

Energy and Climate Change Implementation Plan

Lakewood Comprehensive Plan Update | June 2023

Submitted by BERK Consulting



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Introduction

The Energy and Climate Change Chapter (ECCC) Implementation Plan is a series of policy recommendations to address climate change for the City of Lakewood to adopt into its periodic update to the comprehensive plan.

The implementation plan is centered around public participation, outreach, and engagement. Its policy framework was created through a Steering Committee, comprised of community-based organizations, utility agencies, and service providers. A full detailed outreach and engagement process is highlighted in subsequent sections.

The policy recommendations are informed by an analysis of existing chapters of the Comprehensive Plan for alignment to community values and input. This planning process will establish best practices for equitable engagement for City staff. Community input will help evaluate the existing policy recommendations by City of Lakewood in the ECCC.

Background

In 2021, the City of Lakewood adopted its ECCC to provide policy direction on how to mitigate emissions that contribute to climate change and manage the impacts of adverse weather events. The Chapter includes over ninety-six (96) action items for City staff to implement. In 2022, City Council passed a work plan to aid prioritization.

As part of the City's required Comprehensive Plan periodic update and through funding from the Washington Department of Commerce, the City of Lakewood initiated a public participation process with the goal of ensuring community input helps inform the ECCC. The public participation process will establish an implementation plan and inform priorities in addressing climate change in Lakewood.

Community Engagement Report

This Community Engagement Report summarizes engagement activities and high-level themes of community input to inform an update to the City of Lakewood's Energy & Climate Change Chapter (ECCC) and conversations regarding middle housing in Lakewood.

Recommendations from community members regarding the ECCC are incorporated directly into the Implementation Plan. The following report summarizes additional takeaways. The engagement process included:

- Stakeholder and community leader interviews to gain an understanding of the landscape in Lakewood. The interviews were the primary strategy to recruit members to the Steering Committee.
- A Steering Committee, comprised of 10 individuals, to give recommendations on the ECCC Implementation Plan as well as input on the community engagement approaches. This group met four times and included participation by city staff.
- Focus groups and pop-up events to engage additional community members.

Recommendations for City-Led Community Engagement

The recommendations below summarize lessons learned from the engagement process for the ECCC implementation plan. They are informed by community input on best practices for engagement, lessons learned during the process, and from the steering committee.

- **Develop trusted relationships with organizations and community leaders:** The City should invest in infrastructure, including staffing and programming, to foster relationships with community groups. Equitable community engagement means supporting common goals, rather than informational transactions to collect information. Community members noted that past engagement with the City has been inconsistent. Intentional relationship building at a department level will enable the City to more easily reach community members for input on initiatives and future comprehensive plan updates, especially for community members who may not participate in conventional public participation processes, such as public hearings. It will also create a clearer communication channel for community members to request resources from the City, especially in historically underserved neighborhoods like Springbrook and Tillicum.
- **Conduct outreach to Korean businesses:** In addition to more intentional engagement with community leaders and organizations, outreach to small businesses is crucial for information and resource sharing. A stakeholder noted that some small Korean-owned businesses have struggled and not felt supported by the City, especially since the COVID-19 pandemic. While the International District has many businesses of different backgrounds, Korean businesses play a vibrant part of the City's diverse community fabric. Strong first steps include providing materials and outreach in Korean and building relationships with the Korean Women's Association, Multicultural Self-Sufficiency Movement, and other cultural organizations.
- **Track neighborhood investments:** Ensuring equitable distribution of investments is crucial for a sustainable future. For example, Springbrook is one specific neighborhood where community members feel forgotten and wish to see more investment from the City. To ensure equitable

distribution, the City should develop publicly accessible tools that track community investment and engagement while inviting the public into funding decisions to ensure city decisions are transparent and coordinated. [The City of Tacoma’s Equity Index](#) is an example of a publicly accessible data tracking system that helps decision makers prioritize investments. Developing consistent demographic questions for City surveys, including formalizing neighborhood areas, could be a helpful tool to track community member participation over time and provide consistent language for community members and staff to rely on when discussing City investments.

- **Continue to support innovative ideas from organizations:** Interviewees mentioned financial support and partnership as a positive role that the City has played for local organizations. Continuing to partner with organizations to meet community needs and invest in creative solutions are foundational steps to meeting the human services needs of a growing population.

Interview Summary

BERK contacted community stakeholders identified by city staff and the BERK team to conduct pre-engagement interviews. These interviews asked local stakeholders about previous engagement with the City and effective engagement strategies. Appendix A provides the full list of questions.

Interviews Conducted

Person	Organization	Organization Type
Rachel Lehr	Rebuilding Together South Sound	Community Organization
David Anderson	Tillicum Woodbrook Neighborhood Association	Neighborhood Association
Terry Love	NE Neighborhood Association	Neighborhood Association
Janne Hutchins	Living Access Support Alliance	Community Organization: Housing
Linda Smith	Lakewood Chamber of Commerce	Chamber of Commerce
Mary Moss	Lakewood Multicultural Coalition	Community Organization
Maureen Fife	Habitat for Humanity	Community Organization: Housing
Mandy Ma	Multi-Cultural Self-Sufficiency Movement	Community Organization
John DeVore	Lakeview Light & Power	Utility Company
LaTasha Wortham	Tacoma Public Utilities	Utility Company
Matthew Perry	Puget Sound Energy	Utility Company
Kristine Rompa		
Jeanine Adams	Pierce County Library	Library

Interview Themes

Themes from the interviews were summarized below but are in no order. We present notable quotes alongside themes to provide further illustration of the ideas shared.

Community Engagement: Successes

Interviewees generally had positive engagement experiences with the City.

The City hosts fun events that organizations are invited to.

- “I find Lakewood to be very adaptive and responsive to trying some new ideas... They’re great at inviting community partners at events like ‘Summerfest.’ They have a lot of fun events that they host as well. Their farmer’s markets are popular.”

The City’s financial support and partnership has been appreciated.

