buildings and engaging with businesses on fleet electrification.

Workshop participant ideas:

- Gap analysis to figure out where infrastructure is most needed
- City EV strategy completed, continue to implement the actions set out in the strategy
- Partnering with BC Hydro and other utilities
- HOV lanes
- Parking assessment
- Promoting those already using EVs (Delta fleet decals)
- Funds and assistance to developers to add charging stations to new builds

2. Active Transportation

Participants envision more walking, cycling and other forms of zero emission mobility by creating safer and more pleasant infrastructure. For example: wider paths for pedestrians and cyclists, and more trees.

How to best succeed:

- Subsidized and incentivised transit passes
- Culture changes to accept transit as “typical”
- Delta seniors bus
- Cycling master plan and better/safer paths with more trees
- Bike safety workshops and education at schools
- Scott Road rapid bus
- New developments must have bicycle parking/storage
- Apply a fee to on-street parking





Stakeholder Workshop Key Findings continued

Strategies reviewed and discussed

Some of the key themes that overlapped in multiple discussions included: parking, natural asset retention, and the importance to work WITH developers as Delta grows!

3. Buildings & Communities

Participants would like to see implementation of The BC Energy Step Code for new buildings. Participants also noted the opportunity to use new technologies such as ERVs (energy recovery ventilators) and HRVs (heat recovery ventilators), green roofs, rainwater harvesting, wastewater and heat recovery. They noted that to support this work, there is a need to build industry capacity and knowledge, and better energy labeling. For existing buildings in the community, participants were supportive of encouraging and enabling deep energy retrofits and decarbonization.

How to best succeed:

- Training and engagement with stakeholders, and education initiatives for the public
- Increase knowledge of available technologies
- Educate the builder community on high performance building construction methods and details
- Learn from neighbouring communities
- Incentives/subsidized costs for low cost and low tech upgrades
- Energy advisors available locally and incentives for Energy Advisors (EAs)
- Political support
- Make EnerGuide assessment a condition of a renovation permit
- Concierge service for retrofits
- Promote CleanBC and other government incentives
- Financing methods for deep energy retrofits
- Review parking requirements
- Look at embodied emissions
- Encourage zoning changes to allow for mixed uses and inclusion of basements
- Encourage natural asset retention during new development

Communities:

Participants felt that as part of a conversation around community buildings, they needed to think about optimization of land use planning for compact community growth, with more green spaces. Participants imagine dense, complete communities, where services and amenities – like schools, stores, and workplaces – are located within walking distance from all residences. Many participants saw parking in Delta as an issue that needed further analysis.

How to best succeed:

- Planting programs
- Gardens at schools
- Adding to the tree canopy
- Reducing parking will allow greater density
- Free tree program for residents





Stakeholder Workshop Key Findings continued

Collaborators, local factors and barriers

In this section the participants discussed the potential collaborators, local factors, community benefits and barriers related to each theme:

1. Vehicles & Transportation

Collaborators :



On EV Infrastructure

- Shopping malls
- Province of BC
- Emotive
- Gas stations
- Business Associations
- VEVA
- Tourism Delta
- Hotels
- Chamber of Commerce
- West Coast Electric Fleets

Other Collaborators:

- Car share companies (e.g. Modo)

Local Factors:



- The 3 small distinct communities make Delta a great place for car shares
- Cost to develop housing with EV charging
- Solar resources, Delta has more sunshine!

Community Benefits:



- Better air quality
- Save money on gas and car maintenance
- Offer free charging for people doing things that benefit the community

BARRIERS: Current limited supply of EVs available on the market



Stakeholder Workshop Key Findings continued

Collaborators, local factors and barriers

2. Active Transportation

Collaborators:



- HUB (<https://bikehub.ca/>)
- Cycling to work week
- Delta school district
- Translink
- Learn to Bike
- Tour de Delta
- Rentable e-bike businesses

Local Factors:



- Delta is flat! Lots of opportunities for active transport infrastructure
- Density vs South & North Delta- equity around providing service to both areas
- Far distance between communities-spread out
- Delta is a thoroughfare for commuters from other cities
- Development is happening fast and transit is not keeping up

Community Benefits:



- Save money on gas
- More enjoyable experience
- Lower air quality impacts

BARRIERS: safety of trails, normalizing transit and biking culturally, transit under serving neighbourhoods, Delta has lots of parking making driving too easy.



