

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Update on
Climate Action
Plan Progress
August 2021

PHASE II: CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING

City of Tacoma, Office of Environmental
Policy and Sustainability
&
Citizens for a Healthy Bay



Phase II Community Engagement Report

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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	5
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 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.

<i>PHASE</i>	<i>ACTIONS</i>	<i>TIMELINE</i>
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	February - June 2021

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify technical opportunities, community benefits 	
3	Plan Release and Adoption	July - September 2021
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Center equity in Plan Deliver ambitious and achievable draft plan 	

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

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 of this engagement approach during Phase II, the City continued working with [Citizens for a Healthy Bay \(CHB\)](#) 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 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 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 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 Climate 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 Environmental Justice 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	287	↑ +6.5x Higher	Boost Unavailable
People Reached	Engagements	Distribution Score	

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

2020-2021 TACOMA CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING

WHAT DOES A CLIMATE RESILIENT AND EQUITABLE TACOMA LOOK LIKE?

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

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 Summary

Leveraging the connections and knowledge of our community Climate Ambassadors, Environmental Justice 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:

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

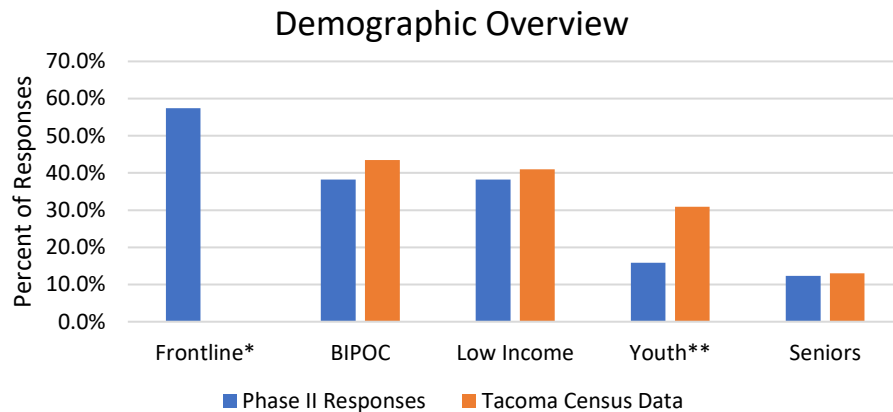
Table 1. Summary of community participants involved in collecting input and the total number of responses collected using each engagement tool.

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.

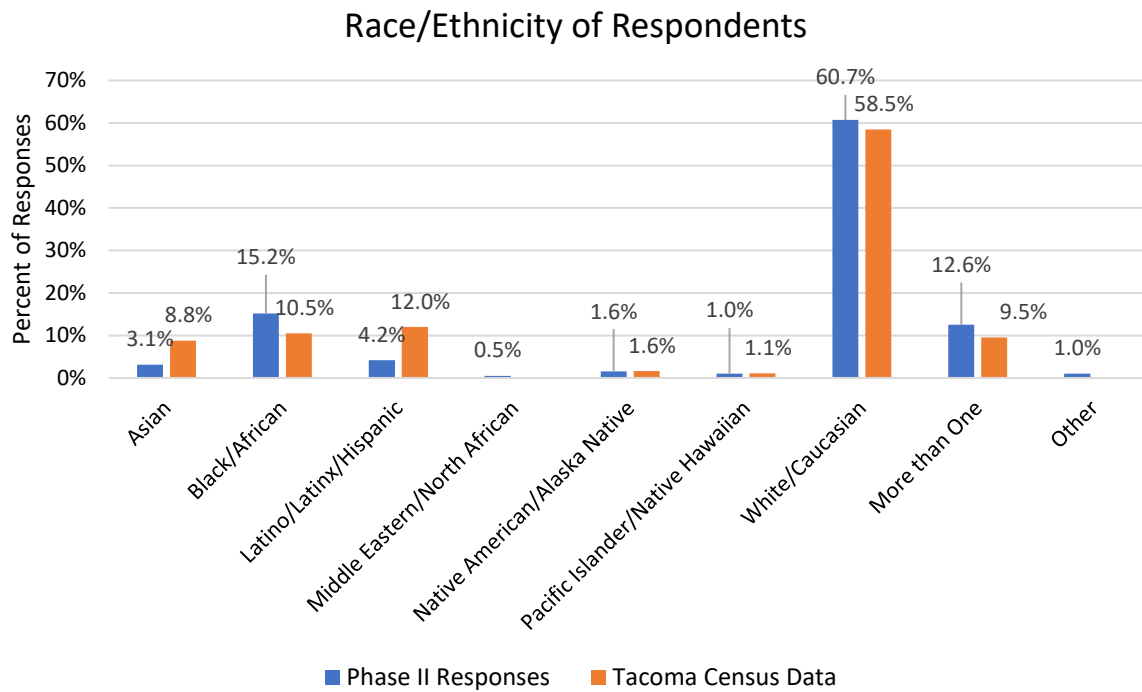
**Census data includes those age 0 to 14, an age group that was not the focus of climate action planning.

Graph 1. 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 Graph 4.

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



Graph 2. 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.