- “The City was one of the first organizations to put money aside to support nonprofits like ours.”
- “[The City] has always been a good partner.”
- “City staff at Lakewood are great!”

Lakewood is seen as a place where public participation is valued.

- “Public outreach is huge with the City.”
- “If you are a recognized organization and contact the City, they always respond and have representatives at meetings.”

Community Engagement: Challenges and Opportunities

However, some identified inconsistent engagement and support.

The City could improve its intentional outreach to communities of color.

- “There is a reputation that the City is not communicating with minority communities... They closed a lot of Korean small businesses, but the City says it’s their issue and doesn’t do much to provide small business support.”
- “Lakewood has provided resource officers - people to connect folks to services. However, they often show up in uniform, and there is a definite fear and anxiety when they show up in uniform.”

The City could improve on engaging the community members with the most needs.

- “The City does a good job reaching out to homeowners who engage with City staff, councilmembers and go to planning meetings, but I don’t see the same level of effort for the neediest population.”
- “We’ve been struggling to find some of the deeper residential bases and community groups [to connect to]. There’s a lot more city level support in Tacoma to establish engagement with residents than in Lakewood. That makes it easier for service providers to do community-based work.”

The City could improve on providing consistent support and uplifting community participation.

- “They have a heart for new agencies that are super Lakewood-focused. Once we get large enough, we are competing with other large agencies for the same funds. We really need Lakewood to continue to be supportive. We are the ones that will serve Lakewood.”
- “It is important to make sure that community participation and decision making is clear. We don’t want the [steering] committee to just make the City look good.”

The City has unique engagement opportunities that they should utilize.

- JBLM and Camp Murry are huge, diverse communities.
- Working with employers on housing issues is essential. Homeownership provides stability, which is important to employers.

Housing and Climate Change

Housing is a major issue in the community.

- “I wish I saw more of an attempt by the City to support people who have lost housing... Did they have a plan to provide housing for people that were displaced [referencing the 2011 Tillicum Neighborhood Plan]?”

Some organizations and individuals discuss/consider climate change more than others.

- “We would like to be at the table when talking about residential and commercial planning. There are opportunities around resiliency and sustainability as areas are being redeveloped.”

Tillicum Neighborhood

The Tillicum Neighborhood has a division between rich and poor.

- “People live on waterfront and others are united by poverty.”

The Library is an important part of Tillicum.

- “The library location in the community center is essential... the City has strong interest in maintaining the library in Tillicum.”
- Some people feel unsafe walking around the library in the dark on the stretch of Union. It’s by a bus stop and lacks sidewalks.

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee led identifying engagement strategies and planning policy design around climate and housing. Steering Committee members were intentionally selected from the pre-engagement interviews. They also provided feedback on best practices for equitable engagement.

The Committee met four times over four months. These meetings were organized by the following topics:

1. Kick Off: February 24, 2023
2. Priorities Exercise and Engagement Workshop: March 28, 2023
3. Recommendations Draft Report Out: May 9, 2023
4. Engagement Findings Report Out and Next Steps: May 30, 2023

City staff participated in the meetings as equal members and listened to community feedback. Meeting minutes from each Steering Committee meeting are presented in Appendix B.

Committee Members

Person	Organization	Email
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Alex Harrington	Master Builders Association of Pierce County	aharrington@masterbuilderspierce.com
Amy Tousley	Puget Sound Energy	Amy.Tousley@pse.com
Janne Hutchins	Living Support Access Alliance (LASA)	janne@lasawa.org
Jason Gano	Master Builders Association of Pierce County	igano@masterbuilderspierce.com
Jesse Black	Springbrook Connections	jesse@lasawa.org
LaTasha Wortham	Tacoma Public Utilities	LWortham@cityoftacoma.org
Mandy Ma	Self-Sufficiency Multicultural Movement	hmamandy@yahoo.com
Rachel Lehr	Rebuilding Together South Sound	rlehr@rebuildingtogetherss.org
Sarah LaBrasca	Lakeview Light and Power	slabrasca@lakeviewlight.com
Tod Wolf	Business owner of Rodi's Cameras	wolf@robis.com

Survey

From May 11th to June 11th, 2023, BERK conducted a community survey in Lakewood to identify climate resiliency and housing priorities. The survey was translated into Spanish and Korean and offered a raffle prize to encourage participation. This section presents the survey findings from 163 valid responses.¹

The survey had four quantitative questions and two qualitative questions, as well as demographic questions.

Survey Question Responses

Exhibit 1 shows survey respondents' priorities for the City of Lakewood to address climate change. The top three priorities that respondents would like to see are implementing sustainable neighborhood strategies (44%), partnering with local transit agencies, utility companies, and community-based organizations (39%), and establishing best practices for engaging the Lakewood community on climate change (33%). Additional priorities listed in open responses include:

- Make funding available for homeowners to update their homes.
- Planting more trees.
- Using solar panels for schools.

¹ The survey attracted a large number of computer automated responses. We suspect the survey became a target of invalid responses to win the raffle prize. Analysts reviewed all responses and flagged invalid responses based on a set of criteria such as having duplicate or non-sensical answers in open survey questions.

Exhibit 1: Respondents' Priorities for the City of Lakewood to Address Climate Change (n=163)

What do you think the City of Lakewood should prioritize when addressing climate change?

