

TACOMA CLIMATE ACTION PLAN



SECTION 7, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

TACOMA CLIMATE ACTION PLAN



Section 7 — PHASE I

PHASE I COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In response to City Council Resolution No. 40509 declaring a climate emergency in Tacoma and Resolution No. 40622 calling for anti-racist systems transformation, the [climate action planning process](#) aims to center historically underrepresented and underserved community voices towards a comprehensive climate action plan update to the 2016 Environmental Action Plan.

In partnership with Citizens for a Healthy Bay (CHB), we have developed a phased approach to community engagement for the climate action planning process. As a local environmental justice non-profit organization, CHB brings expertise in the natural sciences, environmental policy, and community collaboration and advocacy.

PHASE I ENGAGEMENT PURPOSE

The first phase of community engagement focused on:

- Building and deepening local relationships and partnerships
- Empowering community excitement, expertise, and creativity
- Activating community members and partner networks
- Training and educating community members to increase community resilience and leadership
- Understanding and prioritizing the voices of communities that are underrepresented, underserved, and made vulnerable to climate change

PHASE I ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Phase I engagement activities included:

- Establishing a community Environmental Justice Leaders Workgroup (EJ Leaders) to help steer climate action planning, engagement, and Plan content development
- Collecting community input using interviews, surveys, and visioning activities
- Facilitating community Climate Ambassadors (Ambassadors) to help collect input, build relationships, and provide climate change education

PHASE I ENGAGEMENT METHODS & AUDIENCES

With help from community Climate Ambassadors, we collected community input using interviews, surveys, and visioning activities. All activities were modified to comply with Covid-19 safety concerns and were flexible to meet the needs of Ambassadors. Some of this input was gathered as part of staff presentations on Tacoma's climate impacts and Ambassador-facilitated discussions on climate change. Some was collected without broader education on climate change via emails and social media posts. Demographic data was collected through voluntary reporting to track how successfully we reached different Tacoma communities.

All community responses were read thoroughly. Key ideas were identified in the responses and then grouped into themes to find the number of times each broad theme was mentioned.

We chose to look at the responses by demographic groups of interest to ensure historically underrepresented community voices were heard. This resulted in top themes for the overall group of respondents, Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) respondents, low income (less than \$50,000/year) respondents, and youth (under 25 years of age) respondents.

PHASE I COMMUNITY INPUT THEMES

Looking at the community input collected, several top themes emerged. Most top themes received a similar percent of total responses across all demographic groups. However, specific demographic groups mentioned certain themes noticeably more or less. For example, the Barrier, Lack of access to essential services that fulfill basic needs and provide the resources to thrive, was mentioned 4% and 3% more by BIPOC and Low Income respondents respectively relative to the All respondents group.

| SUSTAINABILITY PRIORITIES | BARRIERS TO SUSTAINABILITY | COMMUNITY CONCERNS |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tacomans need access to urban green spaces and forests to recreate, recharge and mitigate climate impacts • We need a healthy ecosystem free of pollution to protect human and nature welfare • We need low carbon and active transportation systems to meet our climate action goals and connect our city • All Tacoma residents need the security of housing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of support for government leadership and influence from special interest groups • Current social norms and values that do not prioritize sustainability and care • Lack of access to essential services that fulfill basic needs and provide the resources to thrive • Lack of incentives for businesses to adopt sustainable practices and take responsibility for their environmental impact | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am concerned about inequity and injustice in the community • I am concerned about homelessness and access to housing • I am concerned about pollution in the community and the health of our ecosystem • I am concerned about climate change impacts and the impact of fossil fuel industries on our community |

DATA ANALYSIS CONSIDERATIONS

Phase I community input collection emphasized relationship-building and the depth and quality of input over quantity. This initial engagement serves as a building block for stronger partnerships and participation from our EJ Leaders, Ambassadors, and other community members during Phase II.

We leveraged the social networks of Ambassadors, EJ Leaders, and partners to reach community members we usually do not hear from. We also heard more broadly from the Tacoma community through social media posts, newsletters, and emails to community members. Though we heard from a diverse group of respondents and attempted to prioritize hearing from our historically underserved and underrepresented groups in Tacoma, the input we collected was not accurately representative of Tacoma citywide demographics nor was it analyzed for statistical significance.

LESSONS AS WE APPROACH PHASE II

Phase II (February – June 2021) will focus on developing strategies and actions to meet our

climate goals and serve anti-racism. We will need to continue building new relationships and deepening existing relationships with community leaders, community groups, and partner organizations. With demographic data from Phase I in mind, we plan to focus our efforts to hear from more diverse communities. Among other strategies, we plan to lead more workshops hosted by partners and Ambassadors, leveraging our engagement and subject matter expertise and their social networks. We are also considering casual staff hours-style mini-events and more one-on-one interviews. The depth and quality of input from our EJ Leaders will continue to be valuable.

CONCLUSIONS

We successfully engaged a diverse group of Tacoma community members and partners during Phase I, built new connections, and fostered community climate literacy. What we heard reinforces past community calls for an intersectional climate action plan that serves social justice and improves access to basic needs, community health, and ecosystem function for the benefit of both current and future generations. Developing strategies and actions in a robust and equitable Plan to meet this vision will require flexibility and adaptation to meet community needs and engage authentically, particularly with underrepresented and underserved communities.

BACKGROUND

The City of Tacoma (City) defines sustainability as “the City and its citizens meet current needs without compromising the needs of future generations, such that environmental, social, cultural, and economic considerations are balanced and integrated in a day-to-day, decision-making manner” (Resolution 38247). In line with this definition and envisioning an equitable, healthy, and vibrant community for all, the City has taken action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions for a sustainable future.

In 2008, the City developed its first Climate Action Plan. This Plan committed Tacoma to reducing its community-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 80% from 1990 levels by 2050, in line with the reduction goals stated in the international Kyoto Protocol. In 2016, the Environmental Action Plan (EAP) replaced the Climate Action Plan. The EAP outlined nearly 70 actions to implement across six sectors of sustainability through 2020. Sustainability sectors included buildings and energy, transportation, materials management, natural systems, air and local food, and climate resiliency. Beside their climate and environmental impacts, actions were vetted for a mix of co-benefits- their additional benefits to community needs like social equity, health, affordability, and the local economy. The City of Tacoma and Tacoma Public Utilities were responsible for leading implementation in collaboration with partner organizations and community members. Annual reports tracked progress across actions. On December 31, 2020, the EAP expired. Expert analysis concludes that, accounting for action taken through 2020 and projecting out to 2050, taking no new actions would lead to only a 14% reduction in Tacoma’s GHG emissions based on 1990 levels.

To replace the EAP and determine a path for climate action that achieves a climate-safe and socially just future for Tacoma, the City has collaborated with local partners and community members. Across a three-phase, year-long planning process from September 2020 – September 2021, the City will coordinate development of a new climate action plan and community engagement:

Table 1. Outline of climate action planning timeline and main objectives.

| PHASE | ACTIONS | TIMELINE |
|-------|--|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Understanding Community Priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect baseline data • Model carbon pollution emissions | September 2020 - January 2021 |
| 2 | Strategy and Action Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify technical opportunities, community benefits | February - June 2021 |
| 3 | Plan Release and Adoption <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Center equity in Plan • Deliver ambitious and achievable draft plan | July - September 2021 |

PHASE I COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

The purpose of Phase I engagement was to build and deepen community relationships and partnerships, activate and train community climate leaders, and understand community sustainability priorities, barriers, and concerns. We also wanted to prioritize and uplift the voices of communities that are historically underrepresented, underserved, and made vulnerable to climate impacts.

For Phase I of community engagement, the City pursued an approach that:

- **Adapted engagement safely to the COVID-19 pandemic**, moving engagement online
- **Leveraged the energy, creativity, and connections of community participants**
- **Emphasized quality** by focusing participation from **frontline communities**, building relationships, and seeking greater depth in community input
- **Promoted equity** by compensating frontline community members who participated and connected their social networks to this process
- **Deployed a mix of engagement methods**, including new partnerships, presentations, visioning activities, interviews, surveys, social media, and one-to-one outreach

In support of this engagement approach, the City contracted with [Citizens for a Healthy Bay](#) (CHB) to recruit and support community member participation. Citizens for a Healthy Bay is a local environmental justice non-profit organization with expertise in the natural sciences, environmental policy, and community collaboration and advocacy. Community participants served in two compensated roles: Climate Ambassadors (Ambassadors) and the Environmental Justice Leaders Workgroup (EJ Leaders).

During Phase I, we endeavored to use linguistically- and culturally-accessible communications and engagement methods, including translation and interpretation services to recruit and support participants. Community participants, called Climate Ambassadors, helped gather input on community priorities and concerns from members of their social network, also educating community members about local climate impacts and planning efforts. We also recruited a group of community members to serve as an Environmental Justice Leaders Workgroup to learn about and make recommendations for Tacoma's climate action planning process. They began meeting monthly in October 2020 and are working towards writing a chapter of the final Plan.

Both community participant roles serve to center frontline communities' needs and interests. We describe frontline communities as those that tend to experience inequity in multiple ways, whether being historically underrepresented, underserved, or made vulnerable; experiencing lower quality of life outcomes before COVID-19; or now experiencing worse impacts from the COVID-19 economic and health crisis. Frontline communities also include those expected to experience the first and worst consequences of climate damage. Frontline community members include individuals from one or more of the following backgrounds:

- Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC)
- Speak English as a second language
- Living with a low household income
- Ages 16-26
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersexed, Asexual, including those questioning their gender identity or sexual orientation (LGBTQIA+)
- Living with three or more generations in one home
- Living with more than one family in one home
- Living with a disability
- Immigrant or refugee
- Experiencing homelessness
- Completed formal education less than or up to a high school/GED level

COVID-19 CONSIDERATIONS

It is important to recognize that the climate action planning process was delayed several months due to the Covid-19 pandemic and Phase I engagement took place during a time of great stress for our community. We adapted all community engagement to adhere with Covid-19 safety regulations, moving all training and Workgroup meetings online and developing flexible engagement tools that could be used online or, much less frequently, safely in-person. It was challenging to build relationships virtually and to engage frontline communities most affected by the pandemic, the resulting recession, and with varying levels of internet access. To support our community participants, we offered additional training times, opportunities to catch-up on training and meeting content one-on-one, and were flexible with participants' contributions to make sure they were able to engage at the level that worked best for them. We also sought to address cost-barriers to people's participation. Though it is not equivalent to a stable income, we are grateful to have been able to provide frontline community participants with a stipend for their contributions to the planning process. Non-frontline community members and those connected to Tacoma but living and working outside Pierce County were also welcome to participate but were not eligible for stipends.

PHASE 1 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT METHODS & PARTICIPANTS

RECRUITMENT METHODS

Staff used a variety of methods to recruit EJ Leaders and Ambassadors from established and new social networks with the help of other City staff and partner organizations. Social networks were activated or established with the goal to engage frontline communities. Messaging emphasized a focus on environmental justice and highlighted compensation for frontline community members. Methods were virtual in compliance with Covid-19 safety requirements. Online engagement methods included emails, phone calls, e-newsletters, social media posts and direct messaging, City webpages, and application tools like Survey Monkey. Physical applications were offered and used in some cases. Language access relied on the City website's translation application and more generally a user's computer or mobile device translation application. Translation and interpretation services were also offered by request for application or other materials.

ENGAGEMENT TOOLS

Staff and community participants gathered community input through visioning activities, surveys, and interviews. These engagement tools asked community members to imagine Tacoma in the future, identify individual and community priorities, and barriers to progress. In their simplest formats, these tools included the following content:

VISIONING ACTIVITY FORMAT

The year is 2030. The place I live has _____.

To get home from my job, I _____.

In 2020, _____ was an issue in Tacoma.

Now that has changed because _____.

In 2030, I finally get to _____, because _____.

SURVEY QUESTIONS

When you imagine a sustainable Tacoma, what comes to mind?

What could keep us from getting there?

What are some concerns you have living in this community?

Thinking about Tacoma and our region, what climate change impacts are you most concerned about?

What would make it easier for you and others in the community to participate in the climate justice action planning update process?

Any other thoughts/questions/comments?

SELECTED INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

What do you think is going well in Tacoma right now?

What do you hope will be better in the future?

What are you most concerned about when you think about the future of the City or your neighborhood?

How does ____ issue impact you?

How do you think ____ issue can be overcome?

In the next 5 – 10 years, what do you think we can accomplish in Tacoma?

Each engagement tool included demographic questions for staff to broadly track whether we are reaching a diverse group of participants and adjust methods if necessary.

Staff and community participants involved in engagement were trained in the use of these tools.

Generally, staff sought to develop new processes, visit new venues, and empower new relationships to reach a more diverse audience than typically engaged through City planning efforts. These community participants and venues are detailed below:

CLIMATE AMBASSADORS

Climate Ambassadors serve to connect their social networks to our planning process. We received 39 Ambassador applications during recruitment and accepted all eligible applicants as well as EJ Leader applicants who were not selected for the EJ Leader role. This resulted in an initial group of 46 community members accepting an Ambassador role. Of this group, 33 Ambassadors completed all training and 19 Ambassadors were able complete Phase I engagement by gathering community input and educating community members about local climate impacts, planning efforts, and implemented actions.

Ambassadors used a mix of engagement approaches that reflected their strengths and relationships. While each could use City-developed engagement tools, they were encouraged to engage with family, friends, or neighbors safely and creatively. Some participants called old college friends, others talked to family across town, and still others organized COVID-safe community events or aid deliveries to share information and gather input.

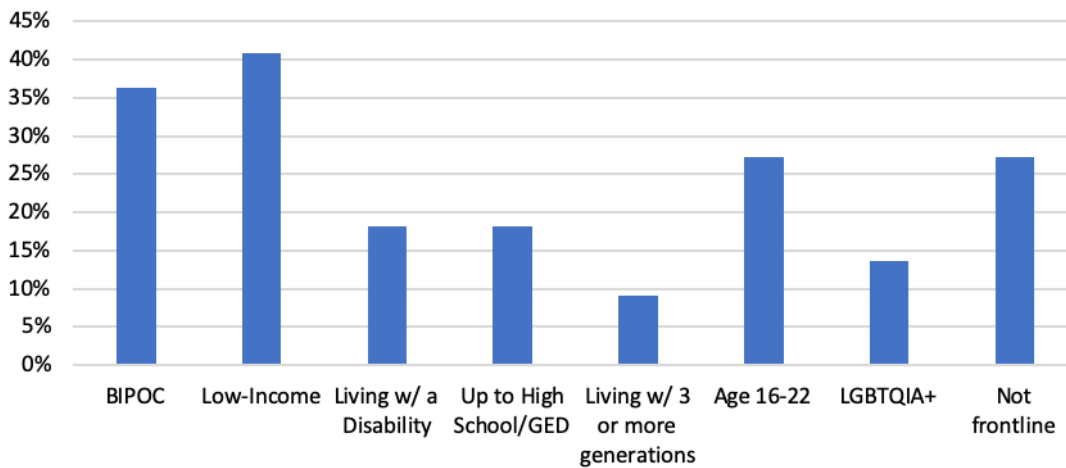


Figure 1. Demographic summary of Ambassadors who participated in collecting community input from their social networks and outreach.

Lessons from Phase I training and implementation activities will be leveraged in Phase II of Ambassador engagement as community priorities are turned into strategies and actions. Phase I Ambassadors will be invited to participate in Phase II, building from their success and relationships.

Beyond the input that Ambassadors facilitate through Phases I and II of the planning process, staff hope that their participation fosters appreciation, awareness, and involvement in future local environmental justice work.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE LEADERS WORKGROUP

Ten local Environmental Justice Leaders from frontline communities serve on our advisory Workgroup throughout the planning process to make recommendations for both engagement activities as well as strategies and actions that will go into the Plan. They will contribute content to the final Plan, including writing a unique chapter, equitable GHG reduction actions, and any other recommendations as they see fit. Their overall purpose is to advise the City on bold climate actions that meet the needs and interests of frontline communities.

Our 10 EJ Leaders were selected from an applicant pool of 41 and all identify as frontline community members. While Phase I work with the EJ Leaders focused on group development, training, and context-building, Phase II will involve regular recommendations from the Workgroup to staff about content to put into the draft Plan. For example, content includes guiding principles, strategies, and actions.

Beyond the adoption of a new Plan, staff hope that this process promotes two-way learning, new relationships, and empowers a cohort of local environmental justice leaders.

To ensure all EJ Leaders are able to participate equally in meetings and engage with meeting materials, we have been translating documents and have contracted with a local interpreter to assist one member who primarily speaks Spanish.

PRESENTATIONS TO CITY COMMITTEES, BOARDS, AND COMMISSIONS

We visited 13 City of Tacoma committees, boards, and commissions during Phase I to gather member input on community needs and interests. These community advisory bodies seek to reflect a breadth of stakeholders and make recommendations to staff and City Council about various topics. Often, members are well-connected through various organizational or community relationships, and beyond providing their individual input also served as a means to reach other social networks.

SOCIAL MEDIA OUTREACH

We leveraged various City and partner organization social media accounts to reach more community members. These included accounts on Facebook and Instagram administered by Tacoma Environmental Services, Tacoma Sustainability, and Citizens for a Healthy Bay, among others. Seven Facebook posts and five Instagram posts were created and shared from Tacoma Sustainability accounts and then subsequently re-shared by partner accounts. Engaging through paid social media posts was hindered substantially by budget constraints and social media policies active at the time of our engagement campaign.

Our highest performing post is featured below and was the only one shared to the Tacoma Government Facebook page. It featured language about social justice, climate justice, and community voice. The post reached 3,145 Facebook users, generated 69 link clicks (to the Story visioning activity), and was shared by 17 accounts. The other six Facebook posts averaged a reach of 350 users, 4 link clicks, and 3 shares per post. Our five Instagram posts reached an average of 252 users, 11 interactions, and 5 shares per post.

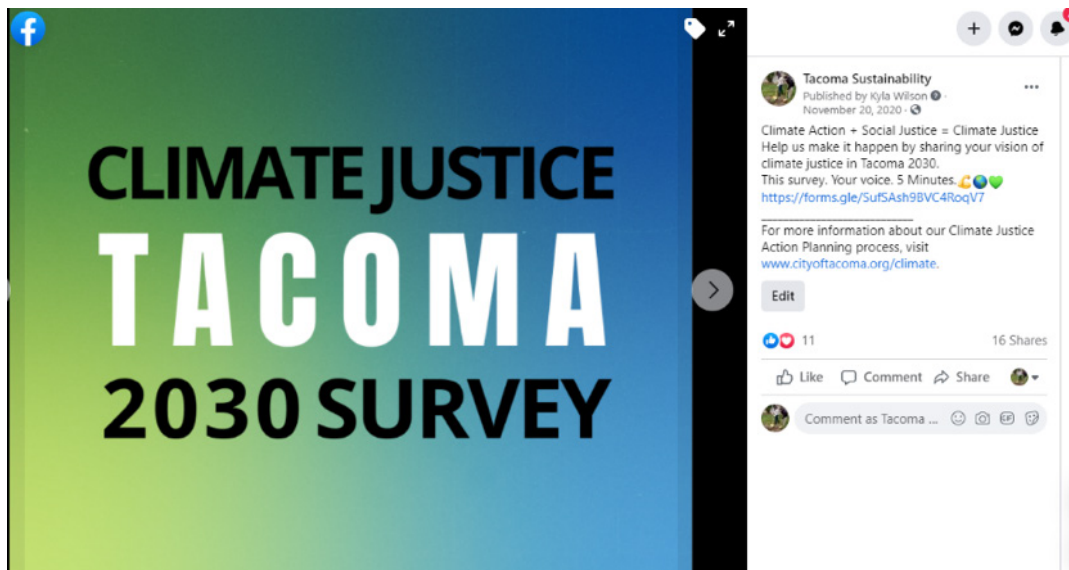


Figure 2. The social media post most shared and most successful at generating link clicks to the Story Activity

COMMUNITY INPUT & ANALYSIS PROCESS

Community engagement methods resulted in over 450 responses about community sustainability priorities, barriers to progress on sustainability issues, and general community concerns.

Community input will be used to:

- Prioritize actions and strategies for emission reductions based on community support and concern
- Identify actions and strategies that are important to all aspects of an equitable plan and our planning process but are not captured in the sector-based technical scope of climate actions
- Inform the EJ Leaders Workgroup’s Guiding Principles for when they write a section of the Climate Action Plan
- Inform other City plans and policies that fall outside the scope of the Climate Action Plan

PHASE I ENGAGEMENT RESULTS OVERVIEW

Leveraging the connections and knowledge of our community Ambassadors, EJ Leaders, and community members serving the City on committees, boards, and commissions, we collected input from 458 participants. While the format of each engagement tool varied, the majority of responses collected fell within three categories of response: Sustainability Priorities, Barriers to Sustainability, and Community Concerns.

Table 2. Summary of community participants involved in collecting input and the total number of responses collected using each engagement tool.

| COMMUNITY PARTICIPANTS | |
|---|----|
| Climate Ambassadors | 33 |
| Environmental Justice Leaders Workgroup | 10 |
| TOTAL | 43 |

| RESPONSES BY ENGAGEMENT TOOL | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| “Story” Community Member Visions | 321 |
| Survey Responses | 128 |
| Interview Responses | 9 |
| TOTAL | 458 |

COLLECTING AND PROCESSING INPUT

Staff collected input with the help of community participants through visioning activities, surveys, and interviews. Each response was read thoroughly by a Staff person. While reading, staff developed a list of keywords to tag each response with, adapting the list of keywords to capture the meaning of each response in detail. This resulted in a total count of how many times each keyword was brought up by respondents. Related keywords were then grouped into broader themes. Total mentions of each theme were then compared across different demographic breakdowns.

Individual responses looked like:

- **Story Response 277:** In 2030 I finally get "to ride the light rail to Seattle" because "we funded transit."

- **Story Response 100:** In 2030 I finally get to "Not worry about my health and safety as the water and air is clean."
- **Survey Response 29:** "This community doesn't have a robust way to care for or anyone who is on the verge of poverty or mental health care for anyone living on the margins/vulnerable."

Here is an example of tagging individual responses with keywords and identifying themes:

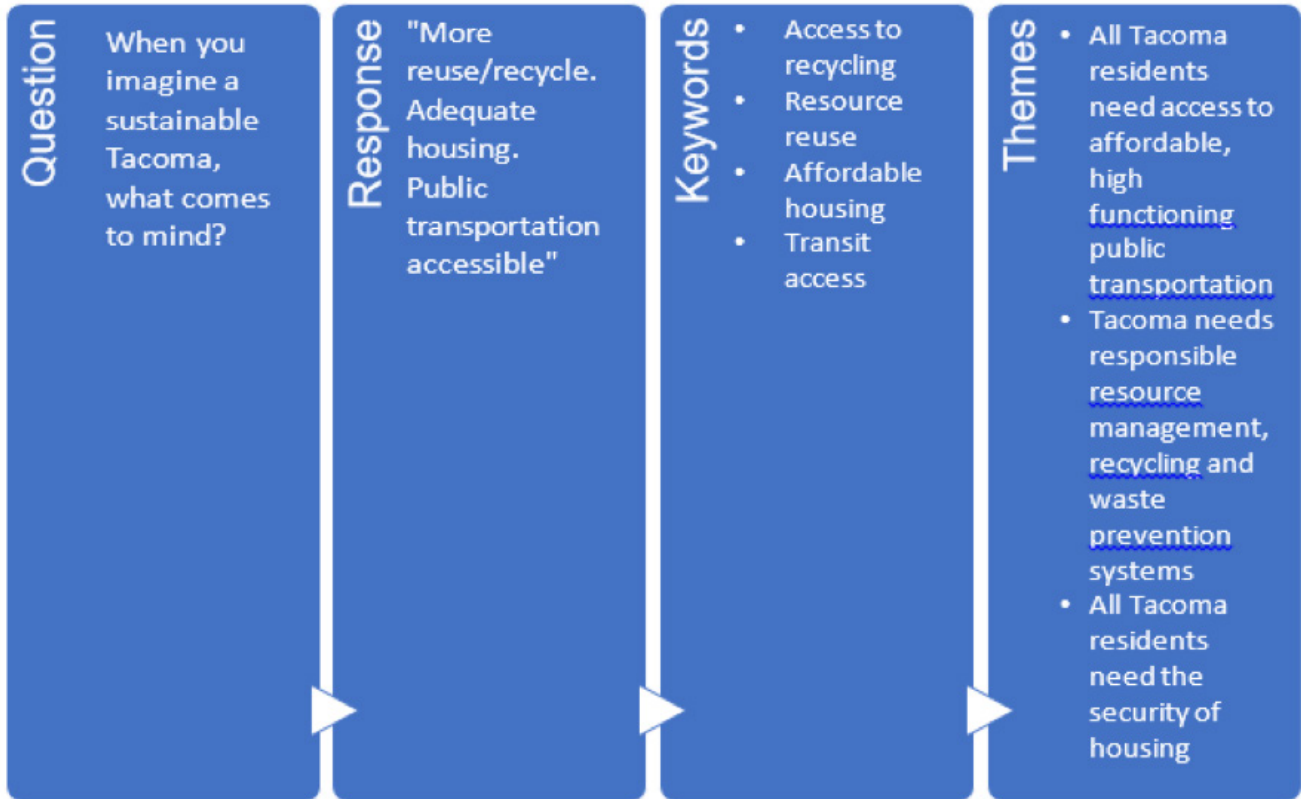


Figure 3. Flowchart of grouping community input results from Survey questions, Story answers, and Interviews into themes.

In this example, the question “When you imagine a sustainable Tacoma, what comes to mind?” asks the respondent about their sustainability priorities. Their response mentions access to recycling and resource reuse which fall into the broader theme: Tacoma needs responsible resource management, recycling and waste prevention systems.

The themes emerging from responses to Survey question 1 (When you imagine a sustainable Tacoma, what comes to mind?), Story answer 1 (The year is 2030. The place I live has _____), and Story answer 4 (Now that has changed because _____) as well as relevant Interview responses were grouped together into the Sustainability Priorities category. Themes from Survey question 2 (What could keep us from getting there?) and Interview responses make up the Barriers to Sustainability category. The final category, Community Concerns, includes the themes from Survey question 3 (What are some concerns you have living in this community?), Story answer 3 (In 2020, _____ was an issue in Tacoma.), and Interview responses.

