

A community-driven approach...

Iron & Earth (I&E) is a non-profit organization with roots in the fossil fuel industry that is working toward a future where the workforce is dynamically engaged in a thriving green economy. Community Talks is Iron and Earth's engagement initiative designed to spark conversations about how environmental, social, and economic changes impact people across Canada. This report summarizes the first community conversation hosted in Ward Dene (Northeast Edmonton) and Sherwood Park, Alberta, in partnership with David Suzuki Foundation. This event series is funded by generous support from Alberta EcoTrust Foundation and Natural Resources Canada.

Key takeaways

- Affordability and Job Security: People frequently reflected on how the rising cost of living has impacted their day-to-day lives and shaped their decision-making regarding consumption and career paths. They shared a desire for consistent, well-compensated employment given the high costs of rent, food, and energy.
- Impacts of Industry (Environment and Health): Community members frequently discussed the impacts of energy production they had observed while living and working in close proximity to the oil and gas industry. They discussed concerns with water and air quality, as well as the physical and mental health impacts of working in the trades.
- Positive Sentiment Towards Energy Transition: Throughout the conversation, discussants shared negative feelings towards all forms of energy production, however, discussions of energy transition were overwhelmingly positive. Most participants shared a sense of urgency that some kind of change to our energy systems is necessary.



87%

of participants learned something new

Feedback

Satisfaction Level

94% of participants were very satisfied or satisfied with the session. and would like to continue the conversation.

Excerpts

Everybody has a purpose. How can we come together to be able to work together to allow community to thrive?

When I think of energy, I think of survival...Everyone needs it in some shape or form. It's a necessity.

I think we're at that crossroads. [If we] keep on doing what we're doing and there's not going to be very much left.



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