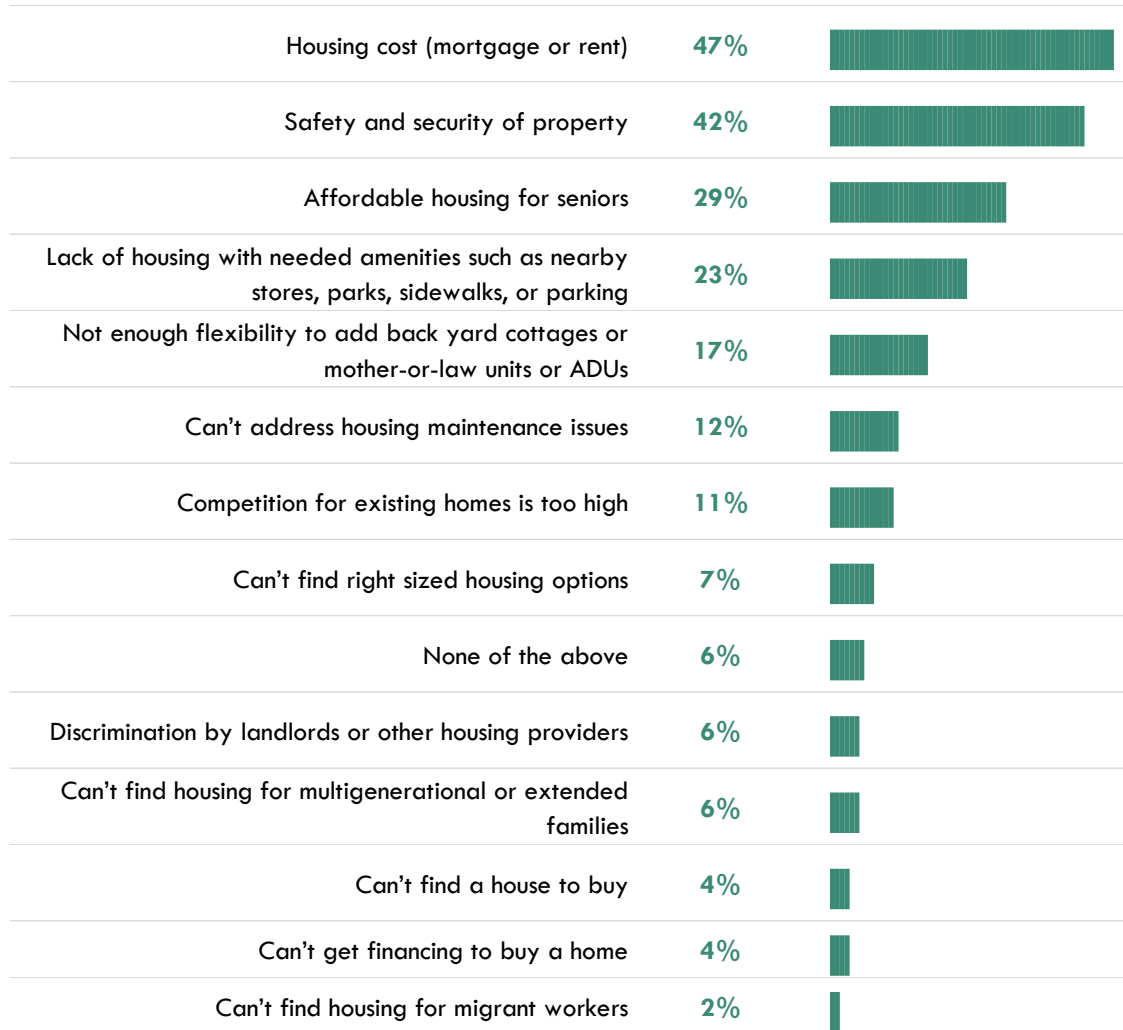


Source: BERK, 2023

Exhibit 2 shows respondents' opinions on Lakewood's greatest housing challenges. Almost half (47%) say the cost of housing, followed by the safety and security of property (42%). More than a quarter of respondents (29%) said that affordable housing for seniors is one of Lakewood's greatest housing challenges.

Exhibit 2: Respondents' Opinions on Lakewood's Greatest Housing Challenges (n=163)

What are Lakewood's greatest housing challenges?

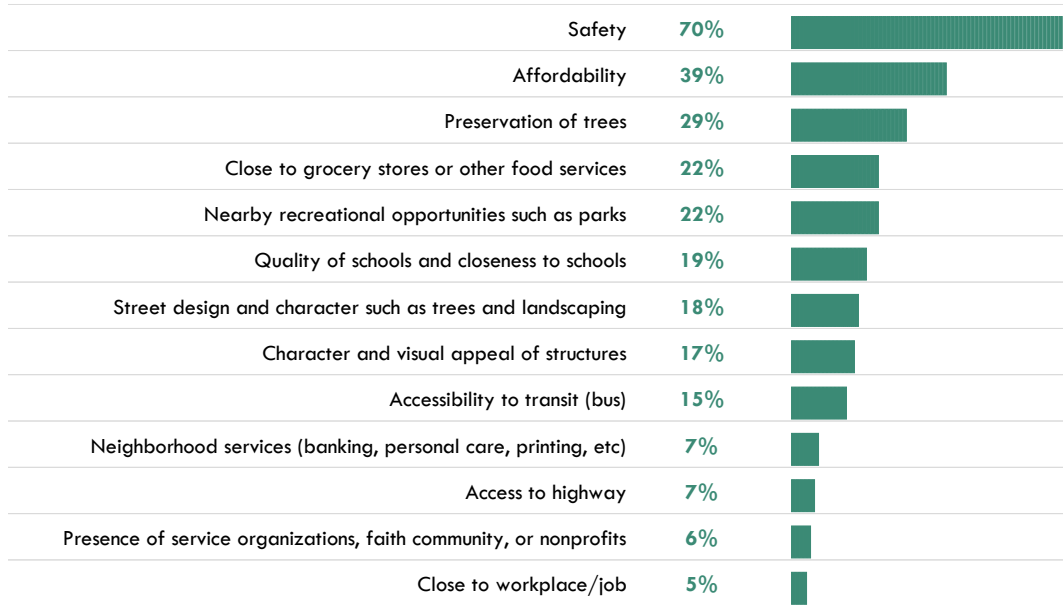


Source: BERK, 2023

Exhibit 3 shows survey respondents' most important neighborhood characteristics. Most respondents (70%) said safety was most important. Affordability was also important to survey respondents (39%). At least one-fifth of respondents said that the preservation of trees, being close to grocery stores or other food services, and being nearby to recreational opportunities like parks were important to them (29%, 22%, and 22% respectively).