Results from Story answer 2 (To get home from my job, I _____) and Survey question 4 (Thinking about Tacoma and our region, what climate change impacts are you most concerned

about?) were analyzed separate to avoid over emphasizing transportation related themes in Sustainability Priorities and climate change impacts in Community Concerns.

Results from Story answers 5 and 6 were often highly personalized responses about actions respondents would like to take in 2030. Though these responses do help frame the community's vision for what life is like in 2030, they have been excluded from analysis of priorities, barriers, and concerns.

WHO WE HEARD FROM

In order to track how well we reached historically underserved, underrepresented and overburdened communities, we asked respondents several demographic questions including race/ethnicity, age, gender, household income (2019), homeownership, zip-code, and primary language spoken at home. Not all respondents chose to answer each of these demographic questions or preferred to self-describe. The following information about respondents reflect the 83% who chose to answer demographic questions.

For our analysis, we focused on our success at reaching three main groups:

- Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) communities
 - Respondents who identified as Black/African, Native American/Alaska Native, Latinx/Non-white Hispanics, Asian, Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian, Middle Eastern/North African, and/or more than one of these races/ethnicities.
- Low Income respondents
 - Respondents whose household income was less than \$50,000/year.
- Youth respondents
 - Respondents less than 25 years old.

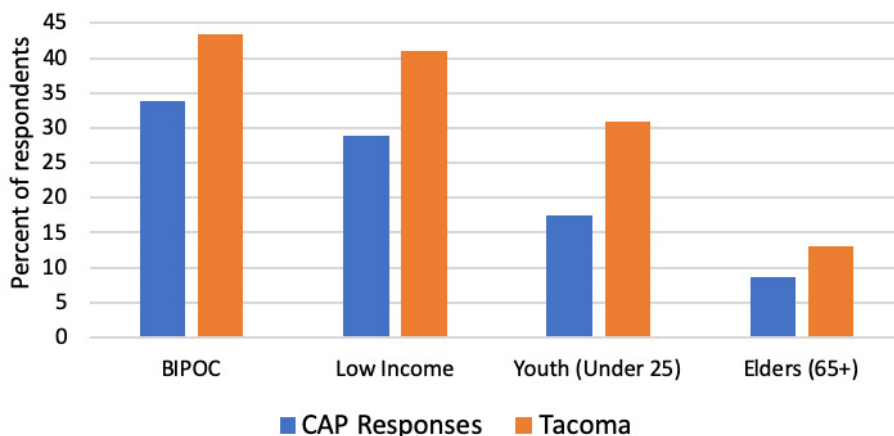


Figure 4. A summary of Climate Action Planning Respondent demographics in comparison to [Tacoma Census Projections](#).

It is important to note that we fell short of reaching a representative sample of Tacoma residents, particularly for the historically underserved groups BIPOC and Low Income. We know that the Covid-19 pandemic and recession is particularly challenging for these communities, and it tends to be exacerbated by unequal internet access. However, the percentage of Youth we reached is skewed because the [Tacoma census data](#) Youth percent includes residents aged 0-14 who were not a focus in our input gathering. For more details on age demographics, see Figure 7.

We heard from a diverse group of Tacoma community members; however, there is room to improve our outreach to key communities of color, low income community members, and some age groups to ensure equitable climate actions and strategies for the Plan. Effective engagement of diverse, frontline communities will depend on mitigating barriers and being flexible with peoples’ capacity to participate. On the other hand, it will also be important to value qualitatively rich input from fewer, well-connected individuals and service organizations rather than high levels of participation from communities that may be experiencing extraordinary day-to-day burdens.

BIPOC COMMUNITIES

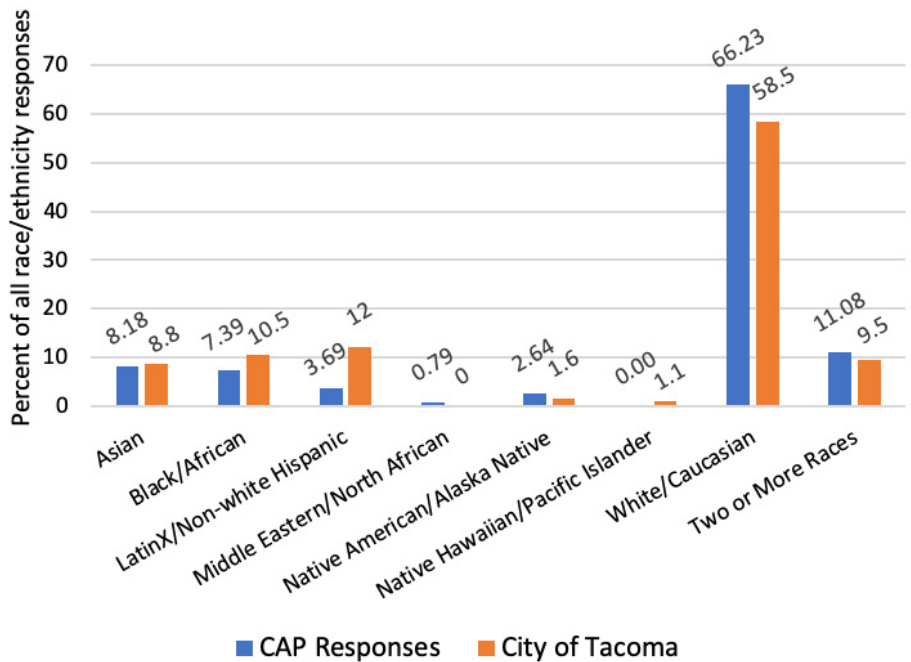


Figure 5. A complete breakdown of the 379 responses to the race/ethnicity demographic question. 17% of respondents chose not to answer or chose to self-describe. 11.1 % of respondents selected more than one race/ethnicity option. These responses are broken out in detail in Table 1.

Table 3. The total number of responses for each multi-racial/ethnic identity selected in response to the race/ethnicity demographic question.

| TWO OR MORE RACE/ETHNICITY | # OF RESPONSES |
|---|----------------|
| Asian and White | 7 |
| LatinX/Non-white Hispanic and White | 6 |
| Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian and White | 5 |
| Native American/Alaska Native and White | 4 |
| Native American/Alaska Native, LatinX/Non-white Hispanic, and White | 3 |
| Black/African, Asian, and White | 3 |
| Native American/Alaska Native and LatinX/Non-white Hispanic | 2 |
| Black/African, Middle Eastern/North African, and White | 2 |
| Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian and Black/African | 1 |
| Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian and Asian | 1 |
| Native American/Alaska Native, LatinX/Non-white Hispanic, and Black/African | 1 |
| Native American/Alaska Native and Asian | 1 |
| LatinX/Non-white Hispanic, Asian and White | 1 |
| LatinX/Non-white Hispanic and Black/African | 1 |
| Asian and Middle Eastern/North African | 1 |
| Black/African and White | 1 |
| Middle Eastern/North African and White | 1 |
| Asian, Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian, Native American/Alaska Native, LatinX/Non-white Hispanic, Black/African, and White | 1 |

Based on the race/ethnicity demographic results from Phase I, we know moving forward that we need to make more of an effort to reach BIPOC community members. Particularly, we need new strategies for reaching Tacoma’s Latinx/Non-white Hispanic community. This was the race/ethnicity with the greatest gap between our results and Tacoma census data.

LOW INCOME RESPONDENTS

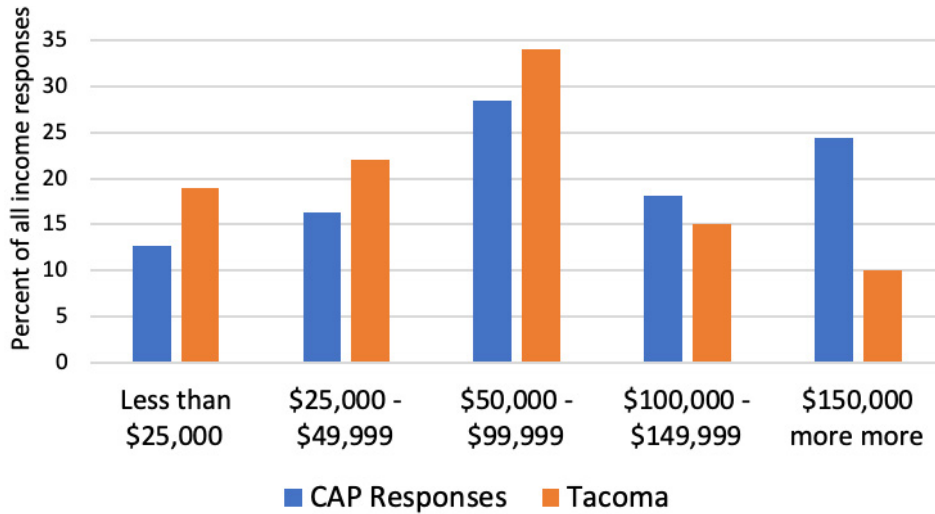


Figure 6. Responses to household income demographic question by income bracket. 17% of total respondents chose not to answer this question. The above percentages reflect only the 380 responses to this question.

Our community input results over-represent high income households. 41% of Tacoma households earn less than \$50,000 per year ([US Census Bureau, 2019](#)). Median household income is around \$62,000/year ([US Census Bureau, 2019](#)). Only 29% of Phase I climate action planning respondents had a household income less than \$50,000/year. During Phase II, we hope to reach more low income residents.

YOUTH RESPONDENTS

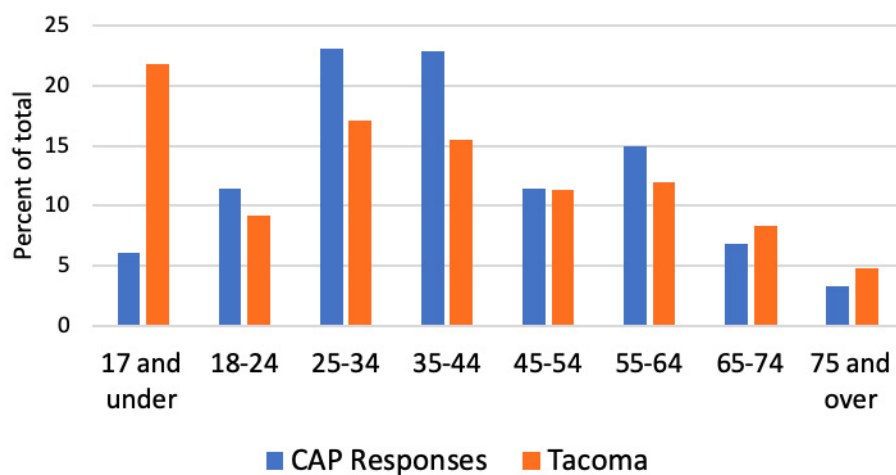


Figure 7. Responses to age demographic question by age bracket. 14% of total respondents chose not to answer this question. The above percentages reflect only the 394 respondents who answered this question.

The median age in Tacoma is 36 ([US Census Bureau, 2019](#)). The majority of our respondents were under 45 years old and most of our younger age brackets are over-represented in comparison to the Tacoma census data, except for those under 17. However, a more accurate

comparison for our respondents who answered “under 17” may be to Tacoma’s 15-17 year old population, roughly 4% of the City’s total population. While a few of our Climate Ambassadors were high school age and maybe have collected input from their peers, we did not target younger children in our data collection which are included in the Tacoma 17 and under group.

We did not hear from as many community members 65 years old and over. Elders do face more health risk as the number of extreme heat days in Tacoma rises due to climate change. Our over-representation of younger age groups may be a result of the online nature and social media focus for much of our outreach and input collection due to Covid-19 safety concerns. 92.5% of those who did respond as 65 and over are also white. Therefore, we need to reach more BIPOC elders during Phase II to better represent Tacoma.

WHAT WE HEARD

SUSTAINABILITY PRIORITIES

In this category of responses, there were 94 unique response tags grouped into 22 themes and an additional ‘other’ category for response tags that were very general (ex. improved, sustainable) or either did not relate to other response tags to be grouped or have enough responses to be featured individually. For the complete list of themes and percent of responses for each by demographic group, see Supplemental Figures, Table 1.

Generally, there was agreement between the demographic groups on priorities for achieving a sustainable Tacoma. However, there were some variations in how often priorities were mentioned by each demographic group.

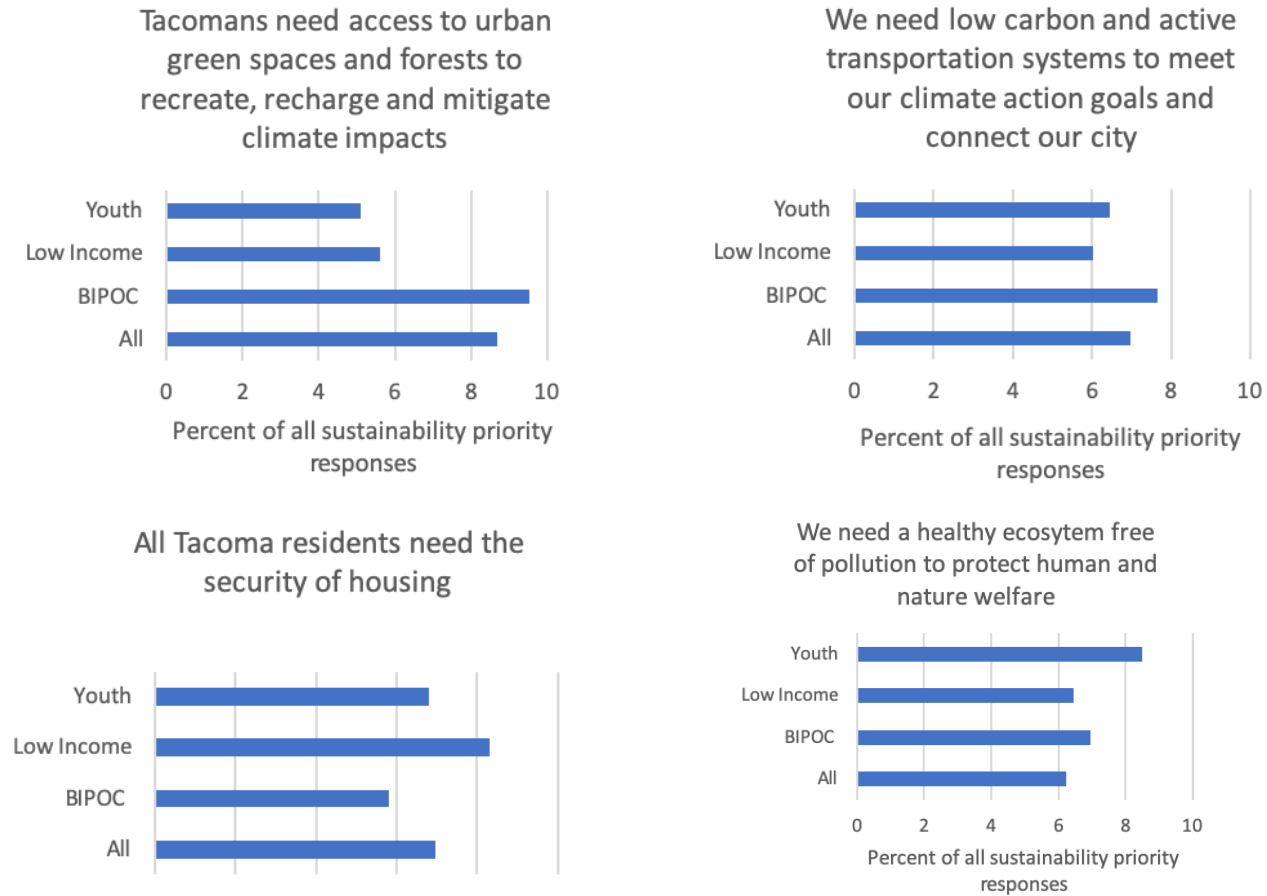


Figure 8. The top 4 sustainability priority themes with the percent of total responses for each theme by demographic group.

Some differences in top sustainability priorities are demonstrated in Graph 6. The theme Tacomans need access to urban green spaces and forests to recreate, recharge and mitigate climate impacts was mentioned more frequently by BIPOC community members in comparison to the other demographic groups. Youth respondents mentioned topics and ideas in the We need a healthy ecosystem free of pollution to protect human and nature welfare theme to a greater extent than other groups. Low income respondents mentioned housing access within the All Tacoma residents need the security of housing theme more than other groups.

Ideal Future Transportation Options

One of the Story answers asked respondents specifically about how they envision commuting to and from work in a sustain 2030 Tacoma scenario. The results of these responses complement the high interest in low carbon and active transportation options as well as access to affordable and reliable public transportation – another theme in the top 6 group of sustainability priorities.

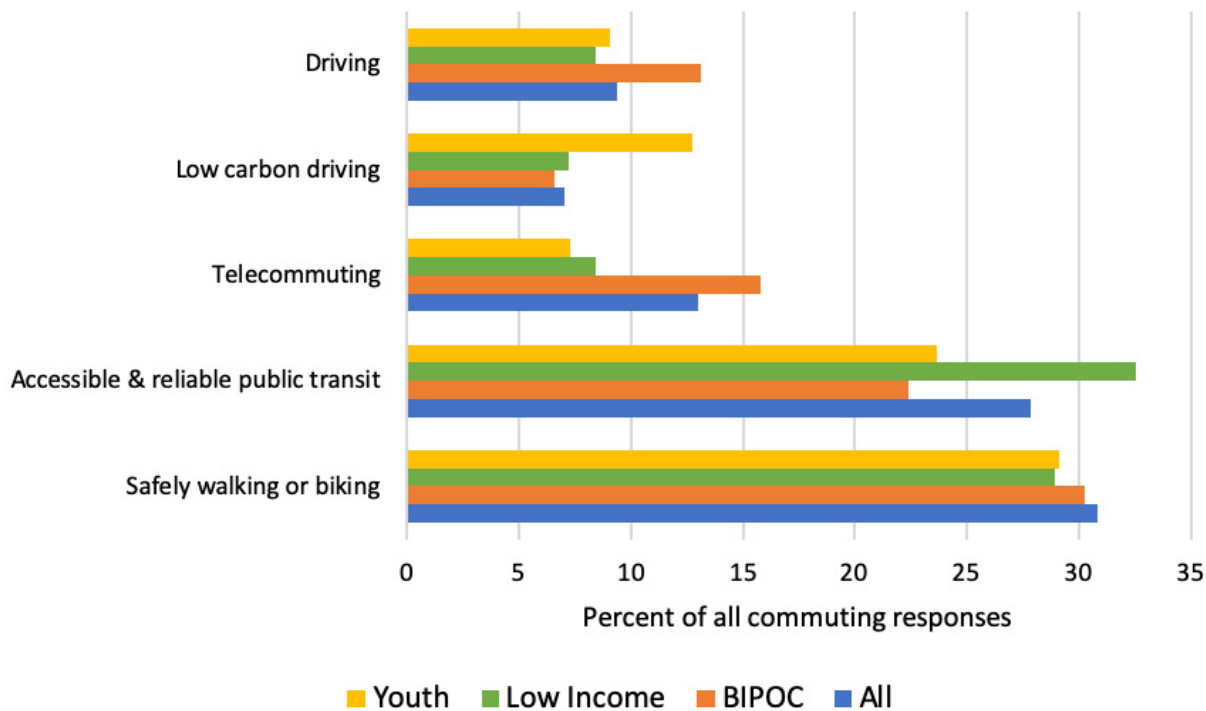


Figure 9. The top 5 themes on how we commute in 2030 with the percent of total responses for each theme by demographic group.

While close to 10% of respondents imagined they would still be driving (single occupancy vehicle) to get home from their job in 2030, close to 30% of respondents across all demographic groups mentioned walking or biking and safe pedestrian routes. Accessible and high function public transportation was of particular interest to low income community members.

Key takeaways

- Community members think of sustainability across social, economic, and environmental spheres in line with the City’s definition of sustainability (see page x).
- Access to nature/urban greenery, the health of our ecosystems, low carbon transportation options, and access to housing are all necessary components of a sustainable Tacoma.
- City walkability and bike-ability, both in terms of infrastructure and design for safe connections and opportunities to live and work in the same neighborhood, are important to the community.

BARRIERS TO SUSTAINABILITY

In this category there were 54 unique response tags grouped into 17 themes to capture responses from Survey question 2 and the Interviews. For the complete list of themes and percent of responses for each by demographic group, see Supplemental Figures, Table 2.

The top four Barriers to Sustainability were the same for all demographic groups, but there are some differences in prioritization between groups. The most frequently mentioned barrier by all demographic groups, and of particular concern to Youth respondents, was a lack of support and leadership from the government and the influence of special interest groups. A lack of cultural values and social norms that promote sustainability and a lack of incentives for businesses to take

responsibility for their impact and adopt sustainable practices were also top mentioned barriers. Low Income and BIPOC respondents were particularly concerned about the community’s lack of essential services and basic needs as a barrier to action.

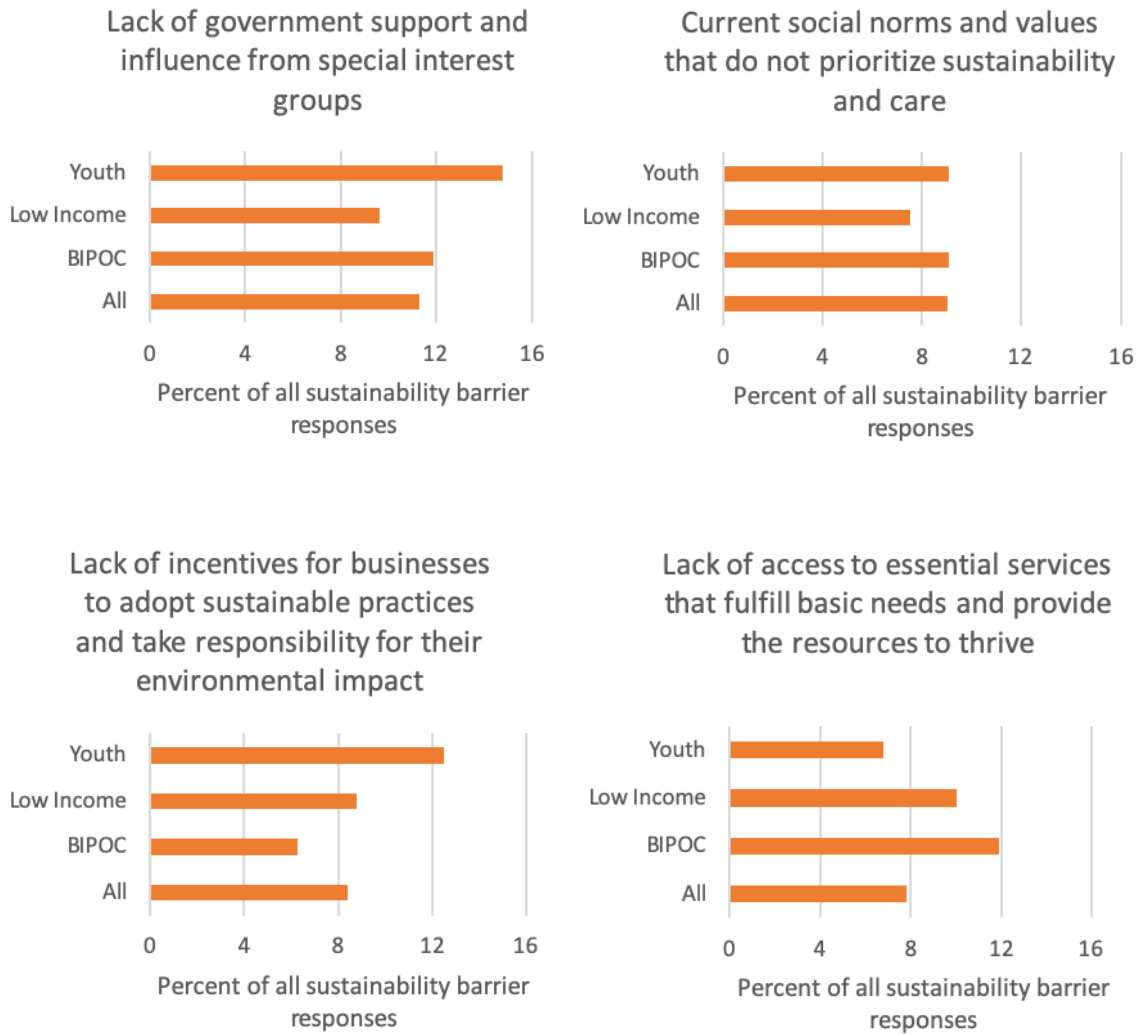


Figure 10. The top 4 barriers to sustainability themes with the percent of total responses for each theme by demographic group.

Key Takeaways

- We need to improve government accountability and transparency and demonstrate our leadership in climate actions.
- A lack of community resources and basic needs prohibits participation and achieving equitable sustainability and climate goals.
- We need to promote ethics of care at a personal and business level.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

The design of all engagement tools was intentionally open-ended to allow for a diversity of responses. The climate action plan will influence many facets of life in Tacoma. In order to design

equitable actions and strategies, we felt it was important to be aware of broader issues in the community to avoid perpetuating inequitable systems and find co-benefits where possible. The question about community concerns was not specifically about climate action; however, sustainability concerns are reflected in the responses more so than in other City surveys of community concerns. This may be due to the climate action planning framing of all engagement.

96 unique response tags were grouped into 17 community concern themes. For the complete list of themes see Supplemental Figures, Table 3. Social issues like inequity, injustice, homelessness, and housing access were of high concern. Pollution and ecosystem health as well as impacts of climate change were also of high concern.

