

# Agenda Including Addeds

## Environmental Stewardship and Action

### Community Advisory Committee

The 11th Meeting of the Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee

November 6, 2024, 4:30 PM

Committee Room #1

The City of London is situated on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek (AUh-nish-in-ah-bek), Haudenosaunee (Ho-den-no-show-nee), Lūnaapéewak (Len-ah-pay-wuk) and Attawandaron (Add-a-won-da-run).

We honour and respect the history, languages and culture of the diverse Indigenous people who call this territory home. The City of London is currently home to many First Nations, Métis and Inuit today.

As representatives of the people of the City of London, we are grateful to have the opportunity to work and live in this territory.

The City of London is committed to making every effort to provide alternate formats and communication supports for meetings upon request. To make a request specific to this meeting, please contact [advisorycommittee@london.ca](mailto:advisorycommittee@london.ca).

	Pages
<b>1. Call to Order</b>	
1.1 Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest	
<b>2. Scheduled Items</b>	
2.1 4:30 PM - K. Murray, Director, Financial Planning and Business Support re 2025 Budget update	
2.2 4:45 PM - M. Demand, Urban Forestry Planner re Permanent Sample Plots Project in City Woodlands	
a. <i>(ADDED) Staff Presentation</i>	2
<b>3. Consent</b>	
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<b>5. Items for Direction</b>	
5.1 2024 Budget	60
5.2 Urban Forest Strategy and Tree Planting Strategy update	
<b>6. Adjournment</b>	

# Establishment of Permanent Sample Plots in City Woodlands



Urban Forestry

Marnie Demand, Urban Forestry Planner

November 6, 2024

2

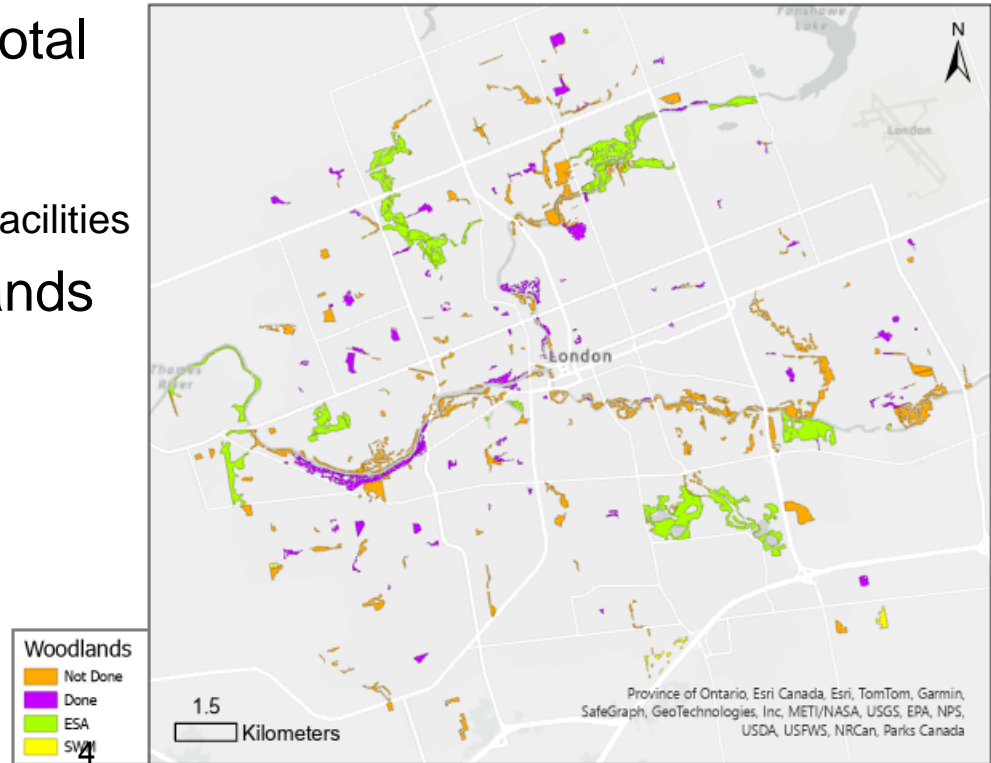
# Link to Urban Forest Strategy

- Addresses Urban Forest Strategy, Action 11.5: Establish long term monitoring plots in forest woodlands.

MAINTAIN BETTER			
Strategic Goals	Actions	Priority	Timeframe
11 Monitor existing and potential canopy cover.	11.1 Conduct an analysis of plantable space across different land use types within London in order to estimate canopy potential.	High	Short-term 1-2 years
	11.2 Monitor canopy cover change over time by land use types to measure strategy performance. An inexpensive, accurate and repeatable method such as the USFS iTree Canopy <sup>1</sup> program is recommended. This should be based on up-to-date summer aerial photography, and repeated at 5 year intervals, prior to or in conjunction with Official Plan reviews.	High	Short-term 1-2 years
	11.3 Monitor urban forest structure, function, and values over time using the USFS iTree Eco program. This should be repeated at 10 year intervals. The 2012 UFORE study can be used as a baseline and results updated with new iTree Eco local inputs. The iTree Eco re-analysis is to be completed and reported no later than 2018. iTree Eco is a new adaptation of the UFORE model.	High	Medium-term 3-5 years
	11.4 Model the projected canopy gain from the current and planned urban forest in order to refine estimates for the number of new plantings required and time to reach canopy cover targets.	Medium	Medium-term 3-5 years
	11.5 Establish long term monitoring plots in forest woodlands.	Medium	Long-term >5 years

# Status on Permanent Sample Plot Data Collection

- City has 290 woodlands in total
  - Includes:
    - 25 ESAs
    - 19 Stormwater Management Facilities
- PSPs installed in 79 woodlands so far
  - Distributed across the City
- Circular, 0.04 ha area
  - 11.3 m radius
    - + 8 Quadrats on perimeter

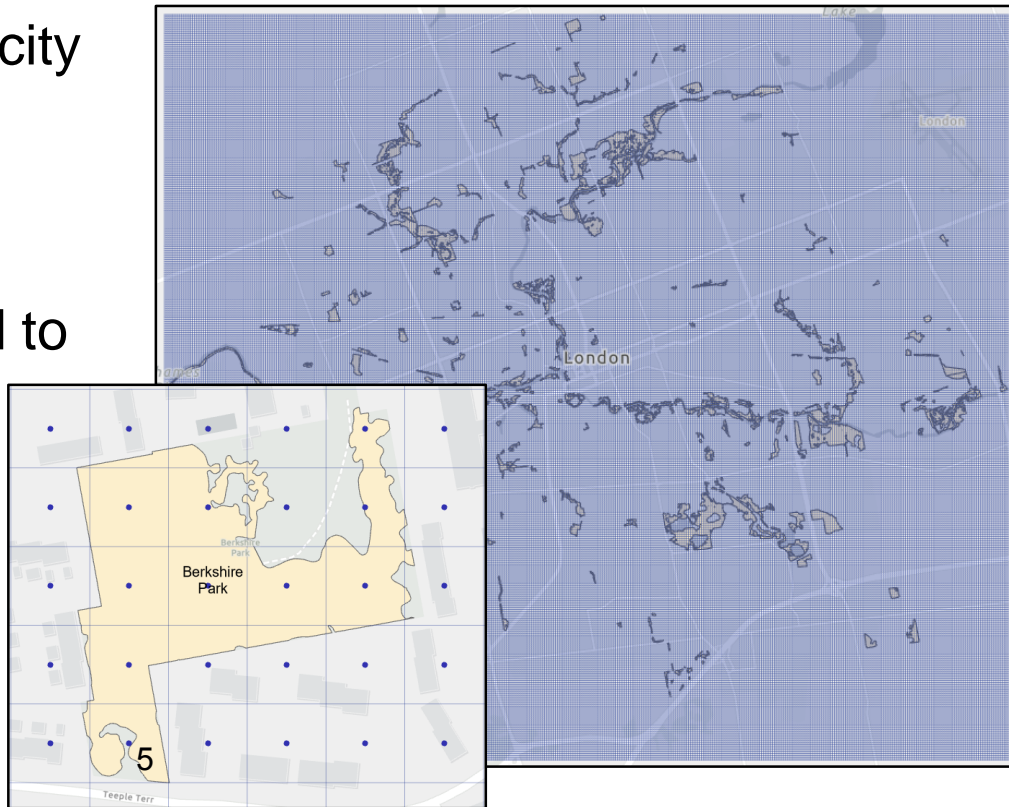




London  
CANADA

# PSP Placement

- Apply fishnet grid across city
- Points within woodlands retained
- Within each woodland, random number assigned to each plot
  - Ranked from high to low
  - Highest numbered plot selected





# Data Collected on Woodland: Species Present

- List of tree species
  - ~100 species total
  - Mean: 12.7 species/woodland
  - Range: 2 to 32
- List of shrub species
  - ~50 species total
  - Mean: 6.2 species/woodland
  - Range: 0 to 14
- Wildlife
  - Visual observations
  - Merlin App (birds)

Tree	# of Woodlands
hackberry	50
Manitoba maple	50
black walnut	49
sugar maple	46
Norway maple	44

Shrub	# of Woodlands
European buckthorn	68
grape vine	47
choke cherry	43
Virginia creeper	38
<i>Rubus</i> sp.	36





# Data Collected on Woodlands: Invasive Species Frequencies

- Categories:
  - Invasive trees
  - Invasive shrubs
  - Invasive groundcovers and/or herbaceous plants
- Each category rated as:
  - Abundant
  - Moderate
  - Infrequent
  - None

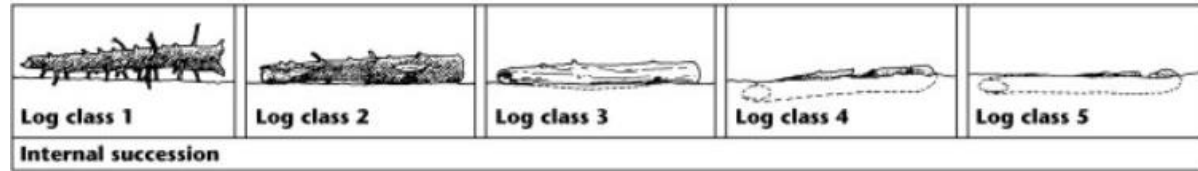
Frequency of Invasive Trees	
Category	# of Woodlands
Abundant	16
Moderate	15
Infrequent	37
None	10

Frequency of Invasive Shrubs	
Category	# of Woodlands
Abundant	20
Moderate	31
Infrequent	23
None	7

Frequency of Invasive Groundcovers or Herbaceous	
Category	# of Woodlands
Abundant	11
Moderate	24
Infrequent	25
None	18

# Additional Data Collected on Woodland

- Visual estimate of % conifer
- Species-at-risk observed
  - Kentucky coffee-tree, butternut, and a chimney swift (Merlin app)
- Damage to woodland
  - Vandalism
  - Excessive garbage
  - Encroachment
  - Unauthorized trails
  - Etc.
- Coarse woody debris
  - Description
    - Abundance
    - Size
    - Decay class



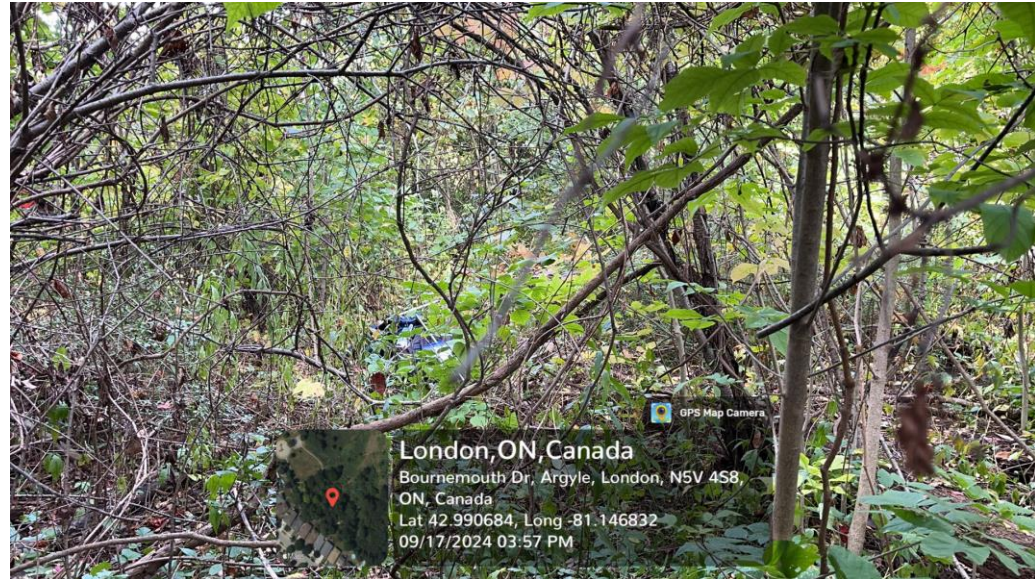
## Coarse Woody Debris Decay Classes

(Province of British Columbia, Silviculture and stand management training, Module 3 - Stand  
8 level components of forest biodiversity, 2024)



# Data Collected on PSP

- Understory Layer
  - Approximate height of layer
    - Mean: 2.5 m
  - Dominant invasive species
    - Percent Invasive
      - Mean: 47.5%
  - Dominant native species
    - Percent native species
      - Mean: 51.0%
- Vine species
  - % of trees and shrubs covered by vines
    - Mean: 8.4% across all plots
    - Affecting 44 of 79 plots