Exhibit 3: Respondents' Most Important Neighborhood Characteristics (n= 163)

What neighborhood characteristics are most important to you?



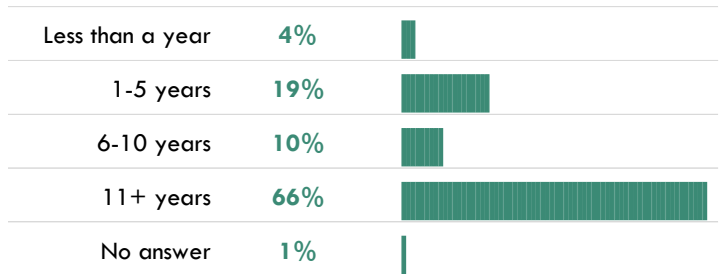
Source: BERK, 2023

Demographics of Survey Respondents

Exhibit 4 shows the length of time that survey respondents' have lived in the City of Lakewood. Most respondents (66%) have lived in Lakewood for 11 years or more. Almost one in five respondents (19%) have lived in Lakewood for 1-5 years. Only 4% of survey respondents have lived in Lakewood for less than a year.

Exhibit 4: Length of Time of Respondents Living in Lakewood (n=163)

How long have you lived in Lakewood?

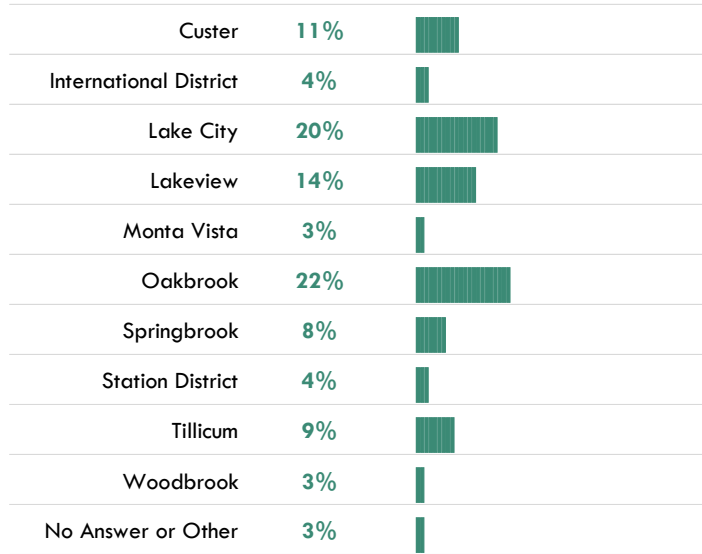


Source: BERK, 2023

Exhibit 5 shows the neighborhoods that survey respondents live in. One-fifth of survey respondents live in either Lake City or Oakbrook, with a spread through other neighborhoods in the City of Lakewood.

Exhibit 5: Neighborhood of Respondents (n=76)

Which neighborhood do you live in?

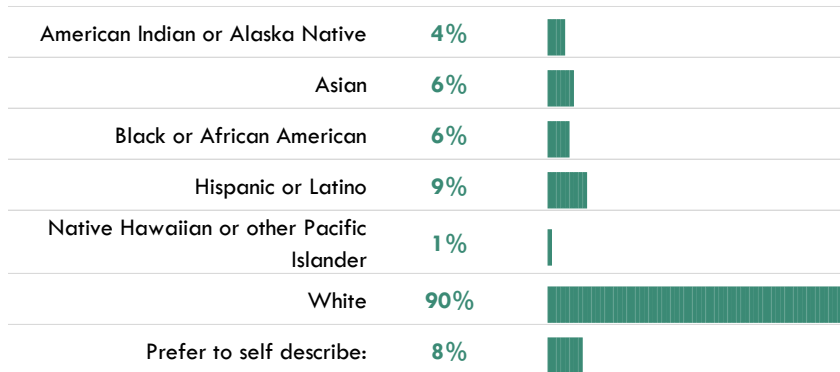


Source: BERK, 2023

Exhibit 6 shows the race and/or ethnicity of survey respondents using Census categories. Most of the survey respondents identify as White (90%), 9% identify as Hispanic or Latino, while 6% identify as Asian or Black/African American.

Exhibit 6: Respondents' Race and/or Ethnicity (n=146)

What is your race and/or ethnicity? (choose all that apply)

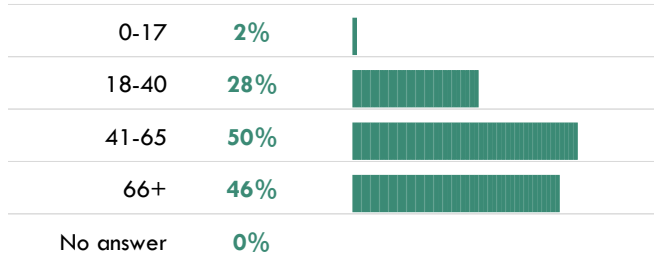


Source: BERK, 2023

Exhibit 7 shows the survey respondents' age. Half of respondents (50%) are 41-65. A little less than half (46%) of survey respondents are ages 66 or older.

Exhibit 7: Respondents' Age (n=161)

What is your age?

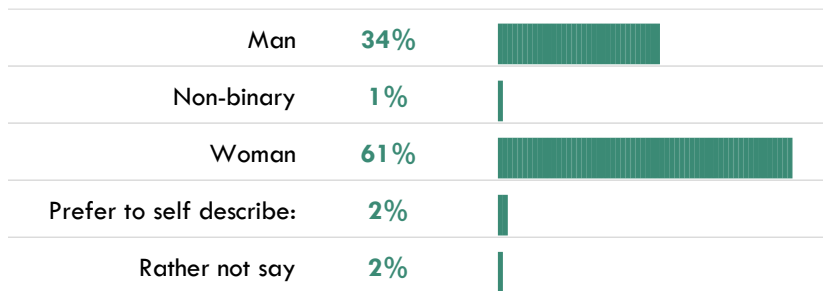


Source: BERK, 2023

Exhibit 8 shows survey respondents' gender identity. Most survey respondents (61%) identify as a woman, 34% identify as a man.

