

COMMUNITY TALKS

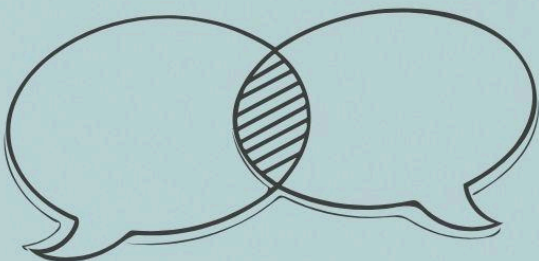
# EDMONTON

## REPORT

Report No. 2 of 3

June 14, 2025

Karhiio





# Community Talks - Edmonton, Alberta

*Full Report on Session Two: June 14th 2025*

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## Summary

This report summarizes the second Community Talks event hosted in Ward Karhiio (Southeast Edmonton), Alberta by Iron & Earth, in partnership with David Suzuki Foundation, and generously funded by Alberta EcoTrust Foundation.

Three themes emerged from this conversation, building on priorities identified in the first Community Talks Karhiio event. Participants identified several avenues to making solar energy more accessible and appealing, including: a focus on affordability and reducing up-front installation costs, expanding access to information, capitalizing on the bandwagon effect, and gradual pacing. They articulated a wide range of visions of the future, with an overarching perspective that the city will grow and become more dense. Other concerns for the future included worsening air quality and rising temperatures, a desire for better city services, and a focus on safety. Participants shared a consensus that people are isolated due to technology, post-COVID shifts in socialization, general exhaustion from day-to-day working life, and Edmonton's "cold weather culture." As the community continues to grow, participants pointed to a range of potential solutions to encourage community connections.



## **1. Introduction**

### **About Iron & Earth**

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. We envision broad participation in a Just Transition, leading to strengthened economic and climate resilience, expanded accessibility to sustainable energy solutions and meaningful careers. This vision extends beyond workforce mobilization to foster a community-driven transformation, where people actively contribute to a sustainable and equitable future, for their communities and the planet. Its mission is to enable sustainable, community-driven climate solutions and reduce barriers for those seeking a future in the green economy with programs that support greater job security, social protection, and more training opportunities as we move toward a low-carbon economy.

Iron & Earth believes community engagement is an effective way to influence sustainable participation in a Just Transition, and that community-driven solutions have a greater chance of becoming successful and sustainable in the long-term. Iron & Earth takes the time to build relationships and adapt to individual community needs whenever possible.

Community Talks is Iron and Earth's engagement initiative designed to spark conversations about how environmental, social, and economic changes impact people across Canada. It is committed to meeting communities where they are at, by supporting self-determined, community-driven solutions, and offering non-prescriptive support with programs that are designed by the community and for the community.

### **About David Suzuki Foundation**

Through evidence-based research, policy analysis, education and citizen empowerment, the David Suzuki Foundation conserves and protects the natural environment to create a sustainable Canada. For a sustainable Canada, we need inclusive and equitable communities. The David Suzuki Foundation is proud to support Iron and Earth's Community Talks so that community members can identify the issues that impact them and the solutions to make their communities more resilient.

### **Why this community was selected to have a conversation**



Ward Karhiio was selected as the final ward for Iron & Earth's three-ward Edmonton Engagement series. Ward Karhiio offered Southeast representation, balancing the previous northern (Dene) and central (O-day'min) engagement. Ward Karhiio (pronounced *gar-ee-he-o*) is the Mohawk (Michel First Nation) word for "tall beautiful forest," named for former Michel Band Chief, Michel Karhiio.<sup>1</sup>

As explored in the first session report, Ward Karhiio residents could provide a unique perspective on the topics of community growth and the resulting environmental impact given the mix of new and mature residential neighbourhoods, and the continued commercial residential development in the area,

According to the 2021 Federal Census neighbourhood-level data, there are 94,525 people living in Ward Karhiio, across 32,865 households.<sup>2</sup> The ward has a mix of brand new suburban developments, mature residential neighbourhoods, commercial centres, and industrial areas within its boundaries, creating a constituency with a range of interests and needs.<sup>3</sup> Ward Karhiio's new and growing suburban developments on the south end of Edmonton is a response to Edmonton's growing population<sup>4</sup>, but the resulting need for increased infrastructure, amenities, and accessible transit are concerns for residents. Modifications to the Edmonton Public Transit bus network redesign presented challenges that concern some residents of the ward, including the reduction of available transit routes and increased walking distance to bus stops<sup>5</sup>. The addition of the Southeast Expansion of the Valley Line LRT to the Millwoods community has been operational since November 2023<sup>6</sup>,

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<sup>1</sup> City of Edmonton. n.d. "Ward Karhiio - Keren Tang."

[https://www.edmonton.ca/city\\_government/city\\_organization/ward-karhiio#:~:text=Ward%20Name%20Origin,Gar%2Dee%2Dhe%2Do](https://www.edmonton.ca/city_government/city_organization/ward-karhiio#:~:text=Ward%20Name%20Origin,Gar%2Dee%2Dhe%2Do)

<sup>2</sup> City of Edmonton. September 11, 2023. "Ward Composition Dashboard," *Tableau*.

<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/city.of.edmonton/viz/WardComposition/WardResidentDemographics>

<sup>3</sup> Theobald, Claire. September 4, 2017. "Ward 11: A microcosm of Edmonton's hot button issues in southeast ward," *Edmonton Journal*.

<https://edmontonjournal.com/news/local-news/ward-11-a-microcosm-of-edmontons-hot-button-issues-in-southeast-ward>

<sup>4</sup> Mohatarem, Kashmala Fida. June 23, 2024. "Edmonton's plan to stop Edmonton's plan to stop sprawl faces pushback from developers over housing affordability" *CBC News*.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/edmonton-s-plan-to-stop-sprawl-faces-pushback-from-developers-over-housing-affordability-1.7241110>

<sup>5</sup> Cook, Stephen. January 19, 2022. "Edmonton working to address bus network redesign concerns". *CBC News*. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/edmonton-working-to-address-bus-network-redesign-concerns-1.6321033>

<sup>6</sup> City of Edmonton, n.d. "Valley Line".

[https://www.edmonton.ca/projects\\_plans/transit/valley-line-lrt-mill-woods-to-lewis-farms](https://www.edmonton.ca/projects_plans/transit/valley-line-lrt-mill-woods-to-lewis-farms)

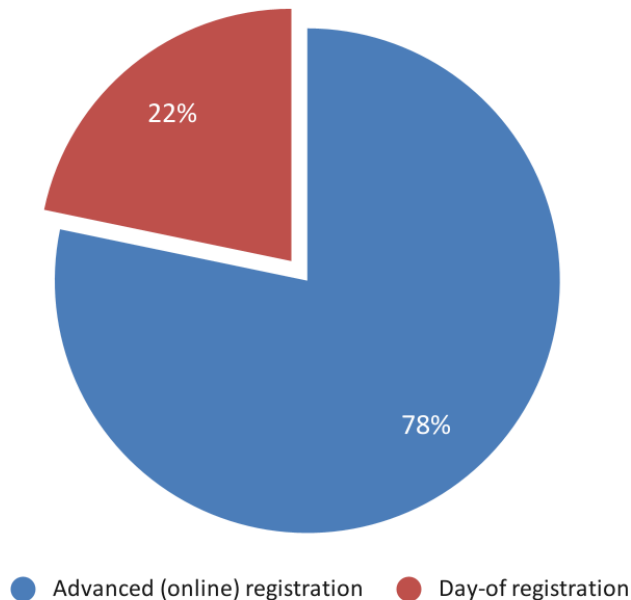




with future transit expansion in the area includes the expansion of the Capital Line LRT South, along Ellerslie Road west of Ward Karhiio<sup>7</sup>.