Grampian Woods

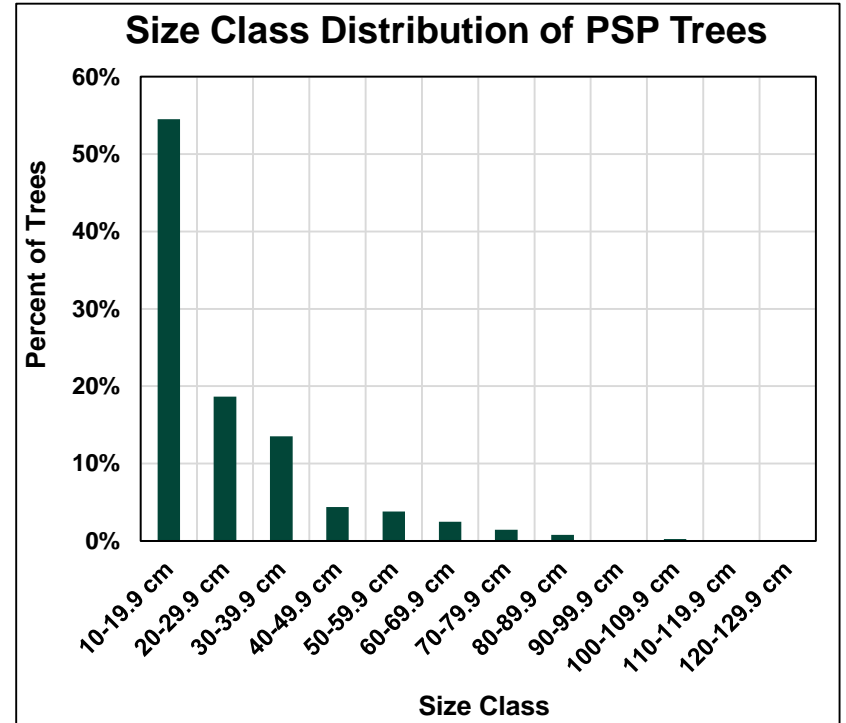


# Trees within PSPs

- All trees with Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) of 10 cm or greater:
  - Tagged (excluding oaks), to mark plot, enable repeat measurements
  - DBH
  - Species
  - Condition rating (Excellent, good, fair, poor, dead)
  - Wildlife Tree (snag) class (1-8)
  - Damaging agent(s) if known
  - Multi-stem trees:
    - All stems 10 cm or greater in DBH separately tagged and recorded
    - Noted as multi-stemmed

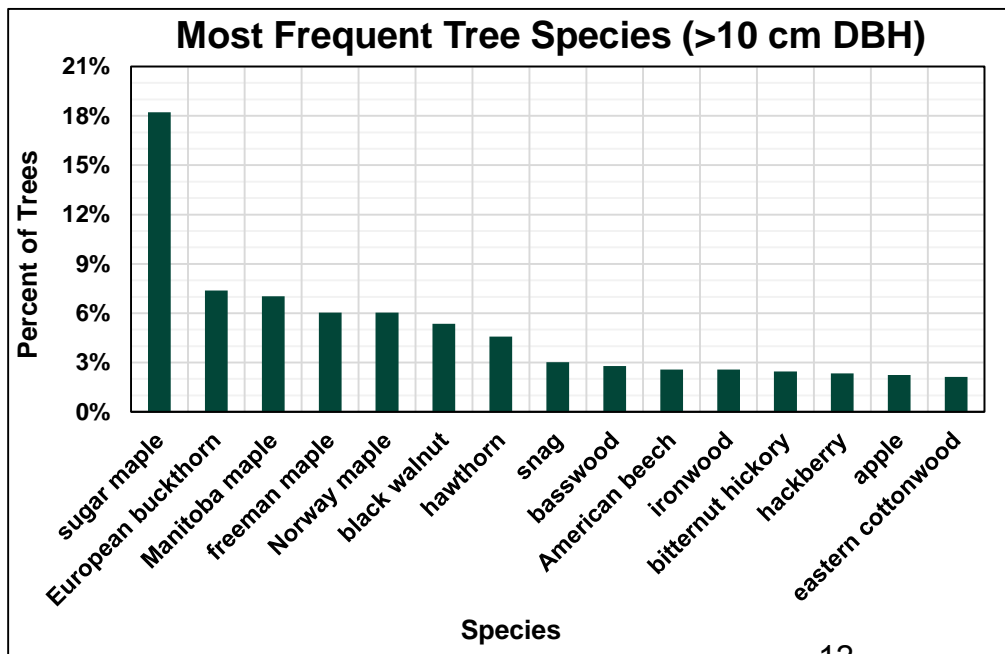
# Size Range of Trees within PSPs

- DBH of trees 10+ cm in diameter:
  - 895 trees (or stems) within the 79 PSPs
- DBH range:
  - Max: 121.8 cm
    - Red oak in Camden Crescent Park
  - Mean: 24.7 cm
  - Median: 18.5 cm



# Species and Condition of Trees within PSPs










- ~58 tree species recorded in PSPs



Tree Condition	% of Trees
Excellent	34.9%
Good	34.2%
Fair	12.3%
Poor	11.7%
Dead	6.9%

# Wildlife Tree Ratings

- Wildlife tree classes
  - Utilizing rating system from the Province of British Columbia

LIVE			DEAD				DEAD FALLEN	
Decay class								
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
								

Wildlife Tree Classes

(Province of British Columbia, Silviculture and stand management training, Module 3 - Stand level components of forest biodiversity, 2024)

# Forest Conditions at PSP

- ELC Category at plot
- Maximum tree height within plot
- Stand basal area (variable radius plot), from plot centre
- Type of location:
  - Woodland edge
  - Trail
  - Middle of wooded area,
  - Unmaintained field
  - Maintained field/park

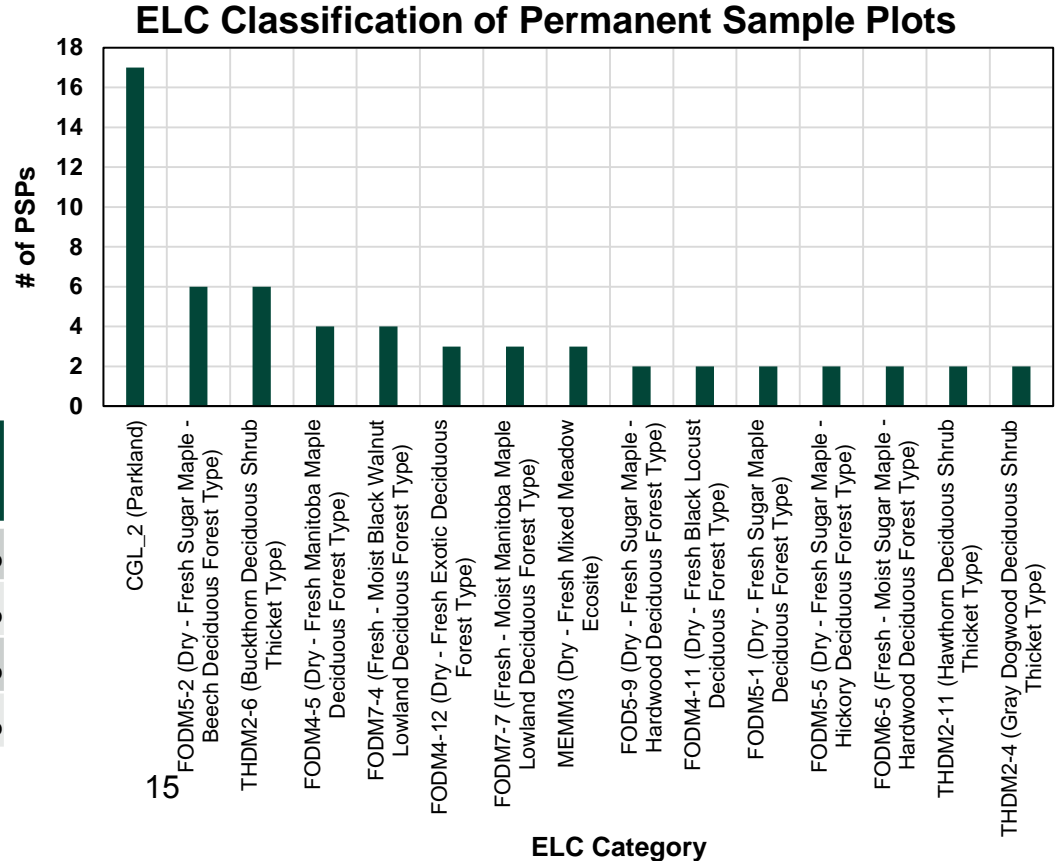
Location Type	# of Woodlands
Woodland Edge	28*
Trail	4
Middle of Wooded Area	26
Maintained Field (e.g., manicured park)	16*
Unmaintained field (e.g., meadow)	6

\* Note: One plot is included in two categories

# ELC Category at PSP

- Total of 35 different ELC categories
  - Top 15 categories graphed

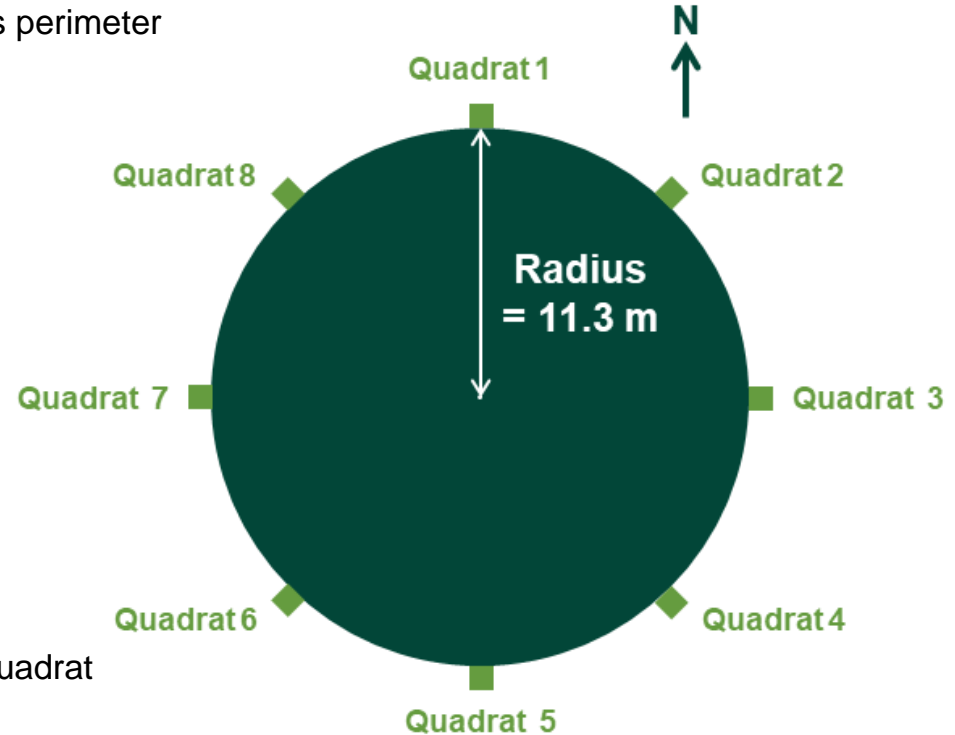
Type of ELC Category	% of Plots
Deciduous Forest	58.8%
Parkland	21.3%
Thicket	13.8%
Meadow	6.3%





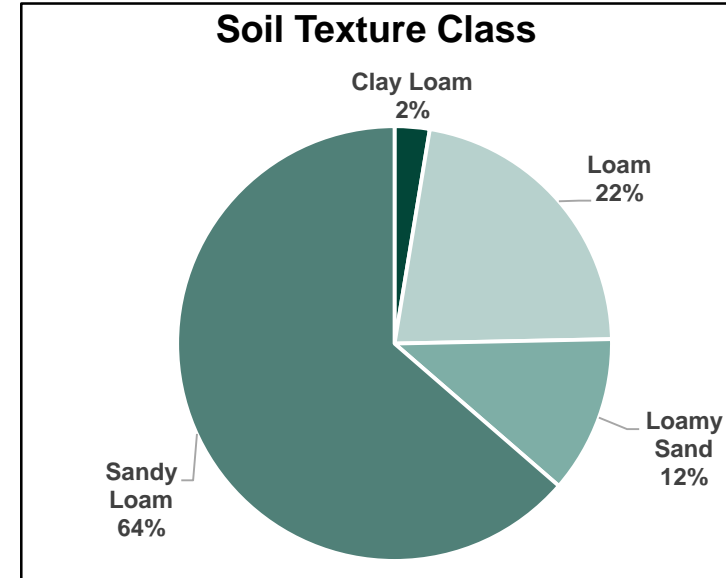
# Quadrats

- Eight 1 m x 1 m plots, located outside PSP on its perimeter
  - N, NE, E, SE, S, SW, W, NW of plot centre
- Soil samples collected
  - Thickness of LFH horizon measured
  - Thickness of A horizon measured
- Percent cover:
  - Conifer tree
  - Deciduous tree
  - Shrub
  - Herbaceous/groundcover vegetation
  - Moss
  - Ferns
  - Grass/sedges
  - Lichen
  - Leaf litter
  - Rocks or bare soil
  - Woody debris
- Percent of all vegetation that is invasive within quadrat



# Soil Testing Results: General Parameters

- pH: 5.2 to 8.1
  - Median: 7.3
- Organic Matter: 1.9% to 9.4%
  - Median: 4.6%
- Electrical conductivity: 0.16 to 0.49 ms/cm
  - Median: 0.26 ms/cm “very low”)
- K/Mg ratio: 0.04 to 0.41
  - Median: 0.16
  - Optimal: 0.25-0.35