Exhibit 8: Respondents' Gender Identity (n=161)

How do you describe your gender identity?



Source: BERK, 2023

Open-Ended Comments

The survey asked all respondents to share how they have been impacted by recent climate change events like heat, smoke, extreme precipitation, and reduced snowpack. The survey also asked if there was anything else respondents would like to share with the City of Lakewood regarding climate change or housing.

The following includes common themes that were reflected in a notable number of respondents' comments. The quotes are illustrative of the ideas shared.

Impacts from Recent Climate Change Events

136 survey respondents provided input.

Common themes

- **Smoke:** Respondents commonly mentioned the adverse effects of wildfire smoke, especially for people with asthma or other respiratory issues. Other effects include itchy or watery eyes and having to stay inside.

- **Heat:** Respondents noted the increasing frequency of hotter temperatures in the city. Many mentioned the need for air conditioning or a heat pump, as well as increasing electric bills and water usage.
- **Have not been affected:** Some respondents noted that they have not been impacted by climate change.

Other responses

- **Floods and droughts:** Some respondents noted the occurrence of increased rainstorms and droughts have impacted their lives. One respondent noted the “spread of invasive species” while another noticed “mold and moss” flourishing after heavy rain.

Other Comments for the City of Lakewood

119 survey respondents provided input.

Common themes

- **Lack of affordable housing.** The most common response was the unaffordability of housing, including rising rents and unable to find affordable housing. A few respondents noted that they think landlords to have too much power or that rents should have a cap.
- **Importance of preserving tree canopy:** Some respondents noted the importance of protecting trees. A few specifically called out being disappointed in seeing warehouses replace trees.

Other responses

- A few respondents said that climate change is not real, or there are other issues Lakewood should focus on.
- Other individual responses included a desire to see more transit options and for Lakewood to work with non-profit organizations and affordable housing initiatives.

Pop Up Events and Focus Groups

BERK Consulting reached out to Lakewood community partners to participate in local neighborhood, or pop-up, events and hold focus groups through the month of June. The goal of these events was to have a wider conversation around housing and climate resiliency challenges and opportunities in Lakewood while gathering input for the ECCC Implementation Plan.

Event	Date of Event	Type of Event
Springbrook Connections residents	May 18	Focus Group
Clover Park Technical College	May 25	Pop Up
Affordable Housing Consortium	June 6	Focus Group
Lakewood Youth Summit	June 10	Pop Up
Lakewood Community Collaboration	June 14	Focus Group

Structure

At the pop-up events, BERK had two poster boards each with a question for individuals who stopped by. These questions were:

1. Strengths and challenges of Lakewood's housing options
2. How have you been impacted by climate change? What recommendations do you have to the City?

At the focus groups, BERK focused on similar questions.

1. How have you or people that you know been impacted by recent climate events?
2. What can the City do to help address those concerns raised?

Pop Up and Focus Group Themes

The major themes about climate change and housing from these events are summarized below.

Climate Change

- Higher temperatures and effects from wildfire smoke were the two main issues that community members discussed at all pop-up events and focus groups.
- Older residents and people with respiratory issues are especially impacted by increasing wildfire smoke.
- There is a growing need for air conditioners, but many residents cannot afford to purchase and run A/C. Some even mentioned not being allowed to run air conditioning in their apartments.
 - Puget Sound Clean Air used to hand out box fans for free but are no longer able to do so.

Housing

- Lakewood is a great place to live because of its proximity to neighborhood amenities, work, and good parks.
- Lakewood is getting more expensive. Finding affordable housing in Lakewood is difficult.
- There is a need for programs to help residents with homeownership and renting costs.

Policy Review

The Energy and Climate Change Chapter (ECCC) has over 96 action items to address climate change. A core goal of this plan is to work with community-based organizations and local agencies in establishing a priority framework for the plan. The implementation framework and strategies are a culmination of input from the Steering Committee, community outreach, and internal review.

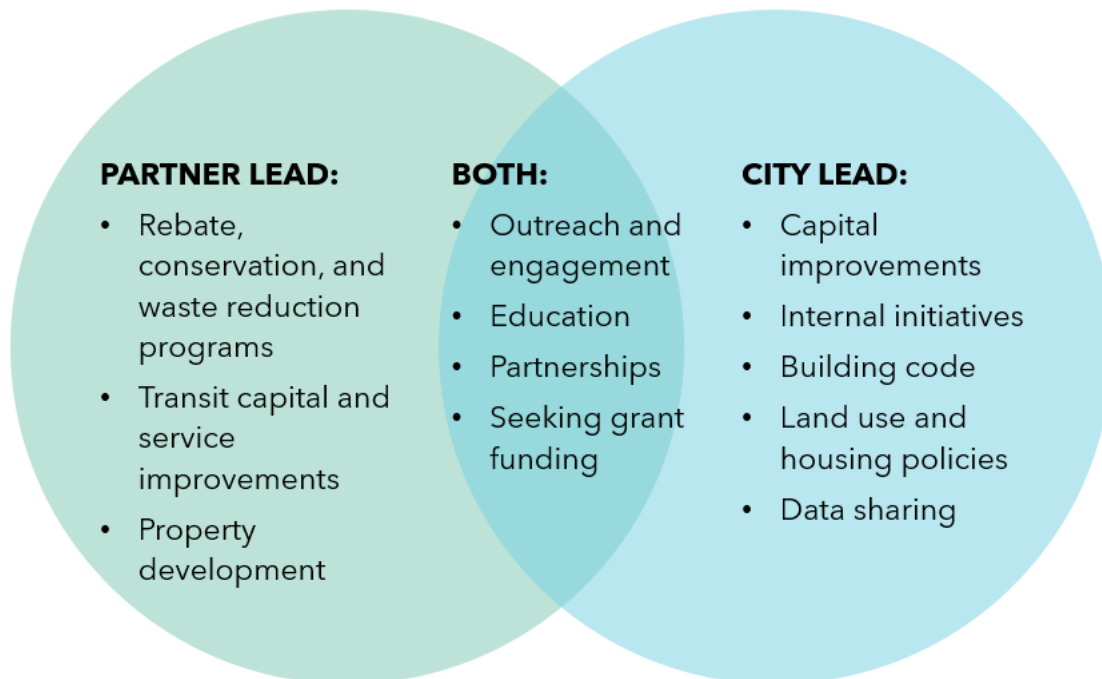
Process

First, the Steering Committee held a 2-hour workshop where each committee member reviewed each chapter of the ECCC in small groups. BERK reviewed the comments and created an implementation framework for the policy strategies (see next section). After the Steering Committee reviewed the framework, BERK conducted a deeper strategy analysis of each action item to group strategies into categories and prioritize strategies.

Recommendations Rationale

The recommendations for the implementation plan were made in combination with feedback from the Steering Committee and a policy review of the plan. The implementation framework was created with the lens of understanding where decision making lies. Priority action items were identified by understanding where the City can take a lead, where community partners could lead, or where both could lead. Exhibit 9 shows a Venn diagram outlining the roles of the City of Lakewood and the service providers, and where both can partner to address climate change.

Exhibit 9. Recommendations Rationale



Source: BERK 2023

Implementation Framework and Strategies

The Implementation Framework consists of four themes and eight strategies. Each action item was sorted into a theme and strategy, and then given a priority ranking. A “high” priority indicates an action item the Steering Committee supported. A “low” priority indicates an action item that the City should not prioritize. A “medium” was in between a high and a low. The full policy matrix review of the ECCC can be found in Appendix B. Potential partners on action items were also identified.

Framework Themes

The Steering Committee established four key themes in framing implementation policy recommendations for Lakewood. The purpose of the framework is to provide a rationale of how Lakewood can increase climate resiliency and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions.

- **Collaborate and Partner:** Addressing climate change involves everybody. The ECCC identifies the roles of various public agencies within Lakewood in mitigating climate risk and adapting to extreme weather events. The City should work with transit agencies, utility agencies, and private developers to establish best practices for a greener Lakewood. Furthermore, the Steering Committee recognized that addressing climate change cannot happen without community participation. Future advocacy, education, and engagement require local partnerships to establish a vision for a more equitable, sustainable Lakewood.
- **Design Sustainable Neighborhoods:** The City can play a leadership role in establishing land use patterns that increase social and economic opportunity, access to open/green spaces, and placemaking opportunities. There are numerous planning efforts to promote smart growth strategies, including the Non-Motorized Plan Update, the Critical Areas Ordinance review, and various elements of the Comprehensive Plan.
- **Prioritize Climate Resiliency:** The Steering Committee identified the need to prioritize climate resiliency. This includes actions to reduce emissions that cause climate change and actions to manage climate change impacts. Additional data related to measuring factors contributing to climate change should be made available for the public to support additional planning efforts.
- **Educate and Engage:** Public education was a core theme from the review of the implementation plan by the steering committee. The City can take a lead in providing educational materials on conserving resources, marketing campaigns, and data sharing. The City can also continue to partner with housing and service providers to support equitable outreach and engagement efforts.

Implementation Strategies

The strategies for this framework outline clear actionable steps for the City to take in addressing climate change. Under each strategy are a series of policy items associated with each action item. This section outlines core takeaways, associated action items, and next steps. Based off feedback from the Steering Committee and the policy review, the following steps are recommended for strategy implementation of the City’s ECCC.

Community Engagement and Collaboration (High priority): City staff shall work with community-based organizations on programmatic recommendations. Community engagement should continue to be a top priority for Lakewood with future planning efforts, particularly around non-motorized transportation

improvements across I-5. A core key theme from initial interviews was that the City has been a great partner for local organizations in the past. This should continue over into local programming events (urban agriculture, park events, education, and resources) and work with business organizations. Partnerships with developers will also be critical to support public amenities for green infrastructure.

Education, Data, and Information (High Priority): Education and data was another top priority identified by the Steering Committee. It involves equal partnership from the City, community-based organizations, and utility companies to build resident and business capacity to understand the impacts of climate change. The City can also establish dashboards and data sets to inform climate vulnerability and resiliency wins within the City.

Agreements and Partnerships (Medium priority): The City shall work with partners identified in the ECCC. The City can partner with the following agencies and organizations to develop a more climate-resilient community:

Transit agencies (Pierce Transit, Sound Transit, WSDOT, Amtrak)- Transit agencies lead the design of the City's local and regional transit connections. Transit improvements should be aligned with land use policy designs to foster more walkable neighborhoods.

Utility companies (Lakeview Power, Tacoma Public Utilities, PSE)- The City can work with utility companies to support waste reduction programs, water conservation efforts, and energy efficiency improvements. Utility companies can also develop strategies to manage energy demand.

Clover Park School District- Lakewood can partner with the Clover Park School District in anti-idling programs for buses.

Community-based Organizations- Climate resiliency is tied to the social and economic success of the City's residents and communities. The City can work with workforce development programs to promote green jobs, and collaborate with service providers in providing resources and information.

Comprehensive Plan Update (Medium priority): A majority of the action items identified a need to adopt new development standards for walkable neighborhoods, green building regulations, and energy efficiency. The City can adopt these standards through its Comprehensive Plan update. These policy recommendations should be incorporated into other Comprehensive Plan elements.

Grant Funding (Medium priority): The City shall take the lead to identify grant funding opportunities and should work with local organizations and partners in applications. Grant funding opportunities should focus on non-motorized improvements across I-5, street network improvements for transit, renewable energy sources, and the development of community education tools.