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

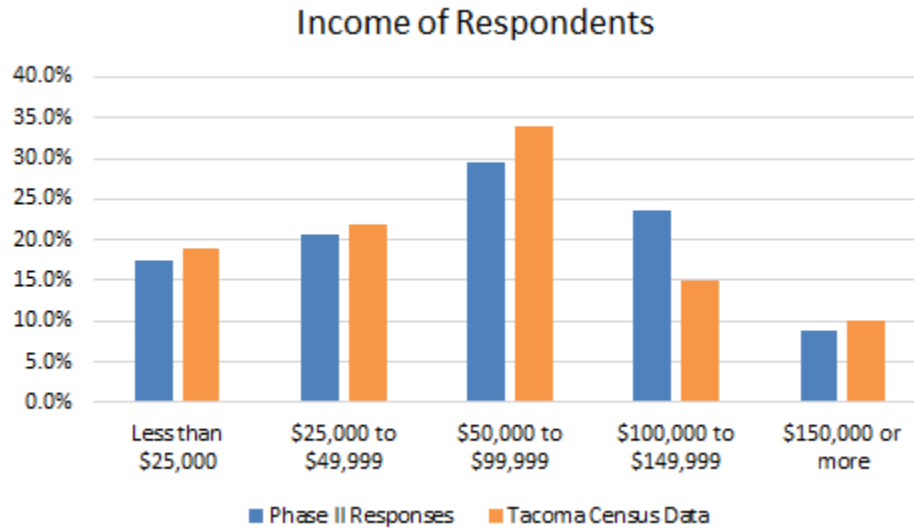
Table 2. The total number of responses for each multi-racial/ethnic identity selected in response to the race/ethnicity demographic question.

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.

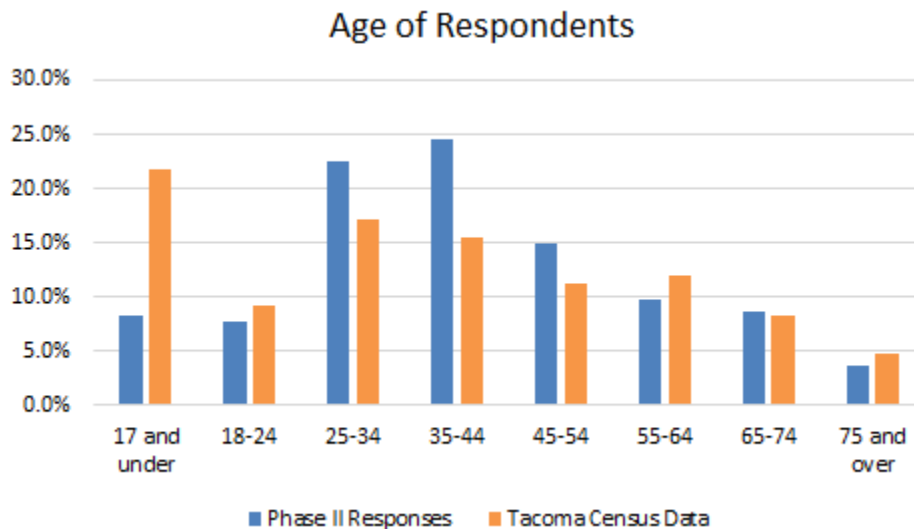
Low Income Respondents



Graph 3. 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



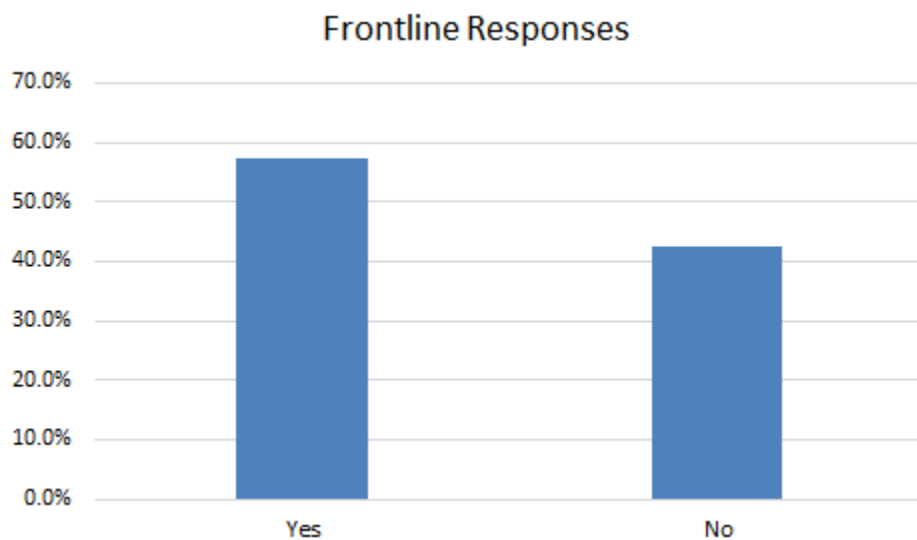
Graph 4. Responses to age demographic question by age bracket. 40% of total respondents chose not to answer this question. The above percentages reflect only the 195 respondents who answered this question.

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



Graph 5. Responses 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

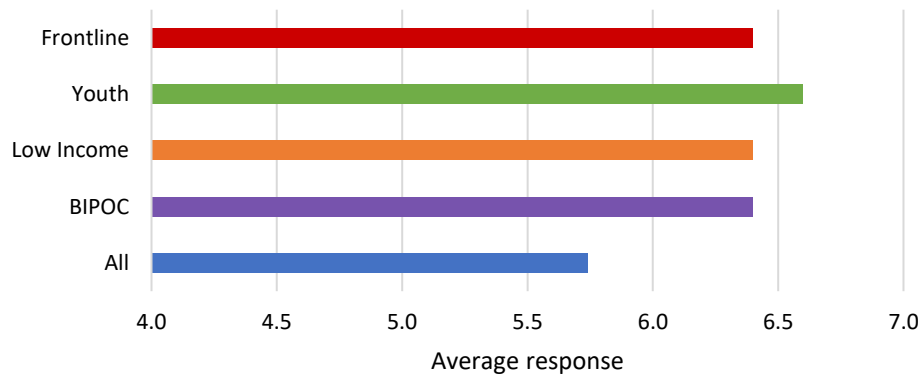
In the following sections we will share survey responses, comments, and community feedback on each of the draft climate action topical areas as they were presented in the online survey and workshops. It is important to note that only 199 community members participated in the long-format online survey,

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

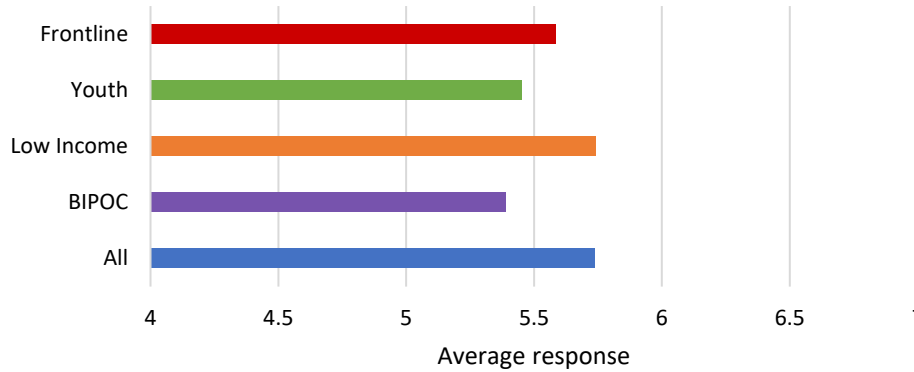
Average Urgency of Buildings & Energy Big Move: "Homes and buildings are healthy, affordable, resilient, and low carbon." (scale of 1 to 7)



Graph 6. Average ratings of urgency to take action 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.

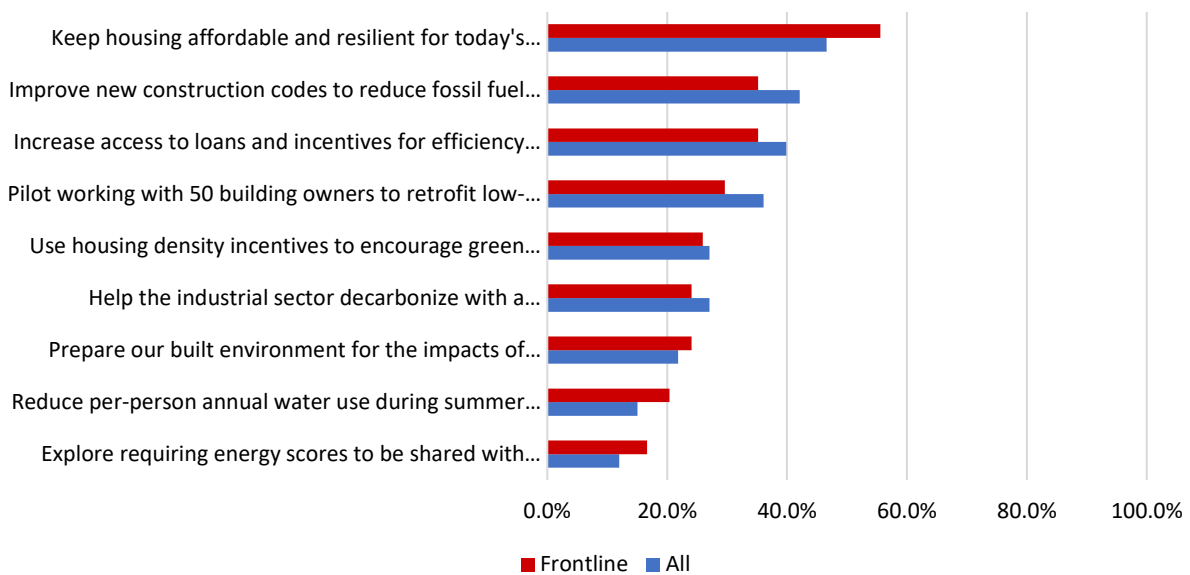
Average Urgency of Buildings & Energy Big Move:
 "Summertime water is used wisely."
 (scale of 1 to 7)



Graph 7. Average ratings of urgency to take action 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.