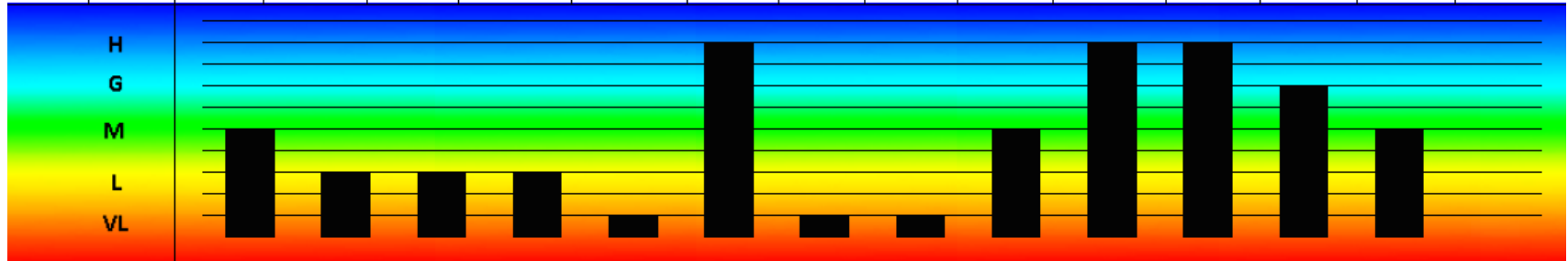
# Soil Testing Results: Selected Elements

- Phytotoxic levels not observed
- Manganese: 10-197 ppm
  - Median: 56 ppm (“very high”)
- Iron: 50-115 ppm
  - Median: 75 ppm (“very high”)
- Boron: 0.2 to 2 ppm
  - Median: 0.8 ppm (“medium”)
- Sulphur: 5-78 ppm
  - Median: 9 ppm (“very low”)

# Soil Testing Results Examples

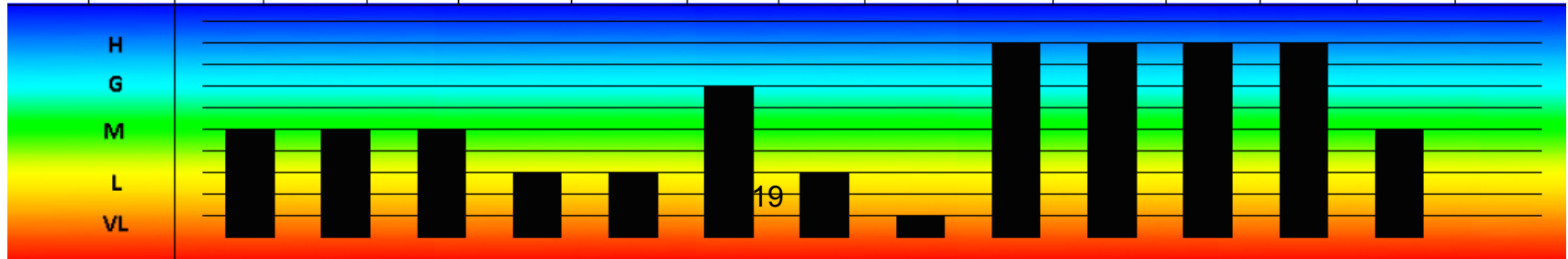
## Typical site (near-median values): Constitution Park

Sample ID	Lab Number	Organic Matter %	Phosphorous-P ppm		Potassium K ppm	Magnesium Mg ppm	Calcium Ca ppm	Sodium Na ppm	Sulfur S ppm	Zinc Zn ppm	Manganese Mn ppm	Iron Fe ppm	Copper Cu ppm	Boron B ppm	Aluminum Al ppm
			Bicarb	Bray-P1											
040	15840	4.2	13	19	80	114	3610	15	11	4.6	56	84	2.1	0.8	447



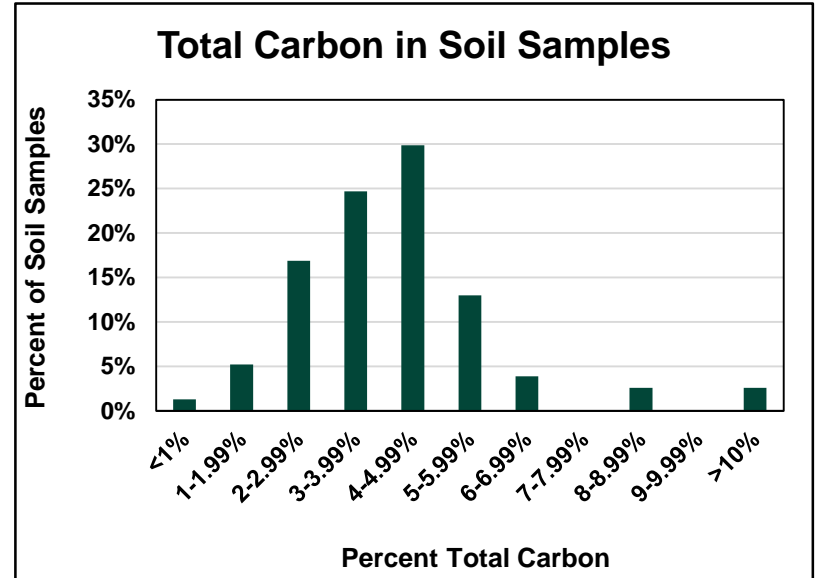
## High metals: Queen's Park

Sample ID	Lab Number	Organic Matter %	Phosphorous-P ppm		Potassium K ppm	Magnesium Mg ppm	Calcium Ca ppm	Sodium Na ppm	Sulfur S ppm	Zinc Zn ppm	Manganese Mn ppm	Iron Fe ppm	Copper Cu ppm	Boron B ppm	Aluminum Al ppm
			Bicarb	Bray-P1											
061	32612	3.6	39	76	67	131	2480	16	7	15.9	79	75	6.6	0.8	639



# Soil Carbon and Nitrogen

- Total Carbon: 0.74% to 24.21%
  - Median: 4.05%
- C:N Ratio: 1.9 to 96
  - Median: 15.1
- Nitrate: 1-19 ppm
  - Median: 5 ppm (“low”)
- Mineralizable Nitrogen: 27-59 ppm
  - Median: 47 ppm





# Questions?

- Additional analysis still underway

# **Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee Report**

The 10th Meeting of the Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory  
Committee  
October 2, 2024

Attendance                    B. Samuels (Chair), B. Amendola, I. ElGhamrawy, A. Ford, A. Hames, M.A. Hodge, N. Karsch, A. Pert and N. Serour and H. Lysynski (Clerk)

ABSENT: L. Bushan-Jazey, A. Butnari, R. Duvernoy and M. Griffith

ALSO PRESENT: M. Davenport, P. Kavcic and J. Stanford

The meeting was called to order at 4:33 PM; it being noted that B. Amendola, I. ElGhamrawy, A. Ford, A. Hames, M.A. Hodge, N. Karsch, A. Pert and N. Serour were in remote attendance.

**1. Call to Order**

1.1 Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest

That it BE NOTED that no pecuniary interests were disclosed.

**2. Scheduled Items**

2.1 Mayor's New Year's Honour List Criteria

That the presentation by E. Hunt, Manager, Legislative Services, with respect to the Mayor's New Year's Honour List Policy BE RECEIVED; it being noted that the Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee held a discussion with respect to this matter.

**3. Consent**

3.1 9th Report of the Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee

That it BE NOTED that the 9th Report of the Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee, from its meeting held on September 4, 2024, was received.

**4. Sub-Committees and Working Groups**

4.1 Design Specifications and Requirements Manual

That, the Design Specifications and Requirements Manual Working Group additional comments as appended to the Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee (ESACAC) Added Agenda BE FORWARDED to the Civic Administration for consideration; it being noted that the ESACAC heard verbal delegations from P. Kavcic, Manager, Subdivisions and Development Inspections and M. Davenport, Manager, Manager, Development Engineering and Digital Planning Initiatives, with respect to this matter.



4.2 Climate Emergency Action Plan Working Group

That it BE NOTED that the Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee held a discussion with respect to the Climate Emergency Action Plan Working Group; it being noted that the Working Group will provide a report at the November 6, 2024 meeting.

**5. Items for Discussion**

5.1 Notice of Planning Application and Public Meeting - 415 Oxford Street West

That it BE NOTED that the Notice of Planning Application and Public Meeting, dated September 24, 2024, from M. Hynes, Planner, with respect to an Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendment related to the property located at 415 Oxford Street West, was received.

5.2 Budget

That it BE NOTED that the Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee (ESACAC) held a discussion with respect to the remainder of the 2024 Budget; it being noted that a guest speaker event is being planned in partnership with the London Environmental Network for late November-early December relating to Green Development Standards; it being further noted that an update and official budget request will be provided at the November 6, 2024 ESACAC meeting.

**6. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 PM.



# WHAT DO CANADIANS REALLY THINK ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE?

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A Summary of Public Opinion Research for Communicators  
**2024**



# *Re.Climate*™

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COMMUNICATING FOR CHANGE

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# PREAMBLE

## About Re.Climate

Re.Climate is Canada’s go-to centre for training, research and strategy on climate change communications and public engagement. Based at Carleton University, we provide strategic services to help practitioners reach new audiences, overcome polarization, communicate urgency and motivate change.

To produce this report Re.Climate reviewed the results of 91 publicly available surveys with the objective of digging beneath topline numbers and identifying attitudes that advance or stall public support for climate action.

## Project Team

**Author:** Chris Hatch

**Mind the Gaps:** Louise Comeau

**Communicating Climate Change in Quebec:**

Hugo Séguin, Marianne Renauld Robitaille

**Research:** Ghadah Alrasheed, Maria Granados, Rahmah Aldakkak

**Editing and Production:** Ghadah Alrasheed, Louise Comeau

**Design:** Leigh Peterson, justafrog.net

## Acknowledgements

We are grateful to several experts for reviewing early drafts of this report: Louise Comeau with Iris Communications, Re.Climate and a member of Canada’s Net Zero Advisory Body; Shane Gunster, professor at Simon Fraser University’s School of Communication; James Boothroyd and Kate McMahon from EcoAnalytics Research Initiative. We have relied on survey results from research firms, academic programs and the EcoAnalytics Research Initiative. In particular: Erick Lachapelle at the Université de Montréal, the Positive Energy program at the University of Ottawa, the Groupe de recherche sur la communication marketing climatique at Université Laval and research firms Abacus Data, Angus Reid Institute, Innovative Research Group, Ipsos, Leger, Nanos Research, Pollara, Potential Energy and Proof Strategies.

We would also like to acknowledge NGOs including Clean Energy Canada, Climate Action Network Canada and Environmental Defence for commissioning public surveys.

Cover image: Kelowna, BC—Smoke from the McDougall Creek wildfire fills the air and nearly blocks out the sun as people take in the view of Okanagan Lake from Tugboat Beach, in Kelowna, British Columbia, Aug. 18, 2023. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS VIA AP, FILE

**Citation:** Hatch, C., Alrasheed, G., Granados, M., & Aldakkak, R. (2024). *What Do Canadians Really Think About Climate Change?* Re.Climate.



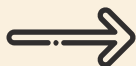
# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**Canadians report high levels of concern about climate change** and are connecting the dots between wildfires, extreme weather and global warming. But the affordability crisis has displaced climate action on the list of priorities while concerted opposition has dampened support for key policies.

**The world is experiencing record temperatures** and we are skirting 1.5 C above pre-industrial levels over a full year for the first time. But climate policies and actions are hindered by narratives framing them as costly, unfair and ineffective.

**The competing concerns and undermining narratives are impacting public attitudes.** Many Canadians say they do not believe we can meet our energy and climate objectives, even when they agree that climate change is a serious threat that requires concerted effort. There is a worrying gap between general concern about climate change and the erosion of support for specific climate actions.