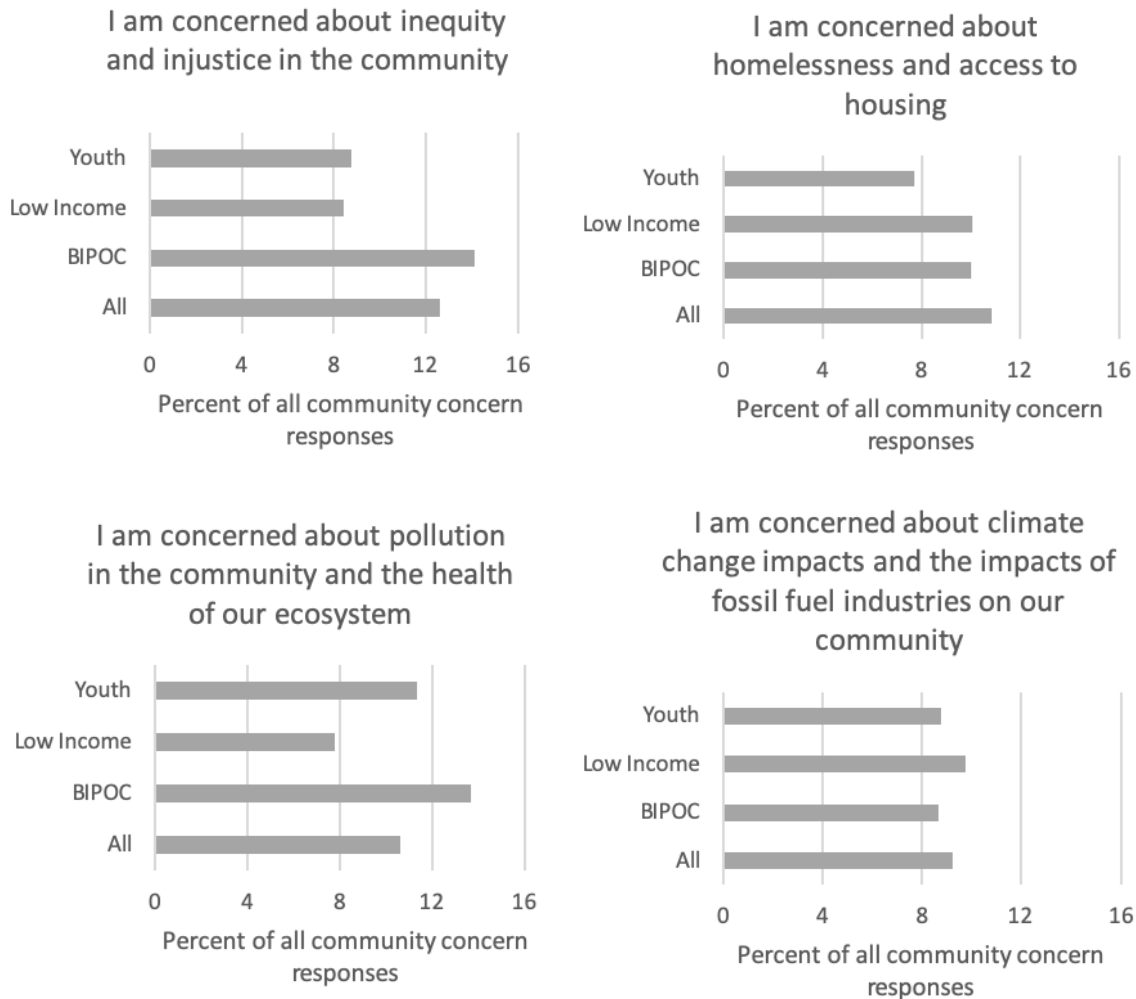


Figure 11. The top 4 community concern themes with the percent of total responses for each theme by demographic group.

CLIMATE IMPACTS OF CONCERN

Survey question 4 shared a list of climate change impacts we are experiencing and expect to experience more of in Tacoma and asked respondents about which climate impacts they were most concerned about. Concern about climate impacts and impacts from the fossil fuel industries in Tacoma was a top general community concern and the results below expand on respondents’ specific climate change concerns. The related impacts of air quality and forest susceptibility to wildfires were both top climate impact concerns. Recent wildfire events may have increased concern about air quality and human health. In 2018 and 2020, Tacoma experienced unhealthy air quality due to wildfires in California, Oregon, and both Eastern and Western Washington. Concern about impacts to wildlife and natural systems as well as freshwater availability were also frequently mentioned by all demographic groups. Youth and BIPOC respondents mentioned ecosystem impacts more than other demographic groups. Youth respondents were also particularly concerned about impacts to forest and the threat of wildfire.

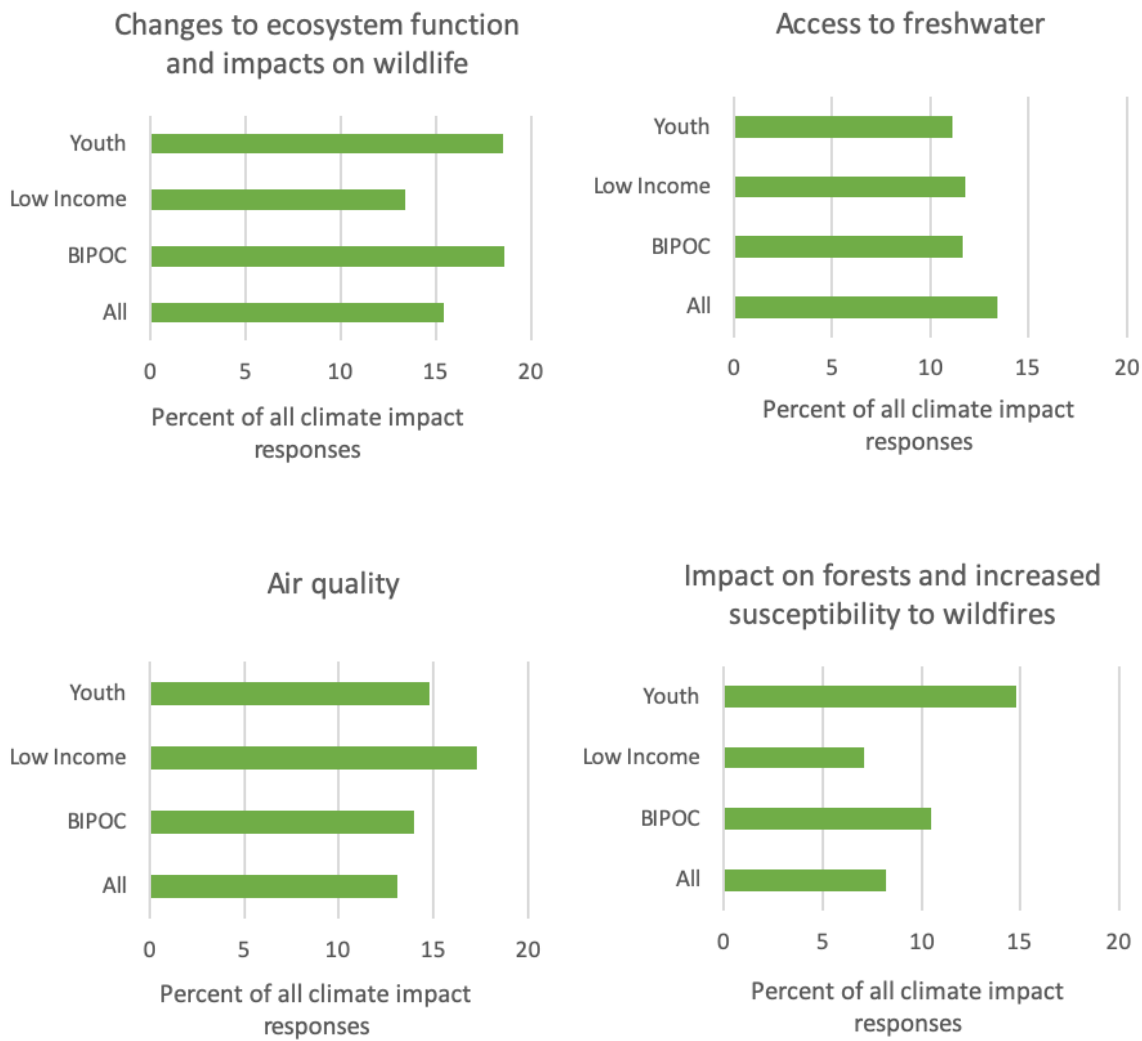


Figure 12. Top four regional climate impacts of concern with the percent of total responses for each demographic group.

Key Takeaways

- We need to continue addressing environmental and social justice issues related to the climate action plan.
- We need to focus on co-benefits to climate action and design strategies that address pollutants and housing affordability and availability.
- It may be beneficial to focus climate impact and benefits of climate action communication on protecting ecosystem function and forests, improving air quality, and ensuring freshwater availability.

COMMUNITY INPUT ON FUTURE ENGAGEMENT

We had 148 responses to Survey question 5 about how we can improve our community engagement. The most common response was feedback for general improvements to communication and publicity. Several tools such as surveys, events, social media, and emails were also mentioned. Additionally, a few values for community engagement were raised by respondents. These included centering community voice and community actions, improving government transparency and building trust.

Table 4. Top suggestions for facilitating future community input and participation in climate action planning by demographic group. Most mentioned responses are highlighted in green for each demographic group.

| WHAT WOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR YOU AND OTHERS IN THE COMMUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CLIMATE JUSTICE ACTION PLANNING UPDATE PROCESS? | ALL % | BIPOC % | LOW INCOME % | YOUTH % |
|---|-------|---------|--------------|---------|
| General communication and publicity | 16.89 | 16.28 | 16.67 | 24.00 |
| Focus on community voice | 6.76 | 2.33 | 5.00 | 4.00 |
| Surveys | 4.73 | 0.00 | 1.67 | 4.00 |
| Social Media | 4.73 | 6.98 | 3.33 | 0.00 |
| Host online events | 4.05 | 0.00 | 5.00 | 4.00 |
| Emails | 3.38 | 2.33 | 1.67 | 0.00 |
| Host Events | 3.38 | 4.65 | 3.33 | 0.00 |
| Improve government transparency | 3.38 | 2.33 | 3.33 | 4.00 |
| Focus on community actions | 2.03 | 4.65 | 0.00 | 12.00 |
| Focus on building trust | 1.35 | 4.65 | 3.33 | 0.00 |

Key Takeaways

- We need to be communicating more and more widely about climate action planning.
- Focusing on community actions and voice may help increase participation.
- Hosting online events and using social media can be useful tools for reaching the community, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic when in-person events cannot be organized.

SELECTED FEEDBACK FROM EJ LEADERS WORKGROUP

The EJ Leaders Workgroup is providing feedback during all three phases of climate action planning. An early draft of Phase I community input results were shared with the EJ Leaders. Selected feedback from EJ Leaders on the community input results as well as broader feedback on Phase I processes is included below.

- Socio-ecological work we do in Tacoma affects the traditional lands of the Puyallup Tribe. City planning needs to be in collaboration and consultation with Tribal leadership.
- Plan actions and strategies should focus on the inequitable impact of co-pollutants, on human health and future generations. Reducing GHG emissions by, for example, electrifying transportation, also reduces pollutants like particulate matter and ozone which disproportionately affect the health of low income residents and BIPOC communities who often live closer to major roads.
- The majority of Phase I results are related to impacts on human systems. This may be due to the anthropocentric framing of Interview, Survey, and Story questions. Our Plan should highlight the interdependency of natural and human systems and illustrate climate change's ecological impacts on other animals and plants.
- Our Plan should have transparent monitoring and reporting methods with greater opportunity for community leadership and participation.

DATA ANALYSIS CONSIDERATIONS

Though the respondents we reached during Phase I engagement and the input we gathered is not a representative sample of Tacoma citywide demographics and was not evaluated for statistical significance, it is important to keep in mind the purpose of Phase I. Our engagement process and community input collection had the additional goals of building community relationships and knowledge for future climate action. We intentionally emphasized depth and quality of input over quantity. This initial engagement serves as a building block for stronger partnerships and participation from our EJ Leaders, Ambassadors, and other community members during Phase II.

We would have liked to gather more BIPOC and low income community member responses in the Phase I community input. However, we hope the additional input and feedback we continue to receive from the EJ Leaders Workgroup will supplement what we missed in community input.

We are continuously learning through this new engagement and planning process. We have made progress through working with the social networks of Ambassadors, EJ Leaders, and partners to reach community members we usually do not hear from.

The responses we gathered through social media posts and email lists may have primarily come from respondents already aware of sustainability and climate change issues in Tacoma since they most likely connected with us through the Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability or CHB resources. This may have influenced the results we found for top priorities, barriers, and concerns.

LESSONS LEARNED

Staff have identified various lessons from this new approach to engagement.

STRENGTHS

- Building from existing relationships
- Establishing new relationships
- Compensating frontline community member participation
- Empowering community excitement, expertise, creativity, and leadership
- Learning from path-breaking communities, including Fort Collins, CO, King County, WA, and Providence, RI, among others
- Building on linguistically and culturally accessible communications and engagement

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

- Activating community member networks
- Training community participants for creative and insightful engagement
- Balancing community input processes with relationship-building and leadership development
- Hearing from and uplifting the voices of communities that are underrepresented, underserved, and made vulnerable

CONCLUSION

Towards building a robust and equitable climate action plan, Phase I engaged a diverse group of Tacoma community members and partners to better understand current sustainability priorities, barriers to sustainability, and general community concerns. We successfully established an EJ Leaders Workgroup of 10 frontline community members and trained over 30 community Climate Ambassadors. In collaboration with Ambassadors and partners, we gathered input from 458 community members. These responses reinforce the necessity for a socially just and intersectional climate action plan that can improve community health, access to basic needs, and ecosystem function for the benefit of future and current generations.

From what we have learned during Phase I of climate action planning, we will need to continue building relationships with community leaders, community groups, and partners and adapting our engagement techniques to reach historically underrepresented and underserved community members. The Covid-19 pandemic and recession will continue to burden some communities and community members worse than others, and internet access remains an issue. Staff will seek to emphasize quality over quantity to limit engagement burdens as well as continue to center equity.

SUPPLEMENTAL FIGURES

Table 5. Complete list of Sustainability Priorities Themes and the percent of total responses included in each theme for All respondents and our demographic groups of interest. Percentages greater than or equal to 6% are highlighted in green to show top themes for each demographic group.

| SUSTAINABILITY PRIORITIES | ALL % | BIPOC % | LOW INCOME % | YOUTH % |
|---|-------|---------|--------------|---------|
| Tacomans need access to urban green spaces and forests to recreate, recharge and mitigate climate impacts | 8.69 | 9.51 | 5.60 | 5.10 |
| We need low carbon and active transportation systems to meet our climate action goals and connect our city | 6.95 | 7.66 | 6.02 | 6.46 |
| All Tacoma residents need the security of housing | 6.95 | 5.80 | 8.30 | 6.80 |
| We need a healthy ecosystem free of pollution to protect human and nature welfare | 6.22 | 6.96 | 6.43 | 8.50 |
| All Tacoma residents need access to affordable, high functioning public transportation | 5.95 | 6.96 | 6.85 | 6.46 |
| Tacoma needs to end dependence on fossil fuels, prevent new fossil fuel infrastructure and investments, and to invest in renewable, clean energy sources | 5.37 | 4.64 | 5.60 | 6.46 |
| We need equitable and just transformation that centers those most vulnerable in our community | 4.90 | 6.03 | 5.19 | 4.42 |
| For a thriving Tacoma, We need more community resources, spaces, voices and partnerships | 4.48 | 6.03 | 5.60 | 6.12 |
| A thriving Tacoma is a place where people feel a sense of belonging and support from their community, where the community is diverse, and local arts and culture flourish | 4.00 | 3.48 | 2.90 | 4.76 |
| Tacoma's built environment needs to be thoughtfully planned to support emission reduction, sustainable resource use, and protect land | 3.95 | 3.71 | 2.49 | 2.38 |
| We need to support local urban farming and ensure access to healthy food for all | 3.69 | 2.78 | 3.73 | 2.38 |
| We need support for local decent paying job opportunities in Tacoma, including sustainable green jobs | 3.64 | 3.02 | 3.73 | 5.44 |
| Tacoma needs responsible resource management, recycling and waste prevention systems | 3.53 | 4.64 | 5.39 | 5.78 |
| We need to restore and protect our vital ecosystems, with special attention to Commencement Bay and the Tideflats | 3.27 | 3.94 | 4.98 | 2.04 |
| Tacomans need easy access to quality healthcare, including mental health and substance abuse support for healthy individuals and community | 3.11 | 2.55 | 3.11 | 2.38 |
| We need to act now to mitigate climate change impacts and adapt to a changing environment | 2.32 | 2.09 | 2.07 | 4.42 |

| SUSTAINABILITY PRIORITIES | ALL % | BIPOC % | LOW INCOME % | YOUTH % |
|--|-------|---------|--------------|---------|
| Everyone needs access to high quality and affordable education, which should include environmental and climate science | 2.00 | 2.55 | 2.07 | 2.04 |
| We need a representative government that is transparent and accountable to the community | 1.79 | 0.70 | 2.49 | 2.04 |
| Police reform | 1.37 | 0.70 | 1.24 | 1.02 |
| In order to meet Tacoma's sustainability and climate goals we need real financial investment. | 1.16 | 0.70 | 0.83 | 1.02 |
| We need to invest in city infrastructure to prevent water pollution and ensure access to clean water. | 0.95 | 1.16 | 1.45 | 0 |
| Tacoma needs to be a safe place to live, work, and recreate | 0.90 | 0.46 | 0.41 | 1.02 |
| Other | 14.81 | 13.92 | 13.49 | 12.93 |
| TOTAL | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Table 6. Complete list of Barriers to Sustainability Themes and the percent of total responses included in each theme for All respondents and our demographic groups of interest. Percentages greater than or equal to 6% are highlighted in green to show top themes for each demographic group.

| BARRIERS TO SUSTAINABILITY | ALL % | BIPOC % | LOW INCOME % | YOUTH % |
|--|-------|---------|--------------|---------|
| Lack of support for government leadership and influence from special interest groups | 11.29 | 11.89 | 9.62 | 14.77 |
| Current social norms and values that do not prioritize sustainability and care | 9.03 | 9.09 | 7.53 | 9.09 |
| Lack of incentives for businesses to adopt sustainable practices and take responsibility for their environmental impact | 8.42 | 6.29 | 8.79 | 12.50 |
| Lack of sufficient funding | 8.21 | 7.69 | 5.86 | 9.09 |
| Lack of access to essential services that fulfill basic needs and provide the resources to thrive | 7.80 | 11.89 | 10.04 | 6.82 |
| Historical representation and inequity that persist today, particularly a lack of acknowledgement of Indigenous rights and knowledge | 7.19 | 5.59 | 8.79 | 6.82 |
| Lack of community leadership and opportunities for collaboration between community groups, businesses, and government agencies | 6.37 | 6.29 | 7.53 | 4.55 |
| Our current economic system that perpetuates inequity and natural resource extraction | 5.75 | 4.20 | 4.60 | 4.55 |

| BARRIERS TO SUSTAINABILITY | ALL % | BIPOC % | LOW INCOME % | YOUTH % |
|--|--------|---------|--------------|---------|
| Lack of strategic urban growth management and planning to reach our long term goals | 5.13 | 3.50 | 3.77 | 3.41 |
| Lack of access to affordable, efficient, and low carbon public transportation and active transportation options that prevent us from reducing single-occupancy vehicle use | 4.31 | 4.20 | 4.18 | 3.41 |
| Lack of action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, divest from fossil fuel industries, and act on climate change | 4.31 | 3.50 | 5.02 | 7.95 |
| Lack of environmental awareness and curriculum in schools | 3.70 | 6.29 | 3.77 | 2.27 |
| Inequitable prioritization and allocation of resources to areas of need in Tacoma | 2.87 | 2.10 | 2.51 | 5.68 |
| Lack of regulations and systems to prevent pollution and protect our vital ecosystems for future generations | 2.87 | 1.40 | 2.93 | 0.00 |
| Lack of local employment opportunities with fair wages | 2.46 | 4.20 | 2.93 | 2.27 |
| Police Reform | 1.64 | 2.80 | 2.51 | 1.14 |
| Lack of available recycling and waste prevention systems | 1.44 | 2.10 | 1.67 | 1.14 |
| Other | 7.19 | 6.99 | 7.95 | 4.55 |
| TOTAL | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |

Table 7. Complete list of Community Concern Themes and the percent of total responses included in each theme for All respondents and our demographic groups of interest. Percentages greater than or equal to 6% are highlighted in green to show top themes for each demographic group.

| COMMUNITY CONCERNS | ALL % | BIPOC % | LOW INCOME % | YOUTH % |
|--|-------|---------|--------------|---------|
| I am concerned about inequity and injustice in the community | 12.59 | 14.09 | 8.44 | 8.76 |
| I am concerned about homelessness and access to housing | 10.86 | 10.00 | 10.06 | 7.73 |
| I am concerned about pollution in the community and the health of our ecosystem | 10.58 | 13.64 | 7.79 | 11.34 |
| I am concerned about climate change impacts on our community and fossil fuel industries | 9.22 | 8.64 | 9.74 | 8.76 |
| I am concerned about access to essential services and basic needs | 8.30 | 7.73 | 9.74 | 5.67 |
| I am concerned about government leadership, willingness to take action, planning, and accountability | 6.84 | 9.55 | 9.09 | 8.25 |

| COMMUNITY CONCERNS | ALL % | BIPOC % | LOW INCOME % | YOUTH % |
|--|--------|---------|--------------|---------|
| I am concerned about the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic | 6.39 | 4.55 | 4.22 | 9.79 |
| I am concerned about economic stability, poverty, and the distribution of wealth in the community | 5.20 | 6.36 | 6.82 | 5.67 |
| I am concerned about access to public transportation, active transportation, and low carbon transportation options in the community | 4.38 | 3.18 | 2.27 | 4.12 |
| I am concerned about safety in my community | 3.56 | 0.45 | 3.25 | 3.09 |
| I am concerned about policing in the community | 3.56 | 4.09 | 4.55 | 5.67 |
| I am concerned about inequitable new urban development in Tacoma | 3.01 | 2.27 | 4.87 | 5.67 |
| I am concerned about the influence of the private sector on our regulations and a lack of corporate responsibility for environmental impacts | 2.10 | 0.91 | 2.60 | 2.58 |
| I am concerned about City infrastructure, such as freeway construction and sidewalks | 2.10 | 1.36 | 2.27 | 1.03 |
| I am concerned about access waste prevention programs in the community | 1.92 | 2.27 | 1.95 | 5.15 |
| I am concerned about our community values and culture | 1.28 | 1.82 | 2.60 | 2.06 |
| I am concerned about urban greenery and access to green space | 1.00 | 1.36 | 0.32 | 0.52 |
| Other | 7.12 | 7.73 | 9.42 | 4.12 |
| TOTAL | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |

TACOMA CLIMATE ACTION PLAN



Section 7 — PHASE II

PHASE II COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In response to City Council [Resolution No. 40509](#) declaring a climate emergency in Tacoma and [Resolution No. 40622](#) calling for anti-racist systems transformation, Tacoma's climate action planning process aims to center historically underrepresented and underserved community members in developing a comprehensive climate action plan update to the 2016 Environmental Action Plan.

In partnership with [Citizens for a Healthy Bay](#) (CHB), we implemented a phased approach to community engagement. As a local environmental justice non-profit organization, CHB brings expertise in the natural sciences, environmental policy, and community collaboration and advocacy.

PHASE II ENGAGEMENT PURPOSE

The second phase of community engagement focused on:

- Building and deepening local relationships and partnerships
- Activating community members and partner networks
- Training and educating community members to increase community resilience and leadership
- Providing information and context for informed community feedback
- Understanding and prioritizing communities that are underrepresented, underserved, and made vulnerable to climate change
- Collecting feedback on draft actions and strategies for the climate action plan

PHASE II ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Phase II engagement activities included:

- Continued monthly Environmental Justice Leaders Workgroup (EJ Leaders) and Sustainable Tacoma Commission (STC) meetings to help steer climate action planning, engagement, and Plan content development
- Facilitating community Climate Ambassadors (Ambassadors) to help collect input, build relationships, and provide climate change education
- Collecting community input using online and in-person surveys
- Delivering information and collecting input through virtual informational presentations and interactive workshops

PHASE II ENGAGEMENT METHODS & PARTICIPANTS

To collect community input on draft strategies and actions for the climate action plan, we conducted nine workshops hosted by frontline community serving organizations, four workshops hosted by the City and CHB, two in-depth meetings with the Sustainable Tacoma Commission, and two in-depth meetings with the Environmental Justice Leaders. We also provided an online survey for community members unable to attend a Workshop to give detailed

feedback and gave presentations to City Committees, Boards, Commissions and Neighborhood Councils. We heard from 431 community members. 75% of workshop attendees and 45% of survey-takers who participated in demographic questions identified as Frontline community members. We reached a greater percentage of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) identifying community members during Phase II than Phase I but still felt short of a proportionate representation of Latinx/Non-white Hispanic and Asian community members.

| METHOD | EVENTS GOAL | EVENTS RESULT | PARTICIPATION GOAL | PARTICIPATION RESULT |
|---------------|-------------|---------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Workshops | 14 | 17 | 315 | 152 |
| Presentations | 18 | 8 | 180 | 69 |
| Surveys | 3 | 2 | 350 | 205 |
| Ambassadors | - | - | 8 | 6 |
| TOTAL | 47 | 27 | 845 | 431 |

PHASE II COMMUNITY INPUT SUMMARY

We collected 323 responses to draft Big Move climate strategies and 199 responses to our more detailed survey containing draft climate actions. Our approach to climate action involves about a dozen high-level strategies that give guidance to numerous initiatives (actions) that are more specific and implementable. Similar to Phase I sustainability priorities, top strategies and actions were related to housing security, low carbon transit, healthy ecosystems, and local food access. Community members rated draft climate strategies in terms of how urgently each strategy should be implemented. This rating was on a scale of 1 (the strategy is “not at all urgent”) to 7 (the strategy is “very urgent”), with 4 as a midpoint. All of the Big Move climate strategies received an average urgency rating of 5 or higher (out of 7) deeming them “somewhat” to “very” urgent. We take this to mean that each strategy, on average, resonated with community members as necessary, useful, and important work for the City. Many written and verbal qualitative comments were collected in the survey and during workshops. Overall, comment themes included developing community leadership, listening to those most impacted, prioritizing benefits and reducing burdens for areas and community members most impacted, educational opportunities, divesting from fossil fuel, and improving access to transit and local food. Using the demographic data collected, we disaggregated survey responses to prioritize responses from frontline community members and key demographics relative to the averaged overall response. The following Top Draft Big Move Climate Strategies and Top Draft Climate Actions reflect the priorities of Frontline identifying respondents.

| TOP DRAFT BIG MOVE CLIMATE STRATEGIES | BOTTOM DRAFT BIG MOVE CLIMATE STRATEGIES |
|---|---|
| Homes and buildings are healthy, affordable, resilient, and low carbon. | Neighbors share, reuse, and repair items easily in our thriving circular economy. |
| Zero emission transportation is affordable and available to all. | Summertime water is used wisely. |
| City supports better transit infrastructure that serves more Tacomans. | Healthy tree canopy is expanded where we need it most. |

| TOP DRAFT CLIMATE ACTIONS | BOTTOM DRAFT CLIMATE ACTIONS |
|---|--|
| Protect biodiversity and habitat with climate change ready urban landscapes, map and analyze critical areas, update codes, and involve community. | Fund active transportation infrastructure with a surface parking tax. |
| Increase access to local produce for diverse and low-income shoppers. | Develop a zero emissions ride share and delivery services roadmap by 2030 and demonstrate solutions with pilot projects. |
| Fund 10 community food projects, like community gardens, food forests, orchards, farms, or food rescue efforts. | Conduct a climate change vulnerability study of infrastructure and populations and integrate findings into City emergency management and planning. |

DATA ANALYSIS CONSIDERATIONS

Being unable to reach a representative or statistically significant sample of Tacoma community members, we prioritized two major methods to equitable engagement and plan development: (1) deep, qualitative input processes for historically underrepresented and underserved “frontline” communities; and (2) disaggregation of community input by demographic data to improve our understanding of different communities’ needs and priorities. This approach to engagement aligns with the City’s policy to pursue anti-racist systems transformation of our processes, policies, programs, and services. Throughout this report, data reflecting community responses should be viewed through the lens of who is speaking.