Priority Buildings & Energy Actions



Graph 8. 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

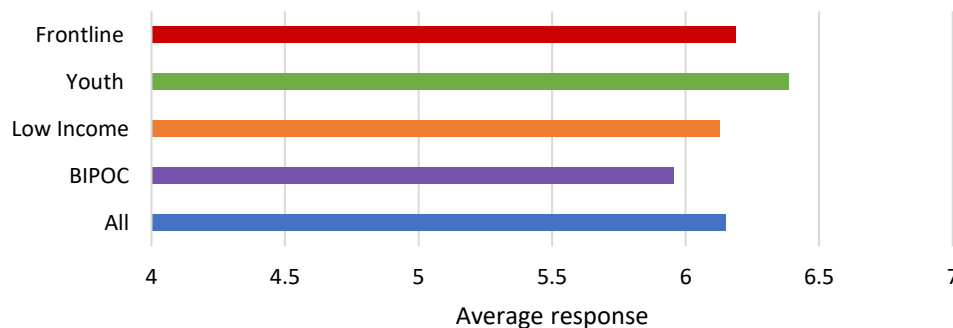
affordable and resilient for today’s residents by helping people stay in homes and keeping homes in good repair.” Over 50% of Frontline community members picked this action as one of their top three actions for Buildings & Energy. Improving new construction codes to reduce fuel use and increasing access 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

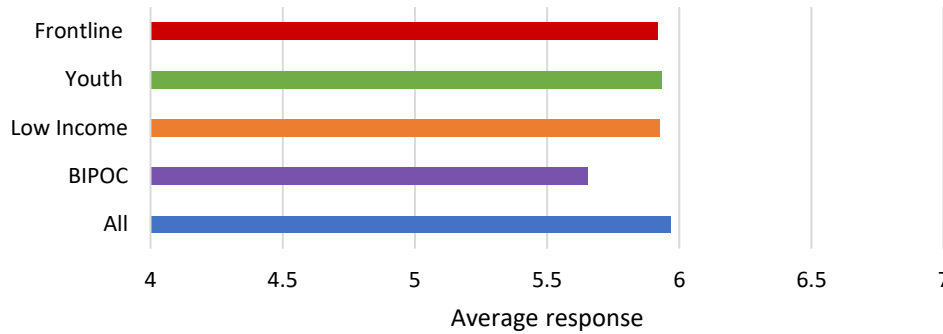
Average Urgency of Mobility & Land Use Big Move:
"Zero emission transportation is affordable and available to all."
(scale of 1 to 7)



Graph 9. 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.

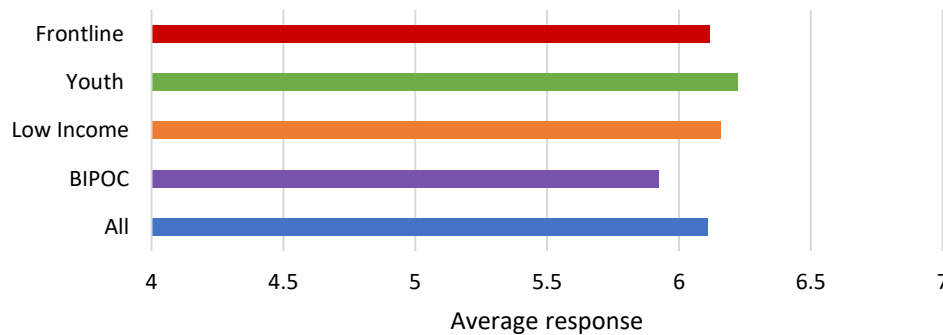
Average Urgency of Mobility & Land Use Big Move:
 "Active transportation and resilient, people centered design is available and used in all neighborhoods."
 (scale of 1 to 7)



Graph 10. Average ratings of urgency to take action 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.

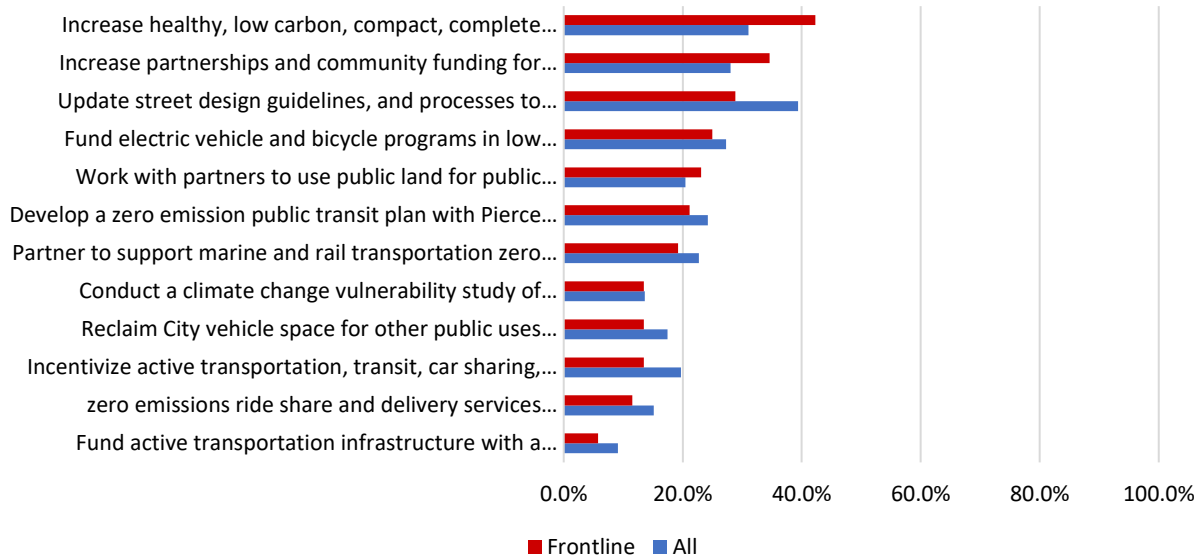
Average Urgency of Mobility & Land Use Big Move:
 "City supports better transit infrastructure that serves more Tacomans."
 (scale 1 to 7)



Graph 11. Average ratings of urgency to take action 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.