## Current conditions



**STEADY, OVERWHELMING SUPPORT FOR THE GROWTH OF RENEWABLE POWER AND CLEAN ENERGY**



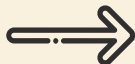
**INCREASE IN BELIEF THAT OIL AND GAS ARE IMPORTANT TO CANADA'S FUTURE ECONOMY**



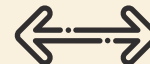
**DECLINE IN PRIORITY OF CLIMATE ACTION**



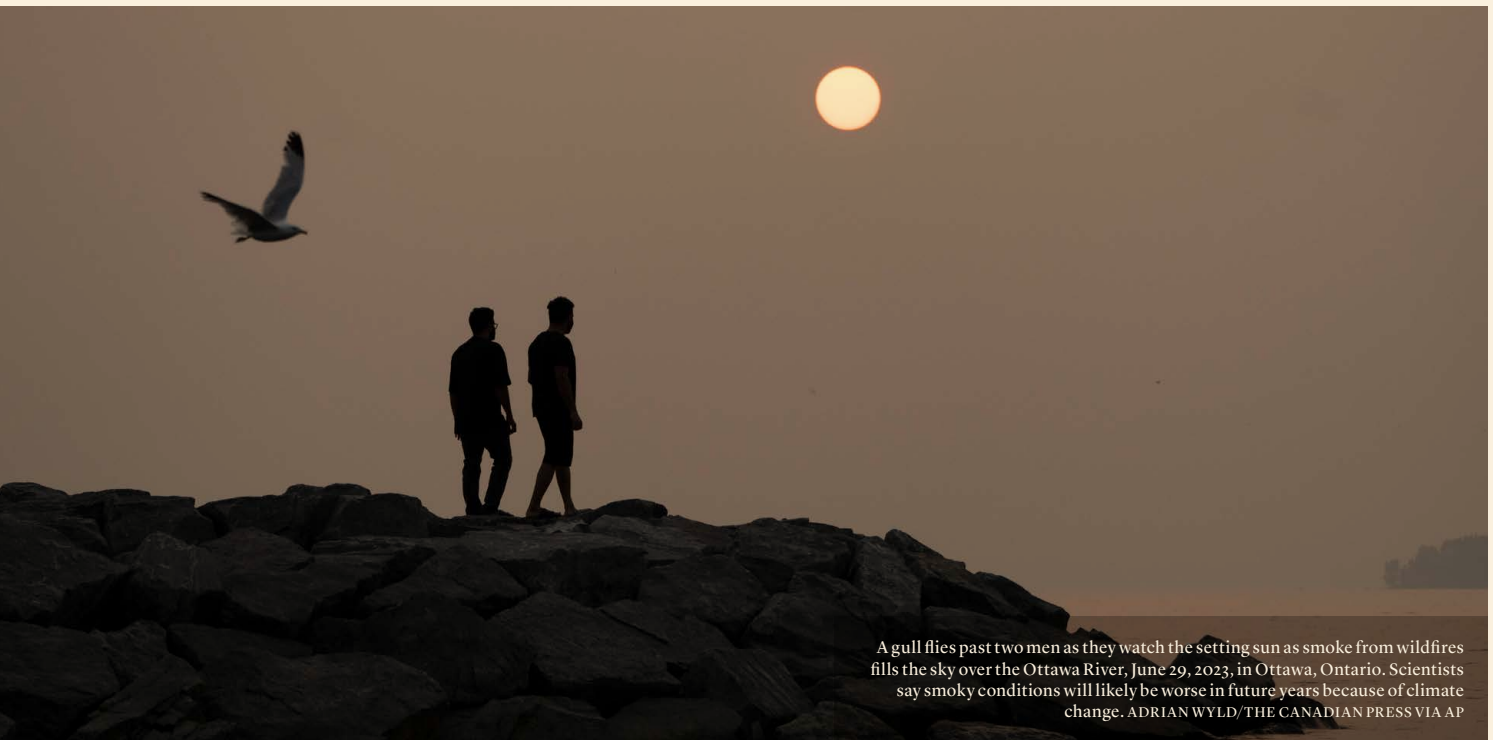
**DECLINE IN SUPPORT FOR POLICIES PERCEIVED TO INCREASE COSTS**



**CONNECTING THE DOTS BETWEEN FIRES, EXTREME WEATHER AND CLIMATE CHANGE**



**GAP BETWEEN GENERAL SUPPORT FOR ACTION AND SUPPORT FOR SPECIFIC ACTIONS**



A gull flies past two men as they watch the setting sun as smoke from wildfires fills the sky over the Ottawa River, June 29, 2023, in Ottawa, Ontario. Scientists say smoky conditions will likely be worse in future years because of climate change. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS VIA AP

## Tailwinds

### *Concern*

Most Canadians are worried about climate change and they want governments and corporations to do more to address the problem.

### *Connection to fires and extreme weather*

Canadians increasingly understand that bizarre weather, heatwaves and wildfires are caused by climate change.

### *Vision of the future*

Canadians see clean energy being very important to Canada's future economy and want Canada to keep up with the U.S. and other jurisdictions.

## Headwinds

### *Priority*

Anxiety about the cost-of-living and household finances have knocked climate change down the list of priorities. Many people still see climate change as a distant problem and underestimate the level of concern that does exist across the population, leaving most of us feeling more alone than we really are.

### *Efficacy*

Solutions uncertainty: Many Canadians are not clear that burning fossil fuels is the main cause of the problem. They are also unconvinced that alternatives are available and effective. Supporters of the federal Conservative party are dramatically less convinced that climate change is a serious problem and much less supportive of climate policies.

### *Action gap*

Canadians' concern about climate change is much higher than support for specific climate actions and several key policies have recently lost support. Canadians continue to support fossil fuels both for domestic use and export while a majority of Canadians believe the country is already doing its fair share compared to our international peers.



# MIND THE GAPS

COMMENTARY BY LOUISE COMEAU

There's only so much attention to go around. Like a budget, we apportion our attention to top of mind concerns. Mortgage renewals, fears about access to affordable housing, the rising cost of food and energy; these issues grab peoples' attention—right now. Who has time to worry about climate change when issues like these grab our attention? Our finite attention budget (Sisco et al., 2023), combined with gaps in our understanding of climate change, make this issue vulnerable to wavering public support for action.

Most people see climate change as a distant threat in time (not a risk to me or my family because it will happen to other generations in the future), and geography, (not a risk to me or my family or nature that I care about because it will happen to other people and nature far away).

Combine this distance gap (O'Neill, 2020), with a perception gap, and we begin to understand why climate change is an issue that grabs our attention and then falls off our radar. The perception gap (Andre et al., 2024) refers to the fact that people generally believe they are more supportive of climate action than the rest of the population. This psychological barrier is like a self-fulfilling prophecy. We think there are weak social expectations (e.g., social norms) for climate action, so there are. If we believe other people that matter to us expect us to do something about climate change, we are more likely to take action ourselves.

This is why talking to friends and family about our concerns about climate change is so important. The act of sharing our thoughts, feelings, concerns and excitement about opportunities helps close the perception gap.

Distance and perception gaps, combined with weak understanding of the personal and social benefits of solutions like heat pumps, electric vehicles or carbon pricing leave people vulnerable to solutions misinformation and disinformation. The rise of solutions denialism (The Centre for Countering Digital Hate, 2023) is further weakening people's sense of agency to overcome barriers) and efficacy (confidence that solutions are effective).

Understanding the role of risk perceptions, agency, efficacy and social norms can help us understand the vulnerable place climate change holds in our attention budget. We see the effects in this year's public opinion roll up where general support is high (e.g., support for doing more on climate change), but support for specific policies is falling (Impact Canada, n.d.). The next chapter provides recommendations to counter these trends.





# RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMMUNICATORS

Use plain language and speak to values, not just facts. Remember to stress the high-level motivators: later is too late for protecting what we love.

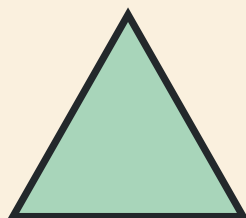
Don't try to win over climate skeptics—engage the majority who are worried but aren't sure what needs to be done.

Amplify trusted messengers, especially scientists and doctors. Family and friends remain key sources of validation and information.

Consider using a message triangle to make sure you remember to communicate three necessary points to deliver a complete narrative.

## THE BENEFITS

Tangible opportunities and local benefits to lives, families and communities



## THE CHALLENGE

Burning fossil fuels is causing the planet to overheat dangerously and putting people and things we love at risk

## THE PATHWAY

We need to switch to clean energy and electrify everything—and quickly

### *Make it a priority*

Later is too late: our children and the places we love are at risk because of carbon pollution from burning fossil fuels like oil, natural gas and coal. We have to act now to crack down on carbon pollution.

### *Show the benefits and effectiveness of the path forward*

We can stop climate pollution by switching to clean energy that's safe and abundant. Provide relevant actions and choices that address today's problems and climate change and make clear why and how they are effective.

### *Create a sense of momentum*

Normalize climate action by helping people recognize that others share their concern (e.g.: "It's not just you and me: 70 per cent of Canadians get that climate change is a major crisis.")

And give examples of progress—tangible examples relevant to your audience and general examples, like "Canada's electricity grid has already cut carbon pollution in half." We can power our homes, vehicles and economy without carbon pollution.

Normalize that the world is clearly shifting to clean energy and away from fossil fuels. Governments, businesses, communities and individuals need to act now to prepare for this change, not "wait and see".



A heat pump installed on a single family home.  
DANIEL REINHARDT/PICTURE-ALLIANCE/DPA/AP IMAGES

## Communicating energy affordability

### 1. COMPARE AND CONTRAST CLEAN ENERGY WITH FOSSIL FUELS.

- Renewable power is abundant and getting cheaper all the time while fossil fuels drive climate change making us more vulnerable to volatile price spikes.

### 2. FRAME ENERGY AFFORDABILITY IN CONCRETE TERMS THAT REFLECT LIVED EXPERIENCE.

- Gain frame: Lean into the public's growing understanding that people spend less to use heat pumps, renewable energy and electric vehicles over the lifetime of ownership.
- Loss frame: Right now, most households are wasting money and paying utilities for more energy than necessary.

### 3. SITUATE ELECTRIFICATION AND ELECTRICITY INVESTMENTS AS AN INVESTMENT WITH LONG-TERM BENEFITS.

- Investing in clean energy saves money over time because you don't have to keep buying fuel. Electrification is anti-inflationary.

*For more on communicating energy affordability, see the briefing [Messaging Energy Affordability](#) (Comeau and Melanson, 2023).*





# THE ACTION GAP



A skater on melting ice during record warm winter 2023-2024. Gage Park, downtown Brampton, Ont. February 9, 2024. MIKE CAMPBELL / NURPHOTO VIA AP

**Canadians report high levels of concern about climate change and, when asked, they say they want governments and corporations to take action. But the level of support is much lower when it comes to specific climate policies and measures.**

At a high level, there is a significant gap between principle and practice. In principle, Canadians say climate change is a crisis that requires immediate action. But the public is conflicted over whether the country is doing enough. Over half say the government is not working hard enough and a similar proportion say Canada is doing its fair share.

## High level gap

Climate change is a "crisis" that necessitates immediate action



Government is not working hard enough to tackle climate change



Our country is doing its fair share to combat climate change



## Electrification gap

The gap between general support and support for specifics is obvious on several fronts. On electrification, Canadians overwhelmingly agree the country will need more electricity. And Canadians broadly agree it should be clean electricity. But at the same time, a large majority support building new natural gas plants and don't believe a clean grid can be achieved over the coming decade.

Positive attitudes towards clean electricity regulations have dropped 18 points since the summer of 2023. While Canadians want action on this front, concern about costs means they would delay cleaning up the grid beyond 2035 (Innovative Research Group, 2024).

## Electric gap

Canada needs more electricity generation to meet future demand



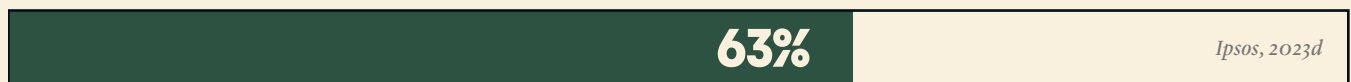
Support regulations for clean electricity by 2035



Support building new natural gas generation capacity



Not realistic for Canada's electricity to be converted to non-carbon emitting sources over next 12 years



# Electric vehicle gap

Electric vehicles have become a symbol of the energy transition. Increasingly visible on the streets, they are also subject to a drumbeat of misinformation.

Canadians think we need policy requiring zero-emissions transportation, and support penalties for automakers that do not supply zero-emission vehicles. At the same time, most do not think it's realistic to phase out gas-powered vehicles by 2035.

## EV gap

To meet the 2035 target of 100% of new vehicles sold being zero-emissions, we need policy that will result in vehicle manufacturers providing zero-emission vehicles at more affordable prices



Support imposing penalties on automakers so they meet 2035 ZEV mandate



Support/strongly support/accept rebates when buying EVs



Prohibiting sale of new gas-powered vehicles by 2035 “not realistic”



# Net-zero gap

Canadians are broadly supportive of heading for net-zero by 2050. But the concept is not well-understood, not considered to be realistic and a majority of the public believe we can continue burning fossil fuels and aim for net-zero. For example, most people support net-zero and simultaneously think we can't replace burning gas in buildings with clean alternatives.

## Net-zero nonsense

Support net-zero by 2050



Have heard of the concept of net-zero emissions by 2050 in Canada, but don't really know what it looks like



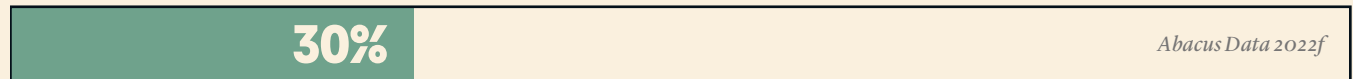
Banning natural gas heating "not realistic"



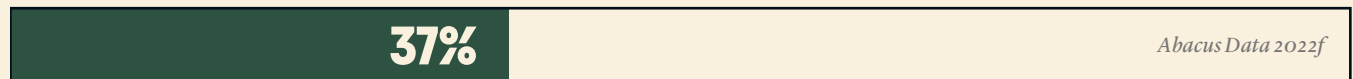
Requiring all natural gas appliances to be electric within 15 years "not realistic"



Net-zero by 2050 "realistic"



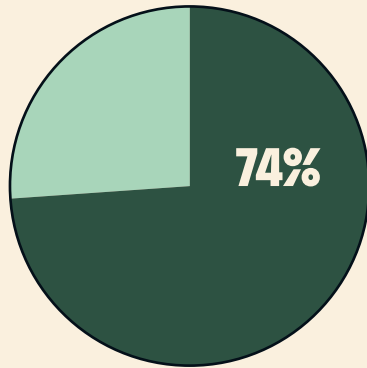
Deadline for net-zero is moving too fast



# Clobbering the carbon tax

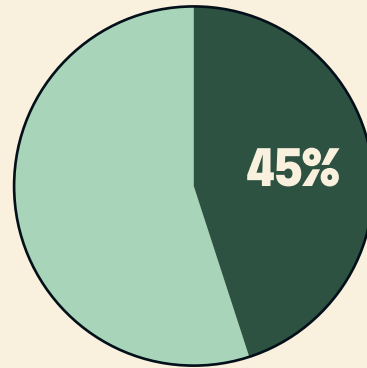
Pollution pricing is particularly vulnerable during an affordability crisis and there has been a sustained attack on the carbon tax. Three-quarters of Canadians support the principle of polluter pay but support for the carbon tax has dropped below 50 per cent, as opposed to majority support two years ago.