LESSONS LEARNED

COVID-19 is a challenging period of life for many of our community members. Among other things going on, the pandemic-recession made it difficult for community members to participate. In response, we adapted our methods to meet community needs and safety priorities, while trying to make a complex plan accessible and participatory. Although it was challenging to get the quantity of participants we hoped for, we strengthened our planning approach by focusing on deep, qualitative input from frontline communities typically underrepresented and underserved by City processes.

Altogether, we feel that we were able to meet many of our goals: building or deepening new and existing relationships; educating community members about local climate emissions, impacts, and solutions; prioritizing frontline communities for their input on how to develop a more climate-safe, socially just Tacoma as we approach 2030; and developing climate actions and strategies that serve the needs of community members. Throughout the process, we sought and learned to be more flexible and accessible with our processes, such as simplifying our draft strategy and action language or improving our workshop methods. In reaching new community members with our process, we leaned on our valued community participants, including the partner organizations that served in a virtual “host” role, our Climate Ambassadors, and Environmental Justice Leaders Workgroup, among others.

CONCLUSIONS

Phase II community engagement focused on providing climate emissions, impacts, solutions, and engagement education to community to facilitate informed input on draft strategies and actions. We successfully reached a majority of frontline community members in our outreach

and will use their feedback to better center community needs in the draft climate action plan. Partnering with local frontline service organizations to host workshops for their communities and continuing to work with the Environmental Justice Leaders Workgroup and Climate Ambassadors were strengths of our second phase of community engagement. While many of the draft actions and strategies were well received by the community, there was some concern about the accessibility of our climate action framework. Going forward, we plan to reframe the climate strategies and actions to be even more people-centered; update actions and strategies to reflect the suggested changes we have received; and prioritize actions of greatest interest to community members.

BACKGROUND

The City of Tacoma (City) defines sustainability as a condition where “The City and its community members meet their current needs without compromising the needs of future generations, such that environmental, social, cultural, and economic considerations are balanced and integrated in a day-to-day, decision-making manner ([Res. 38247](#)).” In line with this definition and envisioning an equitable, healthy, and prosperous community for all, the City has taken action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions for a sustainable future.

In 2008, the City developed its first [Climate Action Plan](#). This Plan committed Tacoma to reducing its community-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 80% from 1990 levels by 2050, in line with the reduction goals stated in the international Kyoto Protocol. In 2016, the [Environmental Action Plan](#) (EAP) replaced the Climate Action Plan. The EAP outlined nearly 70 actions to implement across six sectors of sustainability through 2020. Sustainability sectors included buildings and energy, transportation, materials management, natural systems, air and local food, and climate resiliency. Beside their climate and environmental impacts, actions were vetted for a mix of co-benefits, including social equity, health, affordability, and the local economy. On December 31, 2020, the EAP expired. As we begin to develop our third climate action plan, we have updated our understanding of Tacoma’s community-wide emissions and local climate impacts. Our scientific analysis concludes that, accounting for action taken through 2020 and projecting out to 2050, a business-as-usual approach (where no new actions are taken) would lead to only a 14% reduction in Tacoma’s GHG emissions based on 1990 levels. This is not enough to ensure a safe and healthy Tacoma for future generations.

In 2019, City Council declared a [climate emergency](#) in Tacoma and called for a new plan that would set climate strategies and actions that get us on a low carbon track by 2030 and works toward the goal of net zero emissions in 2050. Additionally, in 2020, City Council passed a [resolution calling for anti-racist systems transformation](#) across all City plans and policies. To determine a path for climate action that achieves a climate-safe and socially just future for Tacoma, the City has collaborated with local partners and community members in a [2020-2021 Climate Action Planning process](#).

From September 2020 to January 2021, City and [Citizens for a Healthy Bay](#) (CHB) staff partnered to conduct a first phase of community engagement focused on envisioning a better Tacoma in 2030, collecting stories and comments on community sustainability priorities, barriers to sustainability, and concerns. For more information about Phase I community engagement, see the [Phase I Community Engagement Report](#). Based on the feedback received during Phase I and the latest inventory of Tacoma’s climate emissions, City staff and partners drafted climate strategies and actions for a second phase of community input.

Table 8. Outline of climate action planning timeline and main objectives.

| PHASE | ACTIONS | TIMELINE |
|-------|--|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Understanding Community Priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect baseline data • Model carbon pollution emissions | September 2020 - January 2021 |
| 2 | Strategy and Action Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify technical opportunities, community benefits | February - July 2021 |
| 3 | Plan Release and Adoption <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Center equity in Plan • Deliver ambitious and achievable draft plan | August - October 2021 |

PHASE II COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

The purpose of the second phase of engagement was to continue building and deepening community relationships and partnerships, improve climate literacy and civic engagement in the planning process, collect feedback on draft climate actions and strategies that will help create a Plan that belongs to the community and reflects its needs, and prioritize and uplift the voices of communities that are historically underrepresented, underserved, and made vulnerable to climate impacts.

For Phase II community engagement, the City pursued an approach that:

- Adapted engagement safely to the COVID-19 pandemic, primarily engaging online
- Leveraged the energy, creativity, and connections of community participants
- Emphasized quality by focusing participation from frontline communities, building relationships, and seeking greater depth in community input
- Promoted equity by compensating frontline community members who participated and connected their social networks to this process
- Deployed a mix of engagement methods, including new partnerships, workshops, presentations, surveys, social media, in-person event tabling, and one-to-one outreach

To support this engagement approach during Phase II, the City continued working with CHB to support community member participation. CHB is a local environmental justice non-profit organization with expertise in the natural sciences, environmental policy, and community collaboration and advocacy. Community participants served in two compensated roles: Climate Ambassadors and the Environmental Justice Leaders Workgroup.

Several Climate Ambassadors (Ambassadors) from Phase I returned for Phase II to help gather feedback on draft climate actions and strategies through survey responses and to promote workshop attendance. The Environmental Justice Leaders Workgroup (EJ Leaders) recruited during Phase I continued to meet monthly to learn about and make recommendations for Tacoma's climate action planning process. They began meeting monthly in October 2020 and are working toward making recommendations as part of the final Plan.

Both community participant roles serve to center frontline communities' needs and interests. We describe frontline communities as those that tend to experience inequity in multiple ways, whether being historically underrepresented, underserved, or made vulnerable; experiencing

lower quality of life outcomes before COVID-19; or now experiencing worse impacts from the COVID-19 economic and health crisis. Frontline communities also include those expected to experience the first and worst consequences of climate damage.

The City defines frontline community members as individuals from one or more of the following backgrounds:

- Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC)
- Speak English as a second language
- Living with a low household income
- Ages 16-26
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersexed, Asexual, including those questioning their gender identity or sexual orientation (LGBTQIA+)
- Living with three or more generations in one home
- Living with more than one family in one home
- Living with a disability
- Immigrant or refugee
- Experiencing homelessness
- Completed formal education less than or up to a high school/GED level

COVID-19 CONSIDERATIONS

It is important to recognize that the climate action planning process was delayed several months due to the COVID-19 pandemic and both Phase I and Phase II engagement took place during a time of great stress for our community. During Phase II, we continued to adhere to COVID-19 safety regulations, keeping all Ambassador trainings and EJ Leader Workgroup meetings online and developing flexible engagement tools that could be used online or, much less frequently, safely in-person. It was challenging to build relationships virtually and to engage frontline communities most affected by the pandemic, the resulting recession, and varying levels of internet access. To support our community participants, we offered additional training times, opportunities to catch-up on training and meeting content one-on-one, and flexibility with participants' contributions. We also sought to address cost-barriers to participation. We budgeted to provide frontline community participants with \$300 stipends for 7-10 hours of contributions to the planning process; non-frontline community members were offered an optional \$50 stipend. This sliding payment scale reflects the different barriers to participation for and contributions provided by community members, including frontline community members historically underrepresented and underserved by our processes. People connected to Tacoma but living and working outside Pierce County were also welcome to participate but were not eligible for stipends. Improving our availability, using accessibility tools, and providing compensation all served to reduce some barriers to participation. It is also worth noting that in many cases virtual engagement methods were more accessible to community members who were balancing other responsibilities.

PHASE II COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT METHODS & PARTICIPANTS

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE LEADERS WORKGROUP

Ten local environmental justice leaders from frontline communities continued to serve on our advisory workgroup through Phase II. The EJ Leaders Workgroup was the first group to review and give feedback on draft climate strategies and actions for the plan. Their input helped inform the Phase II public survey design as we continued to refine the draft actions and strategy list. EJ Leader recommendations also helped reframe actions to be more community centered and easier to understand. They will continue providing feedback on the planning process and will contribute content to the final Plan. Beyond the adoption of a new Plan, staff hope that this process promotes two-way learning, new relationships, and empowers a cohort of local environmental justice leaders.

To ensure all EJ Leaders are able to participate equally in meetings and engage with meeting materials, we have been translating documents and have contracted with a local interpreter to assist one member who primarily speaks Spanish.

CLIMATE AMBASSADORS

Climate Ambassadors serve to connect their social networks to our planning process. Our second phase of community engagement, which concerned draft actions and strategies, required more specific survey questions and workshop activities than the broader visioning and community priorities of Phase I. This limited the role of Phase II Ambassadors to some extent since completing the Phase II survey took longer and required more background knowledge to give informed feedback. The Phase II Ambassador role involved sharing the Phase II survey with family and friends, tabling at a few events with CHB staff, and encouraging community participation in our in-depth climate action workshops. Six Phase I Ambassadors returned to participate in Phase II.

Ambassadors used a mix of engagement approaches that reflected their strengths and relationships. All Ambassadors received additional training to deepen their understanding of the planning process and the draft actions they would share with their networks. While each could use City-developed engagement tools, they were encouraged to engage with family, friends, or neighbors creatively. Many participants collected informed feedback via a web-based [Story Map](#), which provided background information prior to a survey. Ambassadors connected virtually with family, friends, neighborhood groups, and local organizations. Some Ambassador's also gathered feedback in-person, such as tabling at Tacoma Ocean Fest, where they engaged in conversation, shared physical copies of a survey, and used QR codes to direct participants to further opportunities. Ambassadors also had the opportunity to attend, promote, and assist staff at one or more Climate Action Workshops.

Additionally, Phase II Ambassadors had the opportunity to provide feedback on Phase II engagement tools before they were shared with the public. Beyond the input that Ambassadors facilitated through Phases I and II of the planning process, staff hope that their participation fosters appreciation, awareness, and involvement in future local environmental justice work.

ENGAGEMENT TOOLS

Staff and community participants gathered community input through surveys and workshops.

These engagement tools presented community members with an overview of climate change and local impacts, draft strategies, and, on the survey, detailed draft actions. The purpose was to gather informed feedback on climate strategies and actions.

Tacoma Climate Action Community Feedback Survey

Using ArcGIS StoryMap, staff created a website with all of the background information on climate action planning, climate impacts, and climate action strategies needed to give informed feedback on the [Tacoma Climate Action Community Feedback Survey](#). The website included a section with the Survey questions embedded in the page as well as links to register for a public Tacoma Climate Action Planning Workshop. This survey was shared by staff and community participants on social media and at outreach events, neighborhood council meetings, City commission, board, and committee meetings, and Tacoma Climate Action Workshops.

The survey included a couple of introductory questions about the participant’s knowledge and feelings about climate change and then asked participants to rate the urgency of each Big Move climate strategy on a scale of 1 to 7 with 1 being “not at all urgent” and 7 being “very urgent.” This was followed by a section for each of the climate action topical areas where participants were asked to choose their top three highest priority actions for each of the topical areas. Each topical area had 6 to 12 actions we could take between now and 2024 to stay on track for our goal of net zero greenhouse gas emissions in 2050. The seven topical areas were Natural Systems, Local Food, Buildings & Energy, Mobility & Land Use, Consumption & Materials Management, Green Economy, and Governance & Engagement. At the end of each topical area section there were several open-ended questions to give comments and more detailed feedback:

1. Optional: Why are the actions you chose most important to you?
2. How should the City carry out these actions to make them as equitable as possible?
3. Any additional comments or questions?

To track the success of our various outreach methods, we also included a question on how the participant learned about the Tacoma Climate Action Community Feedback Survey. The survey concluded with demographic questions so that we can measure our success at reaching underserved communities and center frontline communities in the climate action plan.

A shortened version of this survey was available in Spanish on the Tacoma Climate Action Community Feedback Survey website and shared with Climate Ambassadors and EJ Leaders for their use in collecting feedback on Big Move strategies for climate action.

Tacoma Climate Action Workshops

Thirteen 90-minute workshops were held in May and June. The workshops introduced the climate action plan, local climate impacts, and strategies before providing space for feedback and suggestions on the draft strategies. Nine of the workshops were co-hosted with local organizations that serve frontline communities including Asia Pacific Cultural Center, Latinx Unidos South Sound, Mayor’s Youth Commission, Oasis Youth Center, Puyallup Watershed Initiative Just & Healthy Food COI, Rainbow Center, Sunrise Tacoma, Tacoma Ministerial Alliance, and Tacoma Urban League. Host organizations coordinated with staff to pick dates and provide recommendations for tailoring the workshop to be authentic, relevant, and accessible to their communities. Their guidance led to providing live Spanish interpretation, connecting strategies to the groups previously identified priorities, more visual presentations, and other individualized methods. These workshops were limited solely to the community the host organization serves

and reached a total of 70 participants.

The other four workshops were two general public workshops, one for the Puyallup Tribe and other indigenous peoples, and one business workshop, which focused on local, small, and minority- or women-owned businesses. The workshop for indigenous peoples was co-hosted with Danelle Reed, Puyallup Tribal member and EJ Leader. Attendance at these four totalled 46 participants, for an overall workshop participation of 116.

The Sustainable Tacoma Commission also participated in a longer format workshop in two sessions to review all of the draft actions during their May and June monthly meetings.

Presentations

In addition to full 90-minute workshops, shorter presentations that fit into the schedules of City neighborhood councils, commissions, boards, and committees. Presentations were made to four neighborhood councils (North End, South End, West End, and Central) and four City commissions in the second phase of engagement.

Given the limits of these groups' meeting agendas, our 20 to 30-minute presentations were meant to provide a baseline of information and opportunities for further input. Presentations informed audiences about the climate action planning process, local climate emissions and impacts, and potential climate solutions. Audiences asked questions, gave comments, and were invited to respond to our survey. Eight presentations were conducted, engaging 69 community members.

Social Media Outreach

We leveraged various City and partner organization social media accounts to reach more community members. These included accounts on Facebook and Instagram administered by Tacoma Environmental Services, Tacoma Sustainability, and Citizens for a Healthy Bay, and organizational partners. Five Facebook posts and three Instagram posts were created and shared from Tacoma Sustainability accounts and then subsequently re-shared by partner accounts. During Phase II we were able to allocate \$100 towards paid social media posts which greatly increased the reach and engagement on our posts.

Our highest performing Facebook post is featured below. The post was organically shared 23 times, reached a total of 2,967 Facebook users, and resulted in 287 post engagements. \$25 was spent boosting this post which helped us reach an additional 2216 Facebook users and generated 59 link clicks. It featured information about socio-economic impacts of climate change, an opportunity to inform City decisions and budget, and the \$20 raffled gift card incentive provided by CHB.

Our highest performing Instagram post reached 234 accounts, was shared 29 times, and generated 16 post interactions. This is approximately double the reach and interactions of our other Instagram posts.

Tacoma Sustainability
Published by Kyla Wilson · June 2 ·

Climate change is impacting our ecosystems, our communities, and our businesses – but it’s not impacting everyone equally. We need everyone’s voice to make sure Tacoma is making investments now for a better, more climate-safe future.

Give your input on Tacoma’s draft climate actions and strategies now through June 19th and enter to win one of twenty \$20 gift cards from [Citizens for a Healthy Bay!](#)

Your feedback will help direct City funding for the next 5-10 years!
Learn mo... [See More](#)

STORYMAPS.ARCGIS.COM
Tacoma Climate Action Community Feedback...
Tacoma Climate Action Planning 2020-2021 [Learn More](#)

2,967 People Reached 287 Engagements ↑ +6.5x Higher Distribution Score [Boost Unavailable](#)

Figure 1. Highest performing Facebook post promoting Phase II Community Engagement.

The composite image consists of two main parts. The top part is a dark blue promotional graphic with the title "Tacoma Climate Action Community Feedback" in large white font. Below the title, it lists a survey link (bit.ly/TacomaClimateActionFeedback) and two workshops: June 12th, 1-2:30pm and June 15th, 5:30-7pm. It encourages input and provides a link in the bio. A circular illustration shows a house, a car, a bicycle, a fish, and various plants. The bottom part is a screenshot of an Instagram post from the account "tacomastustainability". The post features a teal speech bubble with the text "WHAT DOES A CLIMATE RESILIENT AND EQUITABLE TACOMA LOOK LIKE?" and an illustration of three diverse people. The post text asks for community input on climate-resilient and equitable future actions for Tacoma, mentioning direct funding for low-carbon actions. It includes a "View Insights" link, a heart icon, a comment icon, and a share icon. It shows the post was liked by "thechayahmovement and 27 others" on "JUNE 4". A comment input field is visible at the bottom.

Tacoma Climate Action Community Feedback

Survey:
bit.ly/TacomaClimateActionFeedback

Workshops:
June 12th, 1-2:30pm
June 15th, 5:30-7pm

Give your input and learn more now!
Link in bio

2020-2021 TACOMA CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING

WHAT DOES A CLIMATE RESILIENT AND EQUITABLE TACOMA LOOK LIKE?

tacomastustainability
Tacoma, Washington

tacomastustainability Fridays are for the future!
What does a climate resilient and equitable future for Tacoma look like to you?

This is your chance to help decide how the City with direct funding for low carbon, climate-safe actions that benefit all our communities for the next 5 to 10 years!

Check out the link in our bio to learn more about climate change in Tacoma, register for a community feedback workshop, or take the survey. 🌱🌍🌳

[View Insights](#)

Liked by **thechayahmovement** and **27 others**

JUNE 4

Add a comment... [Post](#)

Figure 2. Highest performing Instagram post promoting Phase II Community Engagement. Post contained two images.

COMMUNITY INPUT & ANALYSIS PROCESS

Community engagement methods resulted in over 400 responses about priority climate strategies and actions and how we can ensure actions are implemented equitably. Community input will be used to:

- Prioritize actions and strategies for emission reductions based on community support and concern
- Inform the EJ Leaders Workgroup’s contributions to the Climate Action Plan
- Inform other City plans and policies that fall outside the scope of the Climate Action Plan

PHASE II ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

Leveraging the connections and knowledge of our community Ambassadors, EJ Leaders Workgroup, and community members serving the City on committees, boards, and commissions, we collected input from 423 participants. We come to this number by avoiding double counting in instances such as where workshop attendees also provided a survey response. See types of participants broken out in the following tables:

Table 9. Summary of community participants involved in collecting input and the total number of responses collected using each engagement tool.

| COMMUNITY PARTICIPANTS | |
|---|-----|
| Climate Ambassadors | 6 |
| Environmental Justice Leaders Workgroup | 10 |
| Workshop attendees | 139 |
| Presentation Attendees | 69 |
| TOTAL | 224 |

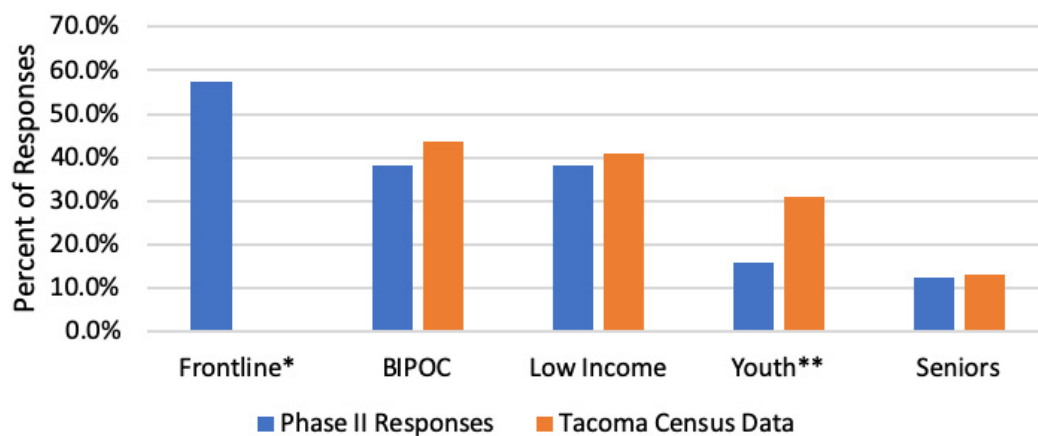
| RESPONSES BY ENGAGEMENT TOOL | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Long format survey | 199 |
| Short format survey | 124 |
| TOTAL | 323 |

WHO WE HEARD FROM

In order to track how well we reached historically underserved, underrepresented, and overburdened communities, we asked respondents several demographic questions including race/ethnicity, age, household income (2019), and whether or not they identified as a frontline community member. These questions were only asked on the online survey and with attendees at workshops with a live survey activity. Not all respondents or attendees chose to answer each of these demographic questions and, in accordance with the needs of specific host organizations, not all workshops had a live survey component. The following information only reflects the 52% of survey respondents and 75% of workshop attendees who chose to answer demographic questions.

For our analysis, we focused on our success at reaching four main groups:

- Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) communities
 - Respondents who identified as Black/African, Native American/Alaska Native, Latinx/Non-white Hispanics, Asian, Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian, Middle Eastern/North African, and/or more than one of these races/ethnicities.
- Low income respondents
 - Respondents whose household income was less than \$50,000/year.
- Youth respondents
 - Respondents less than 25 years old.
- Frontline respondents
 - Respondents who self-identified as a frontline community member after reviewing the City’s definition of intersecting frontline identities.



**No census data available.*

***Census data includes those age 0 to 14, an age group that was not the focus of climate action planning.*

Figure 3. A summary of Climate Action Planning Phase II respondent demographics in comparison to Tacoma census projections.

It is important to note that we fell short of reaching a representative sample of Tacoma residents in survey responses, particularly for the historically underserved groups: BIPOC and Low Income. These demographic results may not fully represent the community members who participated in Phase II engagement though. Roughly 39% of respondents skipped the demographic questions, a significantly higher rate of no response than we received during Phase I engagement. We also received feedback from community members and Climate Ambassadors that the length of the long-format online survey discouraged them from completing all questions. Since the demographic questions were optional and the last section of the survey, it is possible that these factors led many to choose not to answer them. We know that the COVID-19 pandemic and recession is particularly challenging for these communities, and it tends to be exacerbated by unequal internet access. The percentage of Youth we reached is skewed because the Tacoma census data Youth percent includes residents aged 0-14, who were not a focus in our input gathering. For more details on age demographics, see Figure 6.

We heard from a diverse group of Tacoma community members; however, there is room to improve our outreach to key communities of color, low income community members, and some age groups to ensure equitable climate actions and strategies for the Plan. To compensate for shortfalls in engagement with some frontline communities, we have broken out responses by demographics to get a better sense of their prioritized actions. We also developed Workshops to gather more qualitatively rich input from frontline individuals and service organizations. This builds on other engagement tools that may not reach community members as equitably, particularly community members that may be experiencing extra barriers to participation or extraordinary day-to-day burdens.

BIPOC RESPONDENTS

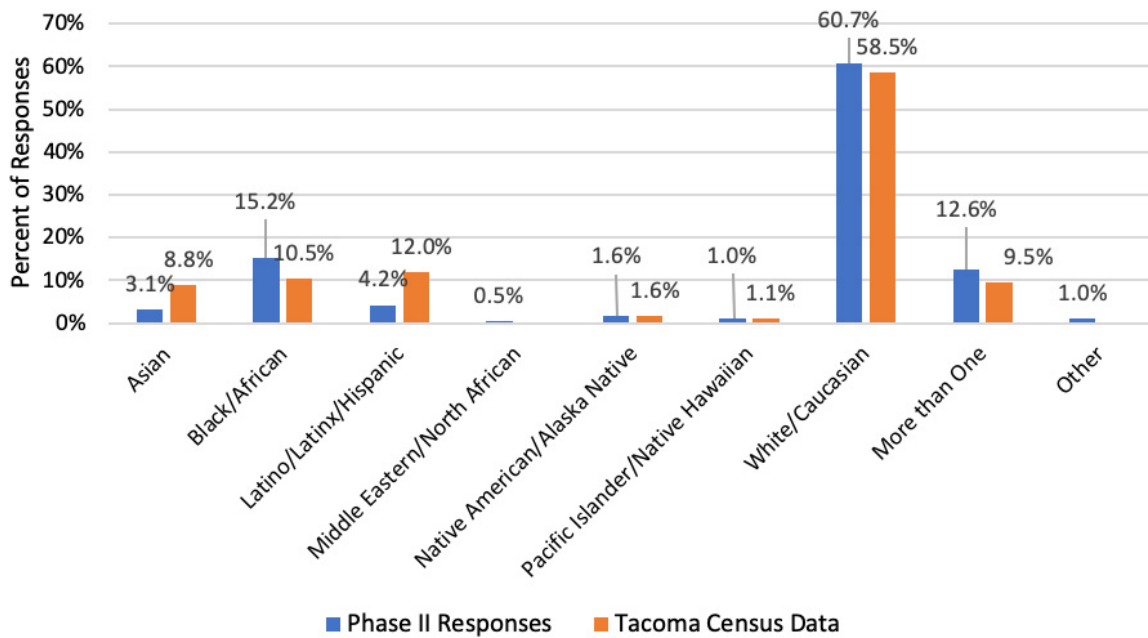


Figure 4. Responses to race/ethnicity demographic question by race/ethnicity. 39% of total survey respondents chose not to answer this question. The above percentages reflect only the 191 responses to this question. 12.6 % of respondents selected more than one race/ethnicity option. These responses are broken out in detail in Table 2.