## About the conversation participants

Figure 1.1 - Prior Registration Rate



For the second event in Ward Karhiio, 28 people registered online in advance and 18 (64%) attended the session. 5 people attended without prior registration, making the total attendees number 23. *Figure 1.1* outlines the breakdown between attendees who had registered in advance, and those who filled out the registration form on the day of the session. The following analysis is based on the registration forms of those in attendance. Some demographics charts include 2021 Census Profile data<sup>8</sup> of the Edmonton population from Statistics Canada wherever relevant, to provide a comparison of the attendees' representation to the community demographics.

<sup>7</sup> Government of Alberta, n.d. "Capital Line LRT Expansion South (Ellerslie)".  
<https://majorprojects.alberta.ca/details/Capital-Line-LRT-Expansion-South-Ellerslie/3448>

<sup>8</sup> Statistics Canada. 2023. (table). Census Profile. 2021 Census of Population. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2021001. Ottawa. Released November 15, 2023.  
<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E> (accessed March 13, 2025).



Figure 1.2 - First Time Attendance

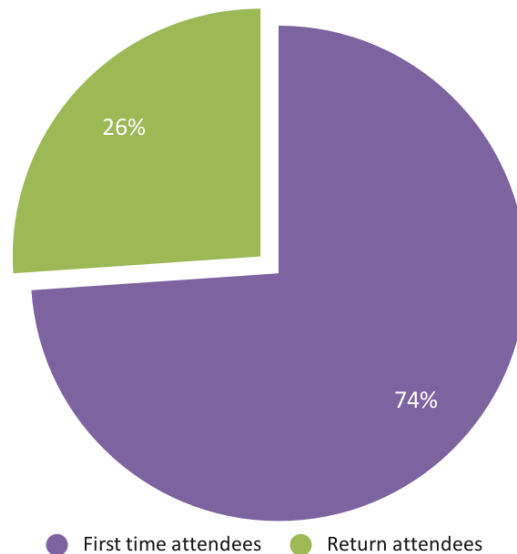


Figure 1.2 shows that most participants (74%) had not been to a previous Community Talk session by I&E.

Figure 1.3 - Outreach Methods

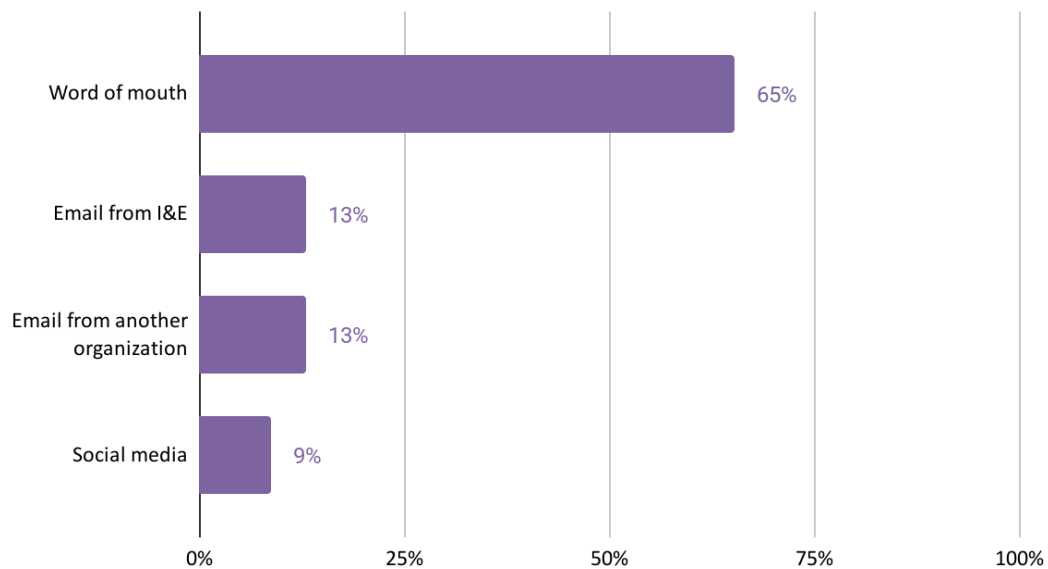


Figure 1.3 demonstrates the main methods of how attendees were informed about the community conversation. More than half (65%) of attendees found out about the event mainly through word of mouth, followed by email from Iron & Earth (13%) and email from



another organization (13%), and lastly from social media (9%). Note that this question allowed for multiple answers.

**Figure 1.4 - Accommodations**

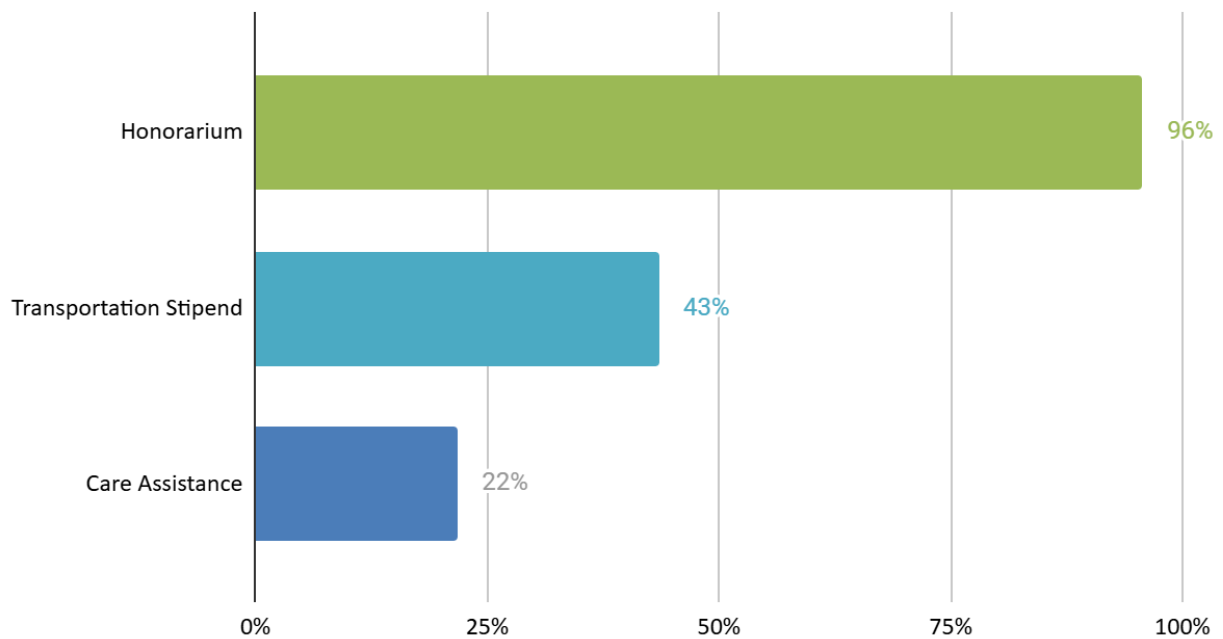


Figure 1.4 shows that nearly all attendees chose to receive an honorarium for their participation. Almost half (43%) of the attendees opted for transportation stipend, and 22% opted for reimbursements for care assistance. The accommodations, provided as monetary deposits, were offered to all participants.



