

SUPPORTING CLIMATE GREATER RESILIENCE

Edmonton



A series of Conversation Starters were created in 2022 to support Phase 2 of engagement and may include content that was subject to change as the draft Zoning Bylaw was refined.

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Supporting Greater Climate Resilience

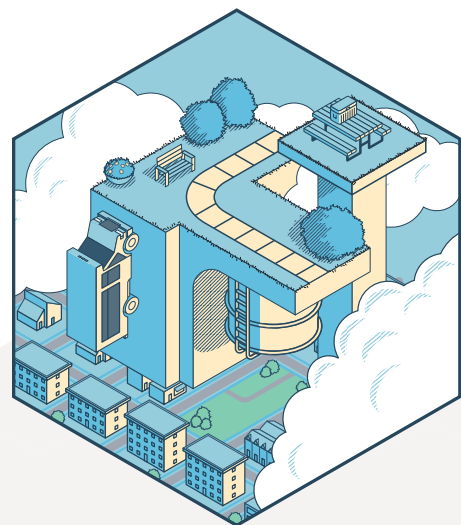
Edmonton is becoming Greener As We Grow as we prepare to welcome an additional million residents within our existing boundaries. The City is prioritizing climate resiliency and protecting our natural systems by developing and implementing the [Community Energy Transition Strategy and Action Plan](#) and the [Climate Resilient Edmonton: Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan](#). The draft Zoning Bylaw's proposed actions are one of the City's tools to address climate change.

A NEED TO CHANGE

No city is static. Edmonton, like all cities, is constantly growing and changing to align with the needs and priorities of its residents. Effective change can be planned for and managed as long as we're paddling in the same direction, toward the same goals. That's why residents, local businesses, industry, community organizations, institutions and the City itself all contributed to creating The City Plan—Edmonton's long-term vision for the future.

Implementing The City Plan will take time. Overhauling the way we support and regulate land and development is one of the first steps needed to implement The City Plan, and the Zoning Bylaw is foundational in this. The Zoning Bylaw is the rulebook for building and developing in Edmonton. It sets the rules for where new buildings should go, the types of buildings they can be, and what business and activities can happen on a property.

KEY CITY PLAN DIRECTION: We need different ways to build Edmonton's neighbourhoods and districts in order to prepare for a changing climate and extreme weather conditions. Changing how and where we build will help the City move towards The City Plan's goal of reducing Edmonton's net-carbon emissions per person to zero and meeting the City's carbon budget of 135 megatonnes by 2050. This also means continuing to protect our natural assets, such as our River Valley and agricultural lands.



PROPOSED ACTIONS

To support a more climate-resilient Edmonton, the new Zoning Bylaw proposes changes that support the actions found in the [Community Energy Transition Strategy and Action Plan](#) and [Climate Resilient Edmonton: Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan](#).

Through the new Zoning Bylaw, we are proposing to:

- + Introduce standard mixed-use zones and enable a greater variety of housing forms in all our neighbourhoods
- + Support the evolution of Edmonton's neighbourhoods into becoming 15-minute communities by enabling a greater diversity of non-residential uses in small scale residential zones and expanding home based business opportunities
- + Continue to allow height exemptions and reduced setbacks for renewable energy devices
- + Promote urban agricultural activities by exempting development permit requirements in low-risk areas
- + Protect agricultural lands from further fragmentation and conversion to other land uses in partnership with regional municipalities
- + Ensure regulations are not barriers to improving energy efficiency performance through National Building Code (Alberta Edition)

- + Protect floodplains by continuing to limit development in flood-risk areas and require flood-proof design for development in flood-risk areas
- + Continue to limit impermeable surfaces for small scale residential developments
- + Continue to preserve natural areas and require on-site landscaping to include diverse plant materials
- + Increase requirements for trees, shrubs or other landscaping for some new large-scale developments and provide an increased incentive to preserve mature trees on all sites

These proposed changes are intended to:

- + Create a compact city that can help reduce carbon emissions from transportation
- + Strengthen local food security
- + Protect and enhance our natural vegetation to support neighbourhood resilience
- + Enable and support the City's other climate actions

Interested in learning more about how the new Zoning Bylaw can support greater density and a mix of uses within the city? Check out the [Enabling Growth in Nodes and Corridors Conversation Starter](#).

ONGOING COLLABORATION

The City recognizes that addressing Edmonton's climate risks requires activating multiple different tools, one of which is the Zoning Bylaw, in order to reduce our carbon emissions and create more climate-resilient communities. These are some of the efforts underway where the Zoning Bylaw may be directly or indirectly involved:

- + The City has partnered with the Community Energy Association which received a Climate Innovation Fund Grant from the Alberta Ecotrust Foundation to help incubate best practice research on how land use policy and regulation can enable low-carbon buildings. The research includes identifying and addressing knowledge gaps in the City and strengthening Edmonton's ability to prepare its communities for the energy transition. This research is currently underway.
- + Ongoing collaboration and exploration with stakeholders about approaches to enable emissions-neutral buildings through specific regulations or removing barriers in the Zoning Bylaw, in coordination with the National Building Code (Alberta Edition)
- + Continued research and collaboration with stakeholders and regulators on Electric Vehicle readiness
- + Further discussions with stakeholders about wildfire risk and need for zoning regulations
- + Further discussions with stakeholders about river flooding risk, which will result in revisions to the Zoning Bylaw's Floodplain Protection Overlay to reflect updated Provincial mapping
- + Ongoing discussions with stakeholders on other changing climate risks, such as urban heat islands, will continue to determine any need for zoning regulation changes zoning regulations

BE A PART OF THE CONVERSATION

- + Review and share comments on the draft Zoning Bylaw and Overview of the New Zoning Bylaw on [Engaged Edmonton](#)
- + Visit engaged.edmonton.ca/zoningbylawrenewal to explore other opportunities to get involved, including upcoming workshops
- + Visit edmonton.ca/zoningbylawrenewal to learn more about the Zoning Bylaw Renewal Initiative
- + Subscribe to our [newsletter](#)
- + Contact us at zoningbylawrenewal@edmonton.ca

