

# Community Talks -Surrey, British Columbia

*Full Report on Session Three: March 2nd, 2024*

## Summary

This report summarizes the third and final community conversation hosted in Surrey, British Columbia by Iron & Earth, in partnership with the Sustainable Workforce Coalition. Building on themes identified in the first two discussions, this conversation focused on community needs in the midst of a changing economy, including desires regarding job accessibility and skills training.

Three key themes were identified as most common throughout the discussion. First, participants expressed a distinct sense of overwhelm with the future, sharing frustration about the accessibility of government programs. Second, participants were interested in expanding access to education on topics relating to the green economy, particularly for young people in Surrey. They emphasized that awareness must precede training and that educating children is an important first step in reaching adults. Third, when asked about their vision of the future, Surrey community members articulated an expansive vision of the green economy. Rather than listing a narrow list of careers, they expressed that people working in all career paths must view themselves as part of the transition to a more sustainable world. In terms of skill sets of interest, participants mentioned an interest in cultivating skills in gardening, recycling habits, organizational and interpersonal skills. Overall, participants spoke at length about the necessity of meeting basic needs like education, housing, and healthcare as the basis of a thriving green economy in Surrey.

In post-session feedback forms, 100% of participants expressed having learned something new throughout the discussion and 86% of participants rated their level of satisfaction with the event as either “satisfied” or “very satisfied.” With the conclusion of this event series, Iron & Earth will verify these findings with the broader Surrey community to identify the most pressing community issues, before mobilizing them through a local advocacy campaign to influence local decision makers.

## 1. Introduction

### About Iron & Earth

Iron & Earth (I&E) is a non-profit organization with roots in the fossil fuel industry that is working toward a future where the workforce is dynamically engaged in a thriving green economy. We envision broad participation in a Just Transition, leading to strengthened economic and climate resilience, expanded accessibility to sustainable energy solutions and meaningful careers. This vision extends beyond workforce mobilization to foster a community-driven transformation, where people actively contribute to a sustainable and equitable future, for their communities and the planet. Its mission is to enable sustainable, community-driven climate solutions and reduce barriers for those seeking a future in the green economy with programs that support greater job security, social protection, and more training opportunities as we move toward a low-carbon economy.

Iron & Earth believes community engagement is an effective way to influence sustainable participation in a Just Transition, and that community-driven solutions have a greater chance of becoming successful and sustainable in the long-term. Iron & Earth takes the time to build relationships and adapt to individual community needs whenever possible.

Community Talks is Iron and 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.

### **About the Sustainable Workforce Coalition (SWC)**

The Sustainable Workforce Coalition (SWC) is a regional initiative to help catalyze an equitable transition for workers in Metro Vancouver and BC as part of the clean economy. It is part of the Zero Emissions Innovation Centre which is an independent non-profit and charitable organization and a committed member of the Low Carbon Cities Canada (LC3) network. ZEIC was established by an endowment from the Government of Canada, with support from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and the vision and contributions of many regional and provincial champions.

The SWC is a 40+ cross-sector network of leading organizations from business, labour, Indigenous partners, education, community groups, and government working to ensure that a large number of diverse workers are ready and able to enter the clean economy. The SWC provides coordination and strategic leadership to businesses and people as part of BC's energy transition.

The Coalition delivers its work by creating strategies and programs that focus on:

- Workforce attraction and retention
- Training gaps and opportunities

- Research and data
- Media and communications

## Why this community was selected to have a conversation

Surrey was selected as a site for a community conversation due to its status as one of the fastest growing and diverse cities in Canada. By 2040, the community is set to overtake Vancouver as the largest city in British Columbia.<sup>1</sup> This growth will test the capacity of city infrastructure, housing supply, and public transit networks in the community. Today, many Surrey residents are concerned about the cost of living in their community. Affordable housing, for example, is becoming more scarce, as household incomes have not kept pace with rising rents.<sup>2</sup> From October 2013 to October 2022, median rents in Surrey rose 65%, from approximately \$850 per month to \$1400 per month.<sup>3</sup>

At the time of this conversation, B.C. was experiencing a deficit in precipitation levels and an unseasonably warm winter on average, despite a few significant cold spells throughout the season.<sup>4</sup> With half of the province's water basins at drought level, B.C. went on to experience one of the most severe wildfire seasons in recorded history.<sup>5</sup>

Looking forward, Surrey will continue to see immense growth and change in the coming months. The new Surrey-to-Langley SkyTrain extension will commence construction in Fall 2024, which will allow travel between Surrey Centre and Langley City in 22 minutes and travel from Langley to downtown Vancouver in an hour.<sup>6</sup> This transit project was slated in order to meet the needs of growing populations in Metro Vancouver.

