



What We Heard Summary

Climate Resilience Planning and Development Action Plan: Action 3

The [Climate Resilience Planning and Development \(CRPD\) Action Plan](#) is a way to bring energy transition and climate adaptation action into every stage of planning and development as our city continues to grow. Action 3 of the CRPD Action Plan is about introducing **solar-ready requirements into the Zoning Bylaw**. The goal is to make buildings “ready” for photovoltaic (solar) systems so that it is easier for people to add solar panels in the future.

From August 2024 to March 2025, the City engaged about 120 people who are experts in environmental policy, building, and permit processes at the [REFINE level of engagement](#), asking about three regulatory options for solar readiness focused on these considerations:

- Installing conduits (channels for wiring to travel) for solar systems
- Grouping or locating roof obstructions (like roof vents) for better solar panel layouts
- Requirements about roof direction (orientation)



We heard that environmental advocacy groups, solar industry advocates, solar companies, and the Energy Transition Climate Resilience Committee **supported these three regulatory options**. They felt that these options are low-cost ways to make solar systems easier to install in the future. Industry participants and non-market housing providers engaged were **concerned with the three options** because they felt it would affect buildings that may never install solar panels, conflict with building codes, increase costs and permit timelines, and reduce design freedoms. Community groups who were engaged had **mixed opinions on the three options**, with some feeling that it would help make buildings more climate resilient, others doubting that the options would lead to more solar panels, and some wanting the City to require solar panels on new buildings. Some were concerned that it would lead to mature trees being removed to allow sunlight to reach solar panels.

The full What We Heard report will be shared as an attachment to an upcoming Urban Planning Committee meeting. If you have any questions, please email zoningbylaw@edmonton.ca. Published June 16, 2025

Learn more about this project at
edmonton.ca/climate-resilience-action-plan

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