



Edmonton, Alberta



#1 (of 3)

COMMUNITY TALKS EDMONTON: WARD KARHIO SESSION #1



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 third and final community conversation hosted in Ward Karhio (Southeast Edmonton), in partnership with David Suzuki Foundation. This event series is funded by generous support from Alberta EcoTrust Foundation and Natural Resources Canada.

Key takeaways

Growing Community: Participants spoke at length about how they've witnessed Edmonton grow, sharing their perspectives on densification and infrastructure developments. They shared fears about how continued growth could put stress on the existing public transit system, create traffic congestion, change housing zoning laws and existing infrastructure, like the sewage system and electrical grid.

Affordability & Solar: People shared extensive concerns about the cost of utilities, while sharing mostly negative perspectives on their existing energy options. There was extensive discussion about solar energy as a possible alternative. In general, people expressed positive sentiments towards the idea of energy transition.

Strength of Community: People articulated that Karhio's greatest strength is its people. Despite feeling a sense of powerlessness about making change in the world, they described finding comfort in community, describing Karhio as a place with a strong sense of community trust, with kind neighbours and a diversity of the people.





About Participants

- **18 people** participated in the first Karhiio session
- 44% of participants identified themselves as **people of colour**
- Most participants were in the **30-54 age group** (61%), followed by 15 to 29 (22%), and 55+ (17%)
- Most participants fell within the **middle income** bracket, making \$50,000 to \$99,000 annually
- 6% of participants in the first Karhiio session self-identified as **Indigenous**

Excerpts

“I think Edmonton, some years ago, didn't expect that it's going to grow this fast and this big.”

“With the affordability issues, the economic issues that people are facing right now, I think they just want some semblance of stability.”

“It feels like screaming into the void sometimes.”

“One individual could want something and get nothing. One hundred individuals can want something and make change.”

“I'll tell you one strength of our neighbourhoods: the people.”

Feedback

100% of participants rating their satisfaction levels as either “Very Satisfied” or “Satisfied.”

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