## About the conversation participants

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<sup>1</sup> Surrey Local Immigration Partnership. n.d. "Surrey Demographics." Accessed November 2023. <https://www.surreylocalimmigrationpartnership.ca/research-resources/surrey-demographics/>

<sup>2</sup> Acorn Canada. n.d. "Surrey's Affordable Housing Crisis." <https://acorncanada.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Surrey-Affordable-Housing-Crisis.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Premji, Zahra. May 30, 2023. "Once seen as an affordable option, housing in Surrey now increasingly out of reach." CBC News. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/surrey-unaffordable-housing-1.6858688#:~:text=In%20this%20city%2C%20the%20housing,month%20to%20%241%2C400%20a%20month.>

<sup>4</sup> CBC News. January 17, 2024. "Up to 39 cm of snow reported as winter storm blows through southwestern B.C."

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/snowstorm-british-columbia-jan-17-2024-1.7086012>

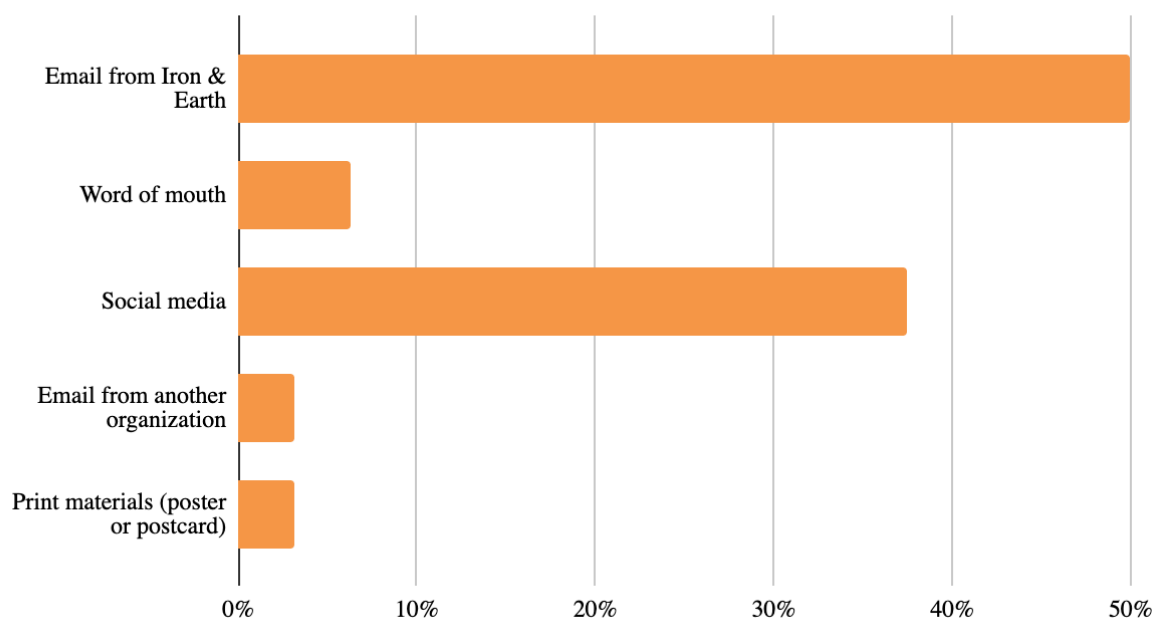
<sup>5</sup> Depner, Wolf. August 6, 2024. "2024 wildfire season on pace to become benchmark for B.C." Saanich News.

<https://www.saanichnews.com/news/2024-wildfire-season-on-pace-to-become-benchmark-for-bc-7473542>

<sup>6</sup> Government of British Columbia. August 15, 2024. "Better transportation coming south of the Fraser as Surrey Langley SkyTrain approaches fall construction." Press release. <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2024MOTI0112-001305>

We sought to bring together a diverse group of participants, representative of the Surrey community at large. To meet this goal, we utilized a wide range of outreach methods to draw potential participants to the event. In total, 39 people pre-registered for the event to express their interest, 35 people attended, however only 32 people in attendance filled out their registration forms in order to record their demographic information. The following figures are based on those 32 attendees. Prior to beginning outreach, SWC provided contacts from their network to I&E to facilitate effective outreach in the community. As seen below in *Figure 1.1 - Outreach Results*, the most successful outreach method was directly emailing potential attendees (50%), followed by social media (38%), word of mouth (6%), having other organizations circulate our invitation via email (3%), and physical advertisements (3%). Of the 32 attendees, 15 (47%) participants had previously attended a Community Talks event.

