

2023 ETCRC Annual Report/Activities
March 10, 2023

Overview & Message From the Co-Chairs

The 2022-2023 term has been an eventful and productive one for the Energy Transition Climate Resilience Committee (ETCRC). The ETCRC has continuously engaged in important work that helps bring the city of Edmonton closer to its climate goals. A short, non-exhaustive list of our activities includes:

- providing ongoing support in developing the carbon budget,
- meeting with different city departments to ensure attention is paid to climate action at all levels, and
- advocating for a fiscal budget that reflects our climate goals.

As always, the ETCRC would like to remind Council that **all decisions are climate decisions**. Leaders need to consider both mitigation and adaptation at every step; the committee has started to assist the City with embedding this foundational climate mentality into its processes.

While we have seen some impressive successes, there is still an urgent need for Edmonton to continue to push strongly towards its goal of achieving a net-zero city by 2050. The science is clear: the climate is warming faster than predicted. We have less time and fewer available adaptation strategies. We now understand that cities play an important role in advancing climate resilient development. While new technologies and corporate commitments can help reduce global warming, the goals will not be achieved without immediate government policy and infrastructure investment decisions.

Now is not the time to sit back and congratulate ourselves. We are gaining traction, but the real work is still ahead of us. The ETCRC will be there to help. We look forward to continuing to support the City's energy transition and climate adaptation and mitigation activities.

Membership List

The following individuals served as members of the ETCRC:

- Peter Amerongen
- Dolly Cepeda Montufar
- Satya Das
- David Dodge
- Chelsea Donelon
- Daniel Grist
- Anna Ho
- Melanie Hoffman
- Camille Jasper-Fabiyi
- Maya Kalogirou (Co-Chair)
- Jacob Komar (Co-Chair)
- Kathleen Rich
- Klaas Rodenburg
- Chris Vilcsak

- Sheena Wilson
- Ashley Salvador (Council Representative)
- Michael Janz (Council Representative)

ETCRC Priorities

The following priorities will guide the ETCRC's work over the next year.

- 1. Culture Change**
 - We are facing one of the most concerning existential threats of our time - climate change. It is time to start acting like it is an emergency.
- 2. Land Use – District Planning and Zoning Bylaw Renewal**
 - Make sure district and zoning changes are transformative and align with the City's transition goals.
- 3. Transportation**
 - Start tackling one of our largest emissions sources, foundational to everything in the transition strategy.
- 4. Buildings**
 - Tackle the single largest emissions source that ties into transportation, land use and everything in between.
- 5. Energy Systems**
 - Change how we deliver energy around the city.
- 6. Equity**
 - Engage all citizens in broad action on climate change. If it's not equitable, it's not sustainable.
- 7. Health**
 - Address the health challenges climate change poses to the human population.

Activity

Date	Location	Meeting Type	Livestream
May 5, 2022	Virtual	General Meeting	No
May 16, 2022	Virtual	New Member Orientation	No
June 16, 2022	Virtual	General Meeting	No
September 15, 2022	Hybrid	General Meeting	No
October 3, 2022	Hybrid	Priority Subcommittee	No
November 3, 2022	Hybrid	General Meeting	No
November 16, 2022	Virtual	Budget Emergency Subcommittee Meeting	No
January 25, 2023	Hybrid	General Meeting	Yes
March 8, 2023	Hybrid	General Meeting	Yes

Communication with Council

The ETCRC has been in regular communication with City Council throughout the year, especially during budget deliberations. ETCRC co-chairs have regular contact with Councillors Janz and Salvador, the ETCRC Council representatives. The co-chairs also met with every Council member during budget discussions. Co-chairs presented at the membership report meeting and will be doing so once again to present the annual report.

External Issues & Challenges

We have two primary challenges. The first is that addressing climate change is often at odds with other competing demands. It is difficult to do our work well when the topic we are meant to advise on is politically charged. We strongly believe that climate change must be front and centre of every decision that is made at every level of the city government.

The second challenge is that we are a volunteer committee, and as such ETCRC has difficulty understanding city processes, knowing the timing of when items come before Council, and knowing which items are time-critical. As co-chairs we feel that some important items have slipped under our radar because we were not made aware of them. This could be addressed with more active support from City Administration, similar to the support we received in the first four years of this committee's existence. This could consist of regular check-ins with City Administration on their work, notifications of climate-related items appearing before Council, and communication providing context around critical issues. Our committee would love to be more involved and to advise on pressing issues that come before Council, but we will need more support to do so effectively.