Table 10. The total number of responses for each multi-racial/ethnic identity selected in response to the race/ethnicity demographic question.

| TWO OR MORE RACE / ETHNICITY | # OF RESPONSES |
|--|----------------|
| Asian and White | 5 |
| Black/African and White | 4 |
| Middle Eastern/North African and White | 3 |
| LatinX/Non-white Hispanic and White | 2 |
| Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian and White | 1 |
| Native American/Alaska Native and White | 1 |
| Middle Eastern/North African, Native American/Native Hawaiian, and White | 1 |
| Native American/Alaska Native and LatinX/Non-white Hispanic | 1 |
| Middle Eastern/North African and Other | 1 |
| Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian and LatinX/Non-white Hispanic | 1 |
| Native American/Alaska Native and Black/African | 1 |
| LatinX/Non-white Hispanic, White, and Other | 1 |
| LatinX/Non-white Hispanic and Black/African | 1 |

Again, 39% of survey respondents chose not to respond to this question so it may not give an accurate portrayal of Phase II community respondents. Additionally, some of our Workshops did not include a survey activity to collect demographic information because of language and technology barriers identified by Workshop hosts. In particular, our Workshop hosted by Latinx Unidos South Sound with 18 attendees and our Workshop hosted by Asia Pacific Cultural Center with 3 attendees are not represented in the above demographic data. So, while we did not reach many Latinx/Non-white Hispanic identifying community members with the Survey, we did hear comprehensive and detailed feedback on every facet of the draft climate strategies from many Latinx Unidos South Sound community members.

Working with host organizations and our other outreach methods did help us reach more Black/African identifying community members during Phase II than Phase I. During Phase I Black/African identifying community members were underrepresented in the survey results at 7.39% of respondents.

Based on the race/ethnicity demographic results from Phase II, we know moving forward that we need to make more of an effort to reach BIPOC community members. In particular, we need additional efforts to reach Tacoma’s Latinx/Non-white Hispanic communities and Asian communities.

LOW INCOME RESPONDENTS

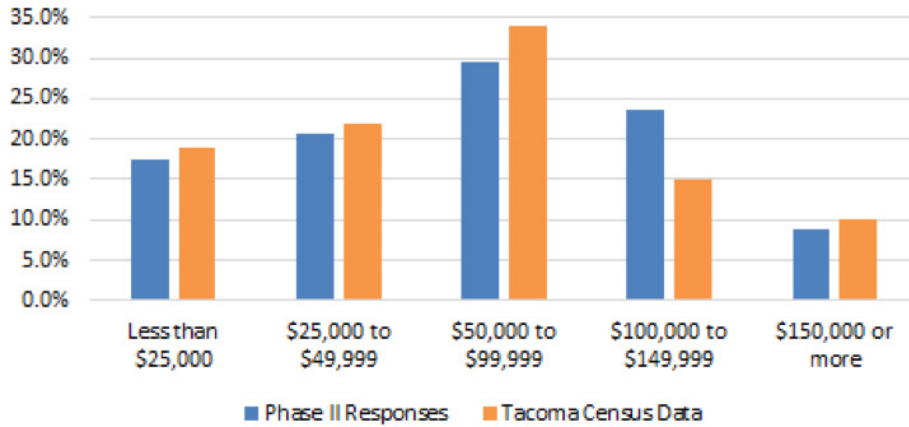


Figure 5. Responses to household income demographic question by income bracket. 38% of total survey respondents chose not to answer this question. The above percentages reflect only the 183 responses to this question.

Our community input results over-represent high income households. However, we did reach a close-to-representative percentage of Low Income community members (less than \$50,000/year) – 38.3%. Tacoma census data indicates 41% of Tacomans have an annual household income of less than \$50,000.

YOUTH RESPONDENTS

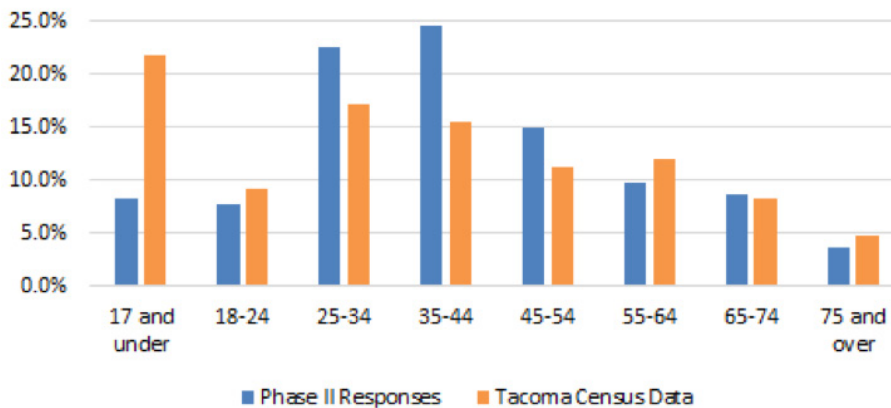


Figure 6. Responses to age demographic question by age bracket. 40% of total respondents chose not to answer this question. The above percentages reflect only the 195 respondents who answered this question.

The majority of our survey respondents and workshop attendees were between 25 and 44 years old. The median age in Tacoma is 36 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2019). We reached fewer youth during Phase II than Phase I despite working with youth-focused host organizations like the Mayor’s Youth Commission, Sunrise Tacoma, and Oasis, particularly those between the ages of 18 and 24. This may be due to the time frame of Phase II input with students preparing for exams and summer break. While it appears we significantly underrepresented those under 17, a more accurate comparison for our respondents who answered “under 17” may be to Tacoma’s 15-17 year old population, roughly 4% of the City’s total population. We did not target younger children in our data collection which are included in the Tacoma 17 and under group census

data.

We did not hear from as many community members 75 years old and over but we did improve our representation of 65 to 74-year-olds, a demographic that was underrepresented during Phase I Engagement. Elders generally face more health risk as the number of extreme heat days in Tacoma rises due to climate change. Our over-representation of younger age groups may be a result of the online nature of and social media focus for much of our outreach and input collection due to COVID-19 safety concerns.

FRONTLINE RESPONDENTS

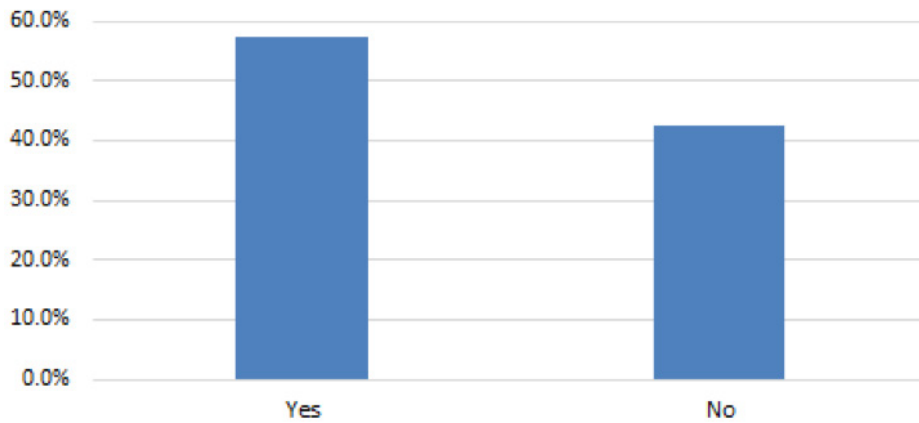


Figure 7. Response to frontline demographic question. 39% of total respondents chose not to answer this question. The above percentages reflect only the 195 respondents who answered this question.

More than half of our survey respondents and workshop attendees self-identified as frontline community members after reading the City’s definition of frontline communities. This was a new demographic question added for Phase II Engagement. 45% of online survey takers identified as frontline community members, whereas 74% of workshop attendees who participated in demographic questions identified as frontline community members. Partnering with frontline community serving organizations to host workshops likely helped us reach more frontline community members.

WHAT WE HEARD

In the following sections we will share survey responses, comments, and community feedback on each of the draft climate action topical areas as they were presented in the online survey and workshops. It is important to note that only 199 community members participated in the long-format online survey, which covered both Big Move Strategies and Next Move Actions. The other 124 survey responses relate to a shorter version of the survey only covering the Big Move Strategies, which was used during the Workshops and made available online, including in Spanish. In addition to survey responses, many comments were collected from open-ended questions in the online surveys and during Workshop discussions.

Of the 323 responses to the Big Moves, the average urgency to take action on all of them was above 5 (out of 7) and falling between “somewhat” and “very” urgent. However, there were variations in how urgent action on these Big Moves should be between demographic groups and favoring more urgent action on some Big Moves than others.

BUILDINGS & ENERGY

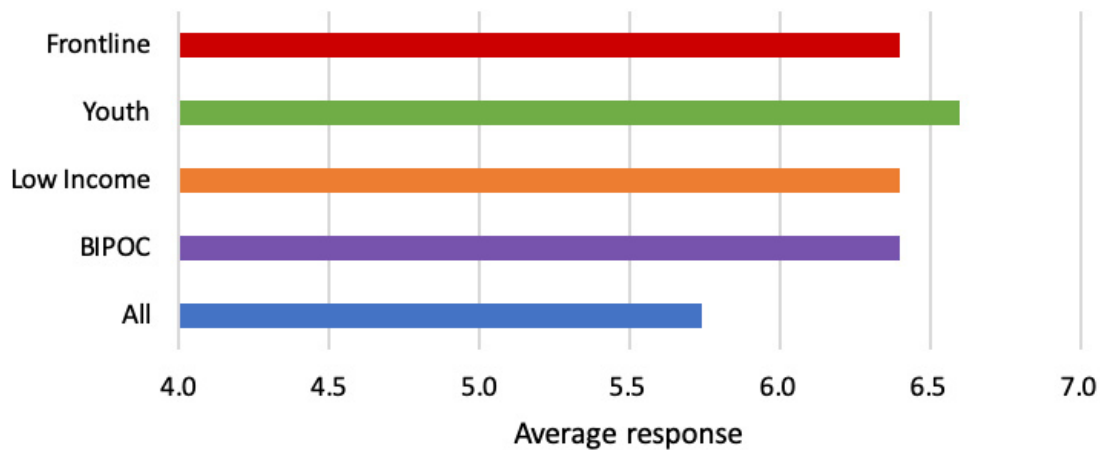


Figure 8. Average ratings of urgency to take action on the Buildings & Energy Big Move “Homes and buildings are healthy, affordable, resilient, and low carbon” for different demographic groups.

The Buildings & Energy Big Move “homes and buildings are healthy, affordable, resilient, and low carbon” was rated more urgent by all of our key demographic groups than the overall average of All respondents. It was rated most urgent by Youth. This was a top Big Move overall, and particularly for Frontline communities.

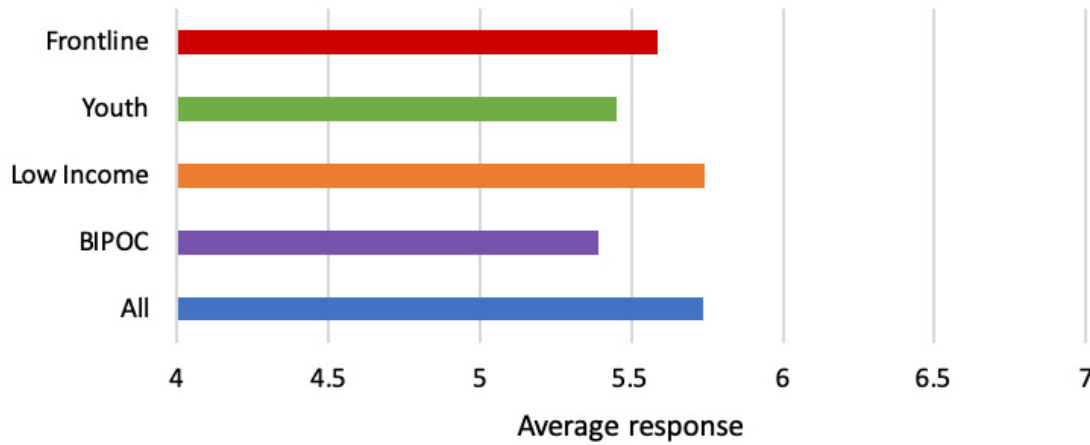


Figure 9. Average ratings of urgency to take action on the Buildings & Energy Big Move “Summertime water is used wisely” for different demographic groups.

The Buildings & Energy Big Move “summertime water is used wisely” was rated less urgent by respondents identifying at Frontline, Youth, and BIPOC than the group of All respondents. Though still considered urgent, this was one Big Moves rated with relatively lower urgency.

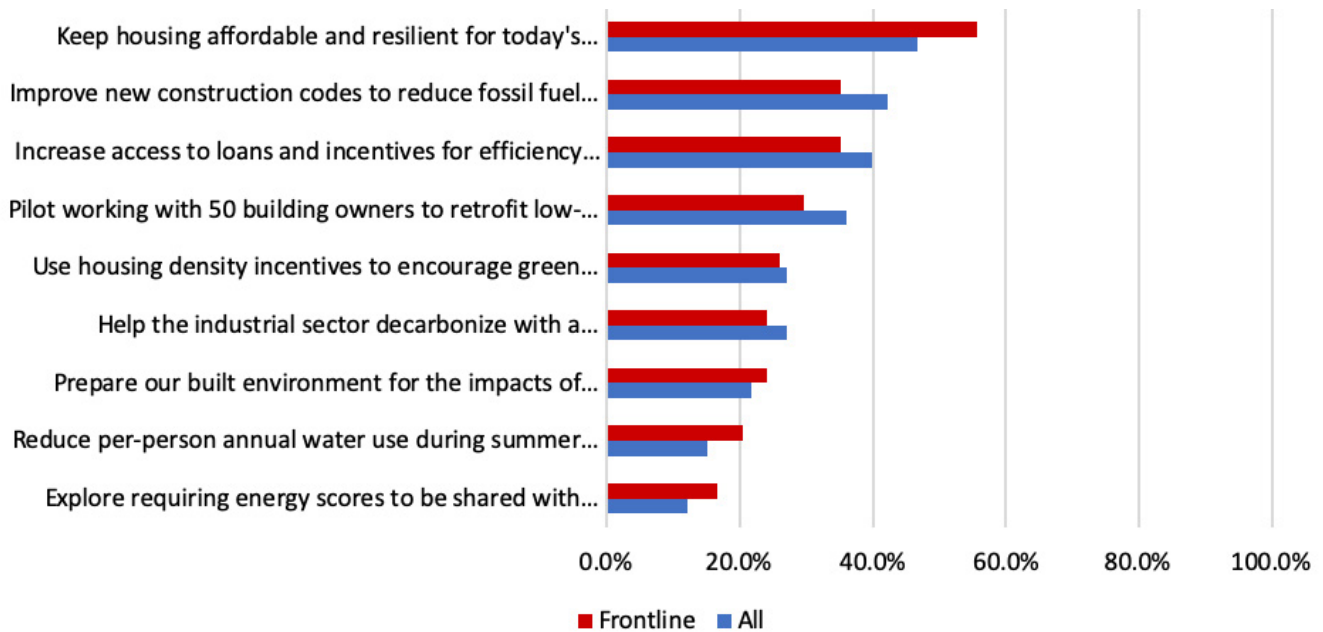


Figure 10. Priority Building & Energy Actions for Frontline community respondents and All respondents. Respondents were asked to select a maximum of three priority actions for this sector.

In line with the highly rated urgency of the Big Move “homes and buildings are healthy, affordable, resilient, and low carbon,” the top selected priority action for Buildings & Energy was “keep housing affordable and resilient for today’s residents by helping people stay in homes and keeping homes in good repair.” Over 50% of Frontline community members picked this action as one of their top three actions for Buildings & Energy. Improving new construction codes to reduce fuel use and increasing access to loans and incentives for energy efficiency were also top actions with over 30% of Frontline respondents choosing them as priority actions. Exploring building and home energy scores was the least popular action for this sector.

Qualitative Responses

Many of the comments we received regarding Buildings & Energy focused on equity implications like avoiding gentrification, prioritizing homes for those experiencing homelessness, keeping housing affordable for residents, and making sure our community members benefit rather than developers and corporate property managers. We also heard a lot of desire for City-led actions like incentives, regulations, and enforcement to make sure homes and buildings in Tacoma are healthy places to spend time, are prepared for climate impacts, and are low carbon. There is a great sense of urgency when it comes to housing issues. Several community members also identified the opportunity we have to take advantage of our relatively clean electricity and avoid future dependency on fossil fuels in our buildings and homes. Other specific comments included the need for culturally appropriate housing, making use of vacant or underutilized spaces, housing rights, and new opportunities for jobs created by investing in sustainable buildings and energy.

MOBILITY & LAND USE

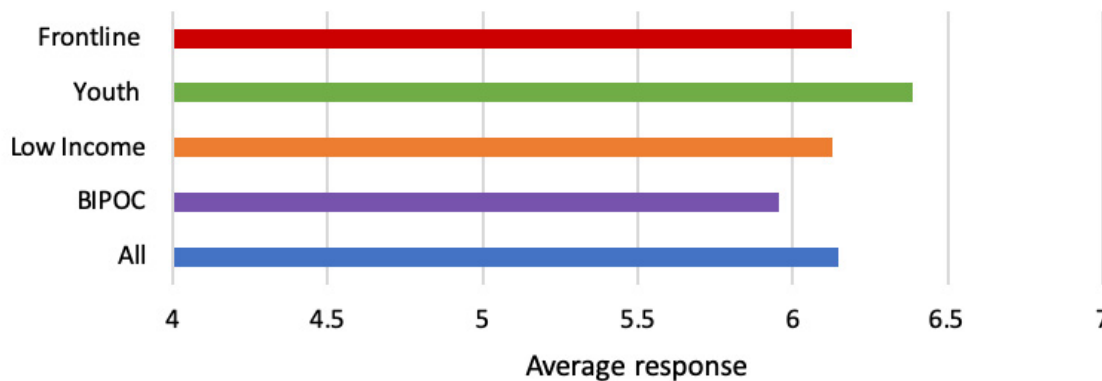


Figure 11. Average ratings of urgency to take action the Mobility & Land Use Big Move “Zero emission transportation is affordable and available to all” for different demographic groups.

The Mobility & Land Use Big Move “zero emission transportation is affordable and available to all” was rated most urgent by Youth, followed by Frontline community respondents. It was rated slightly less urgent by BIPOC community members in comparison to the group of All respondents. This was a top Big Move overall.

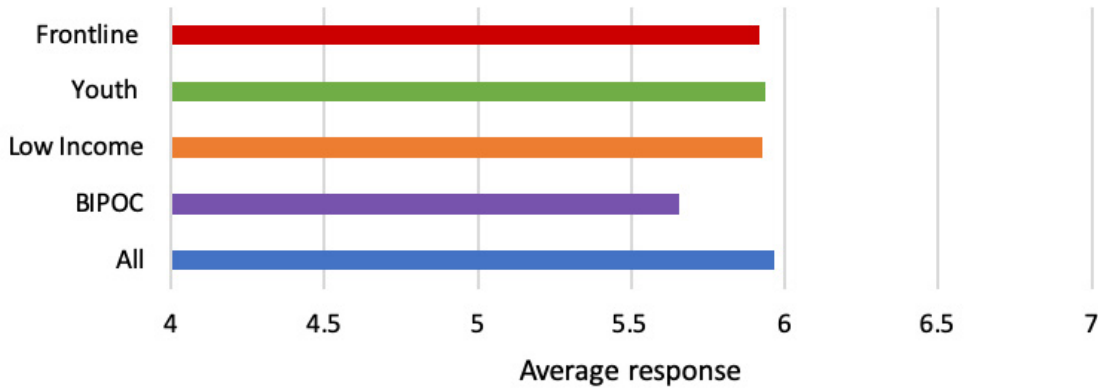


Figure 12. Average ratings of urgency to take action on the Mobility & Land Use Big Move “Active transportation and resilient, people centered design is available and used in all neighborhoods” for different demographic groups.

The Mobility & Land Use Big Move “active transportation and resilient, people centered design is available and used in all neighborhoods” was rated slightly less urgent by Frontline, Youth, Low Income, and BIPOC community members in comparison to the average for All respondents. This active transportation-focused Big Move was rated least urgent of the Mobility & Land Use Big Moves. This may mean that investments in transit and zero emission transportation are more urgent needs in our community. It’s also possible that the wording for this action item - which combined neighborhood design and active transportation, was less clear than other actions.

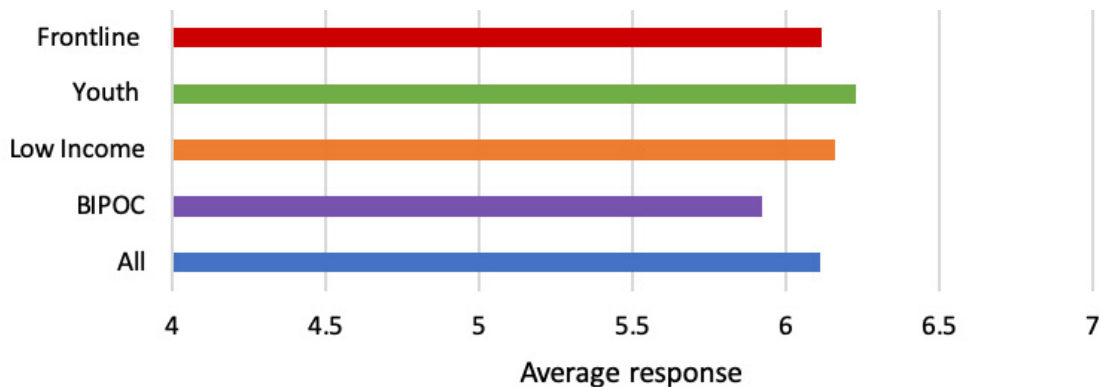


Figure 13. Average ratings of urgency to take action on the Mobility & Land Use Big Move “City supports better transit infrastructure that serves more Tacomans” for different demographic groups.

The Mobility & Land Use Big Move “City supports better transit infrastructure that serves more Tacomans” was rated slightly more urgent by Frontline, Youth, and Low Income community members and slightly less urgent by BIPOC community members than the group of All respondents.

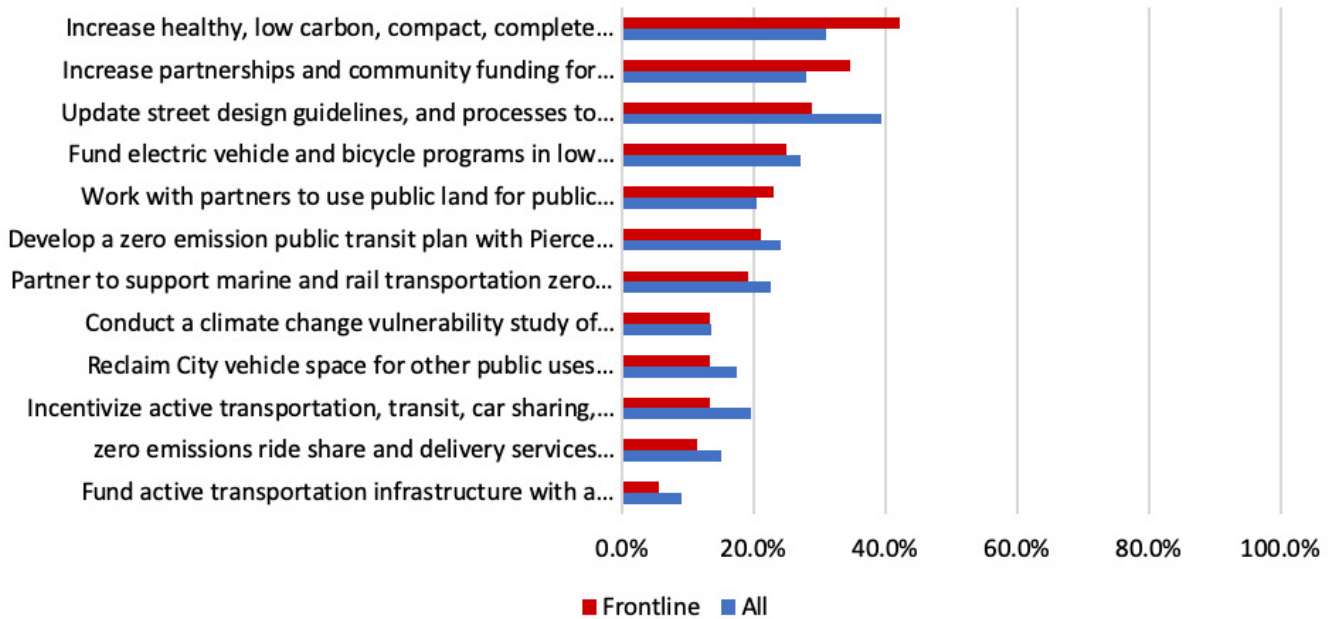


Figure 14. Priority Mobility & Land Use Actions for Frontline community respondents and All respondents. Respondents were asked to select a maximum of three priority actions for this sector.

Over 40% of Frontline community members selected “Increase healthy, low carbon, compact, complete communities along transit corridors and close to mixed use centers like business districts” as a priority action, making it the top action for this sector. Despite the lower average urgency of the active transportation Big Move, the second top priority action for Frontline communities was “increase partnerships and community funding for active transportation and public transit community programming to make it easier to use.” The third Frontline community priority action and top action for All respondents is to “update street design guidelines, and processes to make walking, biking, and transit use easier and safer.” The lowest priority action for Mobility & Land Use was the draft action to “fund active transportation infrastructure with a surface parking tax.” There was also little interest in the zero emission ride share and delivery services roadmap action.