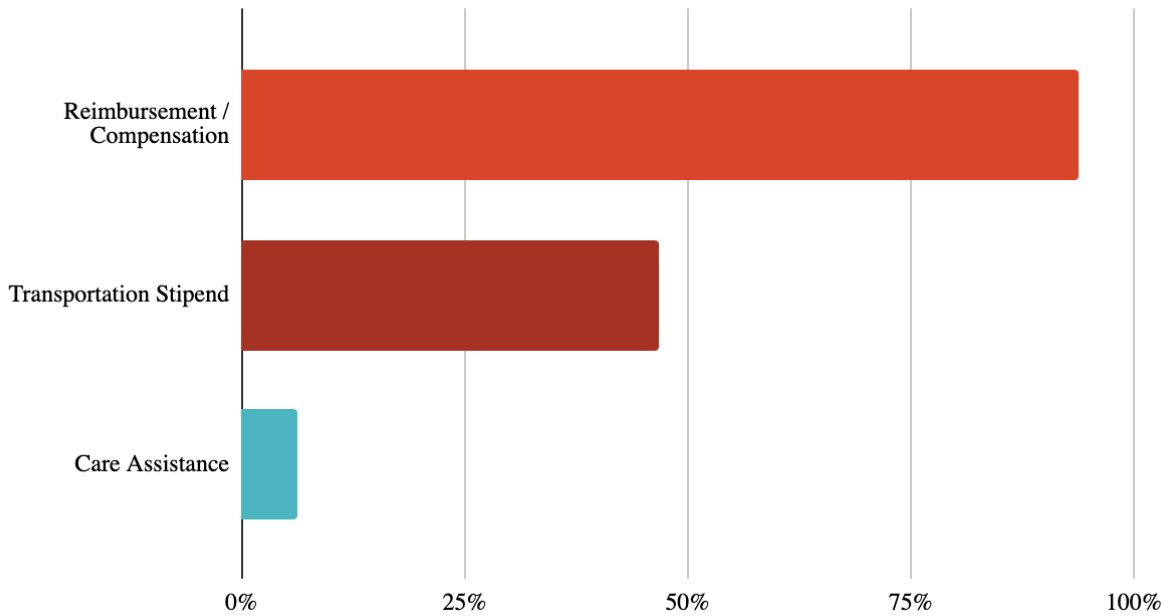
**Figure 1.1 - Outreach Results**



To reduce potential barriers for participants, the sign-up form included questions on accessibility information. The major accessibility supports identified during the planning phase were: competitive reimbursement, child or dependent care assistance, and transportation stipends. Participants also had the option to answer an open-ended accessibility request question, to list additional requests outside of the mentioned categories. The registration information shows that most participants received one or more kinds of accommodation offered by I&E. As outlined in *Figure 1.2 - All Accommodations*, 94% of participants accepted compensation for their participation,

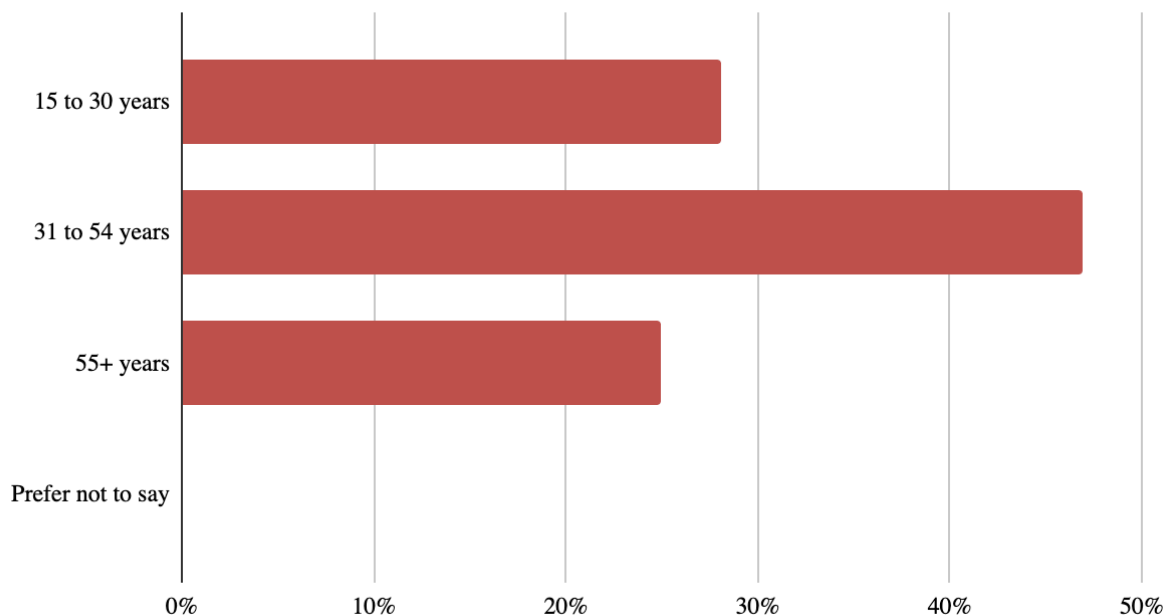
while 47% requested transportation reimbursement, and 6% received care support for children or dependents.