## Polluter pay gap



Support the idea that those who pollute more should pay more to address climate change

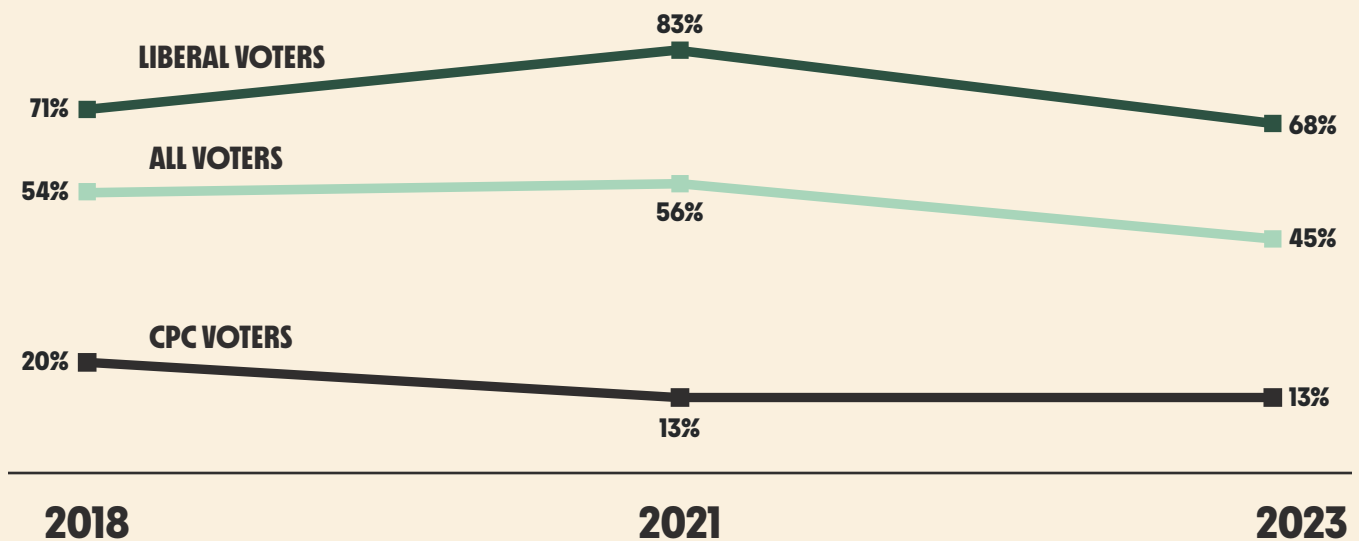
*Leger 2023c*



Support the federal carbon tax

*Angus Reid Institute 2023e*

## Carbon tax support over time



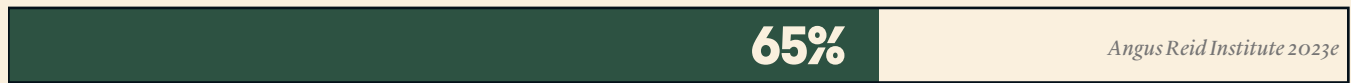
*Angus Reid Institute 2023e*



Canadians have come to believe the carbon tax is ineffective and unfair. Somewhere between a majority and two-thirds of the public now say it is ineffective at combatting climate change or feel they aren't having any real impact paying the consumer carbon levy.

## Carbon tax trouble

Feel like they aren't having any real impact by paying carbon taxes



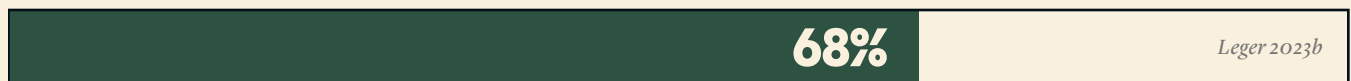
Federal carbon pricing program is ineffective at combatting climate change



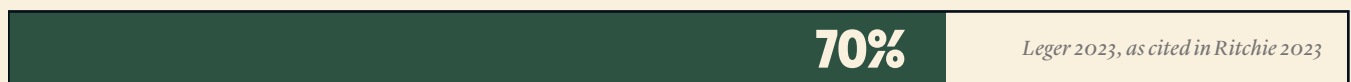
Opposed to carbon tax price increase (21% say "poor timing"; 46% say "very poor" timing)



Unwilling to pay more in taxes for gasoline (up to \$0.40/L by 2030) to aid in Canada's climate net-zero policies



Support an expansion to see all forms of home heating fuel exempted





# AFFORDABILITY



For Sale sign seen outside a house in the center of Edmonton. On Friday, January 7, 2022, in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. PHOTO BY ARTUR WIDAK/NURPHOTO VIA AP

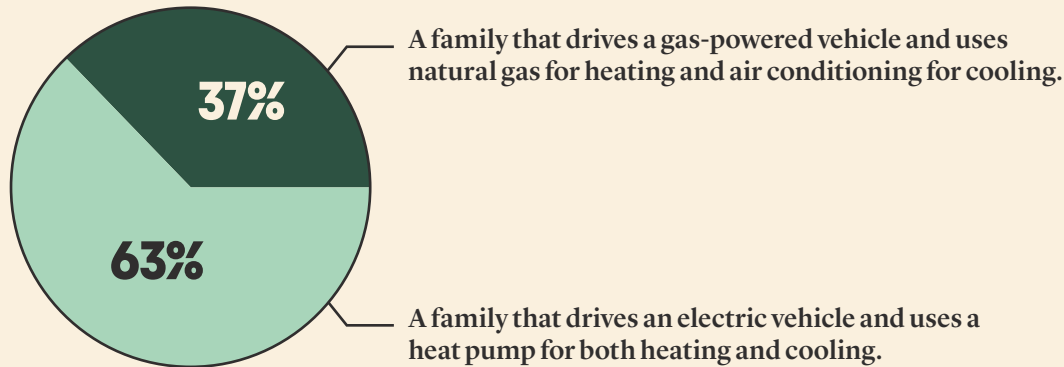
**Climate action has dropped in priority in relation to concerns about the cost of living and the affordability of housing. Canadians do generally believe that heat pumps and electric vehicles ultimately end up saving money but have become less supportive of government policies like clean electricity regulations or carbon taxes when they hear warnings about increased costs.**

The carbon tax is the most publicized example of a policy losing support. But attitudes about clean electricity regulations are also worsening. In one tracking survey, positive sentiment decreased from 51 per cent down to 33 per cent over the last half of 2023—an 18 point drop since June 2023 (Innovative Research Group, 2024).

The good news for communicators is that the public understands that clean energy options will cost less, once they are in place. For example, 63 per cent of Canadians think a family will spend less on energy overall if it uses a heat pump for heating and cooling and drives an EV, despite the upfront costs (Abacus Data, 2023e).

## Household costs

“Which families do you think would spend less on energy overall?”



*Clean Energy Canada 2023*

But be aware that Canadians perceive the affordability benefits to be fairly small at the macro level, compared to a mix with both clean and fossil fuel energy sources (Lachapelle & EcoAnalytics, 2022).

Energy costs for Canadians will decline about 12 per cent on average by 2050 if the country pursues an energy transition to net-zero, according to researchers at the Canadian Climate Institute. This is not a compellingly large figure over such a long period, although rebates and other programs can make the transition even more affordable (Smith & Harland, 2023).

Communicators should highlight the potential for immediate savings and also recognize that our psychology makes us more sensitive to loss than gain. So, don't shy away from talking about wasting money on wasted energy and focus on near-term finances. For example: a family could cut \$800 off monthly energy bills by switching to an EV and heat pump, compared to one that is largely reliant on fossil fuels (Abacus Data, 2023e).

And remember that a complete narrative includes that the cost of not acting against climate pollution is very high and those we love will pay the price, not only financially.

## A more stable future

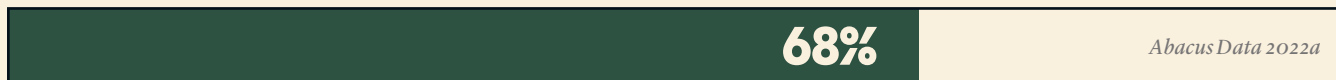
A plurality of Canadians (42 per cent) believe renewable energy prices are more stable and predictable than are prices for oil and gas (Lachapelle & EcoAnalytics, 2022).

And Canadians generally agree on the direction of travel. The public is almost four times more likely to say that the energy transition is a good thing (41 per cent) than a bad thing (11 per cent) (Innovative Research Group, 2023).

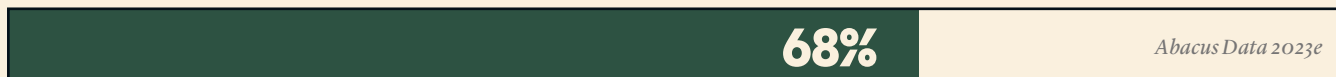
Meanwhile, the public is coming to understand that climate change is likely to impact them financially. Insurance is becoming more expensive and insurance companies like Desjardins have stopped new mortgages in flood zones. Taxpayers are being called on to backstop insurance in several U.S. states already. A large majority (71 per cent) worry that climate change will increase expenses and squeeze retirement funds (Randall, 2023; Pollara Strategic Insights, 2023).

## Clean energy affordability

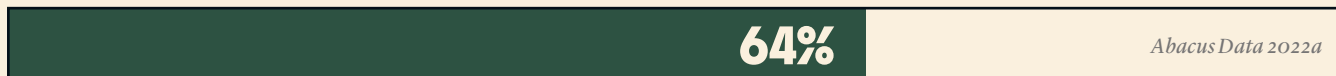
A clean energy system (including hydro, wind, solar power and electric vehicles) would be more secure



Support more retrofit programs to make homes more energy efficient



A clean energy system (including hydro, wind, solar power and electric vehicles) would be more affordable



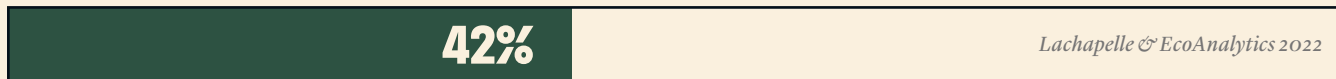
Support investments to improve public transport



EVs will end up much/a bit cheaper despite higher upfront cost



Renewable energy prices are more stable and predictable than are prices for oil and gas



## Political narratives matter

Political narratives against the energy transition are particularly effective in the context of anxiety about affordability. Populist conservatives are highly engaged on energy issues and are having an impact across the public, even among those not feeling the pinch. We see similar changes in attitudes among people who are not struggling to pay bills as among people who are facing financial trouble.

Both groups show the same trends. For example, support for investments in electrification has declined by 7 to 10 points in the past half year, if those investments are perceived to impact electricity bills. That is true for people who say they are finding it hard to get by, no matter how hard they work, as well as for those who are managing well (Innovative Research Group, 2024).





# ATTITUDES ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE



Evacuated residents of Merritt, British Columbia, line up at a reception centre in Kelowna, British Columbia, Thursday, Nov. 18, 2021. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS VIA AP

Canadians continued to prioritize climate change through the COVID-19 pandemic but inflation and cost-of-living concerns have pushed the issue down the list of priorities. The background concern about climate change has not diminished and Canadians think extreme weather and fires will keep getting worse but the number of Canadians who list climate change as a top priority has fallen.

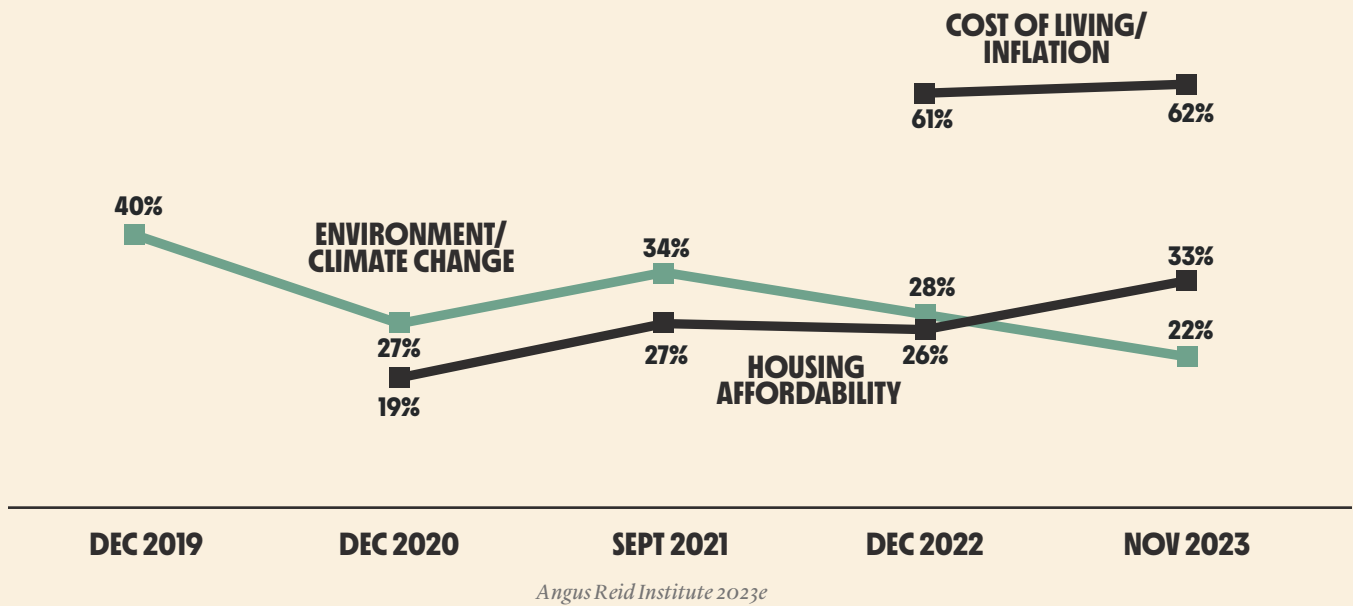
## Climate as priority

The drop in level of priority means a drop in the degree to which governments are held accountable for acting on climate change. The decline also allows those who are otherwise climate-concerned to support political parties without a commitment to cut climate pollution.

Inflation began rising in 2021 and the Bank of Canada started raising interest rates in 2022. The proportion of Canadians listing climate change as a top issue dropped by 12 points since 2021 (Angus Reid, 2023e).

## Climate priority

“Thinking of the various issues and challenges facing Canada, which ones do you personally care about the most?”



The proportion of those saying climate change is among their top issues facing Canada has dropped from 40 per cent in 2019, to 34 per cent in 2021, to 22 per cent in Nov. 2023 (Angus Reid, 2023e).

## Extreme weather

The drop in priority does not mean that Canadians are failing to make the connection between climate change and wildfires or other extreme events. Most Canadians have come to understand that extreme weather events will happen more and more often.

But communicators should recognize that climate change remains a psychologically distant problem as opposed to a near-term threat. And most segments of the population identify climate change in general as a slightly greater threat than the specific impacts of extreme weather (Lachapelle & EcoAnalytics, 2024).



## Fires & extreme weather

Have noticed an increase in natural disasters over the past decade



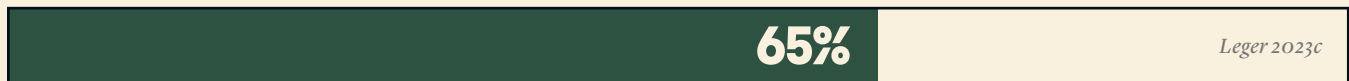
Angus Reid Institute 2023h

Believe increase in natural disasters is the direct result of climate change



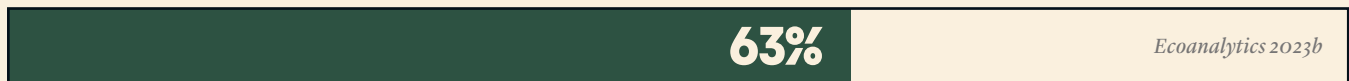
Angus Reid Institute 2023h

Believe extreme weather events will occur more often



Leger 2023c

Reported experience with negative impacts from changing weather patterns



Ecoanalytics 2023b

Almost all Canadians (89 per cent) have noticed an increase in natural disasters over the past decade and 7 in 10 believe it is because “we are feeling the effects of climate change” (Abacus, 2023h).

The public understands this trend will continue—two-thirds of the public think we are going to see extreme weather events more often (Leger, 2023c).



Workers with CN Rail assess the damage to a washed-out rail line outside of Truro, Nova Scotia on Sunday, July 23, 2023. A long procession of intense thunderstorms dumped record amounts of rain across a wide swath of Nova Scotia, causing flash flooding, road washouts and power outages. DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS VIA AP



# COMMUNICATING CLIMATE CHANGE IN QUEBEC

Communicating Climate Change in Quebec was prepared by COPTICOM based on the annual Baromètre de l'action climatique and recent proprietary surveys.<sup>1</sup> This chapter summarizes the recommendations and tips provided to the Climate Communications Community of Practice in Quebec.

## What the research shows

1. **The consensus on the need to act is holding and still growing in Quebec:** 85 per cent of the Quebec population believe in the urgency of acting on climate, an upward trend. In fact, concern about the climate crisis has never been stronger than it is now. However, the most effective behaviors for reducing the population's carbon footprint are still being adopted slowly, even though many Quebecers report incorporating climate-friendly actions into their daily lives.
2. **The threat is not (yet) personal:** Even though Quebecers believe in the urgency of action, they do not perceive a high, short-term climate threat to themselves personally. The threat is seen as distant, affecting Quebec and Canada more broadly, and especially the rest of the world.
3. **Quebeckers expect more from their leaders, companies, and themselves:** 71 per cent of the population feel we have to accelerate the pace of climate action and 85 per cent wish that governments, companies and individuals would undertake “profound changes.”
4. **Unsustainable consumption:** A large majority of Quebecers (68 per cent) believe we have to profoundly change how we look at consumption and at how our economy operates. A sizable minority (28 per cent) do not agree, especially men and people in the 34-54 age group.
5. **High level of solidarity with vulnerable groups:** An overwhelming majority of people consider it important to take measures to protect individuals who are most likely to suffer the effects of climate change. Quebecers are also in favor of initiatives aimed at protecting public health (e.g., greening of cities, free shuttle system for easy access to natural environments, etc.).
6. **In parallel, a growing feeling of powerlessness, blame shifting and denial in a segment of the population:** Along with a growing sense of urgency, there is a parallel increase in beliefs that may harm climate action, such as a sense of powerlessness (it is too late to act), a rejection of responsibility (blaming others), or the denial of the human role in climate disruption. **Eco-anxiety is becoming a public health issue** and climate change is having an impact on the population's psychological health. Nearly half of all people report experiencing eco-anxiety in the past years. The most frequently reported effect is worry about the future. In Quebec, eco-anxiety can stimulate the adoption of individual actions to reduce carbon footprints, but it can also paralyze or demobilize when it becomes too severe. For example, those who report high levels of eco-anxiety are less likely to buy locally, minimize the use of gasoline vehicles, or compost.

1. Champagne St-Arnaud, V., Boivin, M. et Langlais, K. (2023). Baromètre de l'action climatique 2023. <https://unpointcinq.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Barometre-Action-Climatique-2023.pdf> New 2024 trends and observations from recent surveys by COPTICOM have been included.



# Suggested high-level communications messages for 2024

1. ***This is all connected***—Link the many short-term concerns people have with the need to act urgently on climate change and to fundamentally change many aspects of our lives:
  - Increase the level of awareness of the interconnectedness of multiple concerns and crises among more engaged segments of the population.
2. ***This already affects me and my family and will get worse***—Reduce psychological distance in regards to the collective and personal impacts of climate change:
  - Diminish the gap between Quebeckers' belief in climate change (and the urgency of action) and their lack of understanding of the threats climate change poses directly to them.
3. ***We all should be doing more: governments, companies and individuals who are not financially hard-pressed***—Accentuate most Quebeckers sense that much more should be done to fight climate change:
  - Tap into this understanding that much more should be done with the belief that all are capable of doing more.
4. ***We need to talk about our problems with over-consumption and production which are destructive to our environment***—Introduce new narratives that break with the economic status quo:
  - A strong majority of Quebeckers indicate that they see links between overconsumption and production with climate change and environmental degradation. This could be a way to start mainstreaming a conversation around sufficiency and even degrowth for destructive sectors.
5. ***Taking action now can also bring short-term benefits, for me and the collective***—Create an individual and collective desire in transitioning towards a healthier climate both on the mitigation and adaptation front:
  - Increase personal and collective climate action: reinforcing the many positive social, health, environmental and economic benefits of living in a healthier climate. For example, highlighting concrete examples of thriving sustainable communities and climate adaptation initiatives as a road map to a better, happier and healthier future.
6. ***We can improve things by working together***—Show people that acting on climate change and other related concerns and crises leads to concrete gains, increases solidarity and improves quality of life, even in the face of environmental perils:
  - Among leaders and mobilized segments of the public, reinforce the confidence that acting together works and achieves concrete changes, initiatives and policies.
7. ***We are all in this together***—Reinforce Quebeckers' sense of solidarity towards the most vulnerable individuals and communities:
  - Heighten Quebeckers' awareness of climate justice: appeal to their solidarity with vulnerable individuals. Increase their understanding of climate-related inequalities disproportionately affecting women, children, seniors, Indigenous and racialized individuals and communities.



# THE CLIMATE DIVIDES



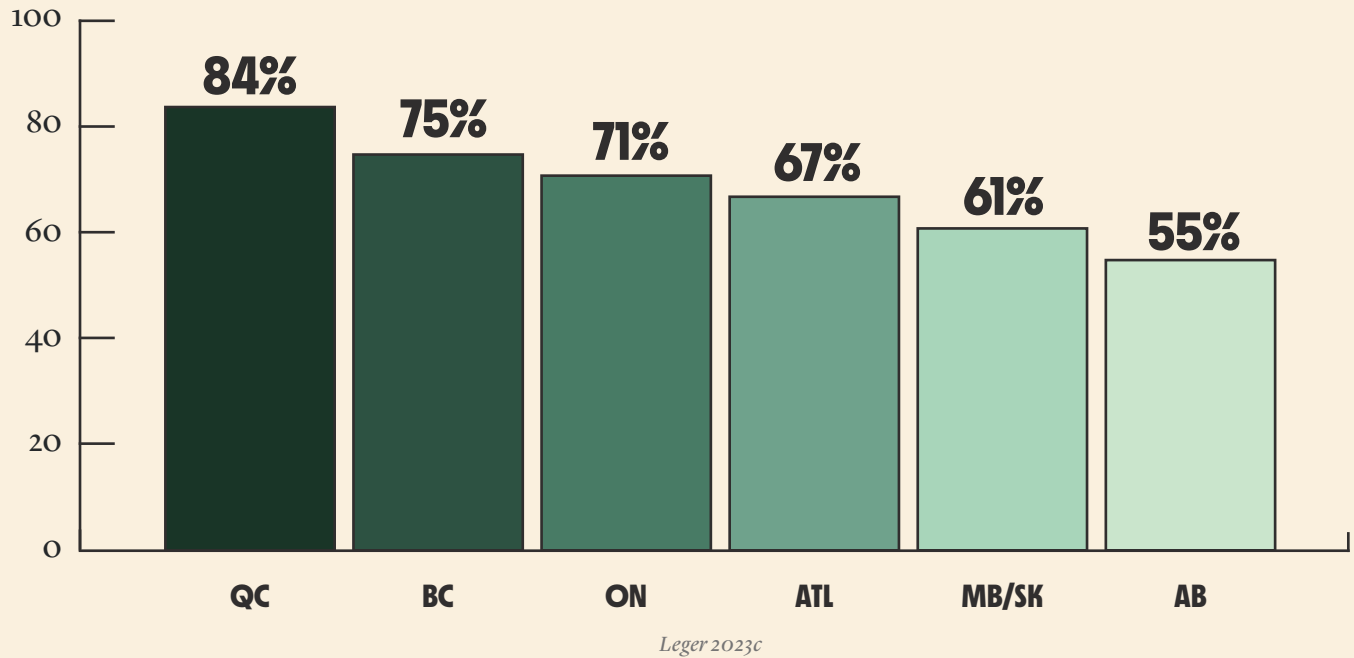
Structures that were destroyed by wildfire are seen in Lytton, British Columbia, on Tuesday, June 14, 2022. DARRYL DYCK/ THE CANADIAN PRESS VIA AP

There are significant differences between audiences across regions and demographics in Canada. And Conservative voters are much less concerned about climate change and are less supportive of transitioning off fossil fuels.

## Divided by regions, demographics

Although 72 per cent of Canadians say they are “worried” (45 per cent) or “very worried” (27 per cent) about climate change, those topline findings mask large differences across regions from a high of 84 per cent in Quebec to just 55 per cent in Alberta.

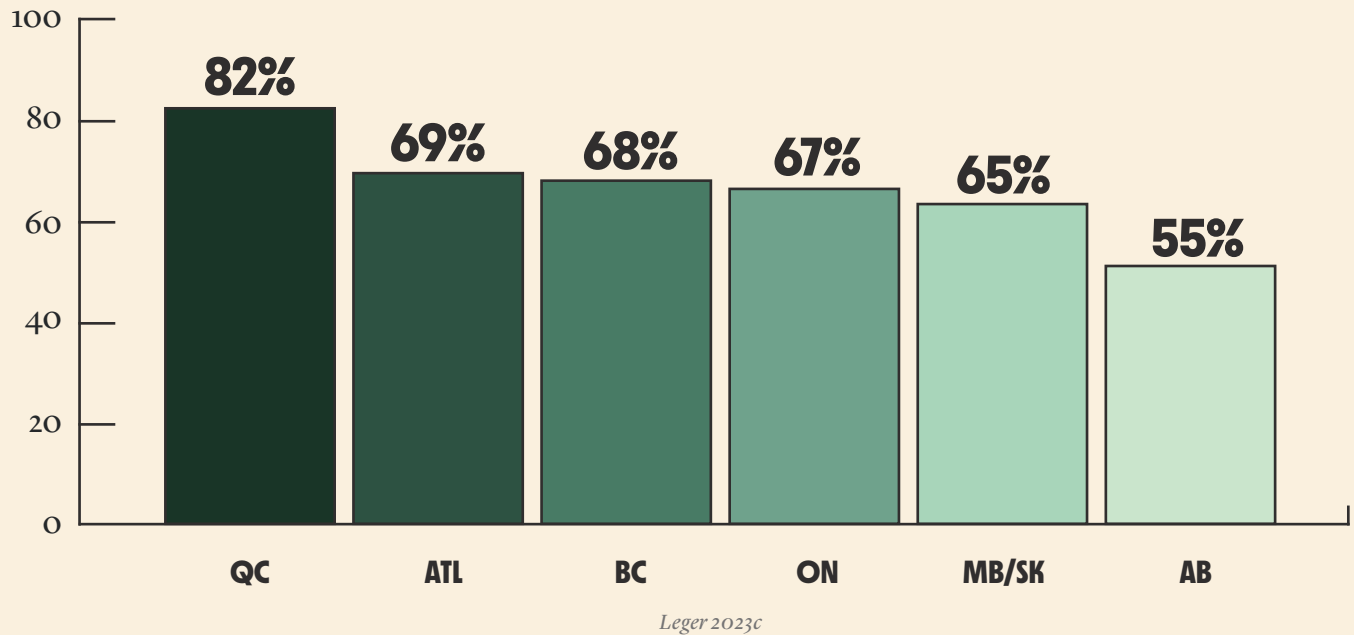
## Climate concern by region



There's a similar divide on the question of what's causing climate change: 82 per cent of Quebeckers blame human activities, while just 51 per cent of Albertans say climate change is "mostly caused by human activities" (Leger, 2023c).

