

Town of Windsor Climate Goals Survey Results Summary

In August 2025, the Town of Windsor conducted an online survey to gather input on the Town's climate goals and help ensure its final GHG policy updates and development checklist are tailored to represent the values and needs of the Town's unique community. The survey took an average of 10 minutes to complete. There were 247 total respondents, with more than 87% living in Windsor and 70% either over the age of 54 or under 18. Respondents were a mix of gender groups and education levels.

Key findings from the survey include:

- There is strong support for practical sustainability efforts that are science-based and cost-effective for residents, especially clean energy, water conservation, waste reduction, and walkable design.

- Many respondents see reducing greenhouse gas emissions from gas powered vehicles and increasing renewable energy sources in buildings as the top priority for achieving the Town's climate goals

- Similarly, there is major support for emphasizing renewable energy and solar in new developments, with increased access to transit, biking and walking options.

- Concerns about cost, growth, and oversight highlight the need for balanced, transparent, and community-driven implementation.

Read more about the project here: https://www.townofwindsor.ca.gov/1597/GHG-Policies-Compliance-Checklist

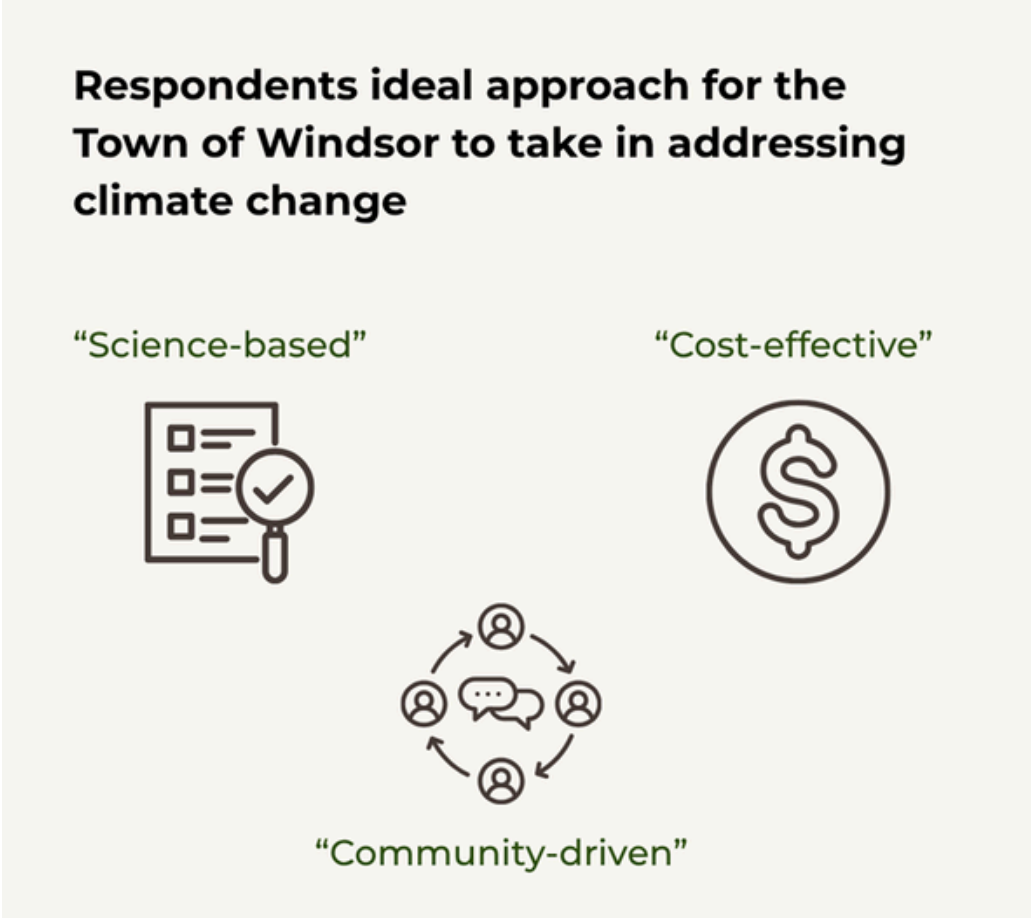
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Windsor's Ideal Approach for Addressing Climate Change

The most common phrases used to describe the ideal approach for the Town of Windsor to take in addressing climate change, include "science-based, " "community-driven" or "community-based" and "cost-effective" or "affordable." Respondents overwhelmingly stress that actions should be data-driven and evidence-based but cost-effective, while emphasizing residents as a key part of the process.