Internal City Initiatives (Low priority): 11 of the action items in the ECCC called for internal city initiatives on how the municipality can reduce its own greenhouse gas emissions and carbon footprint. These action items do not provide a direct impact on the overall Lakewood community. However, the City can be a green business leader as one of the largest employers in the city on sustainable practices. The City should remove these action items from the ECCC and use them as a framework for its own internal green initiative.

Remove: (Low priority): There are eight ECCC action items that referenced others as redundant strategies. These should be removed from the ECCC.

Exhibit 10, below, shows a total count of how each of the 96 Action items in the ECCC are sorted into implementation strategies, themes, and priorities. The top priority strategies for the implementation plan

are rooted in community engagement, collaboration, and providing education, data, and resources. The City should lead as a convener of local and regional partners in building a collective movement for a thriving sustainable city rooted in social and economic success. The City should also be a local and regional advocate for policies that develop multimodal transportation networks with supportive land use decisions. Finally, the City should uplift community voices through supportive neighborhood programming efforts to establish a collective understanding on how to address climate change and build resiliency.

Exhibit 10. Implementation Plan Framework

STRATEGY	COUNT	THEME				PRIORITY		
		Collaborate and Partner	Design Sustainable Neighborhoods	Prioritize Climate Resiliency	Educate and Engage	High	Medium	Low
Agreements and partnerships	16	12	0	4	0	6	7	3
City Initiative	11	2	0	9	0	0	10	1
Community Engagement and Collaboration	15	9	2	1	4	13	3	0
Comprehensive Plan Update	32	1	10	19	1	22	9	0
Education, Data and Information	6	4	1	0	1	6	0	0
Grant Funding	8	1	3	3	1	1	7	0
Remove	8	1	1	6	0	0	0	8
TOTAL	96	30	17	42	7	48	36	12

Source: BERK 2023

Next Steps

Next steps for the Implementation Plan include:

- Incorporate ECCC Action Items into the Comprehensive Plan Update.
- Continue to partner with steering committee members and other community-based organizations in establishing best practices for equitable community engagement.
- Reach out to transit partners and other jurisdictions on coordinating local and regional transportation and land use planning efforts.
- Work with utility providers on education and conservation resources.
- Engage developers on incentives and recommendations for more walkable neighborhoods and affordable housing.

Appendix A. Interview Questions

Questions for Organizations

Do you have any questions about the comprehensive plan or our work before we get started?

1. Tell us about your experience engaging with the City of Lakewood. Have you engaged with the City on any projects, including any for your organization?
2. What are your organization's planning priorities for 2023 and 2024? Are there opportunities for the city to support your organization's efforts?
 - a. The comprehensive plan update is focused on housing and climate change, as well as transportation and other city issues. Do you discuss housing issues or climate with your community?
3. What does the city do well in engaging residents and businesses? Not so well?
4. How can the City of Lakewood be a good partner in engaging communities of color?
5. What other organizations should we be engaging as a part of this process?
6. We're hoping to establish a steering committee, focused on developing climate change policy recommendations, which will then translate to further conversation on priorities for Lakewood's Comprehensive Plan. Steering committee members will be compensated for their time in participating and helping engage Lakewood's diverse communities. We can follow up with you about the expectations of this steering committee, including the time commitment. Would you be interested in participating in this process? Is there anybody you also recommend? Is there any support we can provide to ensure meaningful participation?

Questions for Utilities

1. Could you tell us about [name of company] and the role it's played in the City of Lakewood?
2. This project includes exploring how Lakewood can add missing middle housing to increase the amount of affordable housing. Middle housing includes everything between a large apartment building and a single-family home. As a utility provider, what do you think changing 30% of single-family areas to accommodate more housing?
3. What types of information would you like to learn from this experience?
4. Do you have a sustainability coordinator? What role do they play?
5. Are there meaningful ways you would like to participate during this process? Sustainability coordinator to join steering committee?
6. Anything else you'd like to tell us? Anyone else we should speak to?

Questions for Tillicum/Woodbrook

1. Can you tell us about your membership base and how people participate?

2. What are your organization's planning priorities for 2023 and 2024? Are there opportunities for the city to support your organization's efforts?
 - a. The comprehensive plan update is focused on housing and climate change, as well as transportation and other city issues. Do you discuss housing issues or climate with your community?
3. Tell us about your experience working with the City of Lakewood. Have you engaged with the City in the past? With the Tillicum neighborhood?
 - a. What does the city do well in engaging residents and businesses? Not so well?
 - b. How can the City of Lakewood be a good partner in engaging communities of color?
4. What other organizations and individuals should we be engaging as a part of this process in Tillicum/Woodbrook neighborhood?
5. [Explain subarea plan and subarea Steering Committee] How can we be a good partner with you during the subarea plan and comprehensive plan update? Are there specific people that might be interested in joining the Steering Committee?

Appendix B. Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Steering Committee#1 Meeting Notes (Feb 24, 2023)

- PSE is excited to work with the City. Heavily engaged in transportation electrification, electric and gas utilities are engaged with SEDA, want to make sure that what they are working on aligns with the City of Lakewood. Bring grid modernization, distributive energy, EV deployment . Will be building more projects to support electrification
- Have you thought about a simple survey to get out to community members to ask their opinions. Less than 10 questions about priority issues around what is concerning. Could help translate survey and get it out to community. We can help translate and share the survey to our constituents.
- **Lakewood is now a minority-majority city!** We need to make sure our engagement and outreach strategies reflect this.
- Set up **multipurpose room** for the community but also as a warming/cooling center. Have a place to go for education is important. Wasn't aware of whiplash (going from 100 degrees to 20 degrees) that could be deadly for people experiencing homelessness- City has warming/cooling center at 5pm. Could have volunteers take over. Care about **educating others**
- It's exciting to see how our capacity can be built to engage our communities. Care about businesses and supply chains, hard for businesses to get out of their own business and engage in the wider community. Interested in developing **communications plan** to connect and engage organizations, groups, business people with this project
- Electrification is important- has to do with everything we're doing including building housing in downtown corridor, infrastructure for electric vehicles. **Comes down to partnerships**, no org or the City can do it alone.
- A lot of people who responded to survey are at or below 80% of median income. We have the ability to keep folks in mind that might not be able to voice for themselves.
 - Do it equitably, not equally. Focus on community and folks most
- Prioritize **educating the public**. Most excited about engaging the community. Love to see **intersection between energy and housing**.