Priority Mobility & Land Use Actions



Graph 12. 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

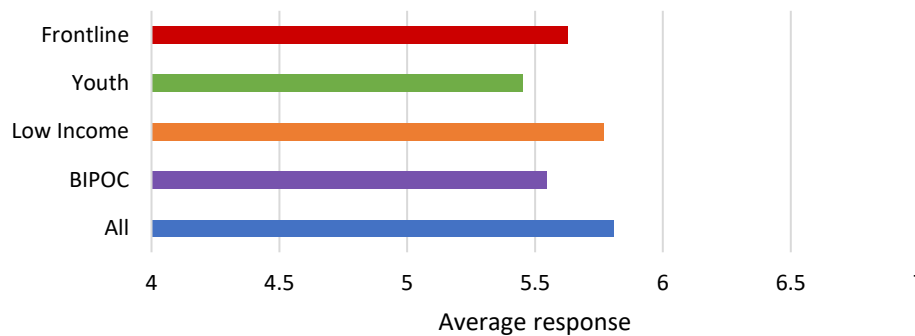
about EVs still being too expensive for most community members, even with subsidies, and the impracticalities of charging EVs for renters and those living in multi-family units. We received one comment suggesting the City invest in an E-bike sharing program to make biking in Tacoma more accessible. We 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

Average Urgency of Natural Systems Big Move:

"Healthy tree canopy is expanded where we need it most."

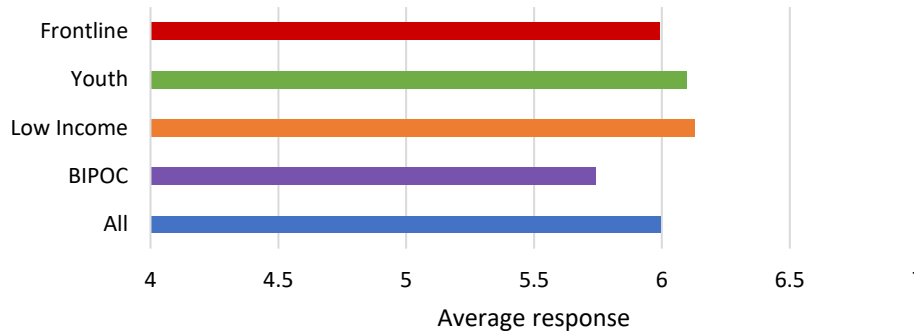
(scale of 1 to 7)



Graph 13. Average ratings of urgency to take action 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.

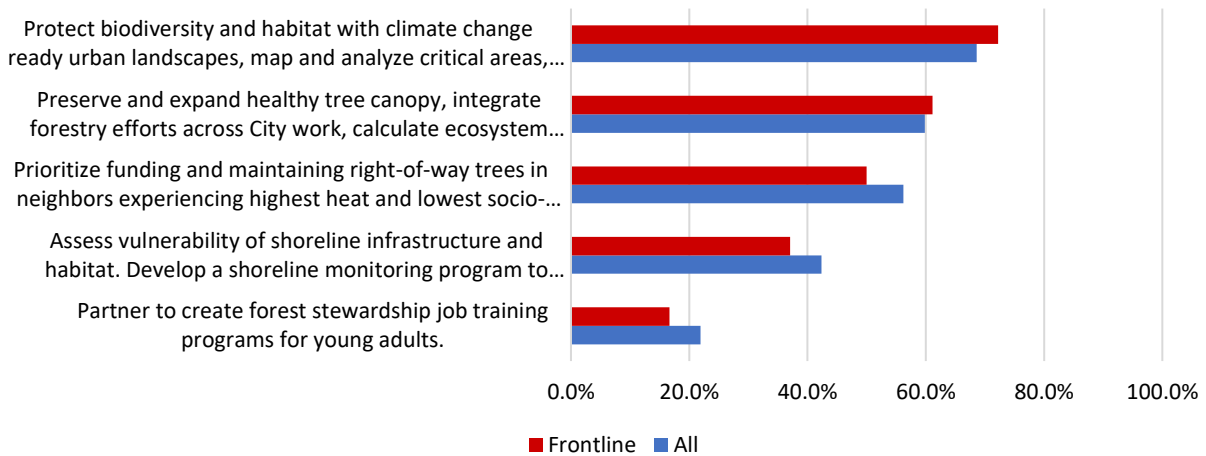
Average Urgency of Natural Systems Big Move:
 "Tacoma's natural systems are diverse, protected, and resilient to our changing climate."
 (scale of 1 to 7)



Graph 14. Average ratings of urgency to take action 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.

Priority Natural System Actions



Graph 15. 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

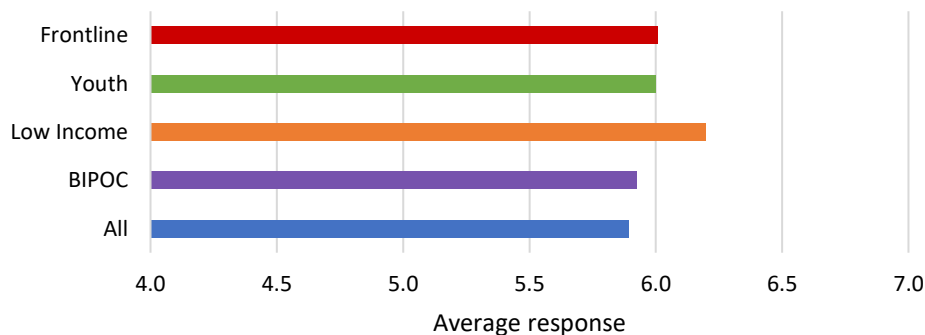
areas, update codes, and involve community” and over 60% of Frontline community members selected the draft action to preserve and expand healthy tree canopy as priority actions.

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

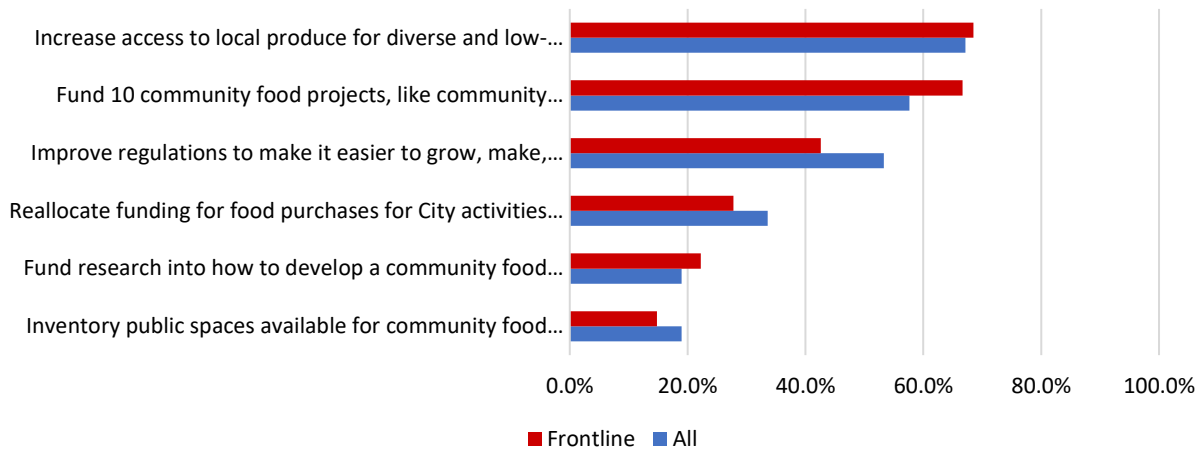
Average Urgency of Local Food Big Move:
"Growing, making, and accessing healthy, local food is easy."
(scale of 1 to 7)



Graph 16. Average ratings of urgency to take action 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.

Priority Local Food Actions



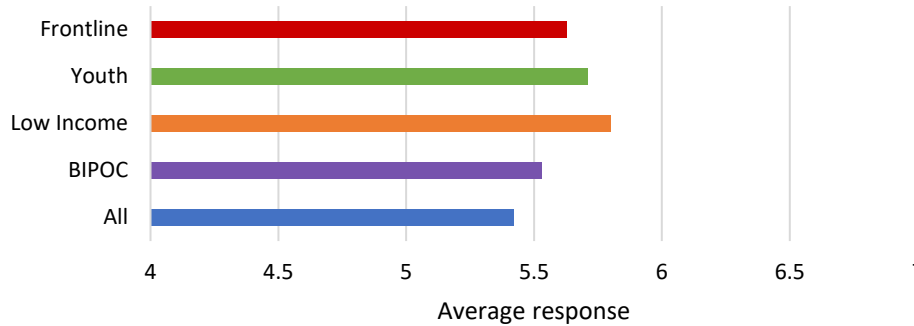
Graph 17. Priority Local Food Actions for Frontline community respondents and All respondents. Respondents were asked to select a maximum of three priority actions for this sector.

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.

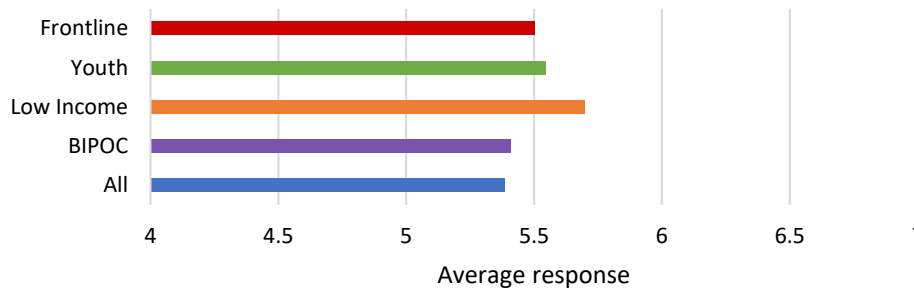
Average Urgency of Consumption & Materials Management Big Move:
"No food is wasted."
(scale of 1 to 7)



Graph 18. Average ratings of urgency to take action 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.

