



Edmonton, Alberta



#3 (of 3)

COMMUNITY TALKS EDMONTON: WARD KARHIIO SESSION #3



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 Karhiio (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

Rules for Engagement: Participants shared a sense of fear and apathy about approaching politicians about their concerns. They identified a need for consistent engagement beyond election times, collaborative decision making, and hybrid engagement (a mix of online and in-person).

Access to information: When asked about best practices for government and industry looking to interact with Karhiio, community members articulated a shared need for transparent, simple communication. A lack of trust, particularly between community and industry, was highlighted multiple times. Clear communication in simple language, translated into multiple languages was identified as the solution to this issue.

Community Energy: People were curious about community energy projects and were interested in the idea of converting underutilized spaces, like parking lots, rooftops, or lamp posts, into solar projects. Participants rarely discussed renewable energy outside of solar projects.





About Participants

- **33 people** participated in the second Karhiio session
- 70% of participants identified themselves as **people of colour**
- Most participants were in the **30-54 age group** (48%), 55+ (39%), and 15-29 (12%)
- Most participants fell within the **low income** bracket, making up to \$49,000 annually
- 12% of participants at this event self-identified as part of the **2SLGBTQ+** community

Excerpts

“I think another really important piece when I think about engaging communities to make decisions is, you have to give them a sense of ownership to the decisions that are coming into play.”

“If people understood the actual processes that take place, the steps and methods that occur, and the roadblocks that can happen, you build a community that is more informed.”

“If you're going to have an energy project here in Edmonton, hire the local people. You have such a diverse population in Alberta.”

Feedback

91% of participants rated their experience as either “Very Satisfied” or “Satisfied.” 97% of participants learned something new from the conversation.

✉ communities@ironandearth.org

☎ 780 652 3286

🌐 www.communitytalkscanada.ca

📘 facebook.com/ironandearth.org

🐦 twitter.com/IRONandEARTH

📷 instagram.com/ironandearth

🌐 linkedin.com/company/ironandearth