

environmental

SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

What We Heard – 2021

The City engaged with the Coquitlam community in 2021 to ensure that the draft Environmental Sustainability Plan (ESP) resonated. We asked participants to:

- Confirm the draft plan reflected the top priorities identified in the 2019 public survey (sustainable transportation, greenhouse gas reduction and waste management).
- Confirm the goals, strategies and actions in each of the five themes of the ESP addressed the needs of the community.
- Rank their overall support for the draft ESP.

We engaged with the community in a variety of ways:

500+ people attended:



6 pop-up engagement booths



8 virtual engagement sessions



1 in-person engagement session



482 surveys completed



1,100+ survey comments



2,100+ web visits
(letstalkcoquitlam.ca/envioplan and coquitlam.ca/envioplan)



500+ downloads of the Draft ESP / ESP Highlights



185 YouTube video views

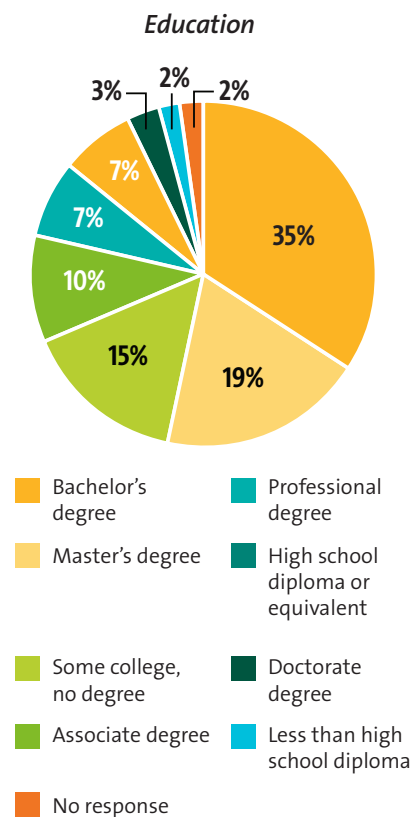
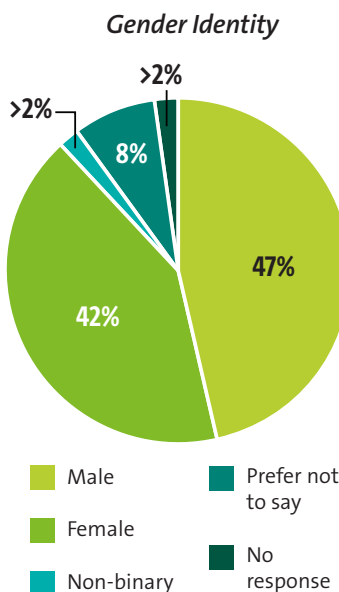
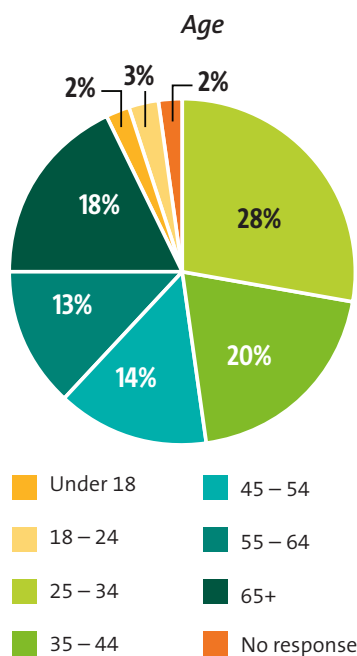


20,000+ reached on social media

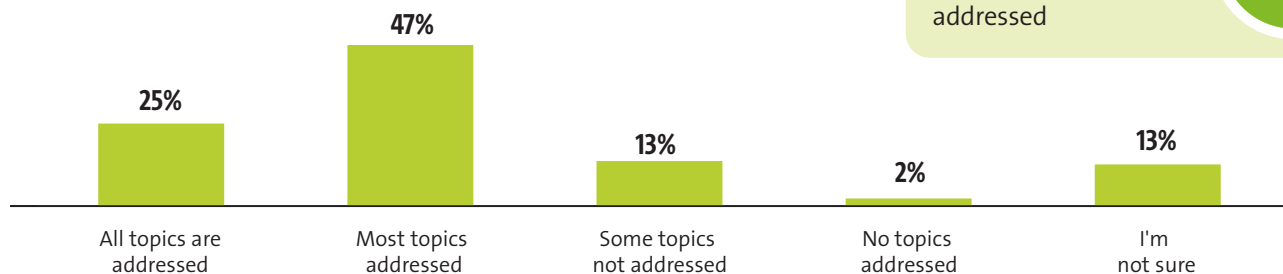
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What We Heard – 2021