**Figure 1.2 - All Accommodations**



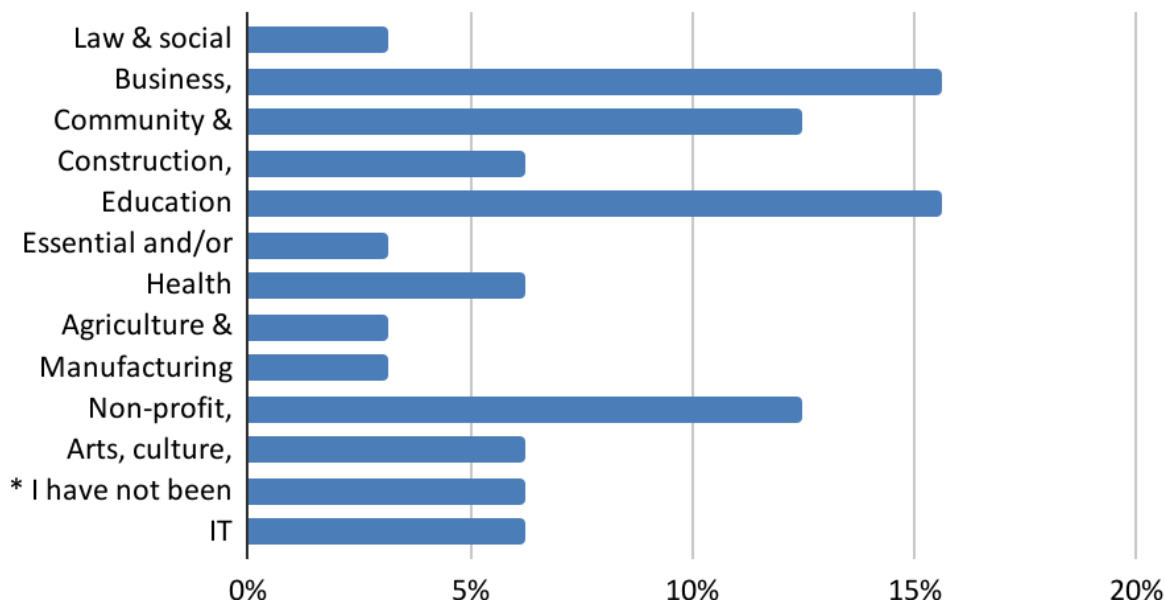
A survey of demographic characteristics of participants showed that 88% of participants were residents of Surrey, as opposed to 9% who were not. 3% of participants declined to disclose their location of residence. 34% of participants identified as new immigrants. For first languages, 50% of participants speak English at home. 37% of participants shared that they speak English and another additional language, including: Catalan, French, Gujarati, Hindi, Japanese, Lao, Nepali, and Punjabi. 6% of participants shared that they speak Nepali, 3% of participants speak Bengali, and 3% speak Tamil.

Regarding gender, 53% of participants identified as women, 44% of participants identified as men, and 3% of participants identified as agender, genderqueer, or non-binary. 3% of participants identified as part of the 2SLGBTQ+ community and 3% of participants declined to disclose their identity in this category. 63% of participants identified as people of colour, whereas 11% of participants did not, and 3% preferred not to declare their identity. There were no Indigenous participants present at this event. 9% of participants identified as disabled, 84% did not have a disability, and 6% preferred not to share this information. As seen in *Figure 1.3 - Age Distribution*, most of the participants belonged in the 31-54 years old age group (47%), followed by 15-30 (28%) and 55+ years old (25%).

**Figure 1.3 - Age Distribution**

In terms of income, 47% of participants were of low income status (below \$53,413 per year), 28% of middle income status (\$53,413 - \$106,827), 3% of participants were of high income status (above \$106,827), and 22% preferred not to say. In the job sector category, as seen in *Figure 1.4 - Job Sector*, the participants present came from a variety of industries. The top two industries represented were business, finance, & administration (16%) and education (16%), followed by non-profit, charitable or grassroots organizing work (13%), and community & government services (13%).

Figure 1.4 - Job Sector



In comparison to the 2021 census from Statistics Canada<sup>7</sup>, the gender breakdown of the community conversation closely tracks with the gender breakdown of Surrey, which is 49.7% male and 50.3% female. As with our previous sessions, the 31 to 54 year old age bracket (47%) is overrepresented in our community conversation when compared to Surrey’s census data, which shows that 15-29 year olds 21.5% of the population, 30-54 year olds are 27.9%, and 55+ year olds are 29.3%. As with our two previous sessions, this event was not representative of the 2.2% of Surrey that identifies as Indigenous. The second Surrey session (34%) came closer to representing the 44.6% of Surrey residents that self-identify as immigrants to Canada.

### The Community Conversation

Our session model is built on the principle of community-informed discussions: our questions are tailored to the local context in relation to themes of importance to each community. The questions start more broadly in the first sessions and get more and more specific and tailored based on the transcripts as the session progresses. For the third session the questions were focused on community engagement and action for a sustainable future. These questions all revolve around the role of community

<sup>7</sup>

<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&SearchText=Surrey&DGUIDlist=2021A00055915004&GENDERlist=1&STATISTIClist=1&HEADERlist=0>

engagement, skill development, and job creation in fostering a sustainable future for both individuals and the broader community. They explore Surrey participants' experiences in environmental, economic, and social facets (through sustainability)—and brainstorming on how to improve issues faced in these realms.

The event took place at the Nature Center located in Surrey, British Columbia, on March 2nd, 2024. The venue was spacious and had large rectangular tables, large windows and skylights and a backdrop for powerpoint presentations. The session team set up a section for food and beverages, which the participants appreciated and engaged in often. Participants were seated at three tables, with three trained facilitators present to guide the conversation, as well as one Community Engagement Officer, who led the event.

