



# Neighbourhood Climate Action Plan

## Community Workshop Summary Report

July 2023



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
Campus + Community Planning

# Table of Contents

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>Executive Summary .....</b>  | <b>2</b>  |
| Overview.....   | 2         |
| What We Heard .....   | 2         |
| Next Steps .....  | 3         |
| <b>NCAP Community Workshop Summary Report.....</b>                            | <b>4</b>  |
| About the Neighbourhood Climate Action Plan (NCAP) .....                      | 4         |
| NCAP Technical Scope Areas.....   | 4         |
| NCAP Timeline .....   | 5         |
| NCAP Guiding Principles .....   | 5         |
| NCAP Engagement Approach .....  | 5         |
| NCAP Engagement Process .....   | 6         |
| Overview of NCAP Community Workshop .....                                     | 6         |
| NCAP Community Workshop Goals .....   | 6         |
| Workshop Participants.....  | 6         |
| Workshop Agenda.....  | 6         |
| What We Heard .....   | 7         |
| Discussion 1: Experience of Climate Change and Meaning of Climate Action..... | 7         |
| Discussion 2: Technical Scope Areas .....                                     | 7         |
| Next Steps .....  | 11        |
| <b>Appendices .....</b>   | <b>A1</b> |
| Appendix 1: UBC Sustainability Action Plans .....                             | A1        |
| Appendix 2: Workshop Agenda.....  | A2        |



Photo Credit: UBC

## Land Acknowledgement

The UBC Vancouver campus is situated on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) people. For millennia, xʷməθkʷəy̓əm have been stewards and caretakers of these lands and have accepted visitors. UBC has been located on these lands for over 100 years, and strives toward building meaningful, reciprocal and mutually beneficial partnerships with xʷməθkʷəy̓əm and learning from their relationship with the land.

Cover Photo Credits:  
 Geoff Lister, UBC Properties Trust  
 Kyle Vinson, UBC Campus + Community Planning

# Executive Summary

## Overview

In Spring 2023 UBC Campus + Community Planning (C+CP) initiated the process for developing the Neighbourhood Climate Action Plan (NCAP). The NCAP will update the existing Community Energy and Emissions Plan (2013 CEEP), providing new and expanded policy direction in the neighbourhood context for both mitigation strategies to accelerate GHG emissions reductions, as well as adaptation strategies to prepare for the impacts of our already changing and future climate. It will include a roadmap of strategies and actions to meet our ambitious emissions reduction targets and adaptation goals. The final plan will also identify responsibilities and accountability, and map a timeline for the work.

The NCAP is being developed through engagement with the University Neighbourhoods Association (UNA), UBC Properties Trust, and the neighbourhood and campus communities. Public engagement is an important component of the NCAP process as it is critical to understanding community needs and interests that will help shape NCAP priorities and pathways.

As part of early engagement to inform the NCAP emerging directions, C+CP hosted a community workshop in Wesbrook Community Centre on June 26, 2023 with 33 participants from across UBC's neighbourhood communities. The event was supported by the UNA, including UNA staff reviewing content and facilitating table discussions.

This report includes an overview of NCAP and the community workshop, and highlights the major themes that emerged from the community workshop. The themes and feedback will inform the development of the NCAP emerging directions (see Next Steps below for more details).

## What We Heard

To support C+CP in further developing goals, scope areas, and actions as part of NCAP Emerging Directions, the community workshop included two discussions: one focused on how community members are experiencing climate change and what climate action means to them, and the other focused on the technical scope areas of NCAP. Written and verbal input from all of the table discussions was collected and summarized according to common themes.



Photo Credit: Madeleine Zammar, UBC Campus + Community Planning

The first discussion unveiled a mixture of both anxiety and optimism surrounding the climate crisis and the associated impacts on themselves as individuals and on the community around them. The discussion unearthed a diversity of opinions on what UBC should do from a climate perspective to ensure the neighbourhoods we are building today are sustainable, comfortable, and equitable for those living here today and in the future.

The second discussion focused on the six NCAP technical scope areas and there were many strong sentiments and insights surfaced during this discussion. The most prominent themes were a strong desire for ease, thermal comfort, and convenience of sustainable amenities.



Participants called for more convenient waste-diversions solutions that were easier to understand, alongside expanded bike, walking and transit infrastructure. There was broad support for high quality retrofits for existing buildings to meet current green building standards, mostly in pursuit of thermal comfort during increasingly hotter summers. Some concern was expressed surrounding campus ecology and the preservation of campus landscapes, in addition to concern around what to do and who to talk to during future climate emergency situations.

## Next Steps

The insights and feedback from the community workshop will inform the development of the NCAP emerging directions, which will be shared with the community for feedback in fall 2023. This broad public engagement period will focus on identifying community interests and gaps, as well as understanding potential impacts to different community groups. A second public engagement period will occur in early 2024 to share and get feedback on the draft NCAP. Feedback on the draft plan will be incorporated into an updated plan, which will be presented to UBC's Board of Governors for endorsement in spring/summer 2024 and will set forth a pathway for sustained and ambitious climate action in UBC's residential neighbourhoods.



Photo Credit: Kyle Vinson, UBC Campus + Community Planning

# NCAP Community Workshop Summary Report

## About the Neighbourhood Climate Action Plan (NCAP)

In Spring 2023 UBC Campus + Community Planning (C+CP) initiated the process for developing the Neighbourhood Climate Action Plan (NCAP). The NCAP will update the existing Community Energy and Emissions Plan (2013 CEEP), providing new and expanded policy direction in the neighbourhood context for both mitigation strategies to accelerate GHG emissions reductions, as well as adaptation strategies to prepare for the impacts of our already changing and future climate. It will include a roadmap of strategies and actions to meet our ambitious emissions reduction targets and adaptation goals. The final plan will also identify responsibilities and accountability, and map a timeline for the work.

NCAP will become the overarching climate action plan for UBC's existing and planned residential neighbourhoods. To understand NCAP's relationship to other UBC plans, please see Appendix I.

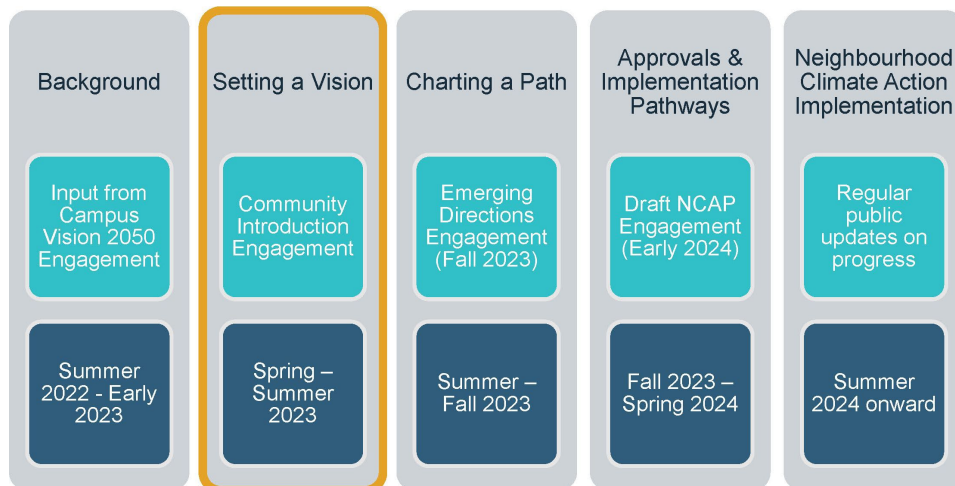
## NCAP Technical Scope Areas

NCAP will consider climate action in the following areas:



## NCAP Timeline

The NCAP has been organized into four project phases that will run until summer 2024 followed by implementation. Each phase will build on previous phases, incorporating learnings from technical analysis and engagement.



## NCAP Guiding Principles

The NCAP is shaped by five guiding principles that reflect our aspirations for the project. These principles will inform how we assess potential outcomes and pathways. For example, these principles will provide the framework to prioritize actions and resources, as well as metrics to evaluate the overall plan against. Successfully integrating these elements into the NCAP will be a marker of project success.



## NCAP Engagement Approach

The NCAP is being developed through engagement with the University Neighbourhoods Association (UNA), UBC Properties Trust, and the neighbourhood and campus communities. Public engagement is an important component of the NCAP process as it is critical to understanding community needs and interests that will help shape NCAP priorities and pathways.



Photo Credit: Kyle Vinson, UBC Campus + Community Planning

The NCAP engagement process is anchored by C+CP's Engagement Charter and will build upon the successes of the engagement process for UBC's Campus Vision 2050. This means emphasizing targeted engagement with community groups and providing a diversity of ways to engage. Transparency, inclusivity, equity, and flexibility are core principles for the engagement process. A climate justice and equity lens will be applied to NCAP by acknowledging that not everyone experiences climate impacts in the same way, and the process will ensure that equity is advanced alongside proposed climate action.

## NCAP Engagement Process

Early engagement on NCAP started in spring 2023 and will continue throughout the summer of 2023 to build a strong foundation of informed community members and groups. Along with hosting the community workshop on June 26, early engagement included roadshows (presentations with a Q&A) at community group meetings (e.g. at Parent Advisory Councils), booths at several neighbourhood events throughout the summer (e.g. at UNA events, farmers markets), and walking tours focused on climate mitigation and adaptation strategies in the Wesbrook Neighbourhood.

Broad public engagement for NCAP is targeted for fall 2023 and will focus on sharing NCAP emerging directions, identifying community interests and gaps, as well as understanding potential impacts to different community groups. A subsequent public engagement period will occur in early 2024 to share and get feedback on the draft NCAP.

## Overview of NCAP Community Workshop

C+CP hosted a community workshop on June 26, 2023 with 33 participants from across the UBC neighbourhood community. The event was supported by the UNA, including UNA staff reviewing content and facilitating table discussions.

## NCAP Community Workshop Goals

To support development of goals, scope areas, and actions as part of the emerging directions phase of work, the community workshop aimed to achieve the following:

- Build awareness of the NCAP process and its connection to and alignment with other UBC plans.
- Understand how community members experience climate change and their vision for the future of their neighbourhoods as it relates to climate action.
- Seek community feedback on interests and priority areas within NCAP by getting initial ideas of scope areas and actions.

## Workshop Participants

In recruiting for workshop participants, C+CP reached out to a wide range of community members in an effort to hear experiences, interests, needs, and concerns of people with diverse identities across the neighbourhood communities. The 33 participants came from a wide variety of communities, including representation by UBC students, staff, and faculty, seniors, newcomers, people with disabilities, and youth.

## Workshop Agenda

The workshop was two hours long and included a welcome and opening remarks, a presentation to provide an overview of NCAP, a solo reflection activity, and two small group discussions. The first discussion was focused on how community members are experiencing climate change and what climate action means to them, and the second discussion (after solo reflection) was focused on the NCAP technical scope areas. The detailed agenda with guiding questions is included in Appendix 2.

A summary of the themes that emerged from the community workshop is included below in the “What We Heard” section. Transcriptions of raw notes are also available upon request.

## What We Heard

Many diverse themes were heard across Discussion 1 and 2 in the community workshop. The following sections summarize the main topics that were discussed, and includes examples and details about what was heard from workshop participants.

### Discussion 1: Experience of Climate Change and Meaning of Climate Action

The workshop began with a discussion about how people are feeling about climate change – many participants expressed both anxiety and optimism when discussing the climate crisis and its impacts on themselves as individuals and on the community around them. The discussion unearthed a diversity of opinions on what UBC should do from a climate perspective to ensure the neighbourhoods we are building today are sustainable, comfortable, and equitable for those living here today and in the future.

- At many tables, a sense of fear, anxiety, isolation, and uncertainty was raised when thinking about the future. Yet, there was a sense of shared understanding that action needs to be taken.
- Participants expressed that they enjoy living at UBC and wished to see the neighbourhoods become a model for sustainable building and landscape practices.
- Several participants expressed concern that future neighbourhood development will negatively impact the environment due to added density and growth.
- Participants were concerned that those vulnerable will be most impacted and least cared for, and called for the NCAP planning process to ensure the voices of vulnerable populations are included in the process.
- Many participants, especially those who hold seats in strata councils, expressed concern about the cost and financial burden of implementing sustainable practices.
- Several participants expressed a strong desire to take action, but were uncertain about what to do and what would be most effective.
- Participants noted that it feels like UBC and the neighbourhoods are ill-prepared to handle climate emergencies.
- Participants expressed a desire to ensure UBC builds and sustainable neighbourhoods for future generations with convenient access to sustainable amenities.

### Discussion 2: Technical Scope Areas

The second small group discussion focused on the six NCAP technical scope areas. Due to an overlap in scope areas, groups may have discussed more than one scope area. Table discussions were organized as follows:

1. Waste, Materials, & Consumables
2. Transportation & Mobility
3. New Construction & Existing Buildings
4. Ecology & Neighbourhood Infrastructure (combined two of the scope areas)
5. Climate Emergency Preparedness
6. Mandarin-Speaking Table (discussed all the scope areas)



## WASTE, MATERIALS, & CONSUMABLES

There was a strong sentiment that current waste-diversion solutions are inconvenient, limited in availability, and do not do enough. Participants called on UBC to expand neighbourhood education around waste-diversion and improve/implement new solutions.

- Desire for an online platform or physical space to swap second-hand items and appliances (such as a thrift store).
- Several participants expressed displeasure with the lack of space for in-unit waste sorting.
- Participants called for more waste-diversion streams (such as soft plastics).
- Several participants called for a physically larger UNA Green Depot with increased service hours.
- Participants called for improved and convenient waste sorting and disposal solutions.
- One participant wished to clarify if the group was focused on individual, collective, or institutional solutions.
- One participant expressed an opportunity for more educational opportunities around waste sorting, especially for new residents and incoming students coming from jurisdictions without a strong waste-diversion program.
- Participants called for UBC to become a global leader and role model in its waste-diversion practices.



Photo Credit: Kyle Vinson, UBC Campus + Community Planning

## TRANSPORTATION & MOBILITY

Participants expressed a strong desire to see UBC create a sustainable, accessible, and affordable transportation network. Broad support was expressed for UBC to have a strong walking, cycling, and transit network.

- Participants expressed a strong desire for SkyTrain to UBC, expanded transit network.
- Participants wished for a free and frequent inter-campus shuttle system, and the reduced cost of public transportation.
- Participants called for increased and improved all-ages and abilities active transportation network (biking, walking). There was specific concern for older adults and those with mobility considerations.
- Participants expressed concern regarding bike safety and bike thefts as barriers preventing cycling.
- One participant expressed concern electric vehicles do not work well in cold weather.
- Participants expressed support for hydrogen/electric buses.

- Participants expressed a desire for an expanded UBC bikeshare program.
- One participant suggested a campus commute calculator showing people

bike, transit, and walk times compared to driving (including parking and walking to car).

### NEW CONSTRUCTION & EXISTING BUILDINGS

Participants supported broad action to retrofit existing buildings and ensure new buildings are built using green standards. However, there was concern that retrofits/new buildings will not be comfortable, affordable, or long-lasting.

- Participants expressed support for wood frame construction over concrete due to embodied carbon and lower heating costs.
- Participants expressed a desire to increase the electrical capacity of residential neighbourhoods. One participant noted that due to design limitations, the building can not electrify for 25-years.
- Several participants expressed broad support for retrofitting older structures.
- Participants wanted to see grey water play a greater role in residential water re-use strategies (e.g. irrigation, toilet flushing).
- Participants called for building strata councils to play a greater role in carbon and energy reduction strategies in buildings.
- Participants called on UBC to use recycled materials for new buildings and roads.
- Participants expressed strong concern in regards to who will pay for retrofits.
- Participants expressed concern that buildings are not being constructed to last and therefore will result in waste. A participant countered by noting that buildings should be adaptable.
- Participants discussed potential trade-offs between energy efficiency and resident comfort.

## ECOLOGY & NEIGHBOURHOOD INFRASTRUCTURE

Participants wanted to see UBC and the neighbourhoods take bolder action in supporting new technologies and initiatives as well as expanding existing initiatives to preserve and enhance ecology while growing a shared sense of community. Note: During this discussion, several comments were raised that focused on *New Construction & Existing Buildings*.

- Participants called for new buildings to be built using sustainable technologies and standards such as passive heating/cooling, low carbon materials, solar, geothermal.
- Several participants wanted to see existing buildings retrofitted to align with new standards and to integrate new sustainable technologies (such as replacing old appliances).
- Participants called for the design of buildings, common spaces, and public spaces to empower people to shape their neighbourhood and allow for a shared sense of ownership.
- Several participants called for plants and landscapes that allow for green roofs, community gardens, and sustainable agriculture that benefit local species at risk and mitigate against invasive species.
- Participants want a neighbourhood that advances and maintains natural biodiversity.
- Participants wished to see the neighbourhoods support alternative energy sources such as solar and thermal batteries.

## CLIMATE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Participants expressed a strong desire to understand what to do, where to go, and who to talk to during an emergency situation.

- Participants called for strata councils to play a greater role in neighbourhood emergency preparedness.
- Participants called for accessible “safety zones” at times of extreme weather such as snowstorms, heat domes.
- One participant raised a question: who can turn off gas lines after an earthquake?
- Participants want to see clear gathering points and support areas during an emergency – and for those gathering and support areas to be communicated to neighbourhood residents.
- Participants called for a well-organized emergency climate relief system.

## MANDARIN-SPEAKING TABLE

A separate table for individuals was setup for individuals who were more comfortable engaging in Mandarin. A Mandarin interpreter lead the table discussion and recorded notes for all the scope areas. The feelings, feedback, and opinions of those at the Mandarin table closely aligned with those from English-speaking tables.

### Waste, Materials, & Consumables

- Participants wish to see more waste diversion stream options within both buildings and the community (e.g. waste sorting stations, expanded UNA Green Depot).
- Participants wish to see educational resources such as volunteers and posters at waste sites to inform residents on how to properly sort and dispose of waste.

### Ecology & Neighbourhood Infrastructure

- Participants were concerned about the use of potable water in water features and irrigation in the neighbourhoods and wish to see the development of efficient irrigation and rainwater harvesting and re-use.
- Participants suggested that the neighbourhoods could conserve water by utilizing grey water.

### New & Existing Buildings

- Participants expressed strong desire to integrate greenery into the built environment through green roofs, green parking, and the preservation of existing green spaces.
- Participants wished to see environmentally friendly materials used in new building construction.

### Climate Emergency Preparedness

- Participants expressed that there should be enough resources within UBC to promptly respond to climate emergencies – including resources at the fire department and hospital.

## Next Steps

The insights and feedback from the community workshop will inform the development of the NCAP emerging directions, which will be shared with the community for feedback in fall 2023. This broad public engagement period will focus on identifying community interests and gaps, as well as understanding potential impacts to different community groups. A subsequent public engagement period will occur in early 2024 to share and get feedback on the draft NCAP. Feedback on the draft plan will be incorporated into an updated plan, which will be presented to UBC's Board of Governors for endorsement in spring/summer 2024 and will set forth a pathway for sustained and ambitious climate action in UBC's residential neighbourhoods.



## Appendices

### Appendix 1: UBC Sustainability Action Plans



## Appendix 2: Workshop Agenda

Monday, June 26, 2023  
5:30pm – 7:30pm  
Wesbrook Community Centre

### Welcome

Madeleine Zammar (Manager of Engagement at C+CP)

### Opening remarks

John Madden (Director of Sustainability and Engineering at C+CP)

### Table introductions and climate action check-in:

A small group discussion guided by the following questions:

- *How are you experiencing climate change? How does it affect your daily life?*
- *What does climate action mean to you?*
- *What is important to you as you think about the future of the neighbourhood as it relates to climate action?*

### NCAP Project Overview

Presentation by NCAP Project Leads:

Kerry Shaw (Senior Neighbourhood Climate Action Planner, C+CP),  
Ralph Wells (Community Climate and Energy Manager, C+CP)

### Reflection on NCAP Scope Areas

Solo reflection and sticky note activity guided by these questions:

- *Understanding interests/needs: What do you care about/what matters to you in these scope areas?*
- *What kinds of actions would you take in these scope areas (individual perspective)?*
- *What actions do you think the university/UNA should be taking in these scope areas (institutional lens)?*
- *What do you think we need to be focused on collectively (collective lens)?*

### Discussion on NCAP Scope Areas

Participants chose a scope area to focus on during a 30-minute small group discussion building on the solo reflection activity. The group reviewed the sticky notes developed for each scope area and had a discussion using the following guiding questions:

- *What is missing? Are there any gaps?*
- *What are the most important actions for individuals/institutions/collective to take?*
- *What might be barriers to taking action for individuals/institution/collective?*
- *What are some climate justice and equity considerations?*

### Report Back

### Next Steps and Closing