Through the online survey, we heard from:



We asked if the key community priorities of sustainable transportation, greenhouse gas reduction and waste management were addressed in the ESP:



72%

of respondents felt that all or most topics were addressed



During the first round of public engagement we heard that sustainable transportation, greenhouse gas reduction and waste management were the most important issues the community wanted the City to focus on. Do you feel that these topics have been addressed in the Plan?

Response rate 100% (482 out of 482)

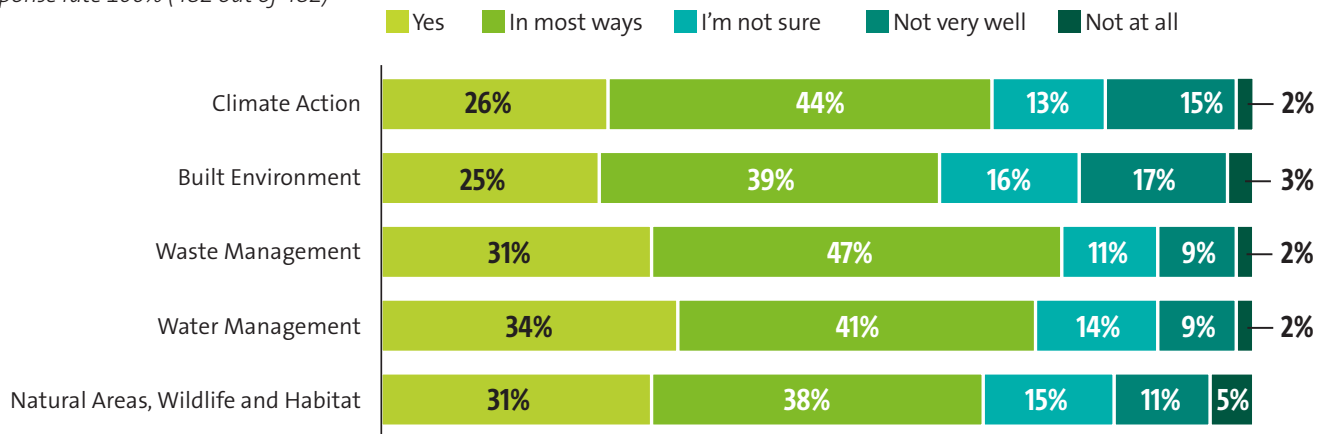
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What We Heard – 2021

We asked if the goals, strategies and actions for the five themes of the ESP met the needs of Coquitlam:

Do you feel that the goals, strategies and actions of the five themes of the ESP meet the needs of the Community?

