

Update on the Corporate Climate Leaders Program and Progress on Goal #3 of Climate Resilient Edmonton: Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan

Previous Council/Committee Action

That Administration provide an update to Committee on the Corporate Climate Leaders Program and any progress made on Goal #3 of the Climate Resilient Edmonton: Adaptation and Action Plan, as part of the 1.5 report to be presented on March 22, 2021.

Update

This attachment provides an update on the Corporate Climate Leaders Program, which catalyzes and celebrates leadership in the business community with respect to taking climate action and provides an update on progress made on *Climate Resilient Edmonton: Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan's* goal for Edmonton's communities, businesses and institutions to be aware, connected, and prepared for climate change.

Corporate Climate Leaders Program

The Corporate Climate Leaders Program is a call to action for Edmonton corporations to analyze their own carbon footprints, create a reduction plan, and report their progress towards targets in a public forum so successes and challenges can be shared with their peers and all of Edmonton. The program launched in 2018 with 17 founding members and has grown to now include over 58 organizations, from large oil and gas companies to small, home-grown Edmonton businesses, all working to understand their emissions and taking action to reduce their carbon footprint.

Every program year, the City of Edmonton offers the participating members with opportunities to learn and network through a series of workshops related to a variety of climate related topics such as climate financing, building optimization and energy management and climate business opportunities. Also, starting this year the City of Edmonton will organize its first-ever "Climate Leadership Summit " for all the Corporate Climate Leaders Program members. The summit will recognize local leaders in climate change and share learning of the participants that have shown leadership in mitigating climate change.

The Corporate Climate Leaders Program has launched the recruitment efforts for its Year 4 recently, where over 90 invitations were sent out to local organizations to lead Edmonton's efforts to take action on climate change. The program expects to recruit at least 20 new members in Year 4.

Current members of the program include:

Alberta Health Services	Earth's General Store	Kuby Renewable Energy
Alberta Museums Association	Earth Group	Lafarge Canada Inc.
Avila Arepa	EcoAmmo	Landmark Homes (Canada)
Boardwalk	Edmonton's Arts Council	Lehigh Cement
Bissell Centre	Edmonton Convention Centre	MacEwan University
Boyle Street Community Services	Edmonton EXPO Centre	Manasc Isaac Architects
Canadian Western Bank	Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues	Northern Alberta Institute of Technology
Canderel	Edmonton Folk Music Festival	NorQuest College
Capital Power	Edmonton Heritage Council	O'Hanlon Paving
Chandos Construction	Edmonton Public Libraries	Oxford Properties Group
City of Edmonton	ENMAX	PCL Construction Management Inc.
Clark Builders	Enbridge Inc.	ROSENAU Transport
Concordia University of Edmonton	EPCOR Utilities Inc.	Royal Bank of Canada
Covenant Health	FATH Industries	Scott Builders Inc.
Dandelion Renewables	Goodwill	SkyFire Energy Inc.
Deloitte	Graham LP	Solar Power Investment Cooperative of Edmonton
DIALOG	Great Canadian Solar	Stantec
DoBetter! Marketing	Hi Signs The Fath Group	Sticks and Stones Communication Inc.
	High Level Diner	SYLVIS Environmental Services
	Ikea Edmonton	Thurber Engineering Ltd.
	Italian Centre Shop (Southside)	University of Alberta

Goal #3 of Climate Resilient Edmonton: Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan

ConnectEdmonton's goal of Climate Resilience includes a city that is adapting to a changing climate. *Climate Resilient Edmonton: Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan* is a strategic action to help prepare for and adapt to the impacts of climate change and to support achieving the community's vision for Edmonton in 2050. The City Plan's bold plan for Edmonton outlines what needs to be accomplished to achieve city building outcomes, including supporting Edmontonians in building individual and community capacity to take action on climate change.

The climate adaptation strategy has eleven goals related to preparing for climate risks identified in Edmonton. The path towards climate resilience requires Edmonton's communities, businesses and institutions to be "aware, connected and prepared for climate change", which is Goal #3 in the strategy. Within Goal #3, the following three Actions are identified:

- The City of Edmonton in partnership with community stakeholders develops and implements a community scale and household climate change readiness program.
- The City of Edmonton develops and implements a local business and institution climate change readiness program.
- The City of Edmonton in partnership with community stakeholders develops and implements a community "Resilience Hubs" program that provides support and

resources for residents to improve their capacity to cope with climate changes and extreme weather.

Implementation of the strategy began in 2019. The first two years of implementation towards this goal included: identifying grant resources to further the work; raising awareness and increasing knowledge and understanding of how climate change will impact Edmonton; and sharing personal actions that can be taken to improve resilience. This work to date can be grouped primarily as follows:

- Preparing Homeowners by:
 - Sharing information through displays, workshops and handouts at events such as home shows, Resilience Festival, and Get Ready in the Park
 - Developing a **Climate Resilient Virtual Home** - an interactive platform that provides a road map to help homeowners and builders improve the climate resilience of homes.
 - Developing an Edmonton-specific **Climate Change Almanac** webpage to showcase how Edmonton's climate has changed over the years and how it will change.
 - Developing adaptation content for the **Change Homes and Habits for Climate Guides** and creating three short informational videos on home adaptation improvements through the Change for Climate Tiny Explanations video series.
 - Delivering **Lunch and Learns** on the basics of climate change, and what residents can do to both mitigate and adapt to, and prepare for, climate change in Edmonton.
 - Sharing information through the monthly **Change for Climate newsletter**.

- Preparing Institutions and Businesses by:
 - Delivering a climate change risk planning workshop for members of the **Corporate Climate Leaders** program. This workshop introduced the fundamentals of assessing climate related risks to their business, and how to prepare for those risks. There is commitment to continue to build adaptation capacity with this audience on an annual basis.
 - Supporting a discussion with the **Energy Transition Leadership Network** members on the expected climate change risks and impacts for Edmonton, and introduced ideas for planning and preparing for those impacts.

- Preparing Communities by:
 - Delivering a three-part workshop series for the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues on **Adapting Community Leagues for Climate Change**. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, 2021 sessions will be delivered virtually.
 - Preparing **Resources for Teachers** (junior and senior high) who wish to have local information to discuss how Edmonton's climate has and is changing, and how schools can participate in adaptation efforts.

- Improving our understanding of the challenges and impacts different communities may face. This includes developing **neighborhood climate resilience and risk indices** to support community adaptation planning. This also includes two research projects with the University of Alberta that: 1) explores community vulnerability and resilience of older adults and immigrants in a changing climate; and 2) works with three community leagues to co-create neighbourhood climate action strategies with community members and adaptation planning experts.

The adaptation strategy sets Edmonton on a path to create a more climate resilient and adapted city. This can only be achieved if all communities in Edmonton are more connected and more resilient to the changing climate. Resilient communities and resilient people build resilient cities that are more attractive to businesses and the next million people who will call Edmonton home.