Qualitative Responses

In response to Mobility & Land Use draft strategies and actions we received many comments from community members about the need for public transit to be convenient, reliable, and more frequent to feasibly replace cars and reduce vehicle miles traveled in Tacoma. We also heard many comments about bike lanes and sidewalks needing to be safe and connected for community members to feel comfortable walking, biking, or rolling. In some places, community members suggested roads be redesigned to slow traffic and make their neighborhoods feel safer. There was also a great deal of interest in low income housing situated near transit corridors. While some community members feel enthusiastic about electric vehicles (EVs), many expressed concern about the accessibility of EVs. We received many comments about EVs still being too expensive for most community members, even with subsidies, and the impracticalities of charging EVs for renters and those living in multi-family units. We received one comment suggesting the City invest in an E-bike sharing program to make biking in Tacoma more accessible. We also heard a suggested transit improvement target for all homes to be within a five minute walk of a bus stop with buses running at a frequency of ten minutes.

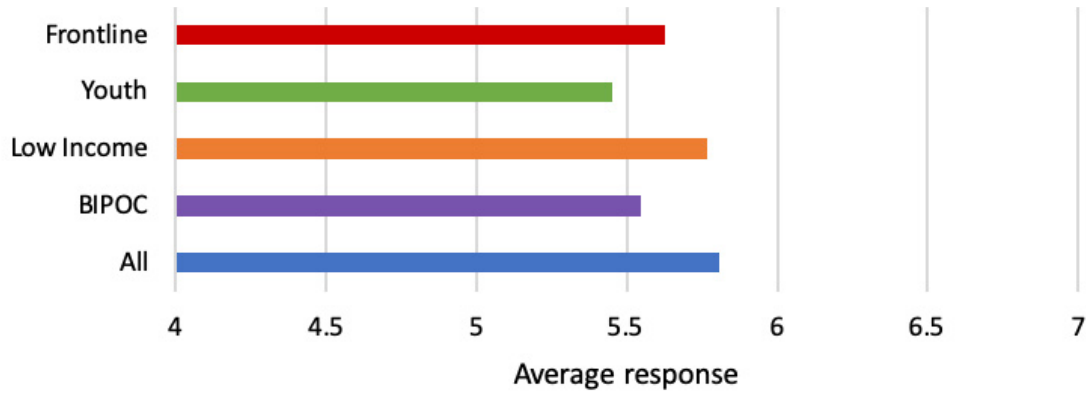
NATURAL SYSTEMS

Figure 15. Average ratings of urgency to take action on the Natural Systems Big Move “Healthy tree canopy is expanded where we need it” for different demographic groups.

The Natural Systems Big Move “Healthy tree canopy is expanded where we need it most” was rated slightly less urgent by Frontline, Youth, Low Income, and BIPOC community members in comparison to the group of All respondents. Overall, this Big Move was given an average urgency lower than zero emission transit and healthy, low carbon homes.

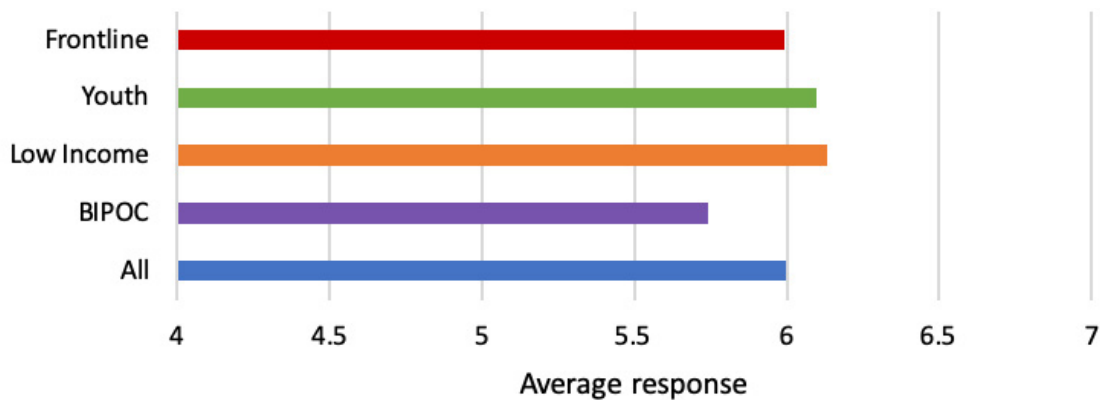


Figure 16. Average ratings of urgency to take action on the Natural Systems Big Move “Tacoma’s natural systems are diverse, protected, and resilient to our changing climate” for different demographic groups.

The Natural Systems Big Move “Tacoma’s natural systems are diverse, protected, and resilient to our changing climate” was rated slightly less urgent by Frontline and BIPOC community members and slightly more urgent by Youth and Low Income community members in comparison to the group of All respondents.

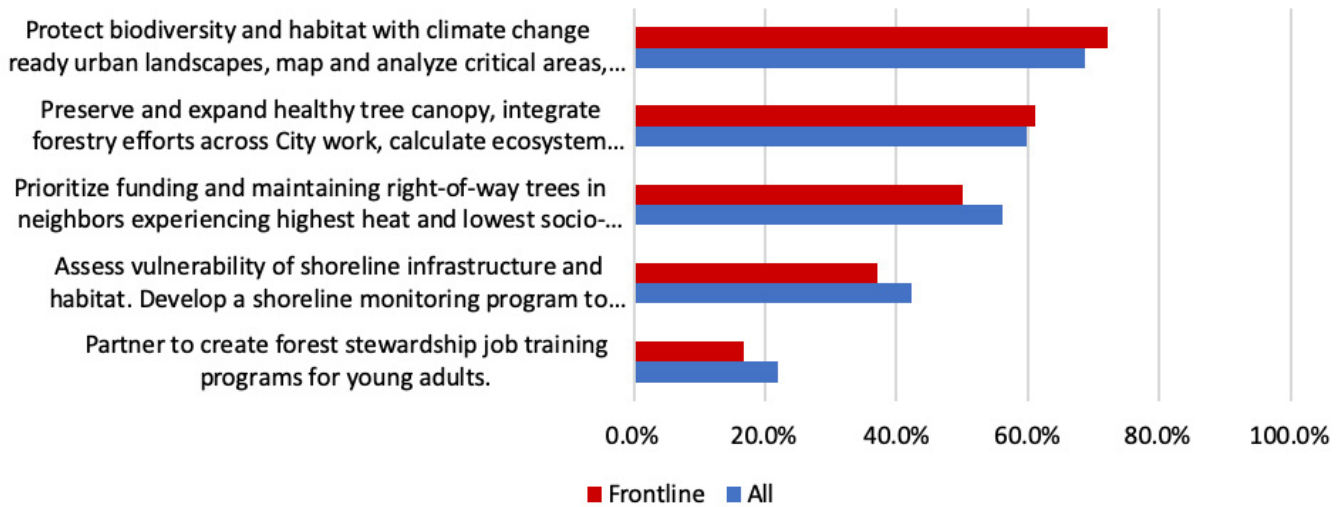


Figure 17. Priority Natural Systems Actions for Frontline community respondents and All respondents. Respondents were asked to select a maximum of three priority actions for this sector.

Although the Natural System Big Moves to protect biodiversity and expand tree canopy were not the highest urgency strategies for action, over 70% of Frontline community members selected the draft action to “protect biodiversity and habitat with climate change ready urban landscapes, map critical areas, update codes, and involve community” and over 60% of Frontline community members selected the draft action to preserve and expand healthy tree canopy as priority actions.

Qualitative Responses

We heard from many community members that protecting our natural systems is important because human welfare and nature’s welfare are inseparable. This is a community value that needs to be reflected in future habitat restorations and adaptations to climate change. We heard many comments about preserving, maintaining and planting trees, especially in neighborhoods experiencing the lowest tree canopy and the most urban heat. Habitat restoration is also an opportunity for economic equity, creating green jobs and access to food. Community members recognized that there are many benefits to Natural Systems draft actions like expanding tree canopy but that they are not the best way to make significant carbon emission reductions in the short term. We also heard a desire for City leadership and boldness in protecting natural systems and creating new stewardship opportunities. One Workshop participant mentioned that spending time outside of Tacoma makes it clear how many healthy trees there should be here.

LOCAL FOOD

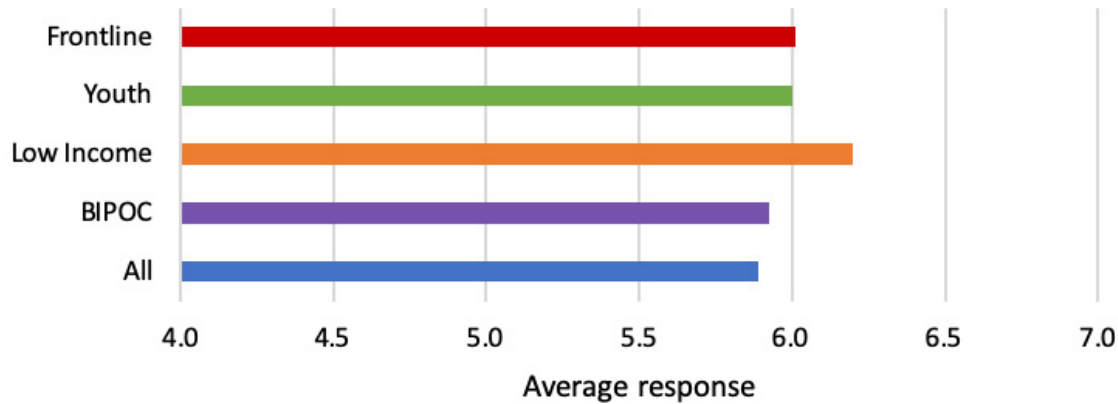


Figure 18. Average ratings of urgency to take action on the Local Food Big Move “Growing, making, and accessing healthy, local food is easy” for different demographic groups.

The average urgency rating of Local Food Big Move “growing, making, and accessing healthy, local food is easy” was relatively consistent across demographic groups with Low Income community members giving it a higher average urgency.

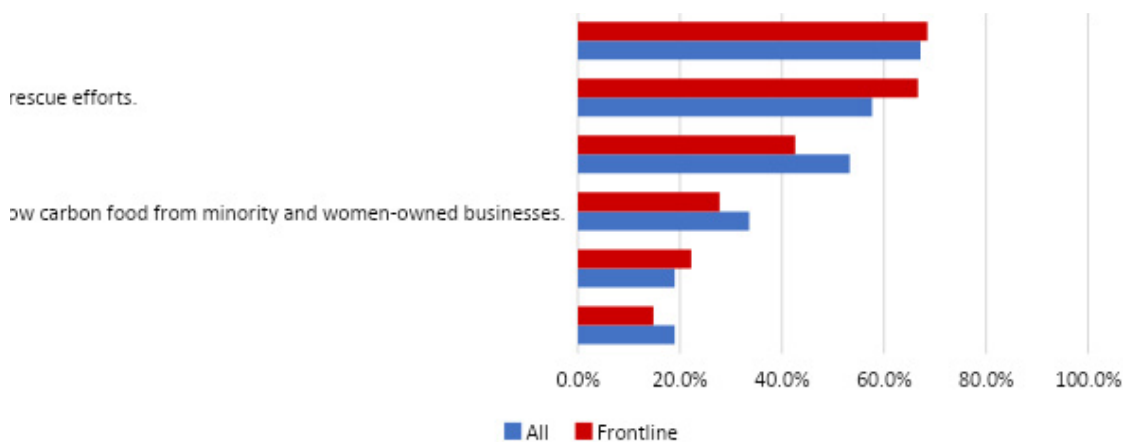


Figure 19. Priority Local Food Actions for Frontline community respondents and All respondents. Respondents were asked to select a maximum of three priority actions for this sector.

There are two clear top Frontline community priorities for local food actions: “Increase access to local produce for diverse and low income shoppers” and “Fund 10 community food projects, like community gardens, food forests, orchards, farms, or food rescue efforts.” The action with the lowest prioritization was to “Inventory public spaces available for community food projects.” This may be because this action feels like something that should already be under way and doesn’t directly impact access to food.

Qualitative Responses

In response to Local Food strategies and actions we heard several comments about access to healthy, nutritious food as a human right. Other comments mentioned the need to support and improve existing partners and explore new systems for food distribution like mutual aid. Many

concerns were raised about food access issues like proximity to grocery stores, community gardens, and farmers markets and the need for local food actions to focus on where there is the greatest need for healthy local food in our communities. There were a mixture of responses on where climate actions should focus on growing more local food, including yards, new and existing community spaces, or Pierce County farmlands. While not necessarily a sector that greatly reduces Tacoma’s climate emissions, many also viewed local food as an opportunity to create more local green jobs in agriculture. A couple of times the problem of culturally relevant foods at food banks was raised during Workshops. Ensuring community members receive foods they will eat can help reduce food waste and improve food access.

CONSUMPTION & MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

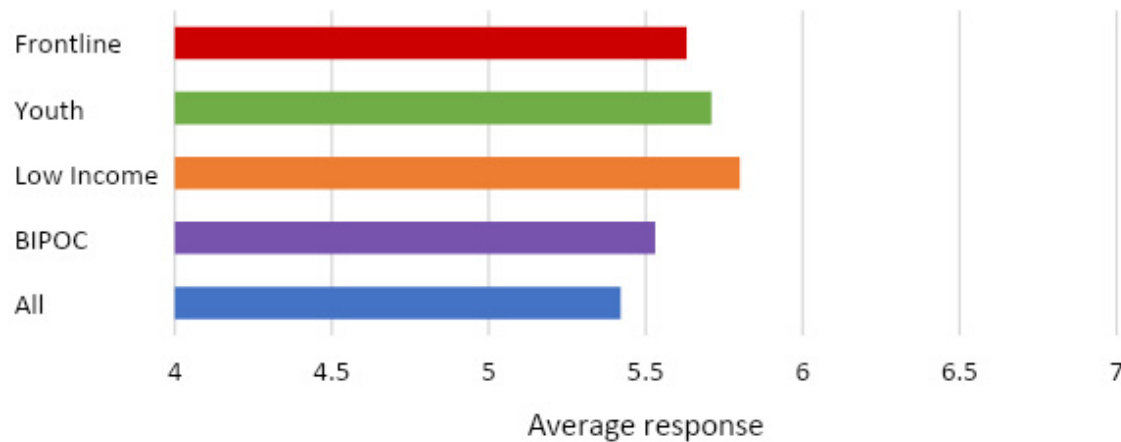


Figure 20. Average ratings of urgency to take action on the Consumption & Materials Management Big Move “No food is wasted” for different demographic groups.

The average urgency of the Consumption & Materials Management Big Move “No food is wasted” was higher for Frontline, Youth, Low Income, and BIPOC community members in comparison to All respondents. Particularly, for Low Income respondents, the average urgency was nearly one point higher.

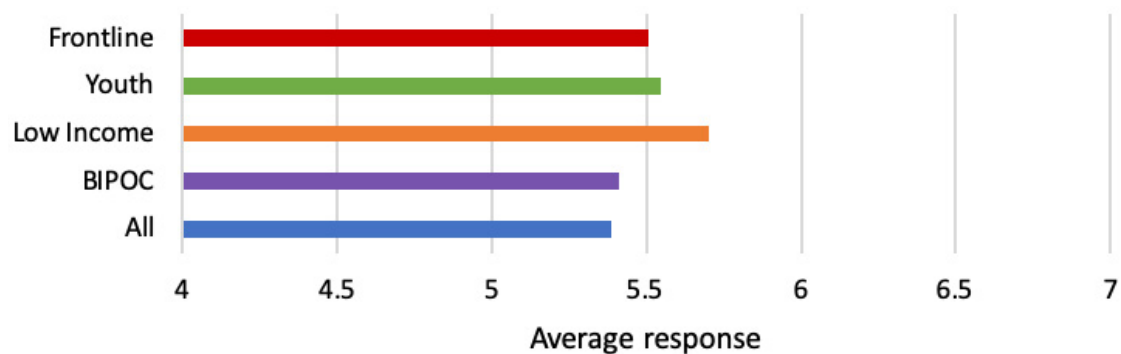


Figure 21. Average ratings of urgency to take action on the Consumption & Materials Management Big Move “Neighbors share, reuse, and repair items easily in our thriving circular economy” for different demographic groups.

The Consumption & Materials Management Big Move “Neighbors share, reuse, and repair items

easily in our thriving circular economy” received very similar responses to “no food is wasted.” Again, Low Income respondents rated this Big Move strategy as higher urgency than other demographic groups.

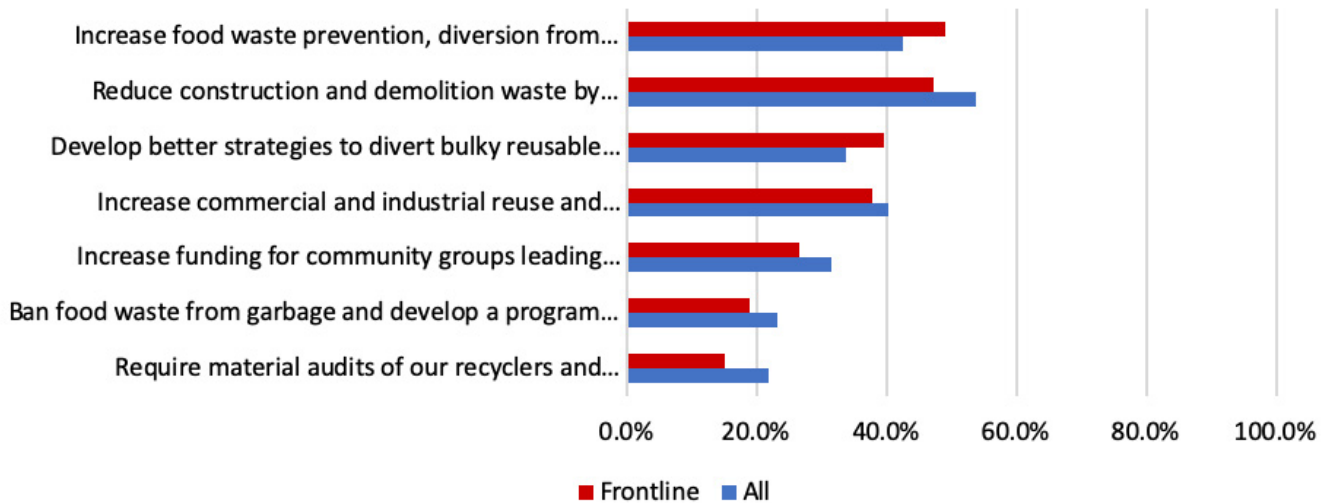


Figure 22. Priority Consumption & Materials Management Actions for Frontline community respondents and All respondents. Respondents were asked to select a maximum of three priority actions for this sector.

Nearly 50% of Frontline community members selected food waste prevention and reduced construction waste as top Consumption & Materials Management priority actions. Requiring audits of City of Tacoma recyclers and composters was prioritized least often. Despite the high interest and urgency of preventing food waste and diverting it from landfill, the draft action to “Ban food waste and develop a program to support its implementation” was the second lowest priority action. This may be due to the punitive phrasing of the action and potential burden on residents.

Qualitative Responses

Regarding waste prevention, we received many comments that the City needs to regulate and target local industries and companies that are producing the most waste in implementing waste reduction programs and policies. For example, a few community members expressed a need to address commercial food waste from restaurants and grocery stores rather than focusing on residential food waste. Several community members also commented on avoiding punitive measures when it comes to residential food waste prevention in response to the draft action to ban food waste from garbage. Many community members also expressed a need for more education and communication on waste prevention, recycling, and composting. Residents feel unsure about how to recycle or compost correctly or feel that others are not doing so correctly. For limiting construction and demolition waste, we received many comments about limiting new development and instead encouraging retrofitting and construction material reuse. A couple of specific recommendations for materials management were made, including investing in a local recycling facility, particularly glass recycling, to create a more local market for recycled materials and increasing accepted compostable materials in our yard waste bins (accepting cardboard/ paper and compostable food service ware).

GREEN ECONOMY

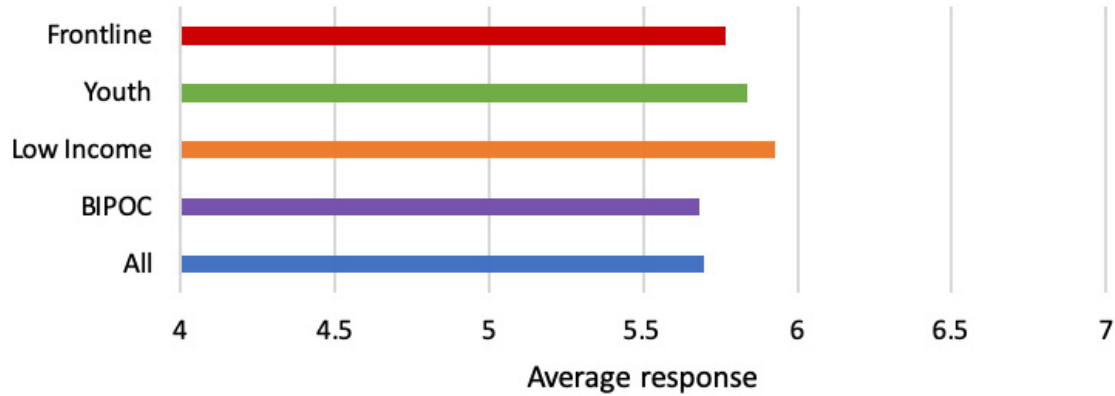


Figure 23. Average ratings of urgency to take action on the Green Economy Big Move “A prepared workforce helps existing and new innovative businesses and industries lead our green economy transition” for different demographic groups.

The average urgency of Green Economy Big Move “A prepared workforce helps existing and new innovative businesses and industries lead our green economy transition” was slightly higher for Frontline, Youth, and Low Income respondents than the group of All respondents.

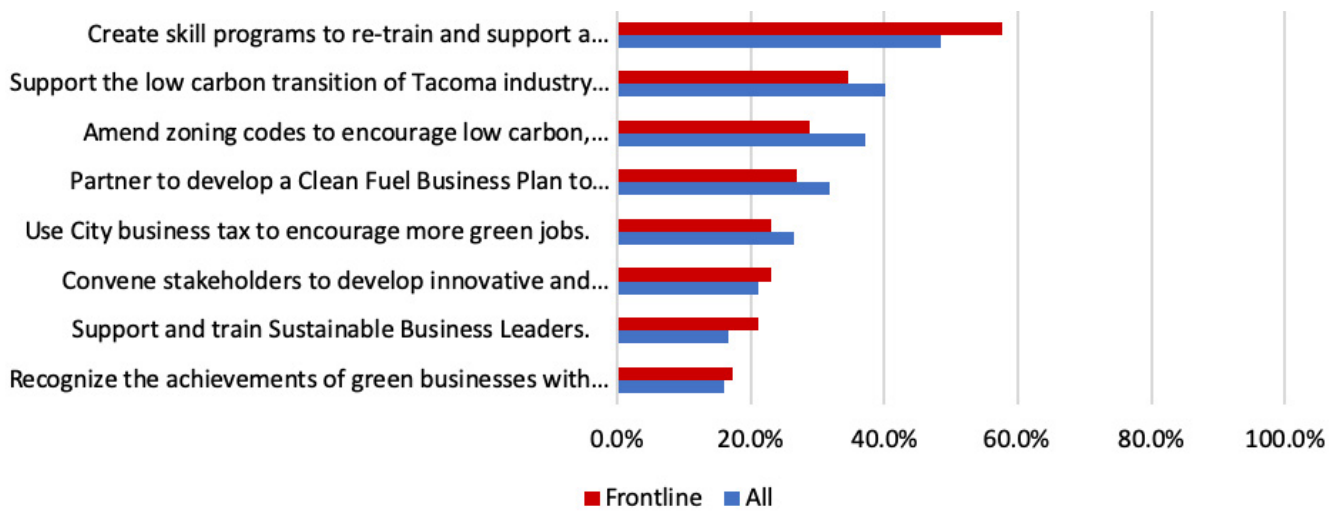


Figure 24. Priority Green Economy Actions for Frontline community respondents and All respondents. Respondents were asked to select a maximum of three priority actions for this sector.

With a significantly higher percentage of responses, the top Green Economy action for both All respondents and Frontline community members was to “Create skill programs to re-train and support a workforce prepared for the low-carbon economy.” This action had the most direct impact on community members rather than supporting businesses that will indirectly support green job growth and a low carbon transition.

Qualitative Responses

In line with the top priority action to create skill and retraining programs for a green economy, we received many comments about creating more diversity of training programs and making

sure that these educational programs focus on accessibility to frontline community members. We received a specific suggestion to partner with trade schools and the Tacoma school district to implement green economy training programs. The Port and Tideflats as well as other marine activities were identified in many comments as key areas for change. Specifically, it was mentioned that we need a sustainable vision for the Port. It was also clear in many comments that helping our manufacturing and industrial sector transition to a green economy needed to focus on eliminating fossil fuel use, especially in the Tideflats, and that we need to eliminate any further expansion of fossil fuel industries in the Port.

GOVERNANCE & ENGAGEMENT

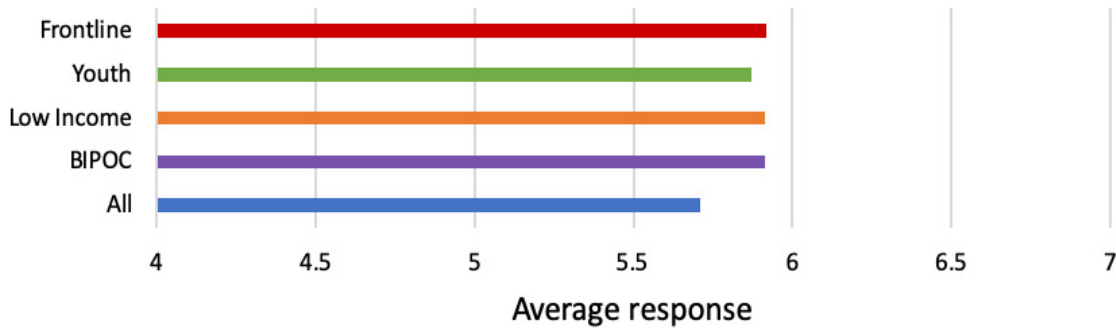


Figure 25. Average ratings of urgency to take action on the Governance & Engagement Big Move “Community members and partners share climate action leadership” for different demographic groups.

