

SUMMARY REPORT

6 classes
1 group
140+ students

YOUTH
Climate Action
Forum

Goals reached

- ✓ Establish a positive communication channel between youth in the community and the sustainability work that's happening at the municipal level.
- ✓ Provide an opportunity for connection and collaboration between students and teachers who are interested in sustainability.
- ✓ Demonstrate ways for youth to be involved in sustainability issues locally.

Three event exercises

1 ENGAGING WITH SUSTAINABILITY CONTENT

Prior to the Forum, a 30 minute presentation and Q&A was done with every class to provide a background on the planning and actions currently underway at City Hall. The presentation was provided by a City Councillor and a member of the Sustainability Division.

Students determined whether actions from the strategic plans were individual level actions, structural level actions or a combination of the two. Hoopla hoops were used to create an interactive concept map to help organize student understanding of the actions within the strategic plan.

Students had the opportunity to add their own actions within the themes of waste, public and active transportation, climate change and youth leadership.



Energy Efficient Homes
Community Groups
Low Flow Products
Vegetarian
Less stuff
Equity
Vegan
Incentives
Plant Trees
LED Lights
Lights Off
Grow your own food
Ban pesticides
Electric Cars
Recycle
Less Packaging
Transit
Less plastic
Carpool
Infill
Solar
Electric
Grants
Upcycle
Youth Leadership
Active Transportation
Energy Conservation

PRIORITIZED ACTION



2 COMMUNICATIONS

Students indicated their familiarity with the content of recent public service announcements and provided suggestions and recommendations on how to improve communications with youth.

"HAVE FUNCTIONS LIKE THESE REGULARLY SO IF NEW PEOPLE ARE CURIOUS THEY CAN GET THE RIGHT INFORMATION AND RIGHT IDEA ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THE WORLD AND HOW THE CITY IS TRYING TO HELP, SINCE NOT ALL PEOPLE KNOW."

STUDENT INSIGHTS

Use social media, especially Instagram and Youtube and pay for sponsored ads.

Make communications relevant to us and signpost explicitly why we should care.

Well-designed graphics – illustrations, graphs.

Use social media to communicate directly with groups like @climatejusticesaskatoon or @fridaysforfuture and ask them to share or repost.

50/50 information and call to action.

Reach out to schools.

Advertising things to youth.

Host more events.

Percentage of students who reported seeing the following City-issued PSAs:

37% City council votes on curbside recycling service

51% Council sets BRT for 1st Ave Downtown & Broadway, approves active transportation network, but wants more work on design.

49% City council votes on waste and organics funding with curbside program to launch in 2023.

73% City outlines 30-year strategy for lowering greenhouse gas emissions.

3 MAPPING MUNICIPAL DECISION MAKING PROCESS

Students actively engaged with the municipal decision making process through a mock scenario. Each student represented a body (e.g. Committee of City Council) within the larger municipal process and a ball of yarn was passed between the different bodies to track the path of the decision making process. The passage of time at each stage was represented by students jumping once per month.

Upon completion, students set their strings and title of the body they represented down and stepped back to analyze and discuss process as a group.

"I'D LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE AND LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CLIMATE PLAN FOR THE CITY."



"THE CLOSER WE ARE TIED TO THE WORLD WE BUILD THE EASIER IT IS TO CARE ABOUT THE CAUSE. GIVE US AN OUTLET TO CHANNEL OUR BELIEFS."



What we heard from youth

- I didn't realize we can have a voice even though we don't vote.
- The City can lead by example.
- There should be more spaces for youth to connect to discuss environmental issues (e.g. school clubs, youth climate council).
- I'd like to see more events and presentations to classes and the public.
- It's useful to have organized groups, like school clubs, so we can come together to share ideas and support one another.
- We can organize events in our community to show that we are taking action.
- Kids teaching adults.
- Link youth to city hall.
- We can engage as a group in individual level action (learning together).
- I think it's important to individually present initiatives for change to [the] city in a thoughtful, organized, well supported manner (PowerPoint even :)).
- We are surprised at how long the municipal process is.

STUDENT INSIGHTS

Some of the barriers I experience when trying to engage with people about environmental issues are:

- Different conflicting ideas/ways of doing things/taking action.
- Financial stand points they are concerned with.
- Peers my age are not interested.
- The lack of planning within the action plan.
- Climate change denial/fear of structural change. Often times it becomes impossible to engage in a process with someone who is unwilling to participate in productive action.
- People often feel attacked or afraid, especially if their livelihood is rooted in oil and gas, agriculture or farming. People are dismissive and assume climate change advocates are extreme hippy tree huggers who are ignorant to the science and demands for non-renewable resources.

Percentage of respondents who said focusing on environmental issues makes them feel:

