



Surrey, British Columbia



#2 (of 3)



COMMUNITY TALKS: SURREY SESSION #2

A COMMUNITY-DRIVEN APPROACH...

This report summarizes Iron & Earth's second community conversation hosted in Surrey British Columbia on January 27th 2024. Community Talks is Iron & Earth's engagement initiative designed to spark conversations about how environmental, social, and economic changes impact people across Canada. It is committed to meeting communities where they are at, by supporting self-determined, community-driven solutions, and offering non-prescriptive support with programs that are designed by the community and for the community.

This session was hosted in partnership with the Sustainable Workforce Coalition (SWC).

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Transportation Solutions:** Participants identified that Surrey's large size, compounded with insufficient public transit and pedestrian infrastructure, has created a car-dependent culture. Given the lack of public electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure and the high costs associated with purchasing an EV/private charging stations, participants were skeptical about EVs as a primary solution to Surrey's transportation challenges. Specific solutions of interest included: expanding public transportation, working towards free public transit, and transit-conscious city planning.
- **Government-led Solutions:** Surrey community members highlighted several ways for the City of Surrey to create an inclusive climate adaptation strategy, including providing subsidized air-conditioning units, establishing a centralized climate-emergency hotline number, and ensuring all climate and sustainability communications are provided in a wide range of languages.
- **Community-led Solutions:** Throughout the discussion, participants shared a variety of community-based climate solutions, including creating structured social support networks to activate during moments of crisis, developing robust community carpooling systems, and fostering a strong civic culture to hold the government accountable to its people.

PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK





90% of participants shared that they were either satisfied or very satisfied with their experience participating in this community conversation. **97% of participants expressed that they learned something new during the discussion.**

“Community is the one keeping each other safe during extreme weather events, [so we] need a collaborative approach with government to create communication networks and lines.”

“One of the things Surrey would like to pride itself in is making things sustainable.”



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