Figure 1.5 - Age Groups (Attendees & Census Data)

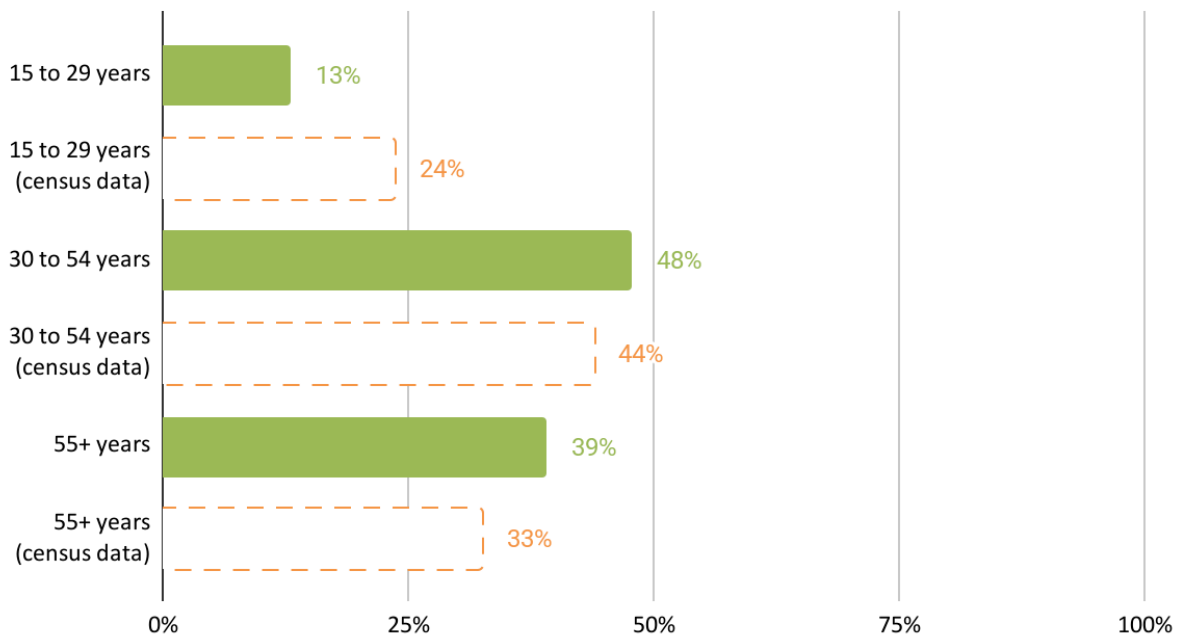


Figure 1.5 provides details on participants' age groups, demonstrating that nearly half of the attendees were 30-54 years, followed by the 55+ age group as the next highest age group represented. Compared to the census data demographics, the 15 to 29 years age group is underrepresented while 30 to 54 years and 55+ years groups are slightly overrepresented. Statistics Canada includes the category of 0-14 years old. However, participation in our events is restricted to those 15 years old and up, so the census profile data on 0-14 years old demographics is omitted





Figure 1.6 - Gender Categories

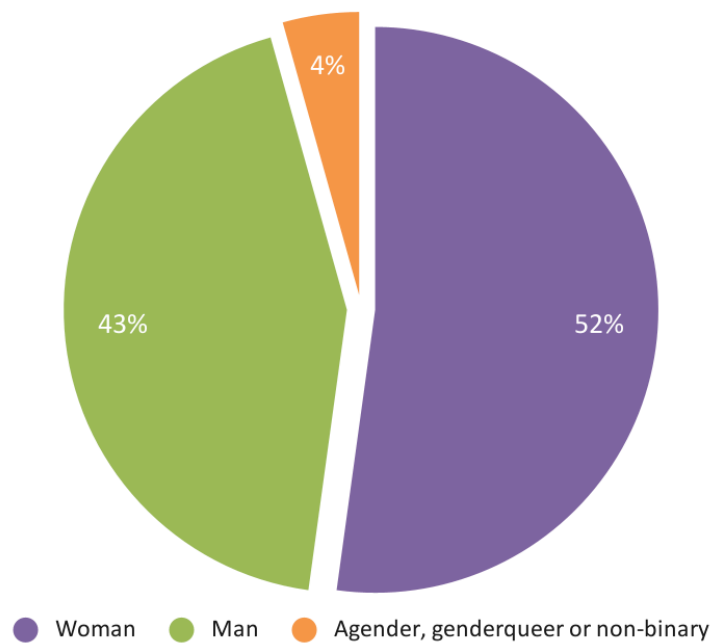


Figure 1.6 shows that women represented half (52%) of the attendees, with the remainder half consisting of men (43%) and agender, genderqueer, or non-binary (4%). This question allowed for multiple answers, but in this session every participant chose one option.



Figure 1.7 - Languages Spoken At Home (Attendees & Census Data)