The average urgency rating for the Governance & Engagement Big Move “Community members and partners share climate action leadership” was consistent across key demographic groups and higher than the All respondents group.

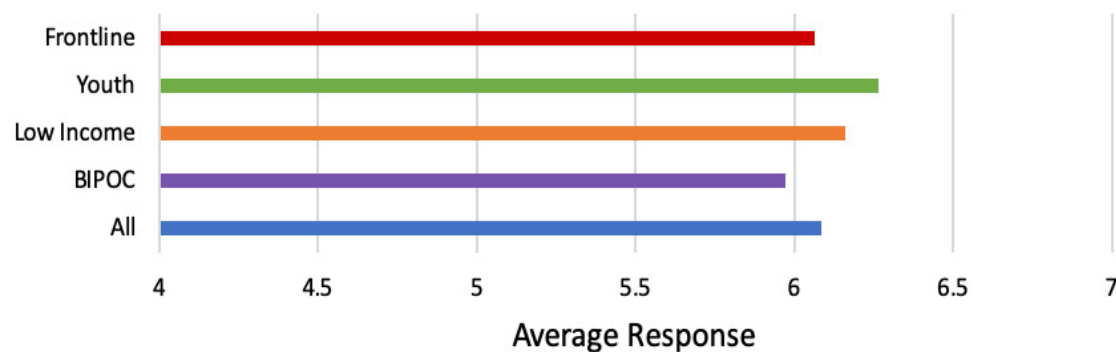


Figure 26. Average ratings of urgency to take action on the Governance & Engagement Big Move “All City decisions and actions are made using a climate change lens” for different demographic groups.

The Governance & Engagement Big Move “All City decisions and actions are made using a climate change lens” was a top Big Move strategy across all the sectors and was particularly urgent to Youth and Low Income community members. A Workshop attendee stated that this strategy was the only Big Move that felt truly transformational.

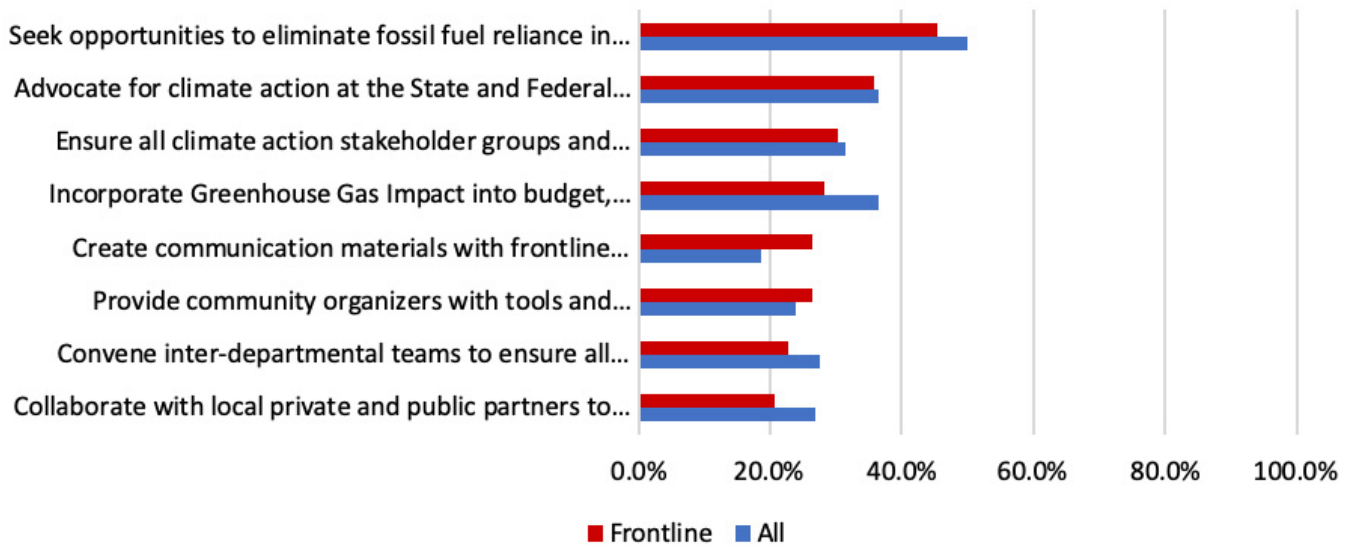


Figure 27. Priority Governance & Engagement Actions for Frontline community respondents and All respondents. Respondents were asked to select a maximum of three priority actions for this sector.

The top priority Governance & Engagement draft action for both All respondents and Frontline community members was to “Seek opportunities to eliminate fossil fuel reliance in investments and contracts entered into by the City” followed by the City advocating for climate action at the State and Federal level. Incorporating greenhouse gas impact into City budget decision-making analysis was also a top priority for All respondents but was prioritized less by Frontline community members. The lowest priority draft action is to “Collaborate with local private and public partners to tackle cross-jurisdictional information needs, adaptation opportunities and river management.”

Qualitative Responses

We received many comments throughout Phase II Engagement regarding equitable community engagement and specific feedback on Governance & Engagement strategies. There were three commonly mentioned themes.

1. It is vital that community is equally invested in climate action and is leading decision-making.
2. City staff members are not diverse and do not represent the diversity of Tacoma’s communities. This lack of representation is concerning and problematic when it comes to designing and implementing equitable climate actions.
3. City leadership needs to listen to community and pay members for their contributions. Several mentions of a new equity and/or climate change community-led advisory committee were made.

Additionally, one important edit to the Governance & Engagement Big Move “All City decisions and actions are made using a climate change lens” was suggested. A community member commented that this strategy should state “equity and climate change lens.”

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE LEADERS WORKGROUP FEEDBACK

The Environmental Justice Leaders Workgroup reviewed all draft actions during Phase II. Their comments informed revisions to the framing of the plan and contributed to the decision to use storytelling to more clearly connect climate actions to their impact on residents' lives. Their feedback will continue to inform revisions to both the framing of the plan and specific draft actions. In general, the EJ Leaders were concerned that these draft actions, while potentially useful if implemented well to ensure equitability and community leadership, are not transformational enough and are still very City-driven. Some of the draft actions did not center community needs or lacked direct impact on Tacoman's daily lives. The EJ Leaders will continue to meet through October developing their own recommendations and, potentially, additional actions for the climate action plan and City Council.

DATA ANALYSIS CONSIDERATIONS

Though the respondents we reached during the second phase of engagement and the input we gathered is not a representative sample of Tacoma citywide demographics and was not evaluated for statistical significance, it is important to keep in mind the purpose of Phase II. In our second phase of engagement, we sought to center frontline communities, build or deepen relationships, and foster community leadership for future climate action. We also learned a great deal through this collaborative approach.

We made progress toward our Phase II goals by concentrating on deep qualitative input from and support for frontline groups. This includes our Environmental Justice Leaders Workgroup as well as our Ambassadors and partner organizations that brought their communities into the process. With this and other input, we have been able to focus on responses from frontline communities that need better representation and service.

Even with more traditional engagement methods – like online surveys, presentations, and workshops – we were able to ask optional demographic questions and then prioritize responses to bring more equitable representation into the plan development process. Disaggregating data by demographics is an important tool and a growing standard for cities. While we have not always collected the data to consider demographics, the representation of communities has always been a challenge and an opportunity in community planning processes. Indeed, some communities – such as highly educated, high-income, and white communities – have tended to be unfairly overrepresented in planning processes, where their perspectives and needs are prioritized.

We have tried to counter a tendency to over-represent these communities, because without active efforts the pattern will continue. For example, the responses we gathered through social media posts and email lists may have primarily come from respondents already aware of sustainability and climate change issues in Tacoma since they most likely connected with us through the Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability or CHB resources. This may have influenced the results of Big Move strategy urgency and priority draft actions as well as the feedback we received in long-response survey questions and Workshop discussions. Specifically, the average survey respondent self-reported knowledge about climate change was 5.04 (maximum of 7), or "somewhat knowledgeable", and the average self-reported concern about climate change was 6.38 (maximum of 7), or "concerned"/ "very concerned." This high level of both knowledge about climate change and concern may not be representative of the general Tacoma public. To balance representation in our engagement and input processes, we looked at strategy prioritization by various demographic groups.

LESSONS LEARNED

Our planning and engagement activities occurred in a unique time and context. In particular, Covid-19 made day-to-day activities more challenging for many of our community members. We adapted our methods to meet community needs and safety priorities, while trying to make a complex plan accessible and participatory. Although it was challenging to get the quantity of participants we hoped for, we strengthened our planning approach by focusing on deep, qualitative input from frontline communities typically underrepresented and underserved by City processes. We recount some of the lessons we learned during this planning and engagement process below:

- Ultimately, key outcomes for engagement were met: new and existing relationships were built or deepened; community members were educated about local climate emissions, impacts, and solutions; frontline communities were prioritized for their input on how to develop a more climate-safe, just Tacoma as we approach 2030; and climate actions and strategies were largely shown to be of interest to and meeting the needs of community members.
- Context matters: Covid-19, summertime activities, students returning home, and virtual engagement fatigue were all matters of timing and behavior that affected the planning and engagement process; we sought to be flexible with and responsive to these challenges and dynamics.
- A comprehensive, cross-sector, local climate mitigation and adaptation plan is by its nature somewhat complex; while it should not be oversimplified, it can be made more accessible.
- Using a long, detailed survey enabled community members to better understand and engage with many of the elements of a climate action plan, but it also required significant amounts of input and was more challenging for Ambassadors to support.
- Virtual participation was difficult to estimate given Covid-19 and other contexts that community members were living through.
- Working with host organizations helped us reach more frontline community members and collect robust feedback; some hosts were excited to support this process, but may have needed additional support with marketing their event.
- While climate solutions may be somewhat technical in cases, they need to be framed in terms of strategies and actions that are understandable and relatable.
- Using storytelling and illustration can demonstrate how climate actions will improve daily life for our communities.
- Community members had mixed feelings with the planning timeline: while some thought solutions are fairly clear across years of climate planning and the need to act is very urgent, others wanted a slower process that gave more time for community members to learn even more of the science and do more work developing strategies or actions.

CONCLUSION

Working towards a community-based climate action plan that ensures a climate safe and just future for Tacoma, Phase II community engagement focused on providing climate emissions, impacts, and solutions education to community to facilitate informed input on draft strategies

and actions. To center frontline voices, we partnered with local frontline serving organizations to host workshops for their communities and continued working with the Environmental Justice Leaders Workgroup and Climate Ambassadors. Though we fell short of our outreach goals, over 50% of workshop attendees and survey respondents identified as frontline community members and provided rich, detailed feedback. Similar to the sustainability priorities we heard during Phase I, top priority strategies and actions include housing security, low carbon transit, healthy ecosystems, and local food access. All draft Big Move strategies were ranked urgent on average by Phase II engagement participants, but some draft actions were prioritized by more community members than others. Low priority actions are actions that will need revision or may not be of high enough impact to include in the final climate action plan.

While many of the draft actions and strategies were well received by the community, there was some concern about the accessibility of our climate action framework based on technical sectors and at times confusion about technical draft actions. Going forward, we plan to reframe the climate strategies and actions to be more people-centered, refine actions and strategies to reflect the suggested changes we have received, and prioritize actions of high interest to community members.

SUPPLEMENTAL FIGURES

| BIG MOVE STRATEGIES | AVERAGE RESPONSE (SCALE OF 1 TO 7) | | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|-----------|-------|------------|-------|
| | ALL | FRONTLINE | BIPOC | LOW-INCOME | YOUTH |
| | # | # | # | # | # |
| Healthy tree canopy is expanded where we need it most. | 5.8 | 5.6 | 5.5 | 5.8 | 5.5 |
| Tacoma's natural systems are diverse, protected, and resilient to our changing climate. | 6.0 | 6.0 | 5.7 | 6.1 | 6.1 |
| Growing, making, and accessing healthy, local food is easy. | 5.9 | 6.0 | 5.9 | 6.2 | 6 |
| No food is wasted. | 5.4 | 5.6 | 5.5 | 5.8 | 5.7 |
| Neighbors share, reuse, and repair items easily in our thriving circular economy. | 5.4 | 5.5 | 5.4 | 5.7 | 5.5 |
| Summertime water is used wisely. | 5.7 | 5.6 | 5.4 | 5.7 | 5.5 |
| Homes and buildings are healthy, affordable, resilient, and low carbon. | 6.3 | 6.4 | 6.4 | 6.4 | 6.6 |
| Zero emission transportation is affordable and available to all. | 6.1 | 6.2 | 6 | 6.1 | 6.4 |
| Active transportation and resilient, people centered design is available and used in all neighborhoods. | 6.0 | 5.9 | 5.7 | 5.9 | 5.9 |
| City supports better transit infrastructure that serves more Tacomans. | 6.1 | 6.1 | 5.9 | 6.2 | 6.2 |
| A prepared workforce helps existing and new innovative businesses and industries lead our green economy transition. | 5.7 | 5.8 | 5.7 | 5.9 | 5.8 |
| Community members and partners share climate action leadership. | 5.7 | 5.9 | 5.9 | 5.9 | 5.9 |
| All City decisions and actions are made using a climate change lens. | 6.1 | 6.1 | 6 | 6.2 | 6.3 |

| NEXT MOVE ACTIONS | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|--------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|------------|-------|-------|-------|
| | ALL | | FRONTLINE | | BIPOC | | LOW-INCOME | | YOUTH | |
| Possible | 199 | | 54 | | 23 | | 25 | | 7 | |
| NATURAL SYSTEMS | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Preserve and expand healthy tree canopy, integrate forestry efforts across City work, calculate ecosystem benefits of public trees, and map City trees. | 82 | 60 | 33 | 61 | 15 | 65 | 17 | 68 | 5 | 71 |
| Partner to create forest stewardship job training programs for young adults. | 30 | 22 | 9 | 17 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 24 | 2 | 29 |
| Prioritize funding and maintaining right-of-way trees in neighbors experiencing highest heat and lowest socio-economic opportunities. | 77 | 56 | 27 | 50 | 13 | 57 | 19 | 76 | 3 | 43 |
| Protect biodiversity and habitat with climate change ready urban landscapes, map and analyze critical areas, update codes, and involve community. | 94 | 69 | 39 | 72 | 19 | 83 | 22 | 88 | 7 | 100 |
| Assess vulnerability of shoreline infrastructure and habitat. Develop a shoreline monitoring program to track sea levels and prepare for rise. | 58 | 42 | 20 | 37 | 7 | 30 | 7 | 28 | 3 | 43 |
| None important / No response | 4 | 3 31 | 1 0 | 2 0 | 2 0 | 0 0 | 0 0 | 0 0 | 0 0 | 0 0 |
| | 83 | | | | | | | | | |
| | ALL | | FRONTLINE | | BIPOC | | LOW-INCOME | | YOUTH | |
| Possible | 199 | | 54 | | 23 | | 25 | | 7 | |
| LOCAL FOOD | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Inventory public spaces available for community food projects. | 26 | 13% | 8 | 15% | 2 | 9% | 7 | 28% | 0 | 0.0% |
| Improve regulations to make it easier to grow, make, and sell food. | 73 | 37% | 23 | 43% | 11 | 48% | 15 | 60% | 4 | 57% |
| Fund research into how to develop a community food hub. | 26 | 13% | 12 | 22% | 5 | 22% | 5 | 20% | 4 | 57% |
| Reallocate funding for food purchases for City activities and public meetings to prioritize healthy, low carbon food from minority and women-owned businesses. | 46 | 23% | 15 | 28% | 8 | 35% | 11 | 44% | 3 | 43% |
| Fund 10 community food projects, like community gardens, food forests, orchards, farms, or food rescue efforts. | 79 | 40% | 36 | 67% | 16 | 70% | 17 | 68% | 6 | 86% |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|---|-----|
| Increase access to local produce for diverse and low-income shoppers. | 92 | 46% | 37 | 69% | 20 | 87% | 20 | 80% | 4 | 57% |
|---|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|---|-----|

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| None important / No response | 6 83 | 3% 42% | 1 0 | 2% 0% | 1 0 | 4% 0% | 0 0 | 0% 0% | 0 0 | 0% 0% |
|------------------------------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|

| | ALL | | FRONTLINE | | BIPOC | | LOW-INCOME | | YOUTH | |
|-------------------------------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Possible | 199 | | 54 | | 23 | | 25 | | 7 | |
| BUILDINGS & ENERGY | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----|-----|----|-----|---|-----|---|-----|---|-----|
| Reduce per-person annual water use during summer months through smart metering, leak detection, and timely repair. | 20 | 10% | 11 | 20% | 5 | 22% | 3 | 12% | 2 | 29% |
|--|----|-----|----|-----|---|-----|---|-----|---|-----|

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----|-----|----|-----|---|-----|----|-----|---|-----|
| Increase access to loans and incentives for efficiency and clean energy in commercial buildings and homes, prioritizing renters and low-income. | 53 | 27% | 19 | 35% | 9 | 40% | 14 | 56% | 3 | 43% |
|---|----|-----|----|-----|---|-----|----|-----|---|-----|

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|---|-----|
| Improve new construction codes to reduce fossil fuel use by requiring high efficiency and health standards. | 56 | 28% | 19 | 35% | 10 | 43% | 12 | 48% | 5 | 71% |
|---|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|---|-----|

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----|-----|----|-----|---|-----|---|-----|---|-----|
| Use housing density incentives to encourage green building certification and net zero emissions. | 36 | 18% | 14 | 26% | 8 | 35% | 8 | 32% | 1 | 14% |
|--|----|-----|----|-----|---|-----|---|-----|---|-----|

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----|-----|----|-----|---|-----|----|-----|---|-----|
| Pilot working with 50 building owners to retrofit low-income multifamily homes to be low carbon, safe, and affordable. | 48 | 24% | 16 | 30% | 8 | 35% | 10 | 40% | 3 | 43% |
|--|----|-----|----|-----|---|-----|----|-----|---|-----|

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----|----|---|-----|---|-----|---|-----|---|-----|
| Explore requiring energy scores to be shared with home and commercial building buyers. Require commercial buildings to report their energy score. | 16 | 8% | 9 | 17% | 3 | 13% | 4 | 16% | 2 | 29% |
|---|----|----|---|-----|---|-----|---|-----|---|-----|

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----|----|----|-----|---|-----|---|-----|---|-----|
| Help the industrial sector decarbonize with a collaborative workgroup to explore opportunities in efficiency and clean fuels. | 16 | 8% | 13 | 24% | 6 | 26% | 6 | 24% | 1 | 14% |
|---|----|----|----|-----|---|-----|---|-----|---|-----|

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|---|-----|
| Keep housing affordable and resilient for today's residents by helping people stay in homes and keeping homes in good repair. | 62 | 31% | 30 | 56% | 14 | 61% | 14 | 56% | 2 | 29% |
|---|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|---|-----|

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----|-----|----|-----|---|-----|----|-----|---|-----|
| Prepare our built environment for the impacts of climate change by providing guidance to residents and businesses and improving codes. | 29 | 15% | 13 | 24% | 6 | 26% | 10 | 40% | 1 | 14% |
|--|----|-----|----|-----|---|-----|----|-----|---|-----|

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| None important / No response | 3 83 | 2% 42% | 0 0 | 0% 0% | 1 0 | 4% 0% | 0 0 | 0% 0% | 0 0 | 0% 0% |
|------------------------------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|

| | ALL | | FRONTLINE | | BIPOC | | LOW-INCOME | | YOUTH | |
|----------|-----|--|-----------|--|-------|--|------------|--|-------|--|
| Possible | 199 | | 54 | | 23 | | 25 | | 7 | |

| MOBILITY & LAND USE | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % |
|--|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|---|-----|
| Develop a zero emissions ride share and delivery services roadmap by 2030 and demonstrate solutions with pilot projects. | 20 | 10% | 6 | 11% | 3 | 13% | 6 | 24% | 1 | 14% |
| Partner to support marine and rail transportation zero emission innovation. | 30 | 15% | 10 | 19% | 7 | 30% | 5 | 20% | 5 | 71% |
| Fund electric vehicle and bicycle programs in low opportunity neighborhoods. | 36 | 18% | 13 | 24% | 9 | 39% | 9 | 36% | 3 | 43% |
| Increase healthy, low carbon, compact, complete communities along transit corridors and close to mixed use centers like business districts. | 41 | 21% | 22 | 41% | 11 | 48% | 11 | 44% | 5 | 71% |
| Incentivize active transportation, transit, car sharing, and electric vehicles, and reduce parking minimums in new developments. | 26 | 13% | 7 | 13% | 4 | 17% | 4 | 16% | 1 | 14% |
| Fund active transportation infrastructure with a surface parking tax. | 12 | 6% | 3 | 6% | 1 | 4% | 2 | 8% | 0 | 0% |
| Reclaim City vehicle space for other public uses through piloting projects like bicycle parking, play streets, and small parks. | 23 | 12% | 7 | 13% | 3 | 13% | 2 | 8% | 2 | 29% |
| Update street design guidelines, and processes to make walking, biking, and transit use easier and safer. | 52 | 26% | 15 | 28% | 8 | 35% | 4 | 16% | 2 | 29% |
| Increase partnerships and community funding for active transportation and public transit community programming to make it easier to use. | 37 | 19% | 18 | 33% | 10 | 43% | 14 | 56% | 3 | 43% |
| Conduct a climate change vulnerability study of infrastructure and populations and integrate findings into City emergency management and planning. | 18 | 9% | 7 | 13% | 5 | 22% | 6 | 24% | 0 | 0% |
| Work with partners to use public land for public benefits like resilience hubs, green space, economic development, and housing opportunities. | 27 | 14% | 12 | 22% | 8 | 35% | 11 | 44% | 0 | 0% |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Develop a zero emission public transit plan with Pierce Transit. | 32 | 16% | 11 | 20% | 5 | 22% | 7 | 28% | 1 | 14% |
| None important / No response | 3 86 | 2% 43% | 2 2 | 4% 4% | 1 0 | 4% 0% | 0 1 | 0% 4% | 0 0 | 0% 0% |

| | ALL | | FRONTLINE | | BIPOC | | LOW-INCOME | | YOUTH | |
|---|--------|--------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Possible | 199 | | 54 | | 23 | | 25 | | 7 | |
| CONSUMPTION & MATERIALS MANAGEMENT | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Increase funding for community groups leading waste prevention and reach more diverse community members and organizations to take part. | 42 | 21% | 14 | 26% | 8 | 35% | 11 | 44% | 3 | 43% |
| Increase food waste prevention, diversion from landfill, and rescue through added infrastructure, projects, ordinances, and staff capacity. | 57 | 29% | 26 | 48% | 14 | 61% | 13 | 52% | 4 | 57% |
| Ban food waste from garbage and develop a program to support its implementation. | 31 | 16% | 10 | 19% | 2 | 9% | 6 | 24% | 2 | 29% |
| Increase commercial and industrial reuse and recycling by providing technical assistance and outreach for a material marketplace exchange platform. | 54 | 27% | 20 | 37% | 12 | 52% | 15 | 60% | 3 | 43% |
| Reduce construction and demolition waste by requiring material recycling and deconstruction plans as part of the building permitting process. | 72 | 36% | 25 | 46% | 11 | 48% | 13 | 52% | 5 | 71% |
| Require material audits of our recyclers and composters to better track waste diversion and increase accountability. | 29 | 15% | 8 | 15% | 4 | 17% | 2 | 8% | 1 | 14% |
| Develop better strategies to divert bulky reusable and recyclable materials at the Tacoma Recycling and Transfer Center. | 45 | 23% | 21 | 39% | 9 | 39% | 11 | 44% | 2 | 29% |
| None important / No response | 3 86 | 2% 43% | 0 1 | 0% 2% | 1 0 | 4% 0% | 0 0 | 0% 0% | 0 0 | 0% 0% |

| | ALL | | FRONTLINE | | BIPOC | | LOW-INCOME | | YOUTH | |
|--|-----|-----|-----------|-----|-------|-----|------------|-----|-------|-----|
| Possible | 199 | | 54 | | 23 | | 25 | | 7 | |
| GREEN ECONOMY | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Create skill programs to re-train and support a workforce prepared for the low-carbon economy. | 64 | 32% | 30 | 56% | 13 | 57% | 17 | 68% | 4 | 57% |
| Convene stakeholders to develop innovative and sustainable marine industries. | 28 | 14% | 12 | 22% | 3 | 13% | 6 | 24% | 1 | 14% |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Partner to develop a Clean Fuel Business Plan to recruit clean fuel businesses to Tacoma. | 42 | 21% | 14 | 26% | 9 | 39% | 10 | 40% | 5 | 71% |
| Support the low carbon transition of Tacoma industry through a Sustainable Industrial and Manufacturing Collaborative. | 53 | 27% | 18 | 33% | 9 | 39% | 8 | 32% | 4 | 54% |
| Amend zoning codes to encourage low carbon, resource-efficient, resilient, and just businesses. | 49 | 25% | 15 | 28% | 9 | 39% | 9 | 36% | 2 | 29% |
| Support and train Sustainable Business Leaders. | 22 | 11% | 11 | 20% | 3 | 13% | 8 | 32% | 1 | 14% |
| Recognize the achievements of green businesses with participation in programs like EnviroStar. | 21 | 11% | 9 | 17% | 2 | 9% | 1 | 4% | 1 | 14% |
| Use City business tax to encourage more green jobs. | 35 | 18% | 12 | 22% | 10 | 43% | 7 | 28% | 3 | 43% |
| None important / No response | 6 86 | 3% 43% | 2 2 | 4% 4% | 2 1 | 9% 4% | 1 0 | 4% 0% | 0 0 | 0% 0% |

| | ALL | | FRONTLINE | | BIPOC | | LOW-INCOME | | YOUTH | |
|--|----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Possible | 199 | | 54 | | 23 | | 25 | | 7 | |
| GOVERNANCE & ENGAGEMENT | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Advocate for climate action at the State and Federal level. | 49 | 25% | 19 | 35% | 8 | 35% | 10 | 40% | 5 | 71% |
| Incorporate Greenhouse Gas Impact into budget, capital, and department level work plans. | 49 | 25% | 15 | 28% | 13 | 57% | 8 | 32% | 5 | 71% |
| Convene inter-departmental teams to ensure all capital projects include multiple sustainability benefits. | 37 | 19% | 12 | 22% | 5 | 22% | 5 | 20% | 1 | 14% |
| Seek opportunities to eliminate fossil fuel reliance in investments and contracts entered into by the City. | 67 | 34% | 24 | 44% | 12 | 52% | 14 | 56% | 4 | 57% |
| Provide community organizers with tools and resources they need to share expertise and engage in City processes related to climate action. | 32 | 16% | 14 | 26% | 3 | 13% | 11 | 44% | 3 | 43% |
| Ensure all climate action stakeholder groups and community engagement efforts are inclusive of frontline communities. | 42 | 21% | 16 | 30% | 5 | 22% | 11 | 44% | 1 | 14% |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Create communication materials with frontline communities about climate change impacts on health, emergency preparedness, and emergency event trainings. | 25 | 13% | 14 | 26% | 11 | 48% | 5 | 20% | 2 | 29% |
| Collaborate with local private and public partners to tackle cross-jurisdictional information needs, adaptation opportunities and river management. | 36 | 18% | 11 | 20% | 2 | 9% | 5 | 20% | 0 | 0% |
| None important / No response | 5 86 | 3% 43% | 1 1 | 2% 2% | 1 1 | 4% 4% | 1 0 | 4% 0% | 0 0 | 0% 0% |

TACOMA CLIMATE ACTION PLAN



Section 7 — PHASE III

PHASE III ENGAGEMENT REPORT

PURPOSE & OVERVIEW

This public comment period provided opportunities for community members to review, suggest edits to, and more generally comment on the draft of the Climate Action Plan before it is developed into a final draft and delivered to Tacoma City Council. City Council may then suggest further potential edits before considering the Plan for adoption. The October 1 – October 20 public comment period followed two phases of engagement that served to (1) develop a sense of community needs and priorities and (2) establish a list of effective, equitable, and community-informed climate actions and investments. The Phase 3 input process involved virtual public meetings, online surveying, stakeholder engagement, and other methods. The input period drew comments from more than 112 community members, including letters of support or recommendation letters from 8 groups or organizations. This process builds on input from 889 of community members during Phase I and Phase II, spanning September 2020 – June 2021. Altogether, climate action planning has engaged 1,001 community members and counting!