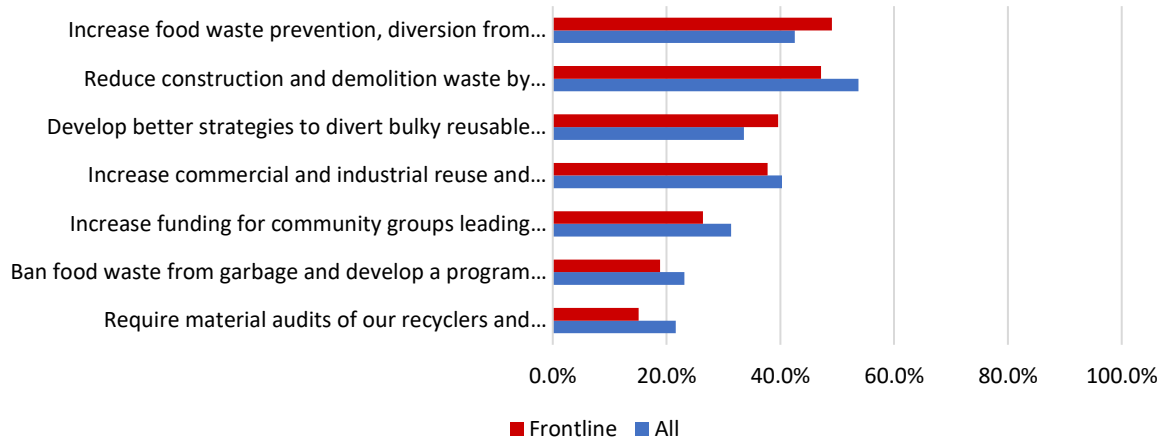
Average Urgency of Consumption & Materials Management Big Move:
"Neighbors share, reuse, and repair items easily in our thriving circular economy."
(scale of 1 to 7)



Graph 19. Average ratings of urgency to take action 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.

Priority Consumption & Materials Management Actions



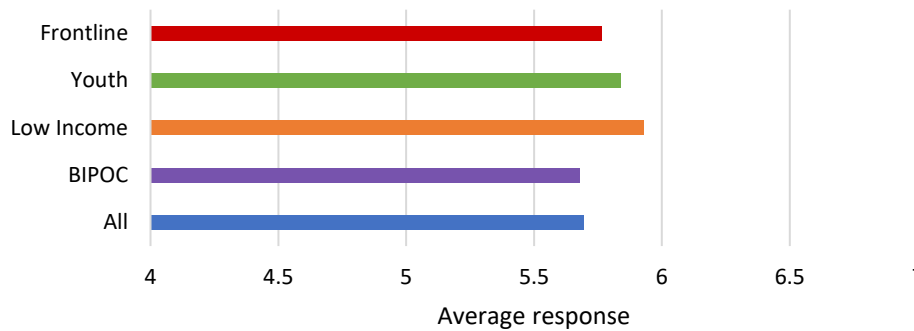
Graph 20. Priority Consumption & Materials Management Actions for Frontline community respondents and All respondents. Respondents were asked to select a maximum of three priority actions for this sector.

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).

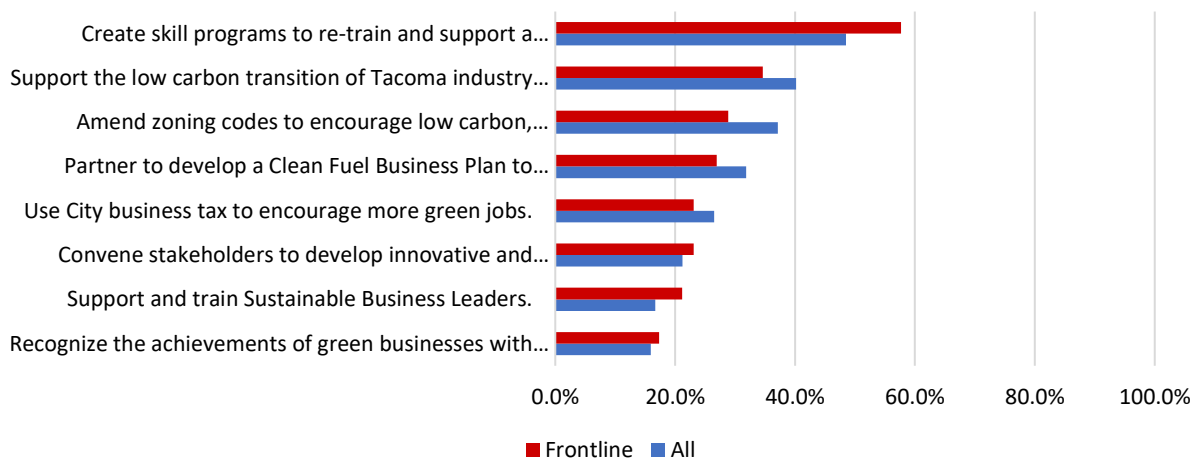
Average Urgency of Green Economy Big Move:
 "A prepared workforce helps existing and new innovative businesses and industries lead our green economy transition."
 (scale of 1 to 7)



Graph 21. Average ratings of urgency to take action 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.

Priority Green Economy Actions



Graph 22. 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

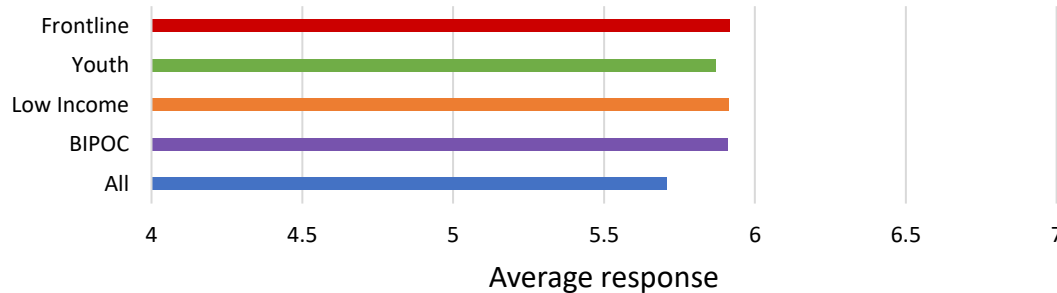
workforce prepared for the low-carbon economy.” This action had the most direct impact on community members rather than supporting businesses that will indirectly support green job growth and a low carbon transition.