We used recording equipment to capture the conversation rather than written notes to ensure accuracy of transcription. All participants were also offered the option of manual note-taking as an alternative option to jot down their thoughts. The three questions were printed out and made visible on each table, as well as on the projector, so attendees could reference them. To respect each participant's consent and data preservation preferences, all participants' names were anonymized and assigned numbers.

## **2. What We Heard**

The third and final Surrey community conversation served as a culmination of themes discussed in the first two events, as well as a targeted discussion of jobs and skills. We decided to expand our traditional question development format to focus on worker preparation for a green economy, as part of our partnership with the Sustainable Workforce Coalition (SWC), which aims to forge an equitable transition to a clean economy for workers in Metro Vancouver and BC.

The first two conversations covered a wide range of community issues. The first resulted in a discussion centered on climate impacts in Surrey and abroad, transportation, the cost of living, as well as a desire for the government to do more in tackling all of these issues. The second zeroed in on these issues, culminating in a solutions-oriented discussion on transportation in Surrey, and an array of government-led and community-led solutions to the linked issues of climate change and the rising cost of living.

The following questions guided the final conversation:

1. What resources does the community need to mobilize and implement solutions to improve the lives of Surrey community members?



2. What kind of skills do you and your loved ones need to participate in the green economy?
3. What kind of jobs would you and your loved ones be interested in having in the green economy?

Three key themes emerged from this conversation. First, participants shared fears and frustration about the future of the workforce, expressing a sense of overwhelm at accessing existing programs and skepticism about the feasibility of new ones. Second, in the face of these uncertainties, the Surrey community members we spoke with expressed interest in expanded access to education on the green economy, with a focus on engaging young people. Third, when asked to describe their vision of their participation in the workforce, people shared an expansive view of the green economy, including a wide range of careers and skills rather than a narrow set of opportunities.

#### Emotions: Fear and Overwhelm

Throughout the discussion, people shared feelings of overwhelm and fear when thinking about the future. For example, speaking about the lack of long-term thinking regarding the climate crisis, one person said: “A lot of people do not want to deal with...reality.”

Some individuals expressed gratitude for the strides that have been made towards a better future, with several people praising the city for prioritizing environmental initiatives. “The city is doing a very good job with renewable energy, biogas and everything. They are already sustainable, and their buildings are all sustainable...that’s good,” shared one individual. However, despite feeling hopeful given the City of Surrey’s commitment to sustainability, they shared a sense of overwhelm with government bureaucracy, especially in trying to access community programs. For example, in one exchange, participants expressed gratitude for the existence of community grants for gardens, potlucks, and celebrations, but stated that “the bureaucracy of having to apply to those is astounding.” Another person reiterated this idea: “There is a lot of red tape when filling out for any kind of support, whether it is [the] city government, or provincial or federal level, they require a lot of questions, and they don't even make sense.”

Some participants also expressed concerns around the rapid growth of Surrey’s population and the potential strain it will put on the city, which many view as already being under-resourced: “Because we're growing at such a fast pace, I actually disagree with the point that was made earlier about Surrey, outpacing Vancouver, in population by 2040. I think it's going to happen sooner...by the end of this decade in 2030.”

### Education and Youth Engagement

When discussing things they desire from the green economy, many Surrey community members we spoke with discussed a desire for expanded access to education, with a particular focus on engaging youth in the community. In response to the question raised about skills development, several people emphasized that before people can begin cultivating skills fine-tuned for the green economy, they need to build their knowledge of climate change and the necessity of sustainable practices, as captured in the following quote: “Before anyone can have the skills or be confident about their skills... I think that it does come down to educating the communities, because not everyone is forward thinking, and not everyone is proactive.” Another participant reiterated this idea:

We need to have a clear understanding of what sustainable actions [are]. We always think of ourselves as either a stranger in the future or a better person in the future when in fact we should be a better person [now]. We should know where our food comes from and what the footprint of that food is. Consider driving less and that ties in with the government making 1% extra tax for everybody but free transit. So, that will eliminate a whole bunch of things that are wrong.

Community members shared that children are often the portals to their parents and a source of change in thinking about the environment, particularly for new immigrants. One newcomer to the community shared about their own journey to taking an interest in the environment, insisting on the importance of centring youth engagement:

For the green economy, I think that it should start with the children. We have so many new immigrants in Surrey who are from different parts of the world, and they really don't know about the green ways. [In] B.C., we are more sustainable than many of the other countries...it starts from the school, it starts from the teacher [and] the children who came here — because when I [was] new here, it's my son who taught me how to divide all the recycling. Whenever I just throw [it out], he will just come and say, ‘no, mom, you have to do it this way.’ So, I learned recycling from him.

