Attachment 2: CCAP Winter 2024-25 online open house results

Metro hosted the first CCAP online open house from November 19, 2024, to January 6, 2025. 116 people participated in the online open house, including two who participated in Spanish and 21 who submitted feedback via adaptive screen-reader technology. Open house participants could view a video, text and graphics about the CCAP and about climate work to date in the region, and then respond to a series of four surveys about which greenhouse gas reduction measures most benefit their communities. These surveys were organized according to the key sources of greenhouse gas emissions in the region: transportation; commercial/industrial buildings and processes; residential emissions; and food, goods and services. Each of the four surveys presented a list of seven to nine greenhouse gas reduction measures, described in non-technical language at a general level of detail (i.e., with few details on when, how, or where within the region measures would be implemented). Participants were asked to select the three measures in each survey that they saw as most beneficial to themselves and their communities.

Most beneficial measures by sector

Below is a list of the three measures that were seen as most beneficial in each emissions category, as well as information on the percentage of participants who selected that measure as one of their top three.

Transportation
- **Make transit faster**, more convenient, and more reliable (73%)
- **Expand transit service** to neighborhoods that lack it (46%)
- Create **compact and walkable communities** (46%)

Commercial and industrial buildings
- **Increase energy efficiency** of commercial and industrial buildings (55%)
- Install solar panels or other equipment that **generates clean energy** on commercial and industrial properties (48%)
- Support new, local **renewable energy development projects** (43%)

Residential buildings
- **Upgrade older home heating, cooling, and hot water** heating systems with newer, more energy-efficient models (82%)
- **Upgrade the windows and walls of older homes** so that they stay cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter (70%)
- **Require new homes to have energy-efficient appliances** and/or meet energy efficiency standards (54%)

Food, goods, and services
- **Recover more food waste** for donation, energy and composting (64%)
- Help people and businesses **reduce food waste by changing purchasing practices** (52%)
- Increase **reuse of building materials in construction projects**, and salvage valuable materials when buildings are demolished or retrofitted (44%)

Summary of findings

Initial findings from the survey include:

- **Four actions—improving transit service, upgrading HVAC systems in older homes, upgrading windows and walls of older homes, and recovering more food waste— scored significantly higher than the rest**. In each case, at least 64 percent of respondents said that these strategies benefitted them and their communities. There is a significant gap between the popularity of these measures and other measures included in the open house.
- **Responses emphasized the value of climate actions that have multiple benefits**. Many open-ended comments recommended climate measures that have other co-benefits related to the environment (e.g., planting more trees and better preserving them, wetlands preservation, reducing plastic use and pollution), equity (increased affordable housing, supporting community-led climate projects), and health (reducing transportation-related deaths, improving air quality). Some of these options were not included in the survey because research has demonstrated that they have little to no impact on climate emissions, and the CCAP is focused on identifying significant measures that can meet ambitious climate targets. Nonetheless, this feedback highlights the need to prioritize measures that not only benefit the climate, but also have safety, health, environmental, and equity co-benefits.
- **Respondents were skeptical about efforts to reduce emissions through education and outreach alone.** Three of the four categories included measures designed to help people understand the climate impacts of their current choices and/or make more climate-friendly choices. Fewer than 35% of respondents identified these measures as beneficial, putting them in the lower-scoring end of the range wherever they were included. However, many education and outreach efforts seek to connect people with opportunities to reduce emissions that were seen as highly beneficial. For instance, transportation education and outreach programs are often focused on helping people take advantage of new or improved transit service, and residential outreach programs often help people connect with free home energy audits and retrofits. This suggests that outreach and education programs benefit people to the extent that they are designed to help people make the most of opportunities created by investments in other GHG reduction measures.
- **Making older buildings more energy efficient is seen as more beneficial than greening newer buildings.** Both categories that were related to building emissions included both actions focused on older buildings and actions focused on newer ones. In every case more people saw the former as more beneficial than the latter. This makes sense given that older homes make up the majority of the region's building stock, so investing in existing buildings stands to benefit more people.
- **Many people recommended actions to promote a large-scale shift to cleaner energy sources**. Local and regional agencies have typically focused on smaller-scale renewable energy systems or greening energy sources for the municipally owned utilities that serve some communities. Larger-scale shifts to cleaner energy among the investor-owned utilities that serve most of the metropolitan area are typically led at the state level by Public Utilities Commissions with the authority to regulate these utilities. As discussed below, both Oregon and Washington already have ambitious requirements to shift to cleaner energy sources, which the CCAP will account for in its GHG projections. The CCAP team will coordinate with state agencies to determine whether there are additional local/regional actions that can effectively advance clean energy.
- **Respondents have a broader range of opinions about measures to reduce transportation and residential emissions than they do about other measures**. The percentage of respondents who selected each measure ranged from 5-73% for transportation and 12-82% for residential, versus 24-55% for commercial/industrial buildings and 30-64% for food, goods, and services. This could be because transportation and residential buildings have often been the focus of climate work in Oregon and our

region, so people have more knowledge of and have formed stronger opinions about these measures. The low-end scores in the transportation and residential categories (both of which included measures that fewer than 20% of people identified as beneficial, including measures related to parking pricing, electric vehicles, and energy efficiency education) could indicate that people see these measures as having negative impacts, such as increasing household costs or diverting resources from more impactful measures. Notably, multiple open-ended responses explicitly encouraged agencies not to pursue a specific transportation measure—widening or expanding throughways. When evaluating potential CCAP measures, particularly in the transportation and residential categories, it is important to not only consider measures' GHG reductions and co-benefits, but also consider the potential negative impacts that might result from increasing household costs or diverting resources away from more beneficial strategies.

Detailed summary of responses

Metro hosted an online open house from November 19, 2024, to January 6, 2025, to inform the development of Metro's Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) under the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG). The online open house survey asked for input on climate action priorities to better understand community needs, enhance public understanding of climate change actions, and shape strategies to reduce climate pollution. The online open house and survey was offered in English and Spanish, with modifications to ensure screen-reader compatibility. It received input from 116 participants, including two submissions in Spanish and 21 submissions via the screen-reader adaptation. The following is a high-level summary of the input received.

To adapt to screen reader limitations, participants using the tool were invited to select their top three priorities using a multiple-choice format. Participants not using the tool were invited to rank the climate actions according to what would most benefit their communities. To create a unified result for evaluation while maintaining consistency between the two question formats, we combined data from the ranking responses. Rankings for first, second, and third were grouped together, reflecting the community's top three priorities without considering their specific order. This method aligns with the multiple-choice format, enabling a direct comparison.

The survey asked participants to identify four categories of actions that would most benefit their communities:
- Actions to reduce transportation emissions
- Actions to reduce emissions from commercial / industrial buildings and processes
- Actions to reduce emissions from residential buildings
- Actions to reduce emissions from food, goods and services

Out of these four categories, the **top three most popular actions** are:
- **Upgrade older home heating, cooling, and hot water heating systems with newer, more energy-efficient models** (Category: Actions to reduce emissions from residential buildings)
- **Make transit faster, more convenient, and more reliable** (Category: Actions to reduce transportation emissions)
- **Upgrade the windows and walls of older homes so that they stay cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter** (Category: Actions to reduce emissions from residential buildings)
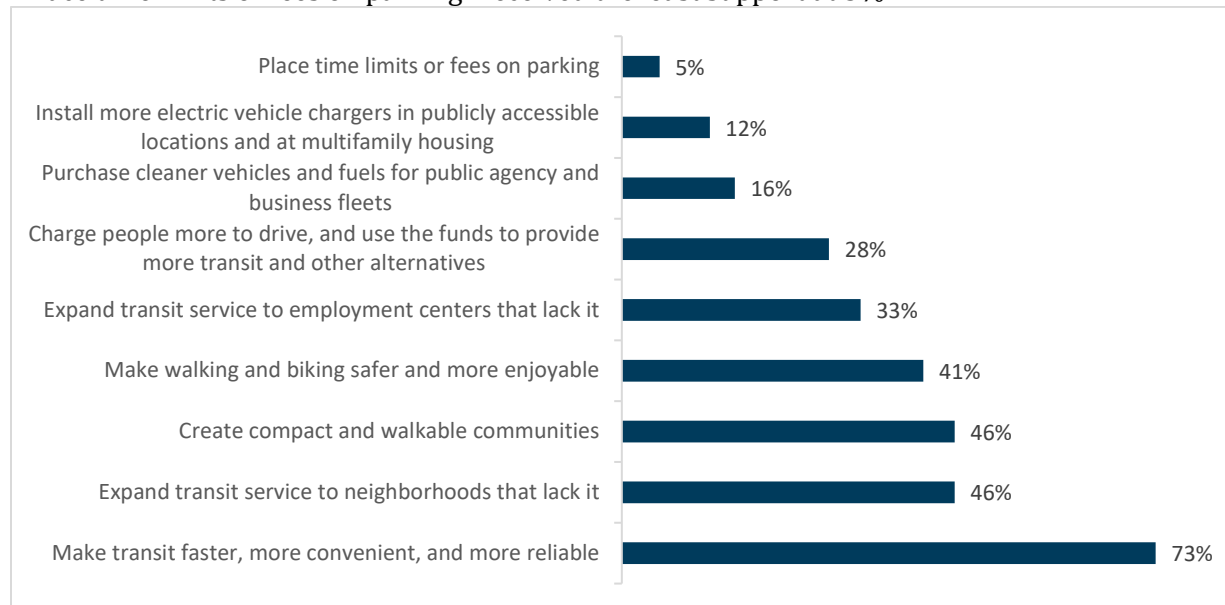
Actions to reduce transportation emissions

There were nine proposed climate actions to reduce transportation emissions. The survey asked participants to identify the top actions that would most benefit their communities from the following list. *Note: The percentages shown below may not sum to 100%. The percentages derived from taking the number of times each action is selected as a top three priority dividing it over the total number of participants.*

- Expand transit service to neighborhoods that lack it
- Expand transit service to employment centers that lack it
- Make transit faster, more convenient, and more reliable
- Create compact and walkable communities
- Make walking and biking safer and more enjoyable
- Install more electric vehicle chargers in publicly accessible locations and at multifamily housing
- Purchase cleaner vehicles and fuels for public agency and business fleets
- Place time limits or fees on parking
- Charge people more to drive, and use the funds to provide more transit and other alternatives

The most frequently selected actions were:
- Make transit faster, more convenient, and more reliable (73%)
- Expand transit services to neighborhoods that lack it (46%)
- Create compact and walkable communities (46%)

"Place time limits or fees on parking" received the least support at 5%.

Action	Percentage
Place time limits or fees on parking	5%
Install more electric vehicle chargers in publicly accessible locations and at multifamily housing	12%
Purchase cleaner vehicles and fuels for public agency and business fleets	16%
Charge people more to drive, and use the funds to provide more transit and other alternatives	28%
Expand transit service to employment centers that lack it	33%
Make walking and biking safer and more enjoyable	41%
Create compact and walkable communities	46%
Expand transit service to neighborhoods that lack it	46%
Make transit faster, more convenient, and more reliable	73%

Actions to reduce emissions from commercial / industrial buildings and processes

There were eight proposed climate actions to reduce emissions from commercial/industrial buildings and processes. The survey asked participants to identify the top actions that would most benefit their communities from the following list. *Note: The percentages shown below may not sum to 100%. The percentages are derived from taking the number of times each action is selected as a top three priority dividing it over the total number of participants.*
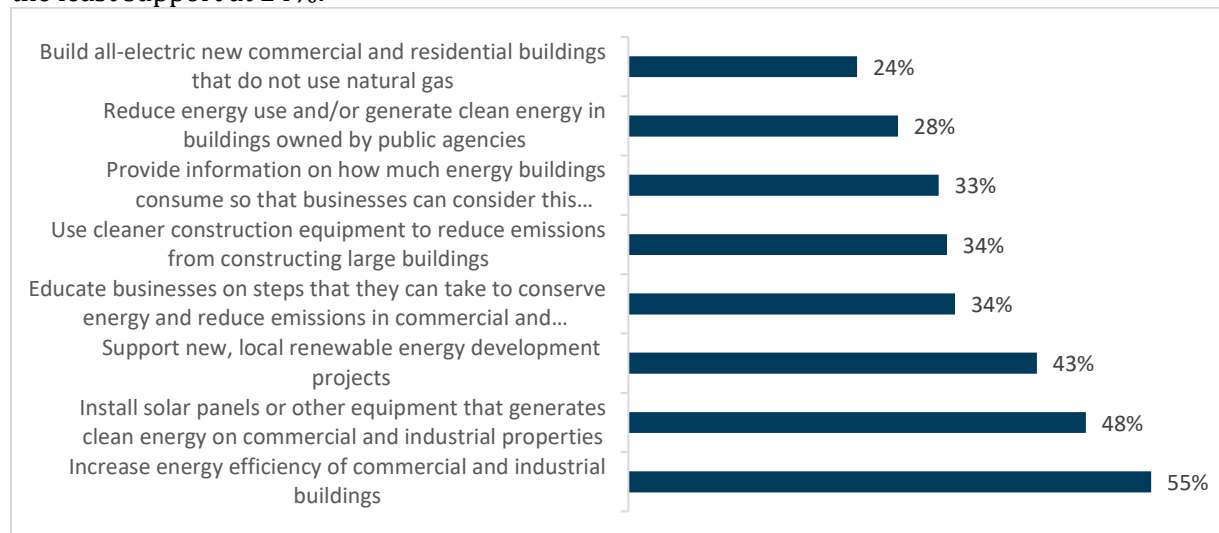
- Provide information on how much energy buildings consume so that businesses can consider this information when purchasing or leasing property
- Educate businesses on steps that they can take to conserve energy and reduce emissions in commercial and industrial buildings
- Use cleaner construction equipment to reduce emissions from constructing large buildings
- Increase energy efficiency of commercial and industrial buildings
- Install solar panels or other equipment that generates clean energy on commercial and industrial properties
- Reduce energy use and/or generate clean energy in buildings owned by public agencies
- Build all-electric new commercial and residential buildings that do not use natural gas
- Support new, local renewable energy development projects

The most frequently selected actions were:
- Increase energy efficiency of commercial and industrial buildings (55%)
- Install solar panels or other equipment that generates clean energy on commercial and industrial properties (48%)
- Support new, local renewable energy development projects (43%)

"Build all-electric new commercial and residential buildings that do not use natural gas" received the least support at 24%.

Action	Percentage
Build all-electric new commercial and residential buildings that do not use natural gas	24%
Reduce energy use and/or generate clean energy in buildings owned by public agencies	28%
Provide information on how much energy buildings consume so that businesses can consider this…	33%
Use cleaner construction equipment to reduce emissions from constructing large buildings	34%
Educate businesses on steps that they can take to conserve energy and reduce emissions in commercial and…	34%
Support new, local renewable energy development projects	43%
Install solar panels or other equipment that generates clean energy on commercial and industrial properties	48%
Increase energy efficiency of commercial and industrial buildings	55%

Actions to reduce emissions from residential buildings

There were seven proposed climate actions to reduce emissions from residential buildings. The survey asked participants to identify the top actions that would most benefit their communities from the following list. *Note: The percentages shown below may not sum to 100%. The percentages are derived from taking the number of times each action is selected as a top three priority dividing it over the total number of participants.*

- Upgrade older home heating, cooling, and hot water heating systems with newer, more energy-efficient models
- Upgrade the windows and walls of older homes so that they stay cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter
- Require new homes to have energy-efficient appliances and/or meet energy efficiency standards

- Install solar panels or other equipment that generates clean energy on homes and multifamily buildings
- Provide information on how much energy homes consume so that people can consider this information when buying a home
- Educate people on steps that they can take to conserve energy and reduce emissions at home
- Make affordable housing units more energy efficient to reduce pollution, improve health, and lower costs for residents most in need

The most frequently selected actions were:
- Upgrade older home heating, cooling, and hot water heating systems with newer, more energy-efficient models (82%)
- Upgrade the windows and walls of older homes so that they stay cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter (70%)
- Require new homes to have energy-efficient appliances and/or meet energy efficiency standards (54%)

"Provide information on how much energy homes consume so that people can consider this information when buying a home" received the least support at 12%.
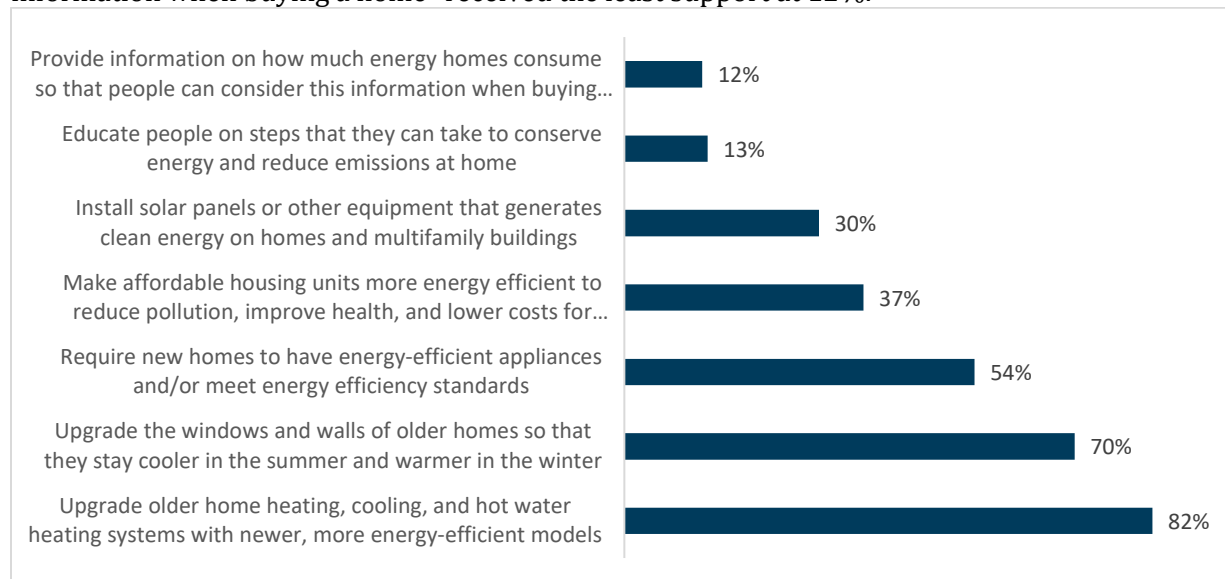
Actions to reduce emissions from food, goods and services

There were seven proposed climate actions to reduce emissions from food, goods and services. The survey asked participants to identify the top actions that would most benefit their communities from the following list. Note: The percentages shown below may not sum to 100%. The percentages are derived from taking the number of times each action is selected as a top three priority dividing it over the total number of participants.
- Make climate-friendly, plant-forward diets well understood and accessible to everyone
- Help people and businesses reduce food waste by changing purchasing practices
- Recover more food waste for donation, energy and composting
- Increase reuse of building materials in construction projects, and salvage valuable materials when buildings are demolished or retrofitted
- Design and build more homes and businesses with low-carbon concrete and other climate-friendly building materials
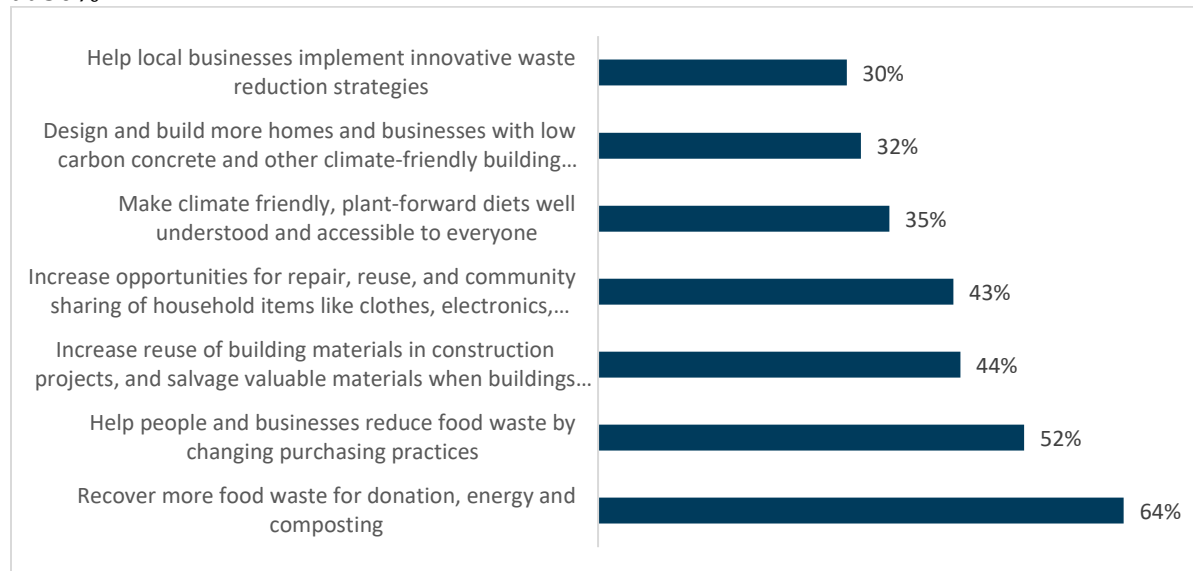
- Increase opportunities for repair, reuse, and community sharing of household items like clothes, electronics, furniture and appliances
- Help local businesses implement innovative waste reduction strategies

The most frequently selected actions were:
- Recover more food waste for donation, energy and composting (64%)
- Help people and businesses reduce food waste by changing purchasing practices (52%)
- Increase reuse of building materials in construction projects, and salvage valuable materials when buildings are demolished or retrofitted (44%)

"Help local businesses implement innovative waste reduction strategies" received the least support at 30%.

Action	Percent
Help local businesses implement innovative waste reduction strategies	30%
Design and build more homes and businesses with low carbon concrete and other climate-friendly building…	32%
Make climate friendly, plant-forward diets well understood and accessible to everyone	35%
Increase opportunities for repair, reuse, and community sharing of household items like clothes, electronics,…	43%
Increase reuse of building materials in construction projects, and salvage valuable materials when buildings…	44%
Help people and businesses reduce food waste by changing purchasing practices	52%
Recover more food waste for donation, energy and composting	64%

Key themes from open-ended comments

57 total responses were received to the open-text question, "What else would you like us to consider as we develop this plan?". The following summarizes the responses into key themes.

Environmental preservation and tree canopy protection:
Participants emphasized **preserving mature trees**, prioritizing their protection over new plantings. They called for **fast-growing trees** and building designs that **avoid tree removal**, along with **increased planting in public spaces** and transportation corridors, ensuring ongoing care and maintenance. There were calls to **prevent clear-cutting of protected areas, preserve wetlands, and integrate Indigenous land stewardship practices** into climate planning.

Transportation and mobility:
Feedback strongly supported **expanding public transportation**, including **high-speed and regional rail**, to reduce vehicle dependency, while **ensuring improvements to existing transit (e.g., TriMet) for greater effectiveness.** There was a focus on reducing Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and **opposing freeway expansions** in favor of transit and biking infrastructure.

Equity and environmental justice:
Feedback supported **community-led projects** addressing historical injustices, like the Self Enhancement, Inc. (SEI) initiative. Participants advocated for **prioritizing underserved**

communities, **fostering generational wealth through affordable housing**, and ensuring low-income communities benefit from climate actions, while **expressing concerns about displacement and affordability**.

Renewable energy and building efficiency:
Participants called to **phase out methane gas infrastructure** and transition to electrification within a decade. There was **strong support for renewable energy projects,** particularly for public buildings and low-income housing, alongside an emphasis on **improving energy efficiency in existing buildings through weatherization and passive solar design**.

Health and climate resilience:
Concerns centered on **air quality**, advocating to ban gas-powered leaf blowers, reduce plastic pollution, and address wood burning. Participants highlighted **the health impacts of fossil fuels on vulnerable groups** and called **for balancing climate action with public health improvements** like reducing transportation-related deaths.

Land use and housing policy:
Participants advocated for **higher-density housing** within the urban growth boundary (UGB) and **repealing housing height restrictions**.

Food, goods, and services:
Some open-ended comments advocated for **expanded recycling, composting, and waste reduction, particularly in multifamily housing**.

Community engagement and education:
Feedback emphasized the need for **intergenerational workshops**, **community learning opportunities**, and **better public communication** on climate actions. Participants also called for **certification programs for businesses** leading in sustainability.

Urgency and action:
Participants called for **immediate, bold action** over prolonged planning, urging prioritization of **impactful, quickly implementable projects** with ongoing evaluation. They emphasized avoiding funding for large corporations, instead **focusing on small businesses**.

Survey participants

The survey was available in English, Spanish, and a screen-reader-accessible format. Groups that are underrepresented by 4 percent or more in respondent information compared to Census data are indicated in red.

Comprehensive Climate Action Plan
Winter 2024-25 online open house results – January 2025

Table 1. Age (81 responses)

Age	Online open house respondents	2023 American Community Survey
18 - 24	7%	10%
25 – 34	18%	19%
35 – 44	28%	20%
45 - 54	21%	16%
55 – 64	11%	15%
65 - 74	8%	12%
75+	7%	8%

For the purpose of comparison, the American Community Survey data shown above was renormalized to exclude people under 18, who were not eligible to participate in the online open house.

Table 2. Languages (95 responses)

Languages	Online open house respondents	2023 American Community Survey
English	83%	82%
Spanish	10%	9.1%
Asian and Pacific Island Languages	2%	4.7%
Vietnamese	1%	-
Chinese	1%	-
Russian	-	-
Arabic	-	-
Other	-	

Participants were invited to share their primary language if not listed in the options provided. Four participants responded to this, other primary languages include: Hindi, Gujarati, Marathi, Japanese, Portuguese and French.

Table 3. Race and ethnicity (88 responses)

Race/Ethnicity	Online open house respondents	2023 American Community Survey
American Indian or Alaska Native	2%	0.3%
Asian or Asian American	7%	7%
Black or African American	2%	3%
Hispanic or Latino/a/x	16%	14%
Middle Eastern or North African	-	-
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	1%	0.6%
White (Non-Hispanic)	67%	68%
Race(s) or ethnicity not listed here	2%	-
Prefer not to answer	3%	-

Table 4. Household income (81 responses)

Household Income	Online open house respondents	2023 American Community Survey
Less than $30,000	5%	13.7%
$30,000 to just under $50,000	4%	11.3%
$50,000 to just under $100,000	32%*	28%
$50,000 to just under $70,000	10%	-
$70,000 to just under $90,000	12%	-
$90,000 to just under $110,000*	10%	-
$110,000 to just under $150,000	17%	20%
$150,000 or more	31%	27.2%
Prefer not to answer	11%	-

Please note that some regional dataset and survey data set are dissimilar. For the purpose of this comparison, "$90,000 to just under $110,000" has been sorted under "$50,000 to just under $100,000."