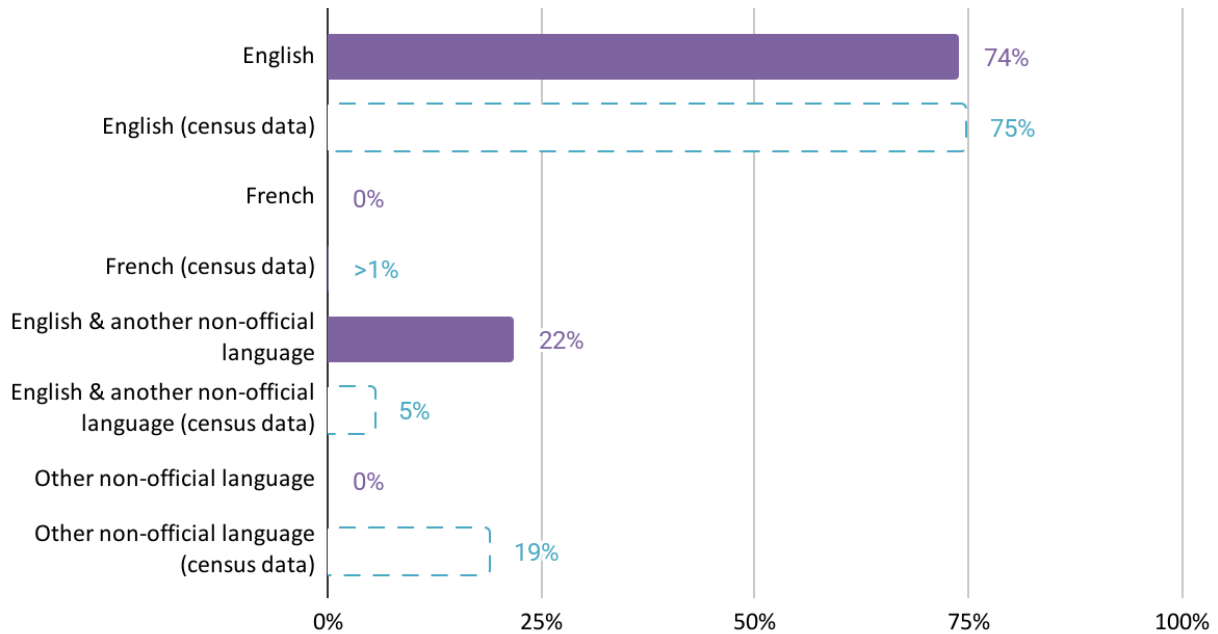
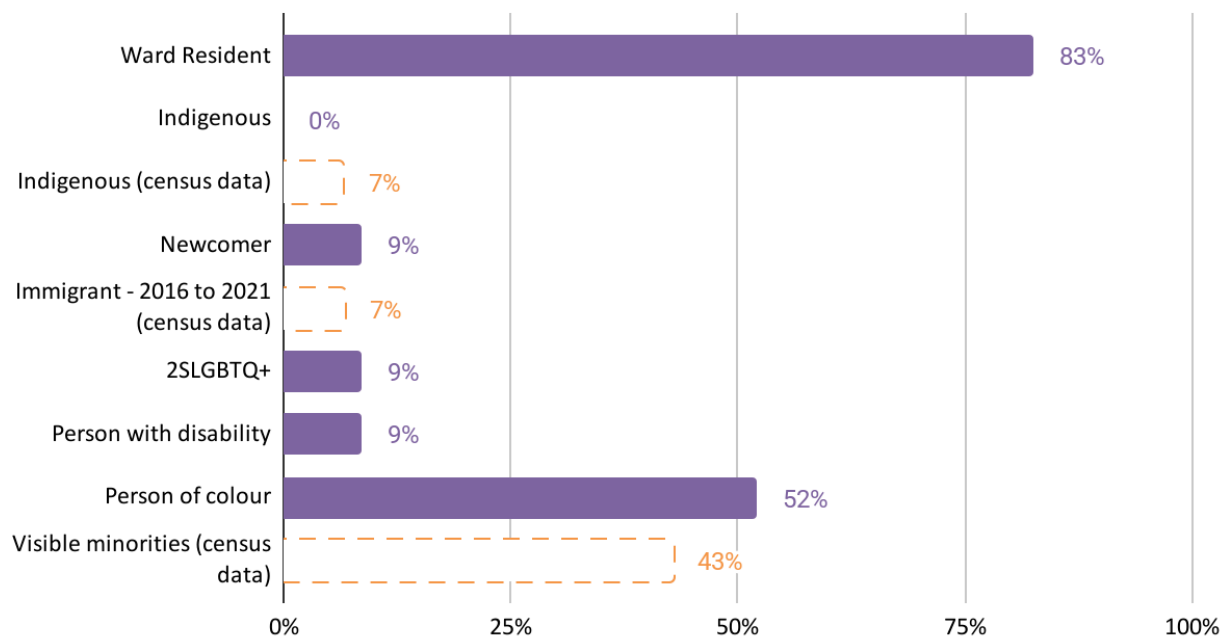


Figure 1.7 shows that most attendees (75%) speak English at home and none speak French, while a fifth (22%) of the attendees speak English and another non-official language. Compared to the census profile, English speakers were appropriately represented at this event, while the demographics of people who only speak one non-official language at home was not represented.



Figure 1.8 - Identification Categories (Attendees & Census Data)



As detailed in *Figure 1.8* above, most (83%) of the attendees are residents of Dene Ward. No attendees identify themselves as Indigenous, while 9% identify as newcomers (defined as arriving in Canada in the past 5 years). 52% identify as a person of colour, and 9% as 2SLGBTQ+ and another 9% as a person with disability. Compared to the demographics percentages from census data, the representation of Indigenous attendees is lacking, while immigrant representation (compared to the “Newcomer” category”) is appropriate. Persons of colour, compared in the chart to the category of “Visible Minority” in the census profile, is a slightly higher representation of the demographics percentage.



Figure 1.9 - Income Levels (Attendees & Census Data)

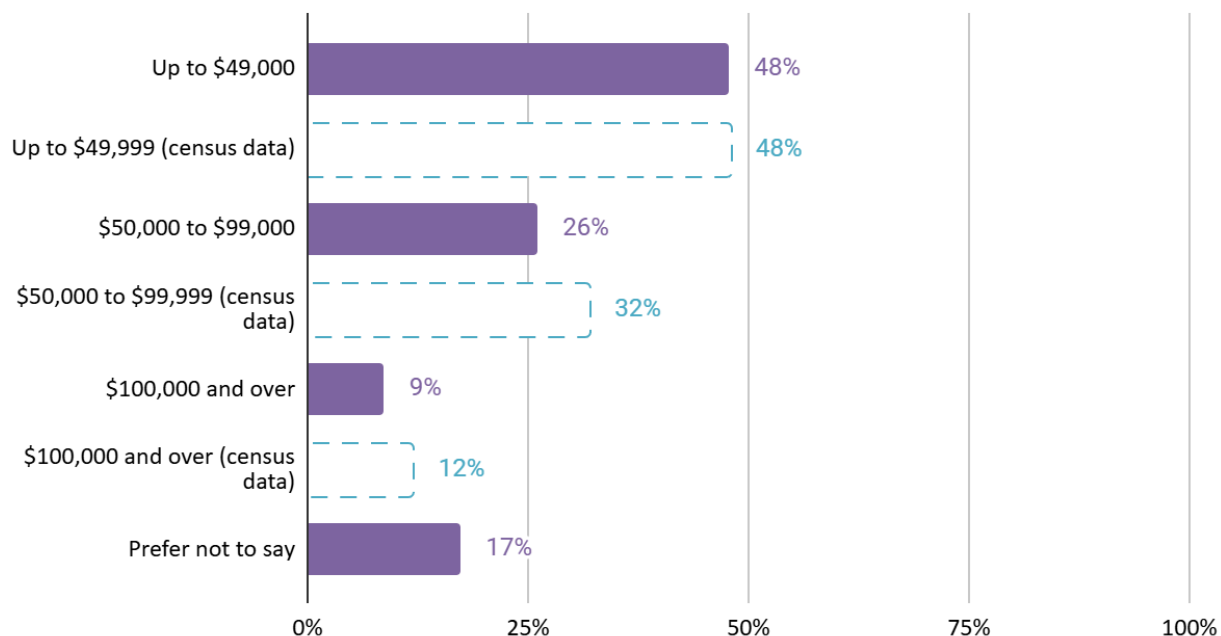


Figure 1.9 shows that half (48%) of the attendees earn up to \$49,000. The census data categories are slightly different from the categories used in the registration forms. However, overall the distribution of the attendees' personal income levels are representative of the census data demographics.