ENGAGEMENT METHODS

The Phase III public input period depended on a mix of engagement methods, including virtual public meetings, social media promotions, online surveying, stakeholder engagement, emailing, and other communications. Social media promotion and emailing supported virtual stakeholder meetings, virtual public meetings, and online surveying. Stakeholders engaged during the public input period include Climate Ambassadors; the Environmental Justice Leaders Workgroup (EJLW); Frontline “Host” Organizations; City committees, boards, and commissions; local neighborhood councils, local environmental, housing, transportation, governmental, or industrial organizations; technical teams of staff and external service providers and academic experts; and the general public. Staff support focused on frontline community members, the EJ Leaders Workgroup, and Frontline “Host” Organizations to increase representation in the input process as well as deepen input heard from these stakeholders.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES & PARTICIPATION RESULTS

More than 112 community members participated in the Phase III public input process, whether through the online public input form (which served as a survey), virtual stakeholder meetings, virtual public meetings, letter writing, or other comment communications. Results are reflected in the table below. Most participants gave comment through the online public input form. Several organizations or groups provided comment in written letters, including Citizens Climate Lobby, Citizens for a Healthy Bay, Downtown on the Go, Landmarks Preservation Commission, Manufacturing Industrial Council for the South Sound, Pierce Transit, Planning Commission, Port of Tacoma, Puget Sound Energy, Sustainable Tacoma Commission, U.S. Oil and Refining Company, and WestRock Company. [Commissions](#) are City-appointed community advisory bodies.

Table 1. Participation in the Phase III public input process

| | ATTENDANCE | RESPONDENTS |
|-----------------------------|------------|-------------|
| Online Public Input Form | - | 60 |
| Organization Meetings (4) | 16 | - |
| Virtual Public Meetings (2) | 22 | - |
| Email Comments | - | 1 |
| Letters | - | 12 |
| Social Media Comments | - | 2 |
| TOTAL | 38 | 75 |

WHO WE HEARD FROM

Of 60 total online public input form respondents, 29 self-identified as frontline community members – approximately 48% of input form respondents. Three Frontline “Host” Organizations participated in virtual meetings, including 14 frontline community members. The 10-member EJLW submitted a collection of comments as individual Workgroup members. Other Phase III engagement activities did not track frontline participation.

IDENTIFY AS FRONTLINE COMMUNITY MEMBER

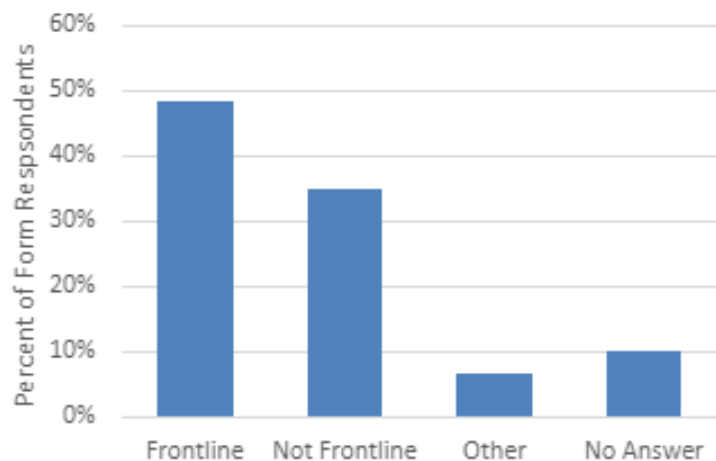


Figure 1. Percentage of online public input form respondents that identify as a frontline community member

Forty-two percent of online public input form respondents self-identified as Black, Indigenous, or People of Color (BIPOC). The largest BIPOC groups included “two or more races or ethnicities” at 18% and “Latinx, Latine, Latino, or Latina” at 12%. According to [U.S. Census Bureau data](#), Tacoma’s BIPOC population makes up 35% of our community. Notably, 17% of respondents chose not to answer this question. Percentages are only based on those who did answer. Other Phase III engagement activities did not track race or ethnicity demographics.

RACE/ETHNICITY OF RESPONDENTS

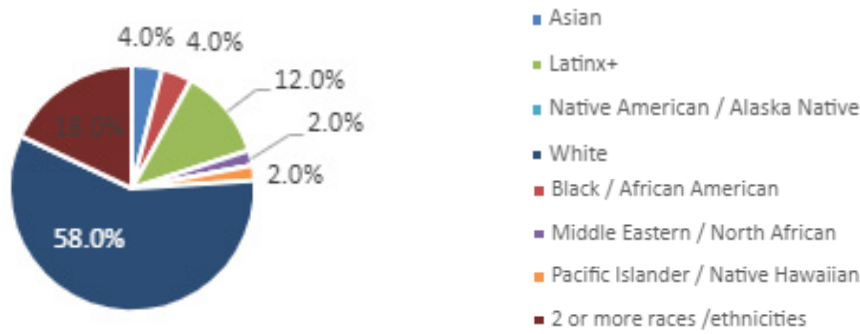


Figure 2. Race/ethnicity of online public input form respondents as percentages*

*17% of respondents chose not to answer this question. Percentages are based on those who did answer.

Twenty-eight percent of online public input form respondents self-identified as having a household income of less than \$50,000 annually. An additional 33% has a household income \$50,000 to \$100,000 annually. According to [U.S. Census Bureau data](#), Tacoma’s household median income is approximately \$62,400 for an average household size of 2.5. [Approximately 35% of Tacoma households have an income below \\$50,000 annually, and an additional 33% of households have an income between \\$50,000 to \\$100,000 annually.](#) Household size was not tracked. Notably, 28% of respondents chose not to answer this question. Percentages are only based on those who did answer. Other Phase III engagement activities did not track household income demographics.

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

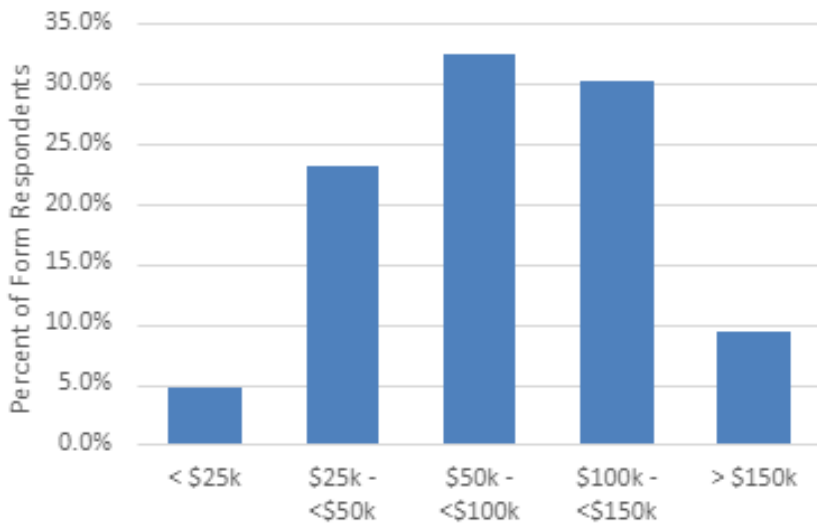


Figure 3. Household income of online public input form respondents as percentages*

*28% of respondents chose not to answer this question. Percentages are based on those who did answer.

Thirty percent of online public input form respondents self-identified as younger than 25 years old and an additional 6% identified as 65 years of age or older. According to [U.S. Census Bureau data](#), 16% of Tacoma community members are [younger than 25 years old](#) and an

additional 13% are 65 years of age or older. Household size was not tracked. Notably, 12% of respondents chose not to answer this question. Percentages are only based on those who did answer. One youth-based Frontline “Host” Organization, the Mayor’s Youth Commission, participated in virtual meetings, including 12 youth community members. Other Phase III engagement activities did not track age demographics.

AGE

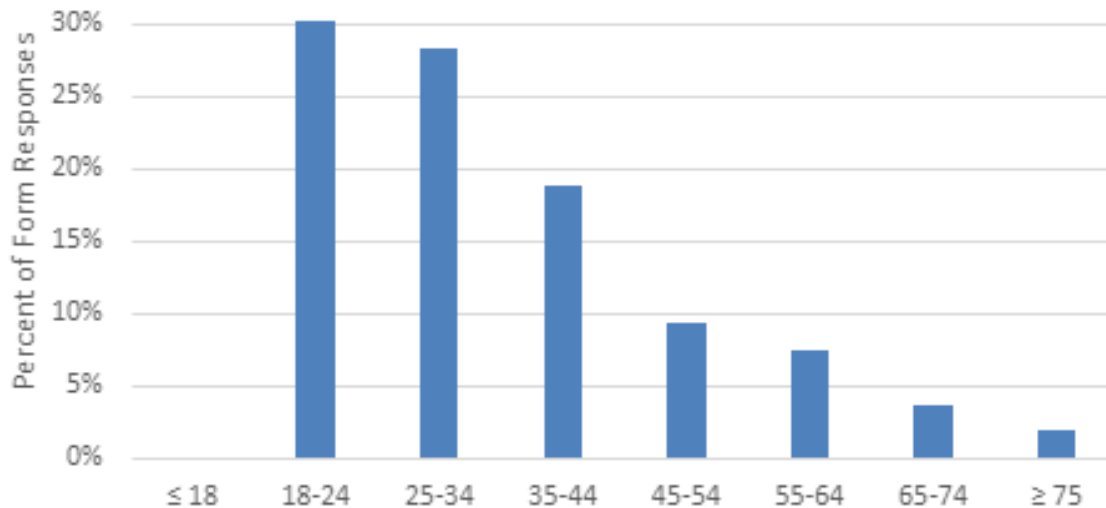


Figure 4. Age of online public input form respondents as percentages*

*12% of respondents chose not to answer this question. Percentages are based on those who did answer.

WHAT WE HEARD

Across input activities, staff heard the following input themes:

- That the Plan should be more detailed, measurable, and bold
- That the Plan should focus more on industry, whether to address emissions or provide additional engagement and support for businesses transitioning to a low carbon future
- That the Plan is important for leading our community in taking climate action
- That the Plan provides strong focus on social equity
- That the City, through the Plan and other work, should do more pollution prevention, protect natural systems, and develop green infrastructure solutions
- That many low carbon technologies exist and should be rapidly used now, while others need more development as we approach 2050
- That community members are interested in and concerned about funding, staffing, and follow through on implementation of the Plan
- That community members expect better transit and active transportation options from the City and other public agencies tasked with these services
- That the Plan is related to, should build on, and go beyond other City and public plans and activities

The following paragraphs examine feedback heard through different engagement methods.

VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETINGS

Two **virtual public meetings** were held on October 9th and October 12th to meet with stakeholders to discuss their comments regarding our draft Climate Action Plan in a live session. Both meetings were held outside regular working hours to accommodate for many working schedules and maximize attendance.

There was a total of 21 attendees for our virtual public meetings, and 11 people filled out our virtual poll to indicate whether there was a change in knowledge about the Climate Action Plan as a result of the meeting. Community members who came with limited knowledge about the Plan consistently indicated they learned from the meeting, as depicted in Figure 5 below.

VIRTUAL MEETING POLL RESULTS

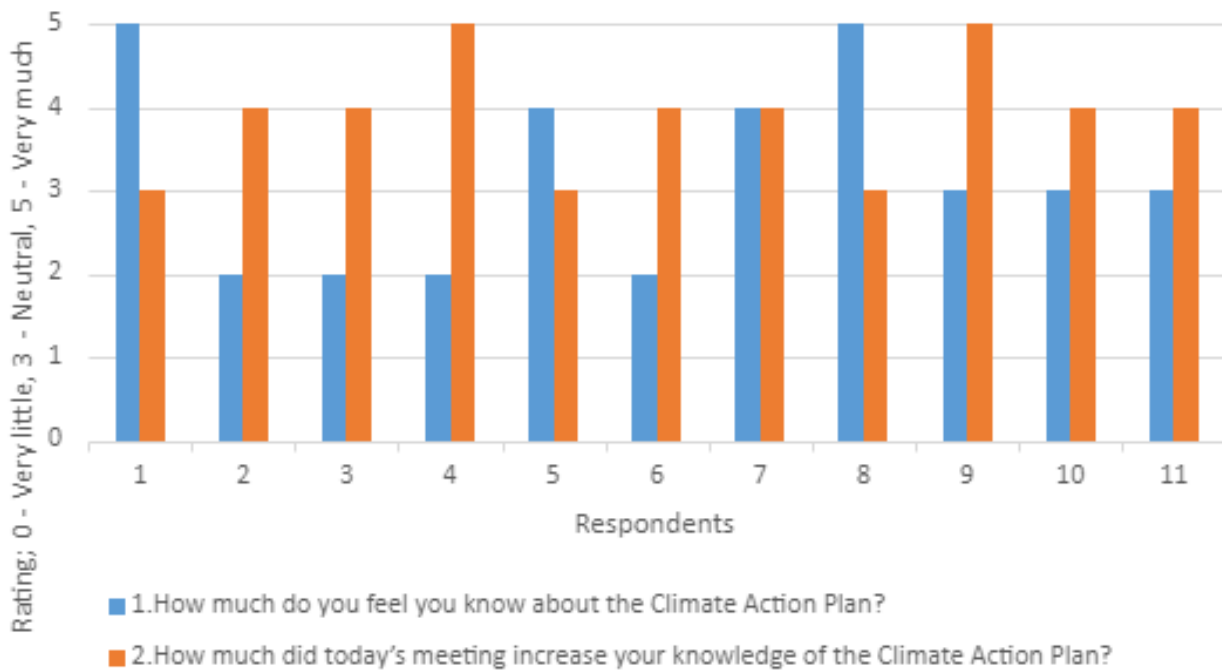


Figure 5. Change in knowledge of the Climate Action Plan in virtual public meeting attendees

More than 60% of our attendees noted an increase in their knowledge of the Climate Action Plan after the meeting. Attendees also pledged to continue to engage civically, whether by reviewing the Climate Action Plan, submitting the public comment form, contacting Tacoma City Council, or contacting their state or national representatives.

Table 2. Public comments in the virtual public meetings

| OCTOBER 9 ATTENDEES: 9; ZOOM POLL RESPONSES: 5 | OCTOBER 12 ATTENDEES: 13; ZOOM POLL RESPONSES: 6 |
|---|---|
| PORTIONS OF THE PLAN COMMUNITY MEMBERS WERE EXCITED ABOUT | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tacoma Equity Index map | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership with the Puyallup Tribe • Focus on equity |
| COMMUNITY INTERESTS & CONCERNS | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tideflats Non-interim Regulations • Affordable housing • Transit access & CAP connection to Pierce Transit services • Partnership with local organizations and offices such as the South Tacoma Neighborhood Council and Office of Arts & Cultural Vitality • Green jobs • Funding to protect groundwater aquifer • Infrastructure maintenance, preservation, and retrofits | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational engagement opportunities for students • Green jobs and equitable hiring practices • Collaborate with local public organizations to leverage shared funds and resources • Aligning funding with climate goals • Sustainable infrastructure and preserving infrastructure • Shift focus from high-level planning to specific actionable items and implementation details |

Based on their questions and input, it was clear that most of the attendees were concerned with the implementation stage of the Climate Action Plan, shifting the focus from high-level planning to outlining specific actionable items. The topics of concern included affordable housing, accessible transit, infrastructure conservation, professional and educational development opportunities, and funding for the Plan.

ONLINE PUBLIC INPUT FORM

During the public input period, community members provided 60 **public input form responses**. The public comment forms also reflected similar concerns regarding the implementation of the Climate Action Plan that were shared during the virtual meetings. One-third of the comments shared discussed CAP implementation and accountability of actions and strategies. Many comments, including many critical of the draft Plan as a whole, supported CAP actions or other actions seen as necessary to address the climate emergency. In many cases, community members wanted to see specificity around actions, how to fund them, how and when they would be implemented, and how to measure accountability to ensure we are truly addressing climate change like the emergency it is. General CAP responses noted the importance of specific actions outlined in the plan, including mitigating climate impacts

and decreasing emissions. 17% of respondents acknowledged the importance of forming partnerships with the local Puyallup Tribe and working with historically underrepresented frontline community members to prioritize climate action through a social equity lens. The fourth most common response by theme was regarding the preservation and expansion of existing infrastructure, such as buildings, and urban forests.

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM RESPONSES

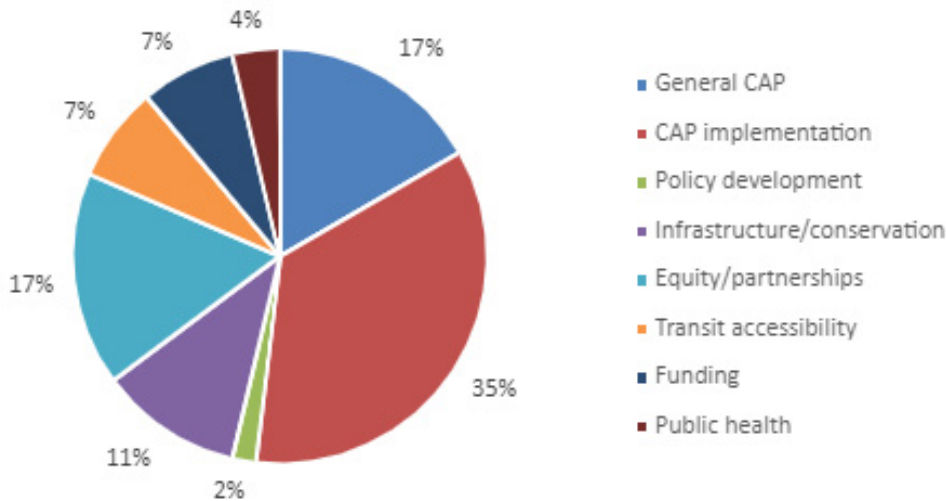


Figure 6. Public comment form responses by theme

Based on 60 online public input form responses, the draft Climate Action Plan received an average score of 5.4 in support of the Plan. Responses were based on a scale of one to seven, where one is “strongly against” the Plan and seven is “strongly in support of” the Plan. 58% of input form respondents expressed strong support for the Plan with a score of six or seven; 77% of respondents gave a score of five or greater in support of the Plan. Thirteen percent were against the Plan as drafted.

RANK YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE CAP

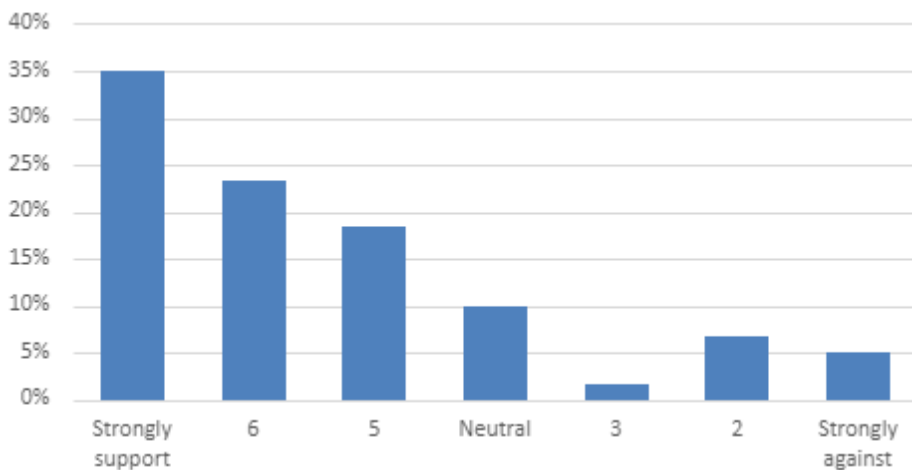


Figure 7. Percentage of CAP approval from online public input form respondents

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE LEADERS WORKGROUP

The Environmental Justice Leaders Workgroup (EJLW), composed of frontline Tacoma community members, informed climate action engagement and planning processes through regular virtual meetings and other interactions with staff from September 2020 – October 2021. In the third phase of climate action planning and engagement, the Workgroup met to develop Workgroup and individual member comments for the Plan – which can be viewed in Section 8.

Together, the Workgroup provided one shared comment related to the engagement and planning processes as well as the final draft of the Climate Action Plan:

“As it currently stands, the CAP does not adequately reflect EJLW’s direct input and stated priorities from the past year. We recognize and commend the City of Tacoma for taking a risk and branching out to change their public engagement strategies from the past. We strongly encourage them to continue down this path with some necessary course corrections. We thank you for seeing this need to incorporate our voices and now we demand that you listen to us: structural, systemic and institutional change must happen now! And in order for communities’ faith in municipal institutions to be restored and carried forward for the duration of this CAP, we must move toward a collaborative governance structure.”

COMMENT LETTERS

Other stakeholder groups commenting on the Plan, whether through letters or in virtual meetings, generally communicated support for the Plan. Letters from some industrial businesses communicated concerns about regulations and technology development to support the transition away from fossil fuels through 2050.

LESSONS FROM PHASE III

Overall, staff have identified various strengths, challenges, and areas for improvement from the third phase of climate action planning and engagement.

STRENGTHS

- Staff were able to re-engage some Frontline “Host” Organizations and groups who are typically underrepresented and underserved by these processes
- Various organizations and groups have already provided comment letters on the draft, and likely more comments will be delivered as Tacoma City Council reviews and considers adoption of the Plan
- Despite a shorter Phase III timeline with more limited staff resources, participation in the public input process approached a representative sample of Tacomans when measuring for participation by BIPOC community members, low or moderate income households, and youth.
- Relationships with community members or partners helped bring participants into the process
- Community and staff are eager to see the City pivot from planning toward taking bold action and engaging community in the implementation process

CHALLENGES & AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

- Engagement with and supporting policy- and investment-shaping input from frontline community members that are historically underrepresented and underserved and expected to experience the first and worst impacts of the climate emergency
- Engagement with and input from businesses was more limited than desired
- Despite the urgency of climate and social equity action, some community members and stakeholders feel processes should slow down or be more continuous to improve community knowledge about City plans, policies, processes, and work

REFLECTIONS ON PHASES I – III OF CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING AND ENGAGEMENT

REFLECTIONS ON THE PROCESS AND WORK AHEAD

- Closing this stage of climate action and climate action planning work is both exciting and leaves us with a feeling of non-closure. It was more than a year-long public engagement and planning process supported by an additional year of preparatory staff work. It occurred against a backdrop of a global pandemic-recession, a social justice crisis, turmoil in America’s experiment in self-governance, and an urgent climate emergency.
- This process was informed through years of engagement, input, policy, and planning work. This looks like the relationships between community members, stakeholders, and staff or elected representatives. In addition, a collection of planning and engagement processes contributed to the discussions and thinking in this process; these processes include: the Tacoma Community Survey (2021), One Tacoma Comprehensive Plan (updated annually), Tideflats Public Engagement Plan (2021), Affordable Housing Action Strategy (2018), and the Transportation Master Plan (2015), among other processes.
- The climate emergency is here now. It impacts our communities today – and the impacts are uneven and inequitable.
- The problems and opportunities associated with climate change and climate action are in many cases very clear. This is a problem that has been well understood by the scientific community for decades, and the time to act is now. To protect a more equitable, livable future for our communities and coming generations – which cannot speak for themselves – we must act transformatively. Failure is not an option. We must try mightily.
- There is much more work to do building relationships, delivering on input and investments outlined in the plan, and finding the resources to deliver.
- The Plan’s success relies on the input and accountability provided by community, the recommendations and work of staff, partnerships, and decisions by elected representatives. In many ways, the climate emergency must be solved with technical solutions and investments underwritten by local democratic decision-makers.

STRENGTHS

- Emphasizing relationships and the quality of input through new engagement processes and participation roles, such as the Climate Ambassadors, EJ Leaders Workgroup, Frontline “Host” Organizations, and community partner Citizens for a Healthy Bay

- Developing new virtual civic engagement practices
- Piloting stipends for equitable community participation in planning processes
- Engaging a breadth of valued stakeholders, including frontline communities, staff, and external service providers across many departments and organizations

CHALLENGES & AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

- Building our understanding of our history of social and environmental injustices
- Improving language access consistently, such as by translating documents or providing content on the City's webpage, which can be translated to 100+ languages
- Improving community representation in staffing
- Balancing engagement and planning processes that must accompany efforts and investments that deliver on input we heard and benefits outlined in Plan
- Maintaining relationships through staffing turnover and a rebalance of time focused on Plan implementation
- Improving educational materials for civic engagement processes, balancing completeness of information with practical brevity