## Who's to blame? Depends where you live.

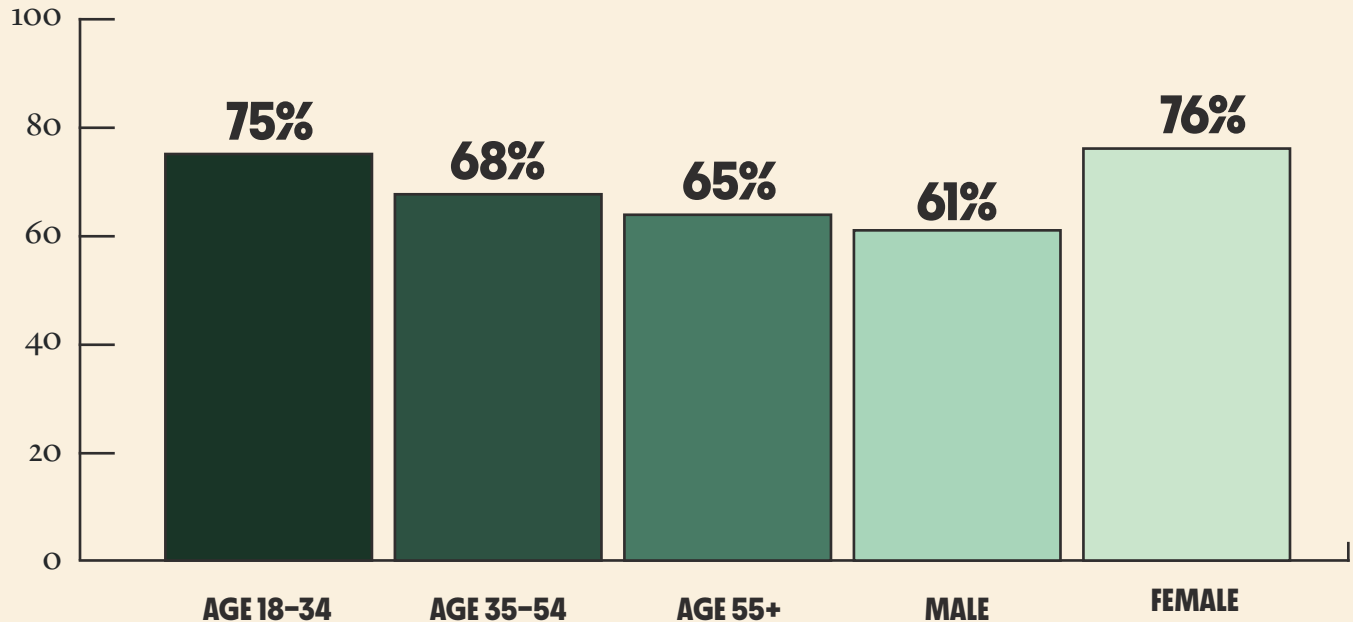
"Climate change is mostly caused by human activities."



The demographic divides are less extreme than regional divides. But there are notable differences by age and gender. Women and younger Canadians are more concerned about climate change. And those demographics are also more likely to understand that climate change is caused by human activities.

### Who’s to blame? Depends who you are.

“Climate change is mostly caused by human activities”



Leger 2023c

## Political divide

Political leanings are one of the biggest divides among Canadians. Conservative voters report much lower concern about climate change and less support for climate policies. Canadians who voted Conservative in the last federal election express very different beliefs about climate impacts than those who voted for other parties, such as whether wildfires are linked to climate change.

For example, just 7 per cent of past Conservative voters named climate change as one of their top 3 concerns in 2023, compared to about 40 per cent of people who voted for one of the other parties (Angus Reid, 2023g)

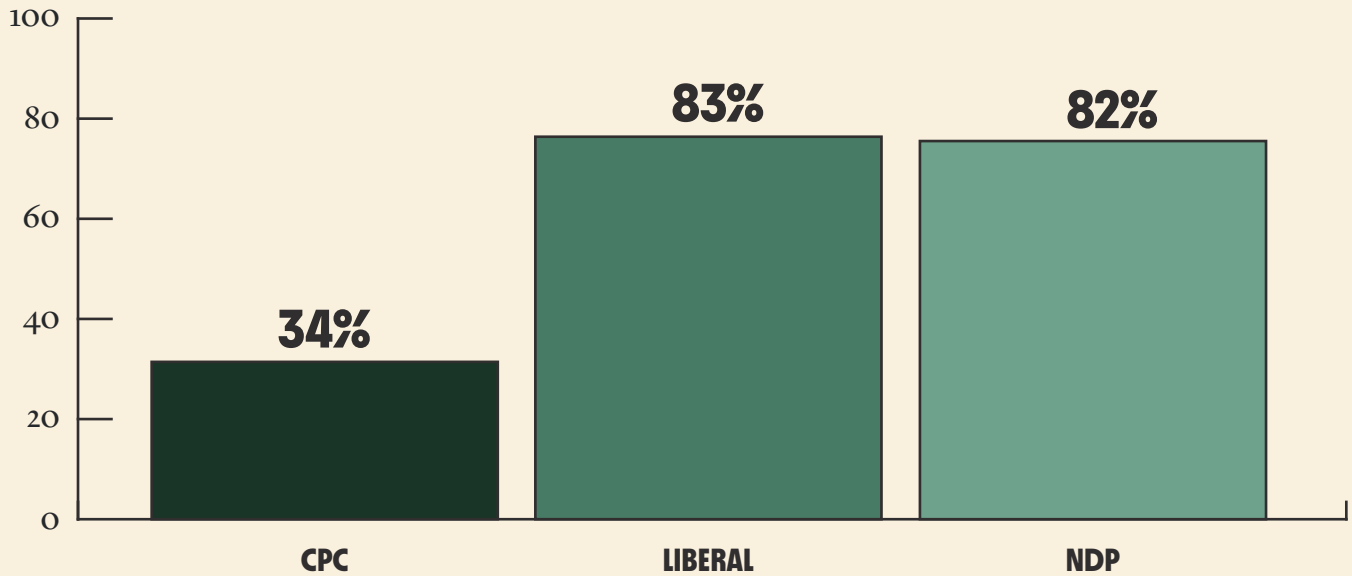
On the question of urgency, 83 per cent of past Liberal voters agree “climate change is a crisis and we need to act quickly.” Only one-third of Conservative voters feel the same way.

When it comes to the cause of climate change impacts, like wildfires, Canadians are even more polarized. Where 80 per cent of Liberal voters believe the 2023 wildfires were “directly linked to climate change,” barely one-quarter of Conservative voters agree the two are linked (Angus Reid, 2023i).



## Political divide: climate crisis

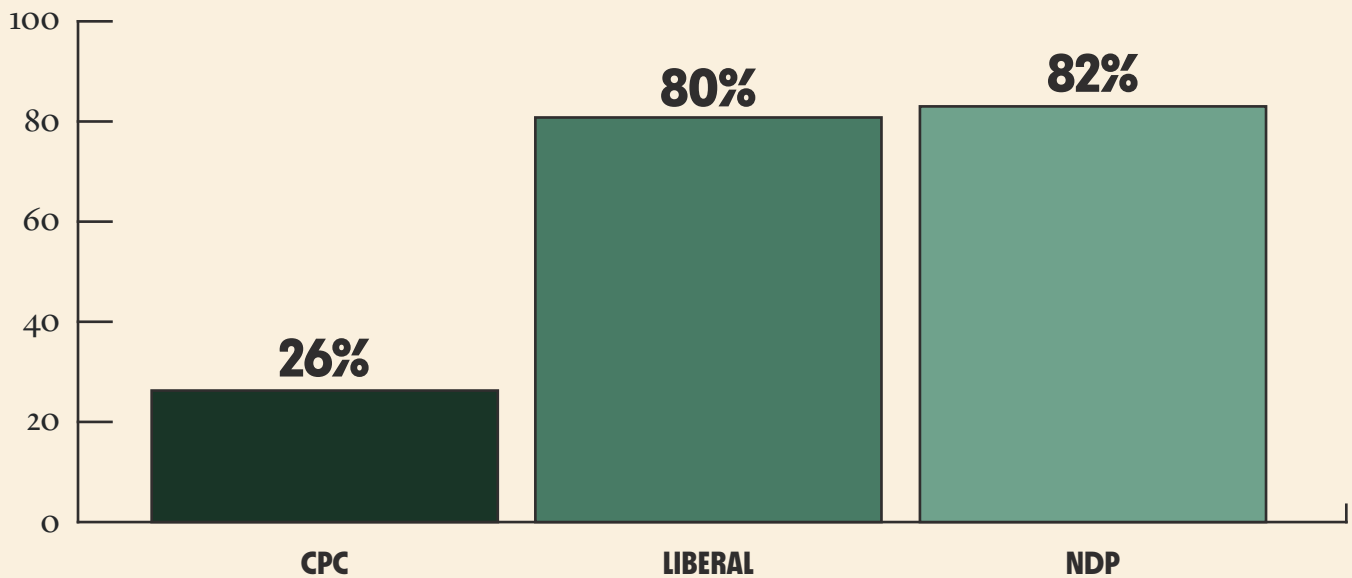
“Climate change is a crisis and we need to act quickly.”



Angus Reid Institute 2023i

## Political divide: wildfires

“These wildfires are directly linked to climate change.”



Angus Reid Institute 2023i



# OPINIONS ABOUT ENERGY

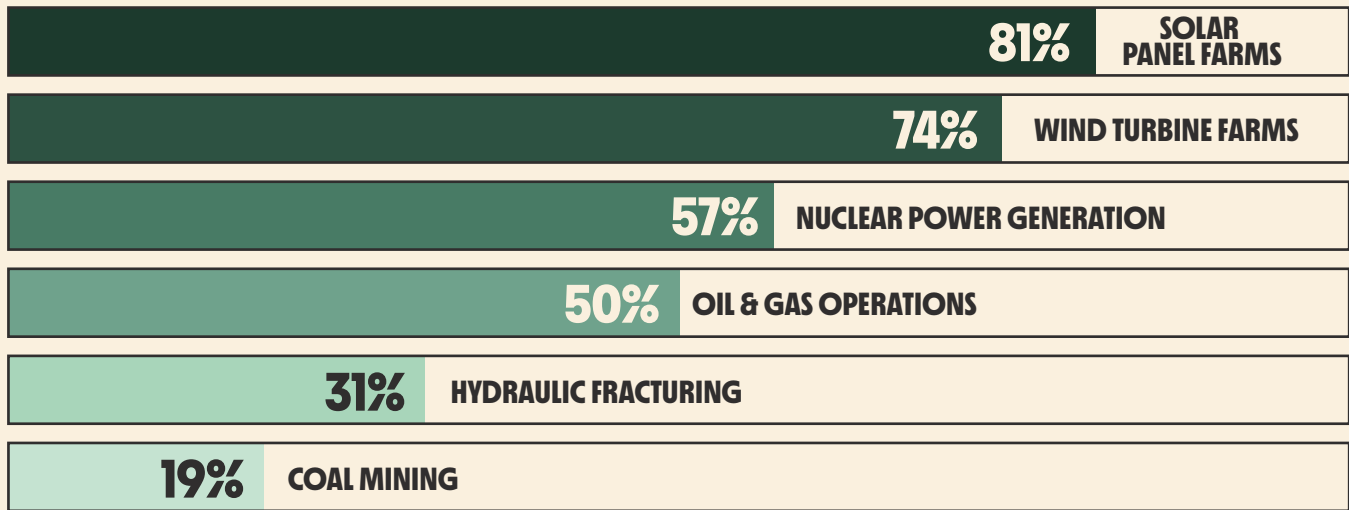


September 17, 2023: Premier of Alberta, Danielle Smith speaks during the 24th World Petroleum Congress Opening Ceremony at the Telus Convention Center in Calgary, Alberta on September 17, 2023. Over 5,000 delegates from 100+ countries gathered in Calgary for the 24th World Petroleum Congress.  
PHOTO BY ARTUR WIDAK/NURPHOTO VIA AP

**Canadians are very supportive of expanding renewables like solar and wind power—and there are strong levels of support across political and demographic divides.**

Expanding clean energy is significantly more popular than fossil fuels but a large majority believes that oil and gas will continue to be important into the future.

## Canadians' support for expanding different types of energy



Angus Reid Institute 2023b

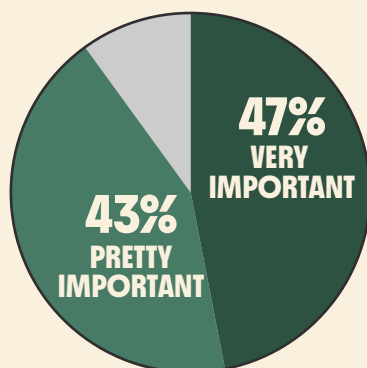
## Vision of the future

Canadians think oil and gas will be important to Canada's future economy but they believe the clean energy sector is becoming even more important.

