March 2018

City of Saskatoon Climate Change Mitigation Business Plan

Executive Summary of Feedback from Engagement Activities

Prepared for the City of Saskatoon by Lura Consulting

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Overview

The City of Saskatoon (City) is currently creating a Climate Change Mitigation Business Plan (the plan) that will focus on the local causes and effects of climate change, as well as solutions and opportunities that reflect what's possible in the Saskatoon community. The plan will guide action and investment by the City, as well as outline ways the City can support community initiatives and meet greenhouse gas reduction targets and climate change commitments. To ensure the plan is successful, the City has conducted an in-depth engagement process that includes residents, nonprofit organizations, community organizations, public institutions and businesses.

Engagement Process

The engagement process involved a diversity of activities (outlined in the table below) designed for specific audiences in the Saskatoon community.

Audience	Engagement Approach	Time Period	Number of Participants
Businesses	Focus Groups (2)	February 5 th , 2018	15
	Business Survey (online)	January 16 th to February 15 ^{th,} 2018	32
Non-Profits and Community Organizations	Focus Group	February 5 th , 2018	8
	Non-Profit Survey (online)	January 16 - February 15, 2018	22
Residents/General Public	Pop-up Community Engagement Events (5)	January 16 th , 18 th , 20 th , 25 th , 27 th , 2018	366
	Residential Survey (online)	January 16 - February 15, 2018	1,197
	Social Media Campaign	December 2017 to February 2018	Twitter: 995 engaged; Facebook: 92,810 reached
Subject Matter Experts*	Community Experts Pre-Workshop Survey (online)	February, 2018	76
	Community Experts Workshop	February 14 th , 2018	90

*community groups, organizations, institutions and businesses with relevant experience and expertise

Summary of Feedback

The table on the following page provides a summary of responses from the online surveys by audience, for questions that were common across more than one audience group. Highlights of feedback from the engagement and consultation process are summarized by key audience further below. Detailed responses can be found in the engagement summary reports.

	Residents	Business Owner/Leader	Non-Profit, Community
			Organizations & Institutions
Most important area to address in next five years (<i>"very</i> <i>important" and</i> <i>"quite important"</i>)	 Increase waste management opportunities Improve energy efficiency in buildings Produce more renewable energy 	 Improve energy efficiency in buildings Improve land management practices Increase waste management opportunities 	 Produce more renewable energy Improve energy efficiency in buildings Improve land management practices
Activities will most likely participate in ("very likely" and "somewhat likely" on scale)	 Recycling, composting, and safely disposing of hazardous waste Spending time in parks and/or natural areas in our city Repairing water leaks at home 	 Recycling, composting, and/or safely disposing of hazardous waste Using sustainable procurement practices when acquiring products and services Conserve energy and water by installing water and energy- efficient fixtures, equipment and appliances 	 Recycling, composting, and/or safely disposing of hazardous waste Offering education or training that builds staff capacity to improve the organization's environmental performance Using sustainable procurement practices when acquiring products and services
Top barriers to	1. The upfront cost is too expensive	1. The upfront cost is too expensive	1. The upfront cost is too expensive
implementing actions not likely to participate in	 Other – including renter or condo dweller; already done activity; action not needed The infrastructure and/or services in our city are inadequate 	 The infrastructure and/or services in our city are inadequate It is not our responsibility/ It's not within our control 	 The infrastructure and/or services in our city are inadequate Lack of support from management, leadership or employees
Activities most likely	1. Take the bus as part of their	1. Supporting renewable energy	1. Supporting renewable energy
to do if barriers removed	regular commute2. Repair leaks in the home3. Add more insultation or better windows	 (e.g. by installing solar panels or investing in green energy) 2. Adding more insulation or better windows to your facility(ies) 	 Creating green spaces on your organization's property or in the community Conserving energy and water by
		 Recycling, composting, and safely disposing of hazardous waste 	installing water and energy- efficient fixtures, equipment, and appliances