Figure 1.10a - Job Sectors (Attendees)

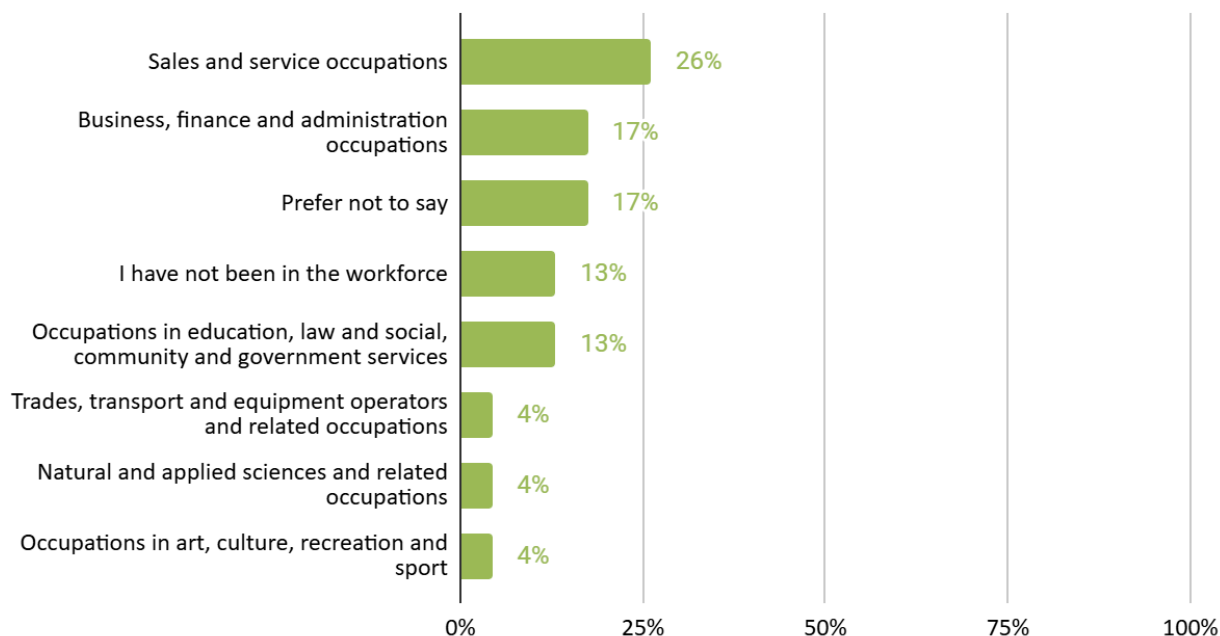


Figure 1.10b - Job Sectors (Census Data)

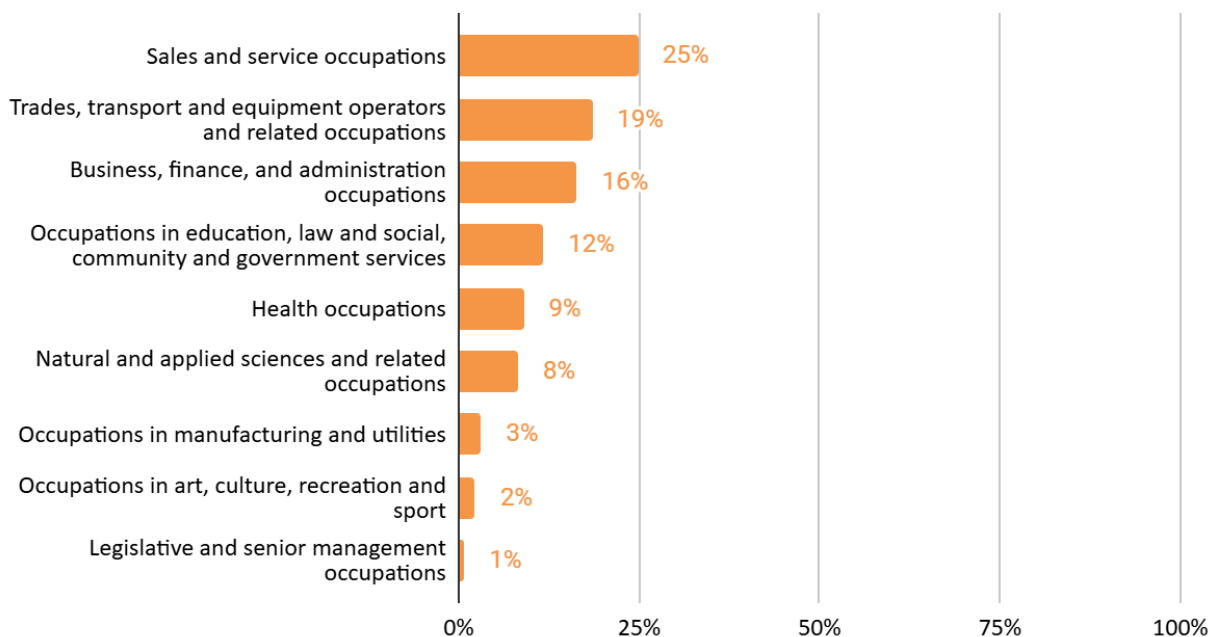




Figure 1.10a shows the breakdown of attendees' job sectors. For this question, some attendees chose one or more industries. The highest represented job sector is sales and service occupations (26%), followed by business, finance and administration occupations (17%); and occupations in education, law and social, community and government services (13%). For comparison, Figure 1.10b - *Job Sectors (Census Data)* shows that a quarter of the demographics in Edmonton are in sales and service (25%); followed by trades, transport, and equipment operations (19%), and business, finance, and administration (16%). In the attendees' demographic, those who work in the trades, transport, and equipment operations are underrepresented.

## The Community Conversation

Community Talks events are designed to create an inclusive and collaborative space where community members can engage in non-polarizing, impactful discussions about local issues. To ensure a welcoming environment, facilitators were mindful of language and were advised to avoid terms that could polarize participants, directing the conversation away from conversations about specific political figures towards a focused discussion on local issues. This approach allows participants to lead the conversation organically and introduce terms like “climate change” and “energy transition” in their own way. For more details on the language used during this session, please refer to our event script (see Appendix A).

The second Karhiio session took place on Saturday, June 14th in the Windemere Conference Room at the Four Points Sheraton Edmonton Gateway Hotel located in Ward Karhiio. The venue was the same as the first session, and it was selected due to date availability, easy accessibility to the venue from within the ward with transit and a large parking lot available, and familiarity for participants as the venue was located at two major roadways in Ward Karhiio. Catering was provided by Culina with additional food purchased at nearby Tim Hortons due to the larger than anticipated turnout. The event began later than anticipated due to groups of participants arriving right at the event start time needing additional time to sign in at the registration table. Despite the delays, the atmosphere in the room was positive, with participants socializing and excitedly talking about the event.

There were 23 participants for the second Karhiio session, occupying four conversation tables, with each table having a trained facilitator. Participants were guided to a registration table to sign in and become familiar with the space. The tables were set up in advance with water, pens and notepad and catering was set up on two large tables at the back of the room.





A Community Engagement Officer was available on standby in the event that a fifth table was required and to provide support to the facilitators if needed. Attendance and registration may have been impacted by the Stanley Cup Finals, with the Edmonton Oilers playing a finals playoff game the same day and beginning shortly after the end of the session. The event began with the Community Engagement Officer introducing the session, which was followed by the facilitators presenting the session questions. Facilitators guided the conversations, and encouraged equal participation by all attendees.

The conversation was recorded to be transcribed, and to respect each participant's consent and data preservation preferences, all names were anonymized and assigned a random letter noted by the facilitator. The facilitator used a recording device, timer and tracking sheet to help with the transcription process. Participants were made aware of the anonymized recording, and were provided notepads and pens in the event they preferred to contribute in written or graphic form. An honorarium and reimbursements for childcare and travel expenses were available to reduce barriers to attendance, and activity sheets were available for children who attended with their parents.

## **2. What We Heard**

### **Introduction**

This event built on themes established in the first community conversation, including community growth, the cost of living, an interest in solar energy, and the strength of the Karhiio community despite a feeling of powerlessness at the prospect of affecting change.