### Expansive View of the Green Economy

When asked about the kinds of jobs they view as crucial for a green economy, participants named a wide range of things, including positions that could be viewed as directly contributing to the shift towards low-carbon energy production, such as technical positions in renewable energy development. However, they also spoke about teachers,

psychologists, doctors, pharmacists, farmers, astronauts, carpenters, anthropologists, and building inspectors as examples of careers that contribute to the green economy:

I don't think we're at a stage where only people with skills in green energy or sustainability can work on that field and then solve the problem for everyone. Everyone in their respective jobs now must – and also in their personal life – must be working towards whatever they can do. They need to learn about what impact they are causing to the environment, because of their activities.

As captured in the above quote, when discussing their own interests and lives, people were less interested in working in specific positions and instead shared enthusiasm for adopting a more expansive view of what the green economy may be. Regarding skills, some people spoke about wanting to learn skills like gardening and proper recycling habits, while others took issue with the focus of other participants on individual actions: “I think that there's other contributors that need to take on significantly more responsibility than they are asked to do. There's a lot of waste in big businesses,” said one individual. One suggestion that was well-received was a desire to improve organizational and interpersonal skills. One individual expressed that these ‘soft’ skills can strengthen people from being affected by tumultuous changes in the economy:

I think more of a focus on building skills like empathy, being able to work in a team environment, knowing how to appropriately resolve a conflict. Having that basic resiliency will take people a long way when they're actually going for hiring and for jobs. I think now there's less of a focus, to be honest, on where your degree is from, or what kind of paper you received. But more so folks who are in those hiring positions are looking for people that actually could be in an environment where they're working well with other people and interacting well. I think that is a bit of a struggle right now for a lot of our young people.

In addition to these skills-based discussions, they expressed an interest in shifting working models to reduce the distance people need to travel to get to work. This includes expanding hybrid work models to allow for more work from home: “Two things good coming out of [the pandemic]...you're not completely working remotely, so you have that social connection, but at the same time, you don't have to travel for certain things, so that's at least less cars.” Participants also advocated for expanding public transit infrastructure to reduce the need for traveling long distances in personal vehicles: “Having jobs in the local neighborhood, instead of me traveling from here to New Westminster or to Vancouver. I should get a job closer to my own community, so I don't have to take my car and travel.” Finally, some participants expressed that employers should be required to hire local candidates to reduce traveling times necessary.

Overall, Surrey community members spoke at length about the connections between education, housing, healthcare, and the importance of ensuring that basic needs are met in these areas in order to foster a thriving environment and economy. The following quotes capture this idea. Several participants were particularly passionate about healthcare. “In order to build a society, the first thing we need is health[care], so without that you cannot go for carbon dioxide reduction in the environment,” said one individual. ““We're in an environmental crisis and a health crisis...people who are most likely to develop chronic disease are [also] people living in poverty and stuff. We have to make sure that people have a living wage,” remarked another. Others focused on the connections between affordability and well-being: “I feel like it's a ripple effect...it has to be affordable housing, affordable food, affordable health care, the job, and pay on par with the inflation.”

The following quotes explore the idea of an expansive green economy in depth:

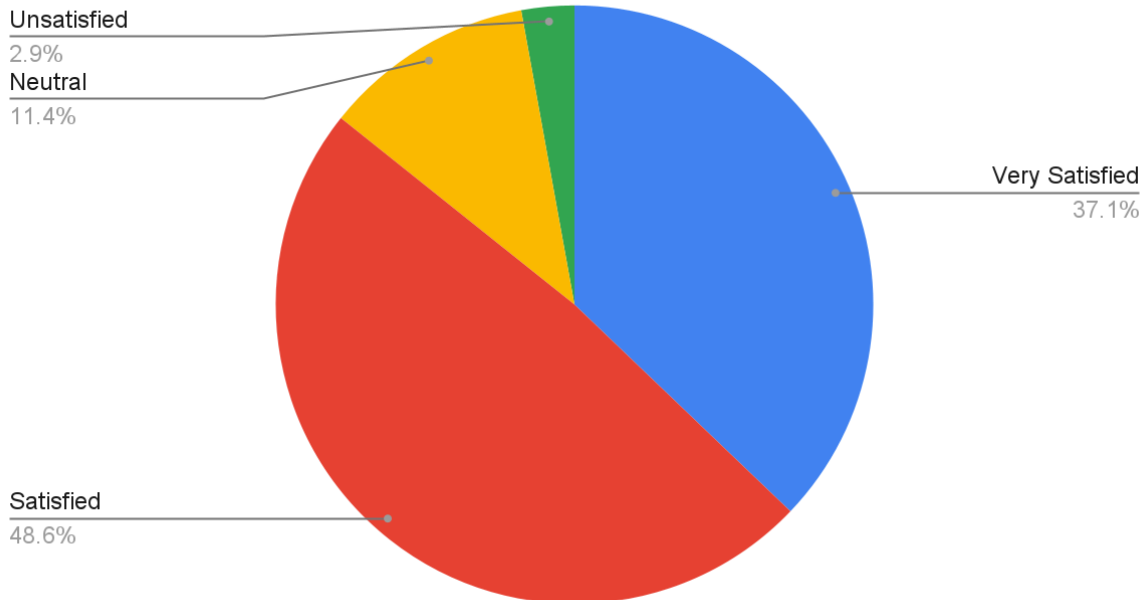
I think an economy is only as strong as its people. So, I think we need to invest... in teachers and healthcare workers. We have a very huge nursing and doctor shortage. I think those kinds of professions in the helping professions are what we need to keep our society happy and healthy, and then make our economy strong.