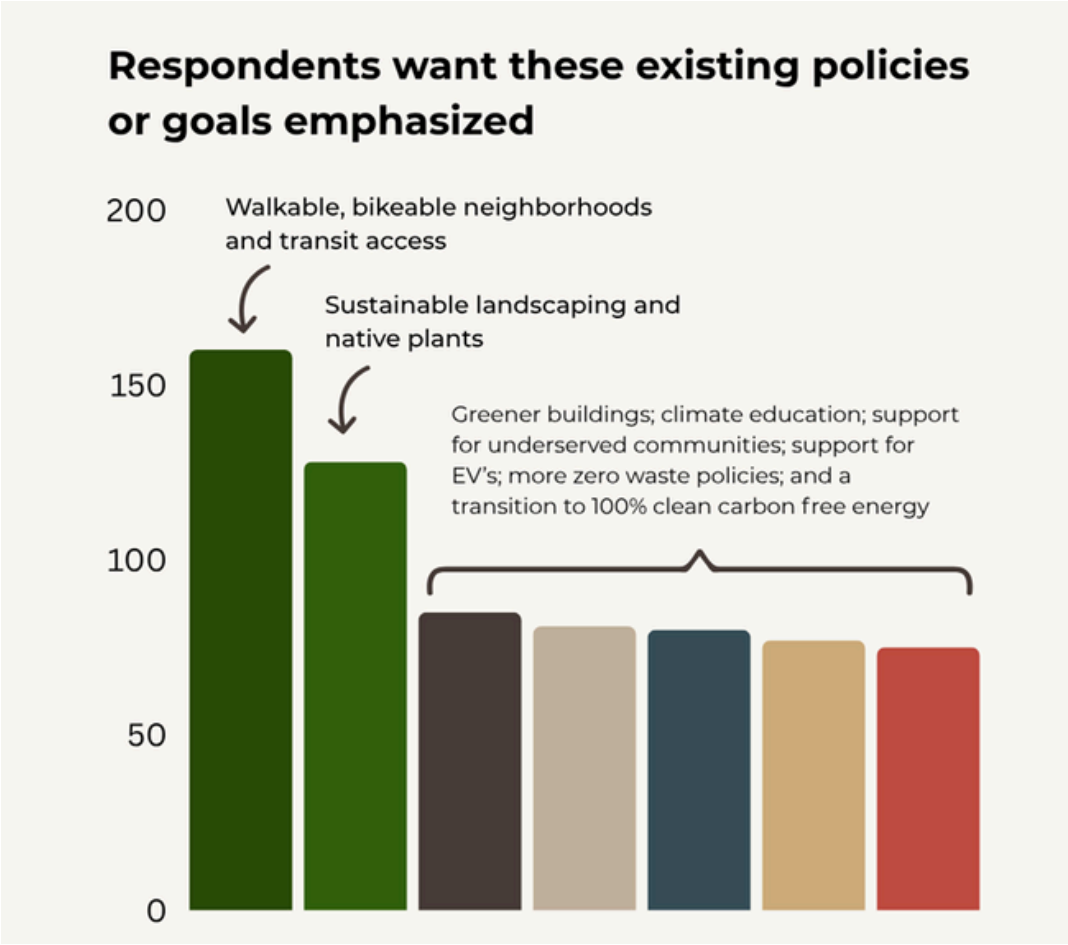
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Windsor's Existing Climate Policy

Nearly 60% of respondents support emphasizing walkable, bikeable neighborhoods and transit access and 52% support emphasizing sustainable landscaping and native plants. The rest of the existing policy selections, including climate education, greener buildings, support for electric vehicles, an increase in zero waste policies, support for underserved communities, and a transition to 100% clean carbon free energy, all received similar amounts of support (28%-34%).



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New Climate Policies, Goals, and Priorities

Respondents expressed strong enthusiasm for visible and tangible sustainability improvements. Phrases associated with walkability, bike paths, and public transportation were the most frequent as well as phrases associated with support for clean and renewable energy, specifically through solar and electric vehicle support. Water conservation, through recycling, storage, and landscaping, were also common. Concerns about development fueling a water shortage, as well as increasing car traffic and overpopulation, were noted several times. There is a clear desire for practicality and affordability in issuing any climate action, referring to fiscal responsibility and no increases in taxes.



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Priorities for reducing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions

The top source chosen for reducing GHG emissions was Transportation, e.g., gas powered vehicles, with 37% of respondents putting this as their first priority out of five. The second most selected priority was energy use in buildings, with more than 56% of respondents choosing it as their first or second priority. Agriculture and landscaping practices received the least amount of first choice votes and most amount of last place votes.

Respondents most frequently suggested actions related to solar power—solar panels, EV charging, home electrification incentives—to reduce emissions in the areas above. Improving water conservation through rain or graywater capture were noted as attainable actions.

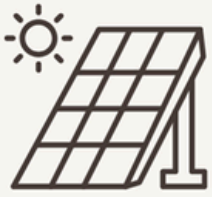
Adding bike lanes, or even a cross-town bike path, were often associated with transportation and mobility suggestions, noting a free shuttle service or increased public transit would also help support alternatives to cars. There was also some skepticism, with some respondents weary of tax dollar spending, the expense of bolstering electric vehicle infrastructure, and overall building in the Town.

Respondents said the Town should prioritize reducing these sources of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions

56%
said energy use in buildings

54%
said transportation, e.g., gas powered vehicles

Most common suggestion to reduce emissions in these areas:
Actions related to solar power, .i.e., solar panels, EV charging, and home electrification incentives



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