1. What would make renewable energy options more appealing or accessible for residents in Ward Karhiio?
2. What does your vision of your neighborhood look like in 20 years?
3. What would help people feel motivated about participating in community life?

A few themes emerged from this conversation. Community members articulated four ways to make solar energy more accessible and appealing to Karhiio residents, including a focus on affordability and reducing upfront costs, expanding access to information, capitalizing on the bandwagon effect, and implementing changes gradually. They shared a wide range of visions of the future. However, across all of these perspectives was a view that their neighbourhood will grow and become more dense. Other perspectives included fears about worsening climate impacts, a need for better functioning city services, and a focus on safety. Regarding fostering a vibrant community, participants argued that people are isolated due to



technology, post-COVID shifts in socialization, and a general exhaustion due to working life, as well as Edmonton being a “cold weather culture.” As the community continues to grow, participants offered a wide range of potential solutions to encourage community connections, including but not limited to: more book clubs, community toy boxes and billboards, free movie nights, and surveys assessing residents' desires. Overall, people expressed a desire for more structured opportunities to participate in the community.

## **Expanding Access To Solar**

While the discussion question was left open to interpretation, participants overwhelmingly focused on solar when discussing renewable energy, with some short discussions of heat pumps, wind, and geothermal. “We could be talking about geothermal, we could be talking about wind, but when we think about renewable energy, I think a lot of people just default to thinking about solar,” said one participant. Another person agreed: “I'm much more likely to put solar panels on my roof than I am to put geothermal in my house.” When participants envisioned integrating renewable energy sources into their lives, solar energy was consistently top of mind.

Participants identified four areas to focus on in making solar more accessible and appealing. Affordability was by far the most discussed topic. As one person explained: “The only way to make it appealing, is if they're going to make it affordable.” Another participant expressed enthusiasm at the idea of solar, if it were to lessen their utility costs: “[I would consider using solar], because the cost of the electricity is so high right now.” Throughout the discussion, participant concerns were centered on upfront costs associated with residential installations. Rebates were viewed as insufficient, as captured in the following quote:

There's this perception that solar panels are very expensive and cumbersome to set up...with the poor economic state right now, people are less willing to get solar panels. Rebates are great, but it still requires that upfront investment, and then maybe a rebate.

Access to information was discussed as another critical aspect of getting community members interested in solar. In general, participants felt that there were knowledge gaps in their understanding of their own energy sources. “We just see our energy prices going up, we don't know why,” said one person. “How can I consider something I don't know about?” another participant shared. One person elaborated on the importance of information in shifting perspectives:



I think access to information is probably important. You have to educate and inform the consumer of the product. I think a lot of people don't understand the appeal [of renewable energy] as much as they should and why it could be a good thing, as well as the options to obtain it,

One person pushed back on the idea that expanding access is a “knowledge gap” problem, while acknowledging that communication around renewables must be changed, saying: “It's not that people aren't educated on the decision, it's that we haven't found ways to tell these stories in ways that people can understand them.”

In addition to affordability and information, participants described the power of the bandwagon effect in shifting their own perspectives on renewables. The bandwagon effect is a well-documented phenomenon whereby people adopt the perspectives of the majority around them, even if their own perspectives are different.<sup>9</sup> In the context of our session, people often discussed having seen neighbours adopt solar panels or heat pumps in their homes, stating that this experience made them more open to renewables. “The only reason I know what a heat pump is, is because a coworker just got one,” said one person. The following quote captures the power of the bandwagon effect clearly:

Sometimes it's hard to get your head around something that you don't normally see or use. We're talking about homes, but with electric vehicles...I don't see a lot of them, but when I went to Washington DC a couple months ago, they're everywhere, and it feels like everyone is driving them... it just kind of shifted my thinking on when I saw more of it... I think that's a big piece of it too: the more we see, the more appeal.

A final and more minor perspective expressed throughout the conversation was a preference for gradual change over rapid shifts. Participants were more likely to be interested in forms of technology that seemed like a gradual progression towards renewables, rather than 100% generation from renewable sources. “I feel like, over time, they are kind of being phased in more,” remarked one person on the shift to renewables. Another person articulated the value of gradual pacing clearly: “I'm most likely to put LED bulbs in my lights instead of solar panels, as a starting point. I don't know if I would jump from nothing to solar panels.”

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<sup>9</sup> Bindra, Sunali, Deepika Sharma, Nakul Parameswar, Sanjay Dhir, and Justin Paul. February 2022. “Bandwagon effect revisited: A systematic review to develop future research agenda.” *Journal of Business Research* 143: 305-317. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0148296322000972>



## Vision for of the Future

When asked what their neighbourhood might look like 20 years from now, participants offered a wide range of visions, with an overarching perspective that the city will grow and become more dense. “I think more houses will be built, more buildings, and more population,” said one person. “One thing I see is people, too many people,” shared another. The general consensus was clear: “[There’s] lots of people coming right now, lots of people coming to [live] in this area.” As in the previous session, participants shared fears about what this growth might look like, discussing their concerns about congestion, damage to the environment, and lack of housing, alongside their hopes for the future, as one person stated in the following quote: “I wish the housing will be more accessible or affordable for people, because that's a problem...[but] more people coming in [means] more businesses will open up. So that's good too, that's a good outcome.”

Beyond this confidence in growth, participants discussed a wide range of things they foresee in the future, including a changing climate and worsening air quality. One community member challenged their discussion group to revisit their assumptions about the future: “We're assuming that our seasons are going to be in the same general pattern that they are today, [but] with the impacts of climate change, how much is that going to change?” A focus on worsening air quality and rising temperatures was top of mind for many participants. “How about the smoke?” asked one person. Another participant commented on the growing challenges associated with poor air quality from wildfires: “Having housing when it's smoky and it's hot out, you're kind of trapped inside. You don't have any cool air, but if you want cool air, you have to open the window, but then you get smoke in.” Several participants discussed the dual need of air-conditioning and air filters to stave off the heat and smoke that increasingly defines their summer season.

Participants often discussed a desire for improved city services, such as snow removal and road maintenance. “I hope that the roads [are] smooth, especially the alleyways,” said one resident. Someone else reiterated an interest in maintaining roads: “They need to get all the potholes right away, because my car is getting wrecked.” Snowy roads came up often: “The roads. I want it to be snow free all the time.” This desire for improving basic city services, while maintaining Karhiio’s character, is captured in this quote: “I just see better services, still having schools and playgrounds, still family oriented.”

Safety was another desire frequently discussed in conversations about the future. “[I want Karhiio to be] safe for families, for the kids to play,” shared one participant. Another person



identified “the safety of the people” to be their priority looking to the future. While children were most frequently discussed, participants also applied the idea of safety to the environment: “Sometimes it's so scary for our kids, for their future. I hope the government will [prioritize] safety for our environment.”

## Fostering Community Connections

Gratitude for community was a key theme in the previous session: Participants expressed that, despite feeling uncertain about how to enact change in their community, Karhiio was full of open-minded, welcoming people. In response to this, we asked participants to discuss what might make them feel more interested in participating in civic life.

Participants shared a consensus that people are isolated. One person pointed out that this is, in part, due to Edmonton's climate: “I think we have such an isolationist culture in the West. In Edmonton what I've found is we have a cold weather climate culture. We come from our house...into our car to work, back to our car...into our house. Others pointed to a reliance on technology as the main barrier: “[Everyone is] stuck at home on the phone, using technology.” Others agreed: “People are just exhausted. By the time they go to work, [they've] doomscrolled on their phones for a bit and [seen] 100 different issues over the course of 20 minutes. They just become mentally fatigued.” The COVID-19 pandemic — described by one participant as “a universal trauma” — seemed to be an amplifier of this isolation: “I think it has to do with confidence...COVID is part of it. Because we were all shut in, we kind of got used to it and we got unsure of things.”

As the community continues to grow, participants emphasized the importance of fostering community connection. “It's so important for us to figure out ways for the community to meet each other, and I think it's good for our mental health as our communities keep growing,” shared one person. Returning to the value of safety, one participant shared:

If you want to have a safe community, you have to have a connected community. When more neighbours know each other, they look out for each other... if it's connected, people are watching out. I think that's one of the problems that we have: we have a disconnected community by and large, so it's not as safe

Karhiio community members offered a range of solutions, all pointing to a desire for more structured opportunities to participate in the community. While they expressed gratitude to existing community leagues organizing events, some people identified that people are still



not being adequately reached: “There's some great Community Leagues that are doing some good things...but in a community with about 10,000 homes, they're [only] getting 40 people out.” Specific ideas for new initiatives included:

- More book clubs
- More community centres
- Community toy boxes
- Community billboard
- Outdoor movie night
- Regular community surveys
- More funding for community events
- More youth-focused community activities
- Encouraging young people to volunteer
- More events “based on shared values [and interests],” whether that be faith, sports, or an interest in climate.

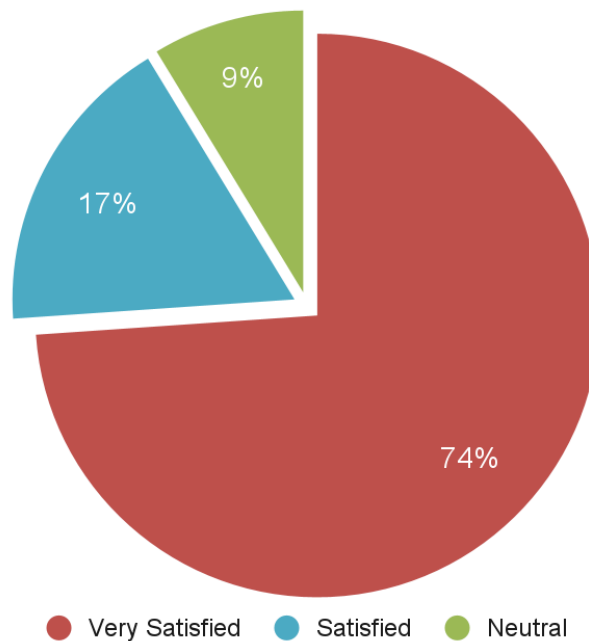
One participant emphasized the need for community events to be inclusive to disabled community members: “What I've noticed a lot as I've grown older looking at programs, a lot of things are for able-bodied people, but there's no option for those who also are disabled and want to participate.”

### **3. What We Learned**





Figure 3.1 - Level of Satisfaction



We shared a Google feedback form at the end of our session, which was completed by all participants. As shown in *Figure 3.1 - Level of Satisfaction*, more than half (74%) of the participants rated their level of satisfaction as Very Satisfied, 17% as Satisfied, and 9% as Neutral.



Figure 3.2 - Feedback Form Results

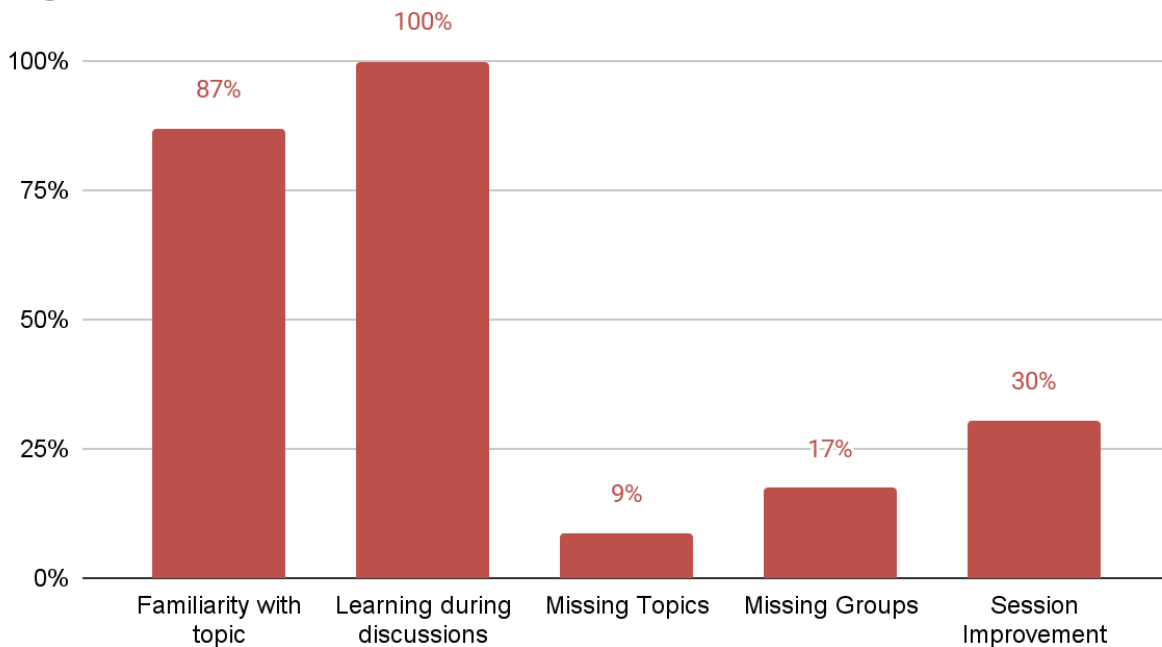


Figure 3.2 - Feedback Form Results provides a summary of the rest of the questions: familiarity with discussion topics, learning experience during the discussions, missing discussion topics that participants would have liked to explore more, and suggestions for future sessions improvement.

Most (87%) of participants were familiar with the topics prior to the discussion and all participants learned something new about the conversation topics during the discussion.

9% of respondents identified missing topics in the conversation, such as dealing with scattered garbage in the neighbourhood and preventing mosquitoes and managing wasp populations. 17% felt that there were some groups, communities, and individuals missing from the discussion, such as local businesses, community leagues, city counselors, and “group organizations in the community.” Suggestions for session improvement includes a different location closer to transit, more participants in each table, and longer discussion time.



## Conclusion

The results of the second Ward Karhiio community conversation confirm findings from the first event indicating that participants strongly value community connection, seeking to strengthen these bonds in the phase of projected city growth. They are interested in renewable energy options that can lower their utility costs.

The Karhiio community members we spoke with pointed to four ways that to make solar energy more appealing to community members: focusing on affordability and minimizing the upfront costs on consumers, improving communication on renewable energy, taking advantage of the bandwagon effect when marketing solar and other clean energy alternatives, and implementing changes at a gradual pace. When asked about how they view the future of Karhiio, they emphasized growth and density, with some participants discussing climate impacts, city services, and safety. Participants continued to discuss the importance of community, sharing candidly about their experiences feeling isolated in Edmonton due to the cold weather, their reliance on technology, and a post-COVID shift away from in-person socialization. Looking forward they identified a range of solutions to foster community connection, including but not limited to: more book clubs, community toy boxes and billboards, free movie nights, and surveys assessing residents' desires.