I think we don't need any specific skills. If we bring that into our daily life, we can start from the minimalistic part of our lives, and then bring it to a major part of our life. Like throwing the garbage into specified dustbins, getting the awareness between [communities], educating our kids so that the gift [of knowledge] that we've gotten from our previous generations, we want the same gift to be given to future generations as well...I think everyone in our community, they need to be educated around this thing.

### **3. What We Learned**

#### **Feedback**

### Figure 3.1 - Discussion Satisfaction Levels



We shared a feedback form at the end of our session which was completed by all 35 participants. From the provided options: “Very Unsatisfied”, “Unsatisfied”, “Neutral”, “Satisfied”, and “Very Satisfied,” most participants rated their level of satisfaction as Satisfied (48.6%), followed by Very Satisfied (37.1%), Neutral (11.4%), and Unsatisfied (2.9%).

**Figure 3.2 - Feedback Form Results**



As seen in *Figure 3.2 - Discussion Topics Feedback*, 86% of participants were familiar with the topics prior to the discussion, and 100% of participants learned something new about the conversation topics during the discussion. 80% of respondents identified missing topics in the conversation, such as: connections between climate and financing, more visual content about green energy, information about trades education, existing options for retrofitting condominiums, and resources for businesses hoping to become more sustainable, and more focus on issues of healthcare, homelessness, and drug use. Meanwhile, 69% of participants felt that there were some groups absent, such as more representatives from environmental organizations, Indigenous organizations, school boards, local energy companies and transit authorities, and the City of Surrey. Feedbacks on the discussion include: a desire for more time, and specifically, dedicated time for individual brainstorming before group conversation.

Finally, 90% of attendees would like to continue the conversation, and would like to be contacted for future projects or activities relating to these topics.

## Conclusions

This report concludes the three session series held in Surrey, British Columbia. Over the course of three conversations, Surrey community members discussed their desires and concerns for their city with their neighbours, engaging in robust discussions on a range of topics including the cost of living, climate change, transportation, and skills training.

The final Surrey event focused on exploring community desires regarding job accessibility and skills training in the green economy. Participants were candid about their feelings of overwhelm and fear about the future. However, they pointed to education and community engagement with young people as a promising path towards forging greater awareness of the importance of sustainability in Surrey. When asked explicitly about the kinds of careers and skills they would be interested in pursuing in the future, participants articulated an expansive vision of the green economy, encompassing a wide range of careers. They discussed skills like gardening and recycling, as well as an interest in investing in 'soft' skillsets that are protected from the tumult of economic change, like organizational and interpersonal skills. They spoke at length about the importance of investing in meeting basic needs of the community, like education, housing, and healthcare, as the foundation of a thriving green economy in Surrey.

#### **4. Next Steps**

With the conclusion of this three session series, Iron and Earth will review all of the data collected to identify the most pressing community issues raised by participants. These findings will then be verified with the general public through public engagement events to identify the most salient issues in the community. After the top community issues are identified, Iron and Earth will mobilize these findings through a local advocacy campaign with local decision-makers to ensure that community priorities are advocated for on the local level. Iron and Earth will ensure that findings are circulated to all participants in the Surrey community who attended these events. If you would like to learn more about the program's progress and the work that takes place after the sessions, please contact us at [communities@ironandearth.org](mailto:communities@ironandearth.org).

## Appendix A

The following appendix contains the script that was used as a general guide by the facilitators for the Community Conversation conducted by Iron & Earth.

Script for Facilitating an Iron and Earth Session - Third Surrey Session

### CONVERSATION TIME BREAKDOWN:

Session Introduction: 20 minutes

Breakout Group Setup: 5 minutes

Breakout Conversations: 60 minutes

Break: 10 minutes

Reporting Back: 5 minutes

Session Conclusion: 20 minutes

TOTAL TIME: 120 minutes

DOORS CLOSE TIME: 1:15 pm/when max capacity is reached

START TIME: 1:00 pm

END TIME: 3:00 pm

SETUP START TIME: 12:00 pm

### SETUP PERSON:

Set up presentation slides/theater screen

Setup microphone(s) and lighting

Have a facilitator in front doing headcount checking registered names and hand out registration forms if they haven't filled them, for those unregistered, provide registration form and letter of consent. Once we cap our numbers lead folks to fill up our sign up sheet

### SESSION INTRODUCTION: 20 Minutes

#### Session Overview Introduction:

Greetings everyone and welcome to the first Community Conversation hosted by Iron & Earth featuring Surrey. This series of discussions is taking place in Surrey with a focus on livelihoods, climate change, and opportunities and developments related to achieving a net-zero economy.