Table 2: Summary of Key Results from Online Surveys by Audience

	Residents	Business Owner/Leader	Non-Profit, Community
			Organizations & Institutions
Who should have lead role in climate change action	 Other levels of government (provincial or federal) Municipal government Businesses 	 Other levels of government (provincial or federal) Municipal government Businesses 	 Other levels of government (provincial or federal) Municipal government Public institutions
Potential risks from climate change action	 Financial risks (rising taxes, increased cost of living, job losses) Opposition and backlash from non-supporters Insufficient or zero gains for money spent 	 Increased costs, which could result in business closures, decreased competitiveness, and staff layoffs. 	 Increased costs, which could result in staff layoffs and less funds to serve members
Potential benefits from climate change action	 Healthier citizens Healthier environment A better more livable city Financial savings Benefits for future generations Saskatoon as a leader and centre for innovation Economic growth and diversity 	 Improved environment Improved economic opportunities Reduced costs Improved quality of life for citizens (including employees) Improved support for businesses' existing green policies and initiatives 	 Improved environment Improved health Community building Educational opportunities Increased awareness
Most important factors to help organization/ business reduce GHG emissions		 Policies, bylaws, legislation, and codes that support environmental improvements Better services and/or programs that support environmental improvements Streamlined and/or fast-tracked governmental processes (i.e. for permitting, licensing, appeals, and development) 	 Policies, bylaws, legislation, and codes that support environmental improvements Financial support (e.g. funding, incentives) Assistance to track, measure, and inventory my organization's environmental impacts and greenhouse gas emissions
Top considerations used in decision- making		 Long term savings Upfront costs Staff capacity 	 Environmental protection Stakeholder interests Organization's mandate

Businesses

In general, business owners and leaders engaged in the consultation process support climate change action, and many are already invested in initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) (e.g. waste reduction and recycling, energy efficiency, carpooling, sustainable office supplies).

Activities this target group supports are improving building energy efficiency, waste management, and renewable energy. Key barriers for businesses to reducing GHGs were stated as high up-front costs, lack of incentives (e.g. waving permit fees, conservation pricing on utilities) and lack of staff time.

Businesses see key risks to climate change action as cost, time, and effort. Benefits of taking action include improved environments and quality of life, economic opportunities, reduced costs, and potentially attracting like-minded residents and businesses.

Businesses engaged in the study suggest the City should focus on actions with quick wins and high impact. They expressed that Saskatoon needs to show leadership in climate change action, and local champions should be recognized.

Highlights from the online survey include:

- 72% of respondents rated both improving energy efficiency in buildings and improving land management practices as "very important" or "quite important".
- 90% of respondents rated recycling, composting, and/or safely disposing of hazardous waste as an activity they are "very likely" or "somewhat likely" to do.
- 90% of respondents "always" or "mostly" consider long-term savings when making business decisions.
- 41% of respondents rated "upfront costs" as the most important barrier to taking action on climate change.

Non-Profits, Community Organizations, and Institutions

Representatives of non-profits, community organizations, and institutions engaged in the consultation process support climate change action. Activities that are the most supported by this group include improving transit, energy efficiency, waste management, and renewable energy.

This group noted especially the need for environmentally-focused education and protecting the natural assets of the City (e.g. urban forests). Community organizations see key risks of climate action to their organizations as increasing operating costs and capacity. Incentives, rebates, grants, and access to expertise would help support action. Few saw risks to the populations they serve, although increased cost of living could affect low-income residents especially.

Benefits of taking action that were noted include improvements in quality of life, environment, community health, and access to services, as well as attracting people to the city and increased

awareness. Non-profits, community organizations and institutions also stressed the need for the City to demonstrate leadership on climate action and provide clear direction.

Highlights from the online survey include:

- 91% of respondents rated produce more renewable energy as "very important" or "quite important"; 87% rated improving energy efficiency in buildings very or quite important.
- 79% of respondents rated recycling, composting, and/or safely disposing of hazardous waste as an activity they are "very likely" or "somewhat likely" to do.
- 85% of respondents "always" or "mostly" consider environmental protection when making decisions and setting priorities.
- 65% of respondents rated "upfront costs" as the most important barrier to taking action on climate change.

Residents

There was mixed support by residents for taking climate change action. While the majority supported taking action for the direct and indirect benefits that would occur, other residents had concerns about the high cost of action, that benefits would not outweigh the costs, and that there are other priorities where funds should be directed.

Residents as a group overall supported improving energy efficiency in buildings, increasing waste management opportunities – especially composting – producing more renewable energy, and improving public transportation. These were noted as areas that are important/need the most attention, would provide the greatest impact, and are the most attainable.

Key barriers to taking climate change action were noted as high upfront costs, inadequate infrastructure and services in the city, and not being able to make changes because they rent their home or live in a condo or apartment. The largest risks for taking action noted by this group were economic, including increased taxes, the economy becoming uncompetitive, and job losses. Backlash from non-supporters and not receiving gains for the money spent are other risks considered by residents.

Residents noted benefits to taking climate change action as healthier citizens, environment, and communities, a better more livable city, and monetary savings. Residents also noted that Saskatoon could be recognized as a leader and centre of innovation for climate action.

Highlights of issues, opportunities and concerns raised by residents related to specific topic areas are summarized in the table below.