Qualitative Responses

In line with the top priority action to create skill and re-training 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 industry in the Port.

Governance & Engagement

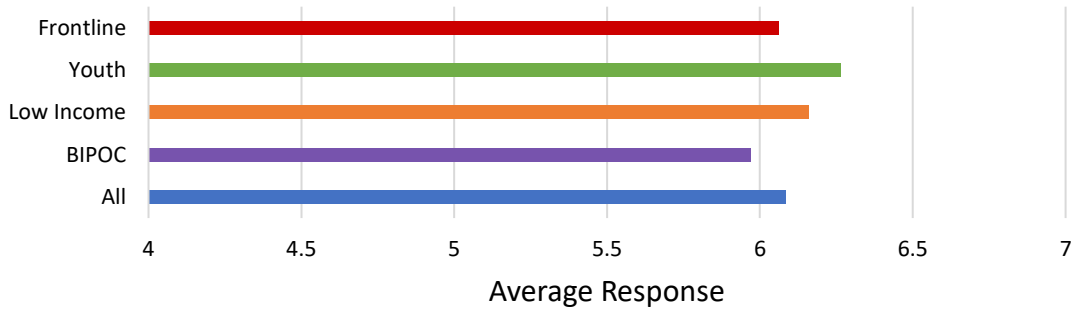
Average Urgency of Governance & Engagement Big Move:
"Community members and partners share climate action leadership."
(scale of 1 to 7)



Graph 23. Average ratings of urgency to take action 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.

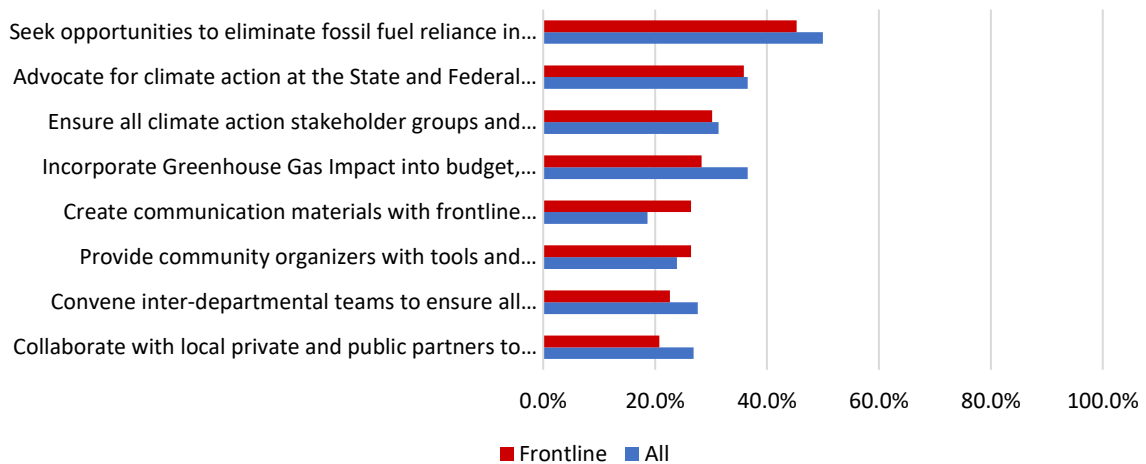
Average Urgency of Governance & Engagement Big Move:
"All City decisions and actions are made using a climate change lens."
 (scale of 1 to 7)



Graph 24. Average ratings of urgency to take action 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.

Priority Governance & Engagement Actions



Graph 25. 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 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 organization 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

Possible	All		Frontline		BIPOC		Low-Income		Youth	
	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	94	69	39	72	19	83	22	88	7	100

climate change ready urban landscapes, map and analyze critical areas, update codes, and involve community.										
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 83	3 31	1 0	2 0	2 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
Possible	All		Frontline		BIPOC		Low-Income		Youth	
	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%
Possible	All		Frontline		BIPOC		Low-Income		Youth	
	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.	16	8%	9	17%	3	13%	4	16%	2	29%

Require commercial buildings to report their energy score.										
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%
MOBILITY & LAND USE	All		Frontline		BIPOC		Low-Income		Youth	
	Possible 199		54		23		25		7	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
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	36	18%	13	24%	9	39%	9	36%	3	43%

opportunity neighborhoods.										
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	18	9%	7	13%	5	22%	6	24%	0	0%

management and planning.											
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%	
Possible CONSUMPTION & MATERIALS MANAGEMENT	All		Frontline		BIPOC		Low-Income		Youth		
	199		54		23		25		7		
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
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	54	27%	20	37%	12	52%	15	60%	3	43%	

material marketplace exchange platform.										
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%
GREEN ECONOMY	All		Frontline		BIPOC		Low-Income		Youth	
	Possible		199		54		23		25	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
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%		
GOVERNANCE & ENGAGEMENT	All		Frontline		BIPOC		Low-Income		Youth			
	Possible		199		54		23		25		7	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%		
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	37	19%	12	22%	5	22%	5	20%	1	14%		

sustainability benefits.										
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%