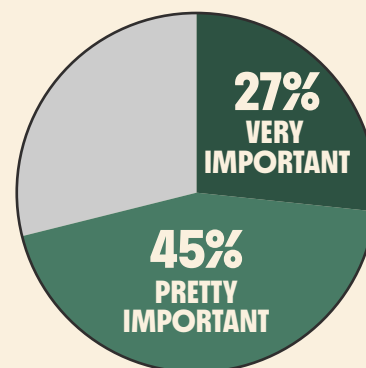
Ninety per cent of the public think the clean energy sector will be "very important" or "pretty important" to the Canadian economy in 10 years. By contrast, 71 per cent say the same about the oil and gas sector.

The standard political divide applies around questions on the importance of oil and gas in the future, but voters are fairly united in their perception of the importance of the clean energy sector. Among past Conservative voters, 84 per cent say the sector will be very important (39 per cent) or pretty important (45 per cent) to Canada's future economy (Abacus, 2023e).

### Vision of the future



"In 10 years, how important would the **clean energy sector** be?"



"In 10 years, how important would the **oil and gas sector** be?"

Abacus Data 2023e

Battery manufacturing announcements are a litmus test for perceptions of the energy transition and the public opinion results show they are seen as proof the transition can be economically beneficial. Two-thirds of Canadians say the new battery plants and EV factories are evidence the transition to clean energy can benefit Canada’s economy.

Twice as many Canadians see the announcements as being positive for the economy and job creation than view them skeptically: 68 per cent to 32 per cent (Abacus Data, 2023h).

## Keeping pace in clean energy

There is a growing recognition that the energy transition is happening globally and Canadians definitely want to keep up with other countries.

For example, an overwhelming majority (83 per cent) believe the U.S. Inflation Reduction Act has made it important for Canada to boost investments in clean industry and develop its own industrial policy to spur the sector.

Support is extraordinarily high for keeping up with the U.S. on clean energy investments, especially among past NDP and Liberal voters (97 per cent and 93 per cent) but two-thirds of Conservative voters also agree, as do three-quarters of Albertans (Abacus Data, 2023d).

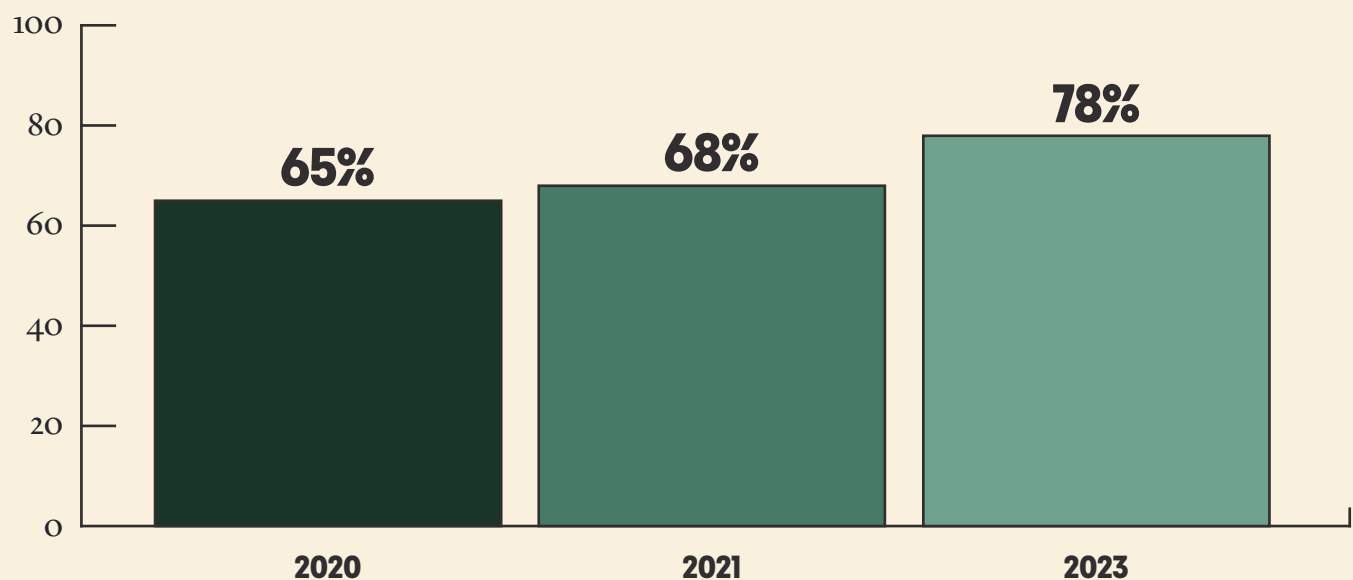
A large majority of Canadians agree the country needs to act now and be ready so the country will be prepared for a drop in global fossil fuel demand, rather than being passive (“wait and see”). This “readiness” frame is supported by 72 per cent of the Canadian public, including 62 per cent of Albertans (EcoAnalytics/EnviroNics, 2022).

## Importance of oil and gas

Although renewables and the clean energy sector are popular, the public has come to see fossil fuels as increasingly important to the economy over the past few years. And two-thirds of Canadians agree that Canadian exports can contribute to combatting global climate change.

Almost 80 per cent now say oil and gas are important to the Canadian economy, up from 65 per cent in 2020 (Nanos Research, 2023f).

### Oil and gas important for economy



NanosResearch 2023f

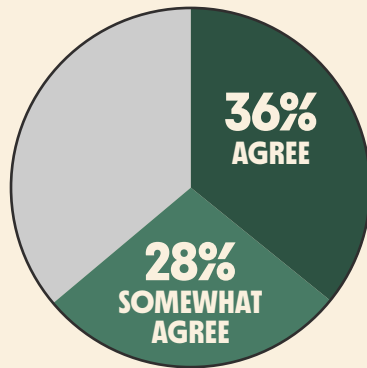


On the question of reducing greenhouse gas emissions around the world, industry frequently argues that Canadian exports can wean other countries off coal. That argument appears to be compelling.

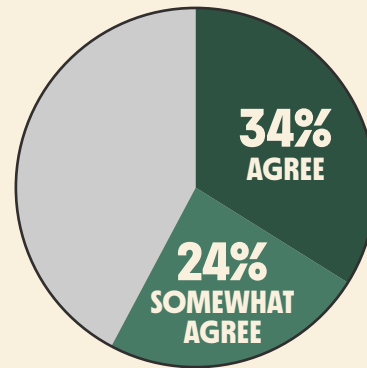
Two-thirds of the public agree (entirely or somewhat) that Canadian exports of oil and gas can help combat climate change.

And 58 per cent think Canada should expand oil and gas exports to help the world have more secure energy supplies (Nanos Research, 2023f).

## Exporting energy



“Canada’s oil and gas sector can contribute to combating global climate change.”



“Canada should expand oil and gas exports to help the world have more secure energy supplies.”

*NanosResearch 2023f*

## Support for “natural” gas

Natural gas has an enviable marketing advantage with the word “natural” in the name. It is much more popular than other fossil fuels, like coal or oil.

For example, even though most Canadians say they want to green the grid, natural gas has significant support in electricity generation.

Survey results all show a strong majority are supportive or willing to accept natural gas plants for electricity, with very small percentages opposed. About three-quarters of Canadians are on board with natural gas for electricity in general and 67 per cent support building new natural gas generating capacity (Ipsos, 2023d).

The marketing power of the word “natural” appears to be playing a major role in attitudes. Although they are the same product, “natural gas” is much more popular than “hydraulic fracturing” (fracking) or “fossil gas.”

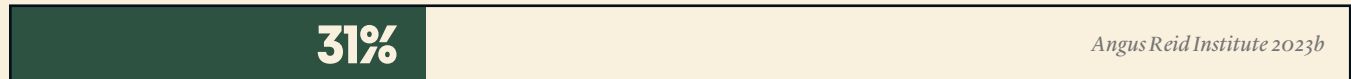
In one survey, the same respondents were almost twice as supportive of “natural gas” compared to “fossil gas” (Abacus Data, 2023e).

## Name that gas

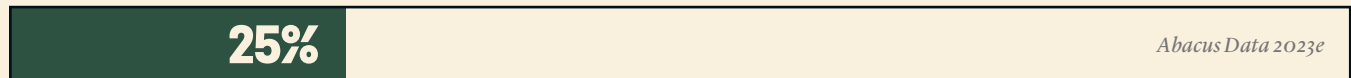
Support power generation using “natural gas”



Support expanding “hydraulic fracturing”



Support power generation using “fossil gas”



## A note about nuclear

Nuclear power has gained some support and its supporters are now a majority. Survey results show 55 to 57 per cent of Canadians agree with the use of nuclear energy. Although not a huge majority, it’s almost twice the percentage that voice opposition to nuclear power. Support is highest in the two provinces that currently operate nuclear plants (three in Ontario and one in New Brunswick).

Two-thirds of Ontarians (66 per cent) support nuclear power in general while 74 per cent say they support refurbishing aging plants and 62 per cent say they would support the construction of new nuclear power plants.

There has been significant public discussion about small modular reactors (SMRs) but there is currently not enough public opinion data to conclude whether these are perceived differently than traditional nuclear plants.

But there is evidence that nuclear power is seen as a low-carbon energy source with benefits. One polling firm found that 62 per cent of Canadians agree that nuclear energy can help Canada meet its climate change goals (Ipsos, 2023d).



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## **DRAFT: Proposal to use the remainder of annual budget on information session about Green Development Standards**

Submitted to the November, 2024 meeting of the Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee (ESACAC)

Prepared by Brendon Samuels, Chair

### **Executive summary**

This report proposes to use up the remaining \$500 in the ESACAC annual budget to hold an information session with guest speakers in December, 2024 related to Green Development Standards. The advisory committee may request budget expenditures in alignment with the [General Policy for Advisory Committees](#), section 4.11 Expenditures by Advisory Committees, which includes Council-approved events (e.g. speaker’s gifts, refreshments, etc. for open houses and workshops).

### **Background**

In January 2024, civic administration [was directed by Council](#) to prepare a report on the feasibility of Green Development Standards (also known as Green Development Guidelines). The motion passed by Council included “*d) the Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to review the legislative framework and municipal best practices to adopt a bylaw through section 97.1 of the Municipal Act to implement sustainable building construction features, including but not limited to, energy efficiency, water conservation and green roofs, and report back to Council with options and recommendations, including identifying any required Official Plan, Zoning Bylaw and Site Plan Control Bylaw amendments, and “e) the Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to report back to Council within Q3 2024 with a short update regarding the scope and timeline of the Green Development Guidelines and Green Parking Lot Guidelines, and the above items.”* The timeline given in clause e) was revised and the report is expected to be presented to the Planning and Environment Committee by the end of the first quarter of 2025.

From a community advisory committee perspective, the quality of advice that we provide to City Council with respect to [our mandate](#) could benefit from the committee’s membership improving its understanding of Green Development Standards, including the process for their development and implementation.

Numerous other jurisdictions in Ontario previously created and adopted Green Development Standards. This information will be captured at a high level by the staff report, within the parameters outlined in the above Council motion. For the ESACAC to be able to meaningfully assess the feasibility of measures that may be proposed for London’s future Green Development Standards, such as consideration of their affordability, design alternatives and enforceability, it would be helpful to provide members with an opportunity to learn from and ask questions of subject matter experts who are familiar with the ongoing implementation of similar standards in other municipalities.



## **Justification**

I am proposing to use the remainder of the ESACAC annual budget to cover costs associated with hosting an information session in December, 2024 including honoraria for 2 or 3 invited guest speakers. The amounts for the honoraria will be set at \$200 (\$400 total) or \$150 (\$450 total) depending on the number of confirmed speakers. The remaining \$50 or \$100 will be used to purchase refreshments for in-person participants at this session.

I previously corresponded with relevant staff about this proposal, and described it during my delegation as ESACAC Chair at the Civic Works Committee on October 22. No conflicts were raised.

I propose to schedule this session to coincide with the timing of the next scheduled ESACAC meeting on Wednesday December 4, 2024 at 4:30 pm. The 60-90 minute session will be open to the public (as are all ESACAC meetings) as well as invited stakeholders from the local development industry and members of Council. This will appear as the first scheduled item on the committee's agenda. The session will be held using a hybrid format on Zoom following the usual procedure facilitated by the civic administration with speakers participating remotely. Attendance in-person by members of ESACAC is encouraged but not expected. The session will be recorded and shared with the committee afterwards so that it may be circulated more widely in the community and provide an educational reference to support future public consultation opportunities related to Green Development Standards.

I will contact the invited speakers immediately pending the approval of this budget request by the ESACAC, and their honoraria will be confirmed pending approval by Council. I will contact Ontario-based organizations with expertise on Green Development Standards including but not limited to: [Sustainability Solutions Group](#), [The Planning Partnership](#) and [Clean Air Partnership](#). I have already identified suitable contacts at each of these organizations.

## **Draft motion for consideration**

Whereas the ESACAC held a discussion with respect to the remainder of the 2024 committee budget;

Be it resolved that the ESACAC REQUESTS to spend up to \$500 from its budget on speaker's gifts for an information session about Green Development Standards to be held virtually during the December 4 meeting of the committee;

Be it further resolved that the civic administration BE REQUESTED to record this session using Zoom and share the recording afterwards with members of the committee.

Be it further resolved that the civic administration BE REQUESTED to attach this report to the November meeting report from the ESACAC to be submitted to the Civic Works Committee.