Feedback on this session was overwhelmingly positive, with 91% of the 28 participants present rating their experience as either “Very Satisfied” or “Satisfied.” 100% of participants stated they had learned something new during the discussion.

## 4. Next Steps

Iron & Earth will proceed with using these findings to inform the third and final installment of the Ward Karhiio community conversations. Once all three events conclude, the findings will be verified with the general public through continued community engagement efforts, before being mobilized through a local advocacy campaign, to bring these findings to the attention of local decision makers. Iron & Earth will return the findings to community participants to continue the dialogue. Eventually, our team will begin to verify the findings with the broader Edmonton community to ensure that the voices present at our engagement events reflect the perspectives of the general rest of the community. If you would like to learn more about the program's progress and the work that takes place after the sessions, please contact us at [communities@ironandearth.org](mailto:communities@ironandearth.org).



## Appendix A

The following appendix contains the script that was used as a general guide by the facilitators for the Community Conversation conducted by Iron & Earth.

Script for Facilitating an Iron & Earth Session - Second Karhiio Session

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### CONVERSATION TIME BREAKDOWN:

1. Session Introduction: 20 minutes
2. Breakout Group Setup: 5 minutes
3. Breakout Conversations: 60 minutes
4. Break: 10 minutes
5. Reporting Back: 5 minutes
6. Session Conclusion: 20 minutes

TOTAL TIME: 120 minutes

DOORS CLOSE TIME: 12:45:pm/when max capacity is reached; 40 people

START TIME: 12:30 pm

END TIME: 2:30 pm

SETUP START TIME: 11:00 AM

### SETUP PERSON:

- Set up presentation slides on projector
- Registration: Checking registered names and hand out registration forms if they haven't filled them, for those unregistered. Ensure all participants sign the provided letter of consent.

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### SESSION INTRODUCTION: 20 Minutes

Session Overview Introduction:



Greetings, everyone, and welcome to the second Community Talks Session hosted by Iron & Earth in Ward Karhiio, Edmonton. This discussion series focuses on livelihoods, climate change, and the opportunities and developments surrounding a net-zero economy

*[primary facilitator introduce themself]*

- *name*
- *pronouns (if desired)*
- *association with Iron & Earth*
- *Why are you facilitating today? / provide goals for session*

We would like to acknowledge the Indigenous land where we are today within Treaty Six Territory and Métis North Saskatchewan River Territory in amiskwaciy-wâskahikan, so-called Edmonton. The home of many Indigenous Peoples including the Cree, Tsuut'ina, Blackfoot, Métis, Nakota Sioux, Haudenosaunee, Dene Suliné, Anishinaabe, and the Inuit.

We are grateful to have David Suzuki Foundation as our local partner. Funding for this event is generously provided by Alberta Ecotrust Foundation.

This is Iron & Earth's second session in Karhiio, with the goal of building relationships beyond a simple consultation process. We aim to meet communities where they are, understand their perspectives on extreme weather events, the energy transition, potential solutions, and community preparedness.

We have shared a one-page highlights document from previous sessions to help set expectations. However, we recognize that each community is different, and today's conversation will reflect Karhiio's unique needs.

After this session, we will compile a brief report summarizing the insights shared. This report will serve as a resource for community members, stakeholders, decision-makers, and will be published on our website.

Session Structure:

Throughout this conversation, we will discuss your community and its current challenges.

- Each breakout group will address three key questions related to community needs and strengths.
- Participants are encouraged to share their thoughts verbally or use pen and paper for written or graphic responses.



- Each group will have a facilitator to guide the discussion.
- Breakout sessions will last 60 minutes, with each question discussed for approximately 20 minutes.
- We will then reconvene for a quick wrap-up and aim to finish by 2:30 PM.

If you haven't already completed the registration, payment or consent forms, please do so and hand them to a facilitator.

IMPORTANT: This is a space that welcomes diversity of opinions, we ask that these conversations are approached with mutual respect and care. We endeavor to have a meaningful conversation with the participants who have diverse perspectives, backgrounds, and experience.

#### Privacy Policy:

You were provided a letter of consent outlining participation, reimbursement, and confidentiality processes. Key highlights:

- We will be recording today's conversation, but all transcripts and notes will only be shared among Iron & Earth staff.
- Once this process is complete, all notes will remain with Iron & Earth and will be used to produce our reports. However, your participation will remain anonymous.
- While we may include quotes in our community and final reports, these will not be attributed to specific individuals.
- You are free to leave at any time during the session—we truly appreciate your time and respect your privacy.
- To protect the integrity of the conversation, we ask that you do not record or take photos during the session.

#### Facilitator Introductions:

We have 4 other local facilitators with us today.

- *Name*
- *Pronouns (if desired)*
- *Association with Iron & Earth*
- *Why are you facilitating today? / provide goals for session*

#### Conversation Introduction:





What is this conversation about?

- Livelihoods: The means by which individuals meet their basic needs (e.g., food, shelter, employment).
- Climate Change: The impact of human-driven extreme weather events and rising global temperatures on communities.
- Energy Transition Opportunities: The shift from fossil fuel dependence to renewable energy sources.

What's going on in Karhiio?

- Edmonton has faced extreme weather events, including heat waves, cold snaps, and heavy precipitation. The Edmonton Bus Network Redesign significantly impacted Karhiio, with the most bus stops removed and the fewest on-demand stops added.
- In November 2023, the Valley Line LRT launched its southern extension, connecting Mill Woods Town Centre to western Edmonton.
- Provincial By-Election was called for Edmonton-Ellerslie, a community within Karhiio, for June 2025 and the Karhiio Ward will have a municipal election in October 2025

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BREAKOUT CONVERSATIONS: 60 Minutes

*[Facilitators turn on recorder in the breakout group, Ensure to fill in the speaker tracking sheet and name list for the table]*

1. Question 1 20 Minutes

What would make renewable energy options more appealing or accessible for residents in Ward Karhiio?

2. Question 2 - 20 Minutes

What does your vision of your neighborhood look like in 20 years?

3. Question 3 - 20 Minutes

What would help people feel motivated about participating in community life?



BREAK: 10 MINUTES

Reporting back to the room: 5 minutes

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CONCLUSION: 20 MINUTES

Please take a moment to share your feedback on today's conversation:

- Let us know if we missed anything important.
- Share insights you gained.
- Provide any other thoughts you'd like us to consider.

*[Distribute Feedback Forms & Allow Time for Completion]*

We will conduct three sessions in Ward Karhiio and this is the second session for Ward Karhiio. After each session, we compile a detailed report summarizing the needs and perspectives of Karhiio residents. These reports will be shared with our outreach network, key stakeholders, and decision-makers, and will also be published on our website for public access.

Our last session in Karhiio will take place on July 12th!

If you're interested in learning more about the program's progress and post-session work, please reach out to [communities@ironandearth.org](mailto:communities@ironandearth.org) and one of our team members will be happy to provide an update.

On behalf of Iron & Earth, I'd like to thank you again for joining us. Have a wonderful rest of your day!

[SESSION END]

*[Collect remaining registration and consent forms and Audio Recording Devices]*