Steering Committee#2 Meeting Notes (Mar 28, 2023)

Survey

- Work with Ethnic Media
- Include a Raffle Prize

Focus Groups

Identified Groups

- Lakewood First Alliance
- Pierce College
- Cloverpark Technical College
- Lakewood Cares
- Lakewood Community Collaborations
- Lakewood United
- Neighborhood Associations
- LASA
- Self Sufficiency Multi-Cultural Movement
- Lakewood Chamber of Commerce

Pop-Up Events

ECCC Engagement

- Master Builders Pierce County Housing Summit (May)
- Lakewood Gardens
- Clover Park Technical College
- Youth Commission
- Harrison Prep Climate Summit

Comp Plan Engagement

- SummerFEST
- Summer Nights at the Pavilion Concerts

Steering Committee #3 (May 9, 2023)

Agenda

Item	Time
▪ Introductions	▪ 5 minutes
▪ Meeting 2 Summary	▪ 20 minutes
▪ Matrix overview: Key Themes	
▪ BERK Policy Review	▪ 20 minutes
▪ Engagement Schedule	▪ 10 minutes
▪ Next Steps	▪ 5 minutes

In attendance

- Maddie Immel and Ben Han (BERK)
- Tiffany Speir and Ted Thelin (City of Lakewood)
- Jesse Black and Janne Hutchins (LASA)
- Alex Harrington and Jason Gano (Master Builders)
- Amy Tousley (Puget Sound Energy)
- Sarah LaBrasca (Lakeview Light and Power)
- Rachel Lehr (Rebuilding Together South Sound)

Discussion on last time

- Amy: Did anyone bring up electrifying school buses? Something we're hearing in Thurston County.
- Ben: Didn't talk about that, but something to consider.
- Sarah: For making green space, is there any federal dollars to support this or will the cost fall to Lakewood residents?
- Ben: Yes, this work is connected to thinking about possible grant funding to help cover costs.
- Tiffany: We do this all the time. We don't have impact fees.
- Jason: Power companies are mandated to make money and there is less support to increase electrification and

Discussion on recommendations

- Amy: Yes, this is exactly what we're thinking about. Ongoing education, revitalizing areas of the city. We're thinking about equity as PSE.

- Alex: How much do these recommendations add to code vs take away from code? A big thing we're focusing on is making things predictable and not adding complexity. We'd have to see actual policies.
- Alex: No one wants to buy a house without green space or trees. Mandates tend to add costs, incentives don't inhibit development (good city doing this in relation to tree canopy is Federal Way).
- Jason: Considerations have large impacts.
- Rachel: Would agree on comments on not increasing code burden. Seen an increase in cost burden for small projects that can double the cost.
- Thinking about sustainable neighborhoods- the ones that already exist are more sustainable than ones being built. How can these recommendations support the already built environment, not just focus on new building?
- Comfortable with Educate and Engage- that's what we do every day!
- Seeing low-income folks bump into climate change issues is difficult because the ability to make changes (and funds) will be delayed be
- Jesse: Worried the most that costs will fall to low-income. Educate renters and low-income people on what people can do on a day-to-day basis. It will be cheaper for folks to buy something and throw it away, but could educate on recycling.
- Janne: This conversation changes depends on audience and their needs are varied. Focusing on homeless- Will have a need for more hygiene centers and warming/cooler centers after 5pm. Different from renters- one woman had a high water bill because
- Sarah: If everyone had an electric car, wouldn't be able to have everyone run a car. Important to think about capacity.
- Tiffany: Know that there are conversations about improving the grid to support it

Community Engagement Recommendations

- Lakewood Community Collaborations- Jesse
- Pierce College- Tiffany
- Asia Pacific Cultural Center-
- Affordable housing consortium- they do lunches. Meet at Habitat
- Pierce County
- Civic groups- Lakewood rotatory, Kiwanis club, First lions. Jesse has connections to all 3.
- Rotary at clover park- Joyce has a connection.
- Lakewood night meet at LASA. 8-10 people
- YMCA- Tiffany and Ted.
- Coalition for the homeless meets Friday 9-11. Could get 5 minutes on agenda.

- TCNA also announced that there is going to be a carnival/fair in Tillicum on 7/29 and they are seeking vendors.
- Tillicum Neighborhood Association just moved their meetings from the 1st Monday to the 2nd Tuesday of the month 😊
- Neighborhoods: Springbrook, Woodbrook, Tillicum, Lakeview, Monta Vista, Lake City, Custer (near Custer and 75th), Oakbrook, Station District, International District

Steering Committee #4 (May 30, 2023)

Agenda

Item	Time
Themes Recap	5 minutes
Community Engagement Recap	10 minutes
Strategy Process	10 minutes
Strategy Overview	10 minutes
Next Steps	5 minutes

In attendance

- Maddie Immel and Ben Han (BERK)
- Tiffany Speir and Ted Thelin (City of Lakewood)
- Alex Harrington and Jason Gano (Master Builders)
- Sarah LaBrasca (Lakeview Light and Power)
- Rachel Lehr (Rebuilding Together South Sound)

Notes

- Jason- How can we continue to engage the community and not just stop after the first time?
 - This will be a part of the final recommendations and something we'd like to discuss at the in-person thank you event- some general take aways, lessons learned, etc.
- What are additional strategies to share survey?
 - ACTION ITEM: Share social media post for Facebook and LinkedIn. Include graphic
- Survey notes
 - Survey does not geolocate locations
 - Work with Lakewood Communications Manager
 - Ask utility companies to share on social media channels

Appendix C. Notes from Pop Ups and Focus Groups

Clover Park Pop Up

CLIMATE CHANGE

Key Takeaways