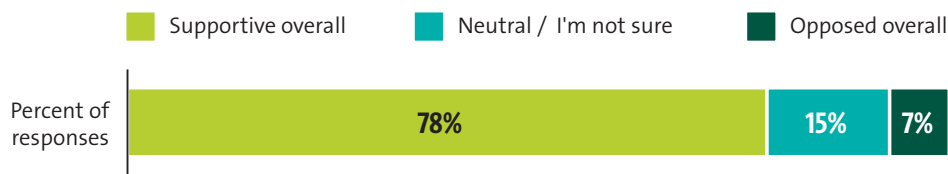
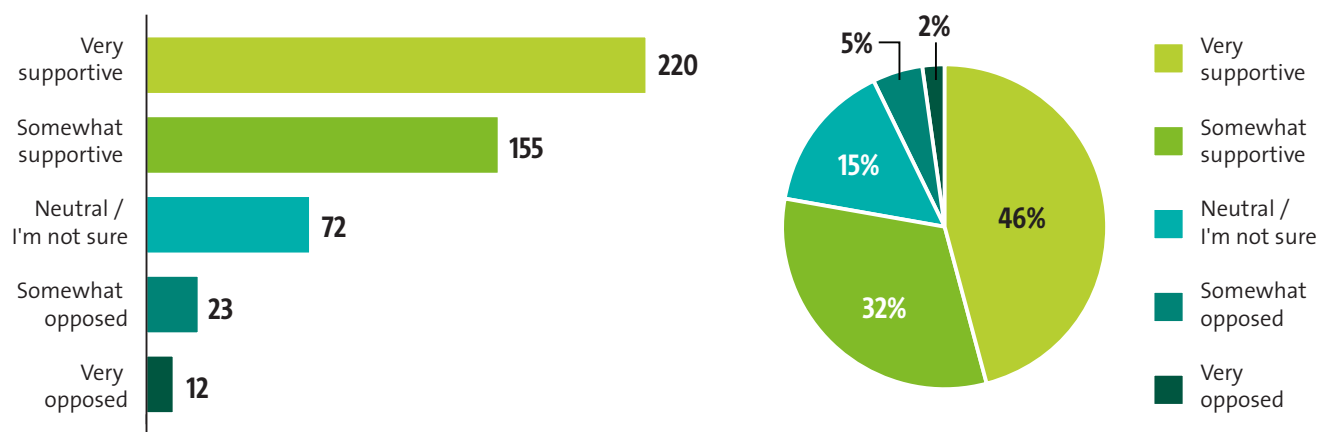
Response rate 100% (482 out of 482)



We asked respondents to rank their level of support for the overall draft ESP:

What is your level of support for the overall Draft ESP?

Response rate 100% (482 out of 482)



Source: City of Coquitlam, Environment, ESP Survey, October 2021

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What We Heard – 2021

Respondents were asked if there was anything else they'd like to share about the goals, strategies and actions for the five themes of the ESP as well as the overall plan.

A total of over **1,100** comments were shared in the survey.

The most common topics were summarized in the following categories:



Development

- Mixed feedback on development and densification
 - Support for improving walkability and densifying urban/transit centers
 - Concern about impact of development on habitat, natural areas and tree canopy
- Support for improving efficiency and sustainability of new buildings through incentives, requirements and education



Trees

- Concern about loss of tree canopy on public land, private land and due to development
- Support for increased protection of existing trees through development requirements, bylaws, education and incentives
- Support for more tree planting initiatives



Ecosystems, Wildlife and Natural Areas

- Support for more protection of wildlife through education and bylaw enforcement
- Support for protection and enhancement of natural areas, habitat and ecosystems
- Support for use of green infrastructure



Waste Reduction

- Support to ban single-use items
- Support to reduce waste through a variety of methods (accepting more items for recycling, improving waste management programs for multi-family buildings and businesses, promoting item reuse, education, etc.)



Water Conservation:

- General support for conserving water and support for specific water saving measures (e.g. water metering, increasing water-use restrictions, water reuse systems, education)



Transportation:

- Support to reduce use of vehicles through active transportation, transit improvements, rideshare programs and education
- Support for use of zero emission vehicles

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What We Heard – 2021

What else did we learn?



From the Survey:

Taking action now

- Support bold, direct language in the goals, strategies and actions of the ESP
- Support more immediate and specific timelines for implementation of the ESP

Education

- Support a range of educational initiatives across all themes of the ESP with most interest on waste reduction
- Desire to be updated on the ESP's implementation and future progress



From Advisory Committees:

- Desire and interest in protecting and retaining trees
- Interest in improved response to extreme climate-related weather events (e.g. 2021 summer heat dome)
- Supportive of the Strategy “Protect and enhance the urban forest”
- Supportive of the overall structure and readability of the ESP



From Youth:

- Support for youth-focused environmental education (e.g. in schools, social media)
- 70% of survey respondents who identified as under 25 years of age are supportive of the overall ESP



From Environmental Interest Groups:

- Desire for stronger language in the goals, actions and strategies
- Desire for the City to place greater priority on retaining and enhancing tree canopy (especially mature trees)
- Desire for the City to utilize and protect green infrastructure through the development process
- Supportive of the overall plan



From kwikwəłəm (Kwikwetlem) First Nation:

- Desire involvement in the ESP's implementation and consultation on related future City plans and strategies
- Concerns about impacts of development, pollution and stormwater flows on fish, wildlife and habitat
- Desire to collaborate and partner with the City on initiatives related to watershed health, fish habitat enhancement, and managing stormwater