



COMMUNITY TALKS TABER SESSION 1 & 2

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

Environmental changes: Participants identified many changes to their local environment, including extreme temperature fluctuations, flooding, drought, worsened air quality due to wildfires, and shifts in the migration patterns of local birds. However, many participants noted that they didn't mind some of these changes, sharing that they enjoyed warmer weather and saw opportunities for new crops with a longer growing season.

Core industries changing: Participants identified agriculture and energy as key industries in their community. While people spoke with pride about their ability to thrive through uncertainty, they noted that these industries are experiencing changes. Farming was discussed extensively, with participants expressing fear about rising costs, corporatization, and weather changes.

Solar energy and land use: Participants shared a knowledge of and interest in small-scale solar energy projects in their local area. However, land use is a crucial issue to Taber residents. Their support for renewable energy projects is contingent upon preserving high-value, irrigated farmlands for agricultural development.





About Participants

- In total, **24 people** attended the Taber Community Talks events
- The biggest age demographic in attendance was **31-54 years old**, followed by **55+**.
- Most attendees were **middle income earners** (between \$53,413 and \$106,827)
- **Women** were overrepresented in the second session (70%)
- None of the attendees self-identified as people of colour.

Excerpts

“In this area, in the last 10 years, the oil field has changed. It would have been a predominantly oilfield industry and there was lots of money, now it's changing.”

“[The] typical family farm when I was growing up...had a little bit of everything...they could eke out a living on a quarter section of land. But those days are long gone.”

“We put up solar years ago just for the farmyard under the pretence that there was a grant from the government that was gonna help. And then the change of government came before it was finished and then they took it away.”

Feedback

96% of participants rated their experience as either “Very Satisfied” or “Satisfied.” 92% of participants learned something new from the conversation.

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