Stakeholder Workshop Key Findings continued

Collaborators, local factors and barriers

All areas listed cleaner air and saving money as community benefits

3. Buildings & Communities

Collaborators:



- Developers
- Construction industry

Local Factors:



- Learn from neighbouring communities that have implemented Part 9 & 3 of Energy Step Code
- Floodplain requirements
- Developers vs sustainable solutions
- Largest source of renewable gas/potential to be a major producer
- Sunniest community in Metro Vancouver
- High water table in Ladner causes issues with underground parking

Community Benefits:



- Cleaner air
- Better indoor quality during smokey periods and A/C for hotter summers
- Enhanced biodiversity
- Save money on energy bills
- Economic development-jobs for contractors-keeping dollars local

BARRIERS: cost, financing and legal considerations for Part 3 buildings, loud heat pumps causing noise complaints, electricity supply, running out of space to plant more trees, demand, language barriers, currently penalize projects that have thicker high performance walls by making that walls count towards FSR, local construction and trades need additional education.



Community Surveys

Overview

In this second phase of engagement to inform the CEEP, there were **two** surveys distributed. The first was a Public Survey that was available online at letstalk.delta.ca and was translated into Punjabi and Chinese. The second was a customized version that was specifically designed to engage youth in Delta.

Public Survey:

311 responses



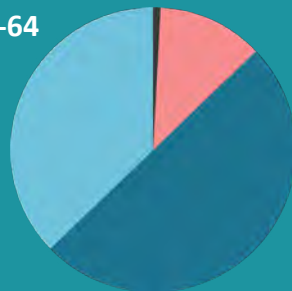
Available online from June-
November 2022

50% were between the ages of 40-64

37% were 65 or older

12% were ages 19-39

(less than 1% were under 18)



The survey was answered by those living in the communities of **Ladner, North Delta,** and **Tsawwassen.**

Youth Survey:

50+ responses



Distributed to elementary
and high schools in School
District #37.





Community Surveys

Key Findings - Public Survey

The majority of respondents support the actions evaluated in the survey. The exception is related to car shares which had a high percentage of “neutral” responses (just 41% saying very important or important).

Several actions were extremely popular and had more than **70%** of people saying it was very important or important. These actions were:



83.1%

1. For the City to do more to ensure new buildings are energy efficient and have low carbon heating systems.



73.6%

2. For the City to support retrofits of buildings to be more energy efficient and lower GHG emissions.



82.1%

3. For the City to do more to divert organic waste from landfills.

4. For the City to do more to ensure medium and heavy-duty vehicles are zero emission or low carbon.

5. For the City to support enhanced public transit.

6. For the City to support active and assisted transportation (walking, cycling, rolling etc).



78.7%



78.3%



82.6%

1. The top two supported actions in this category were to encourage the preservation of natural assets like trees to offer cooling during hot weather, and to adopt the BC Energy Step Code to require energy efficiency in new buildings.



6. The top supported actions in this category were to build safe routes for walking and cycling





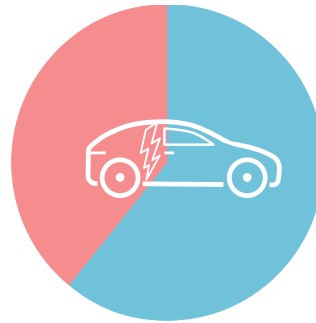
Survey Key Findings continued

Public survey reviewed and discussed

In comparison to the highly supported actions on the previous page, out of 310 responses, **61%** indicated it is “very important” or “important” for the city to help more residents convert to electric vehicles.

Some comments indicated that there are already a lot of EVs in town, while others noted they are precluded from buying an EV because they don’t have charging at home or at their rental property.

These comments align with the finding that of all actions listed to advance EV adoption, respondents were most supportive of efforts to enable charging in existing commercial and residential buildings.



What respondents said about EVs:

“Education and incentives will be very important moving forward with these initiatives.”

“...as a renter, a lot of this is out of my control. I’d love an electric vehicle, but can’t install a charger. I’d love to have a heat pump and not the expensive gas heating we currently have, etc.”

“Won’t buy an electric vehicle until our building can support it. Two chargers is not adequate.”



In the comments section of the public survey, many respondents articulated broad concerns around affordability and the potential high cost of taking climate action.

Some noted that even though they agreed the actions were important, they were concerned about the impact on cost alongside rising prices.

There may be a particular opportunity to evaluate actions that save the City, businesses and residents money.



Survey Key Findings continued

Public survey reviewed and discussed

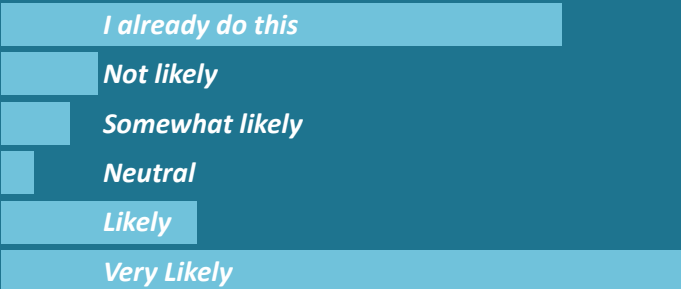
Respondents to the public survey were offered multiple opportunities to add context and ideas in their own words. Cost and affordability, as mentioned, were a prevalent theme. Other key themes were: planning of new developments, collaborating with other stakeholders to address traffic, safety of sidewalks and bike lanes, protection of urban parks and trees, and making public transit safe and effective.

What respondents are thinking about:

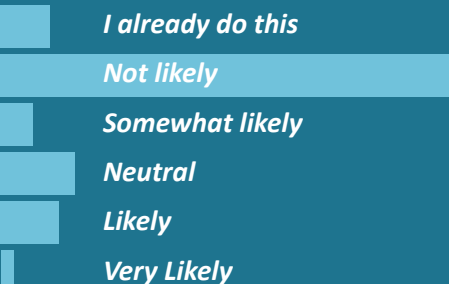
- “Can we work with the Port and BC Government to reduce the amount of truck traffic at the river crossing during rush hour?”
- “Make sure that public transit is aligned with future developments.”
- “Can we make our bike lanes and sidewalks safer - no more square curbs as the only buffer between vehicle traffic and pedestrians and can our major routes have a divided sidewalk and bike lane?”
- “Climate Action should be the TOP PRIORITY for the City. Look what is happening to our environment around us. Let’s not take clean air and clean water for granted. Thank you for asking for community input!”
- “My neighbourhood is a bit of a commuter suburb and mostly single-family housing with daily shops outside of walking distance. More residential density near existing retail areas would work well here as well as more mixed use and medium density in single family neighbourhoods.”
- “Add more trees to school yards, re wild our parks, build up out tree canopy wherever possible and engage schools to do so.”

Survey respondents were asked about some of the actions they plan to do in the future or are unlikely to do. Here’s what we heard:

“What is the likelihood that you will cycle or walk regularly in the community (at least once a week) in the next year?”



“What is the likelihood that you will buy an e-scooter or other micro-mobility vehicle in the next year??”





Community Survey

Key Findings - Youth Survey

Youth
were invited
to contribute to
the conversation!
Here's what we
heard from them.

- 49.1%** of youth said they hear about climate change 'often' or 'all the time'.
- 61.5%** of respondents feel worried about how climate change will affect their future.
- 69%** are hopeful when they hear about solutions to environmental problems.

There was strong support for climate action from the over 50 youth who participated in the survey. The following actions had over 90% of participants indicating it was "important" or "super important" to them.



97.8%

1. For the City to add more trees, and create protections for trees as natural assets.



92.7%

2. For the City to do more to protect parks and green spaces.



97.0%

3. For the City to help residents create less garbage to go to landfills.



91.5%

4. And for the City to provide more information on ways that youth can support climate action in their community.



Survey Key Findings continued

Youth survey reviewed and discussed



The youth survey asked respondents to answer the questions, “What does a healthy and Sustainable Delta look like to you?” Here are some answers:

1 less trash
2 more electric cars
3 more trees
4 the clean ocean

5 more Biking
6 more plants
7 more grasses

An example response from one of the younger respondents.



“I feel a little worried [about climate change]!” - Grade 6 student

“Every tree chopped down, you have to plant two more in it’s place.” - Grade 7 student

“A healthy Delta would have NO trash and there would be more people walking or biking. I feel like we really need to start doing more about climate change. I want more people to bike and walk instead of driving.” - Grade 6 student

“A healthy Delta looks like lots of trees, good parks, and no violence.” - Grade 6 student

“[citizens in Delta] need to know why a community free of emissions, a community that supports its ecosystem to the same extent as it’s economy, and a community that offers greater support for fish and wildlife, is a NECESSITY.” - Grade 10 student

“A place with lots of houses with solar panels on the roofs.” - Grade 6 student

Thank You!

The City of Delta extends gratitude to everyone who took time to participate and contribute their views. Thank you also to the teachers and Green Team members who took the time to talk to students about climate action. All information including FAQ about the Community Energy and Emissions Plan and municipal climate action in general is available on Let's Talk Delta: <https://letstalk.delta.ca/communityenergy>.