Area	Issues/Opportunities	Criticisms/Concerns
Energy Efficiency	Will reduce GHGs	N/A
Renewable	Renewable energy is "the way of the	Costs too high, will lead to job
energy	future", will stimulate jobs and economic	losses, will produce more toxic e-
	growth. There is a lot of opportunity for	waste.
	wind and solar energy in Saskatoon.	
Waste	Saskatoon can do better with waste	Cost of new/improved services.
	management. Need to improve composting	
	access and frequency of collection.	
Public	Current system is inefficient and	No more money should be
Transportation	inconvenient. Saskatoon is too "car-	invested in the current system.
	focused". Improvements would reduce	
	traffic congestion, reduce GHGs, and	
A	Improve access.	
Active	Need to improve safety of cyclists and	Bike lanes are expensive,
Transportation	pedesinans as too many cars on road. Better	traffic
Mator	Need to acknowledge that water supply is	Elourido should not bo put in
Conservation	not limitless. Water is essential for life	water
and Quality.		water.
Air Quality	Air quality is important and will improve	Vehicle idling is necessary in
	with better public transportation.	Saskatoon's cold climate and
		reducing idling is not feasible.
Land	Need to protect/expand/ create more	N/A
Management	greenspace.	
Land Use	Better land use planning needed to address	Higher density will change
Planning	sprawl, traffic congestion, and provide	character of Saskatoon. Need less
	better balance of urban and green space.	density and more greenspace
	Would benefit other areas such as active	
	transportation. Need to increase urban	
	density.	
Climate Change	City needs to take action now and be a	Taking action will raise taxes and
Action in	leader on climate change action. Need more	increase cost of living. Costs will
General	education about climate change and	produce minimal or no benefits.
	environmental issues for effective change.	Local efforts will have zero global
		impact. Climate change is cyclical,
		a noax, not real. There are more
		City.

Highlights from the online survey delivered to residents include:

- 74% of respondents rated increasing waste management opportunities as "very important" or "quite important".
- 94% of respondents rated recycling, composting, and/or safely disposing of hazardous waste as an activity they are "very likely" or "somewhat likely" to do; 90% of

respondents stated they were very or somewhat likely to spend time in parks and/or natural areas in our city.

- 67% of respondents rated "upfront costs" as the most important barrier to taking action on climate change.
- 58% of respondents selected "strongly agree" to the statement "I want our community to do everything it can to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and take action on climate change".
- 55% of respondents selected "strongly agree" to the statement "protecting the environment can be done in a manner that can also benefit our economy".

Community Experts

Overall community experts demonstrated a keen interest in supporting the climate change mitigation business plan with their time and expertise. Community experts would like to see Saskatoon as a leader and model city in climate action. They support actions including public transit and active transportation, renewable energy and energy efficiency, waste reduction, and a food strategy.

They would like to see a plan that is socially conscious and accessible, that improves equity, and that maintains Saskatoon as a great place to live. Key fears about climate change action included inaction from lack of resources and support, lack of community buy-in, cost of implementation, and targets that are too difficult to achieve.

They emphasized the need for public education to help people become personally connected with climate action. Key advice from this group included take action now, increase awareness, target low-hanging fruit to gain momentum, think holistically, and establish collaborative partnerships to achieve goals.

In the pre-workshop survey, community experts prioritized initiatives in each subject area that they believed were most important to pursue in the short-term (in the table below; see Community Experts Survey Report for more detail). At the workshop, participants sorted these and additional activities into a matrix based on high and low feasibility and high and low impact (see Report).

Issue Area	Priority Initiatives
Energy	Develop a Community-Wide Solar Strategy
	• Develop Community Energy Plans (CEPs) for new growth areas and regional
	centres
Buildings	Provide retrofit incentives
	• Work towards implementing mandatory performance measures for new buildings
Planning and	• Incorporate specific environmental and climate change provisions into the City of
Development	Saskatoon's Official Community Plan and Environmental Policy
	Create design standards for solar-oriented neighbourhoods

Issue Area	Priority Initiatives
Transportation	Adopt and implement development patterns that enhance non-automobile
	transportation and reduce the need for new roads
	Continue to create improvements to transit
Waste	• Phase out the optional Green Cart program and, instead, implement a more
	efficient city-wide organics program for residents
	 Increase organics collection options for the Industrial, Commercial and
	Institutional sector
Water and	Expand the Storm Water Utility credit to residents
Stormwater	• Develop water conservation strategies for the community and for City operations
Parks, Gardens	Support the Meewasin Valley Authority's efforts to protect our watershed
and	• Develop a City of Saskatoon Food System Strategy that identifies the climate
Greenspace	mitigation, climate adaptation, and co-benefit potential of municipally-supported
	food initiatives
Community	Increase partnerships to collaboratively implement climate change solutions in
Outreach and	our community
Education	• Enhance public education, training, and communications on climate change and
	sustainability
Financing and	Design Sustainable Procurement Guidelines for the City of Saskatoon
Procurement	• Improve the City's business model for utilities to ensure that energy, water, and
	waste reduction are supported and incentivized