[primary facilitator introduce themselves]

name

pronouns (if desired)

association with Iron & Earth

Why are you facilitating today? / provide goals for session

We would like to acknowledge the unceded Indigenous land where we are today in so-called Surrey. The home of many Indigenous Peoples including Semiahmoo, Katzie, Kwikwetlem (kwee-kwet-lum) , Kwantlen, Qayqayt (key-kite)and Tsawwassen First Nations.

Funding for this event is generously provided by ESDC and in partnership with the Sustainable Workforce Coalition

This is Iron & Earth's first session with the Surrey community with the goal of building relationships that go beyond a simple consultation process. We aim to meet communities where they are at, to understand their ideas on extreme weather events, the transition, potential solutions, and their level of preparedness on each of these issues. We shared with you a 1-page highlights from our previous communities so that you have an idea of what to expect from the session. We recognize that each community is different.

After our conversation, we'll create a brief report to serve as a resource for understanding the needs and desires of Surrey's residents. We'll share it with you, our outreach network, key stakeholders, decision-makers, and publish it on our website.

For the rest of this session, we'll talk about the Surrey community and its current challenges. Your breakout group will address three questions about the community, its challenges, and your vision for the future. There is also pen and paper if you prefer to share your ideas in a written or graphic form.

Each group will have a facilitator. You'll be in those breakout groups for about 60 minutes, with each question taking up to 20 minutes.

Finally, we'll come back together for a quick wrap-up and aim to be done by 3:00pm.

If you haven't filled out our registration or consent forms please fill it and give it to one of our facilitators.

IMPORTANT: This is a space that welcomes diversity of opinions, we ask that these conversations are approached with mutual respect and care. We endeavor to have a meaningful conversation with the participants who have diverse perspectives, backgrounds, and experience.

Privacy Policy:

We shared a letter of consent for you to sign. In it we explained the participation, reimbursement and confidentiality processes. From it:

We would like to highlight that we will be recording today's conversation, but the transcripts and documents collected will only be shared between Iron & Earth staff. After this process ends, the notes will stay with Iron & Earth. These notes will be used to produce our reports. However, your participation will remain anonymous.

We do want to include some quotes in the community and final reports, but they will have no name attached to them.

We also want to make sure that you know that you are free to leave at any point during this session. We truly appreciate your time and respect your privacy.

Lastly, we ask that you please do not record, or photograph the conversation.

Facilitator Introductions:

We have 2 other local facilitators with us today.

[Secondary Facilitators please introduce yourselves]

name

pronouns (if desired)

association with Iron & Earth

Why are you facilitating today? / provide goals for session

Conversation Introduction:

What is this conversation about?

Livelihoods: Our livelihood is our means of meeting our basic needs, such as food and shelter

Climate Change: Human driven extreme weather events and increasing global temperatures, are having significant impacts and posing major challenges for communities

Energy Transition Opportunities: The shift from an energy mix based on fossil fuels to one based on renewable energy sources.

What's going on in Surrey?

Surrey is experiencing a moment of profound change. As one of the fastest growing cities in Canada, it's on track to overtake Vancouver as the largest city in British Columbia by 2040.

The city has been subject to a variety of extreme weather events like the heat dome of 2021, more frequent cold snaps, disruptive flooding events, and wildfire smoke in the summertime. According to a City survey, 8/10 people in the community are concerned about climate change.

Surrey residents are also concerned about the rising cost of living, as housing prices become increasingly unaffordable. Median rents in Surrey went up 65% from October 2013 to October 2022.

BREAKOUT CONVERSATIONS: 60 Minutes

Setting-up Breakout Groups: 5 minutes

[Facilitators remember to turn on recorder in the breakout group]

[Participants must do some kind of round table of names at the beginning of the breakout recording. This is only for reference purposes, the name will not show in any of our results]

Sustainability Definition: "Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." (UN 1987)

Question 1 20 Minutes

What environmental changes have you seen in your community?

Question 2 20 Minutes

How have economic or industry changes affected income security and job availability in your community?

Question 3 20 Minutes

What does sustainability mean in your community?

BREAK: 10 MINUTES

Reporting back to the room: 5 minutes

CONCLUSION: 20 MINUTES

Desired outcomes and impacts of this project

We conduct three sessions within each community, this being the First for Surrey, we will be conducting a minimum of two more community sessions, and each will have their own session reports. These reports will summarize the needs and desires of Surrey's residents and will be shared with our outreach network, key stakeholders and decision-makers, and published on our website for everyone's benefit.

If you're interested in learning more about the program's progress and post-session work, please reach out to [communities@ironandearth.org](mailto:communities@ironandearth.org) and one of our team members will be happy to provide an update. We are planning to host more sessions in other areas of Surrey in the coming months, so stay tuned!

Please share your feedback on this conversation. Let us know if there's anything important we missed, anything you learned, or anything else you want to tell us!

[Share feedback forms and give time to fill them out]

Finally, we would like to remind everyone that all reimbursements are subject to a processing time of 10 business days.

On behalf of Iron & Earth, I'd like to thank you again for joining us. Have a wonderful rest of your day!

[SESSION END]

[Collect remaining registration and consent forms and Audio Recording Devices]