

Stakeholder Feedback

Administration conducted targeted engagement to collect preliminary feedback on the topic of implementing and enforcing more advanced energy codes:

- The Climate and Energy Perceptions Survey provides insight as to the average Edmontonian's knowledge and support of building energy efficiency and action on climate change.
- The Emissions Neutral Building Industry Advisory Group (ENBIAG) workshops gave the building industry a chance to share their views on the opportunities, challenges and options to move Edmonton towards emissions neutral building construction.
- The Energy Transition and Climate Resilience Committee (ETCRC) provided a wide and strategic perspective on the energy transition and climate resilience impacts of both mandatory energy labelling and implementing advanced energy codes.

Climate and Energy Perception Survey

Since 2017, The City of Edmonton has commissioned an annual survey to gain a better understanding of Edmontonians' perceptions and motivations surrounding the Energy Transition Strategy. The July 2023 Climate and Energy Perceptions Survey¹ included online responses from 1,004 Edmonton residents aged 18 and over and found the following:

- 74 per cent of Edmontonians agree that climate change is a concern and 73 per cent agree that there is a need to act now to address the issue.
- 64 per cent of respondents said that the City of Edmonton should increase or maintain its efforts to address climate change, and 65 percent agree that they want to do more personally to help prevent climate change.
- 67 per cent agree that investing in energy efficiency provides job opportunities for Edmonton.
- 56 per cent of Edmontonians have taken action in the past year to improve their home energy efficiency (an increase of eight per cent from 2022).
- 79 per cent of Edmontonians agree that the cost of energy use in their home makes them want to conserve and 55 per cent sometimes worry about whether there is enough money to pay their energy bills

¹ Narrative Research. City of Edmonton Climate and Energy Perceptions Survey. July 2023.

- 85 per cent view it as important that their home is energy efficient and 74 per cent indicate that energy efficiency is important for the buildings in which they work, study, play, or shop.

Emission Neutral Building Industry Advisory Group

The Emission Neutral Building Industry Advisory Group (ENBIAG) is an advisory group to Administration. The group's purpose is to help guide and shape project directions, provide broad industry perspectives, and represent industry organizations and stakeholders. The group's membership was selected to represent a balanced range of industry perspectives, based on experience, industry knowledge and influence, including members from the Canadian Home Builders Association (CHBA), the Commercial Real Estate Development Association (NAIOP), and the Urban Development Institute (UDI).

Administration held workshops with ENBIAG in July and November of 2023. ENBIAG identified opportunities of implementing higher energy requirements such as moving towards emissions neutral building goals, removing regulatory barriers, and supporting growing industry capacity and supply chains to create economic efficiencies. They identified potential intergovernmental challenges, potential for cost disparities within the region, the need for capacity building both in industry and at the City, increases in building costs, and limitations due to the current utility supply. Several options were discussed such as linking performance standards to emissions rather than energy, providing financial and non-financial incentives for higher performance, working with the Province to increase code stringency, setting high performance requirements for city owned developments, and providing a roadmap with timelines on increasing tier adoption.

Energy Transition and Climate Resilience Council Advisory Committee

The Energy Transition and Climate Resilience Committee (ETCRC) consists of Edmontonians, selected by Council, with experience and interest in energy transition and climate resilience, with the mandate of advising Council on the Community Energy Transition Strategy and Climate Resilience Adaptation Strategy. Administration presented to ETCRC to gather their feedback on the opportunities, challenges and options for both mandatory energy labelling and implementing advanced energy codes. ETCRC members suggested balancing regulation with incentives to promote energy efficiency, empower residents to make wise financial decisions that consider the value of energy efficiency and support industry capacity building. They emphasized that energy efficiency is

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easier to implement in new builds than retrofitting existing buildings. They identified challenges with industry capacity, resident knowledge and builders lacking the incentive to build to higher efficiency standards because of increased capital costs.

ETCRC members recommended more public engagement and education, emphasizing the long term savings of more energy efficient homes. They showed support for mandatory measures, but included that consistent regulations across the province would be better for builders. ETCRC also identified equity considerations such as multi-family homes being excluded from incentive programs, lower-income people needing to pay higher utility costs in lower quality buildings, and suggested grants for those facing environmental racism and energy poverty to improve the energy performance of their homes. They suggested making information available in different languages to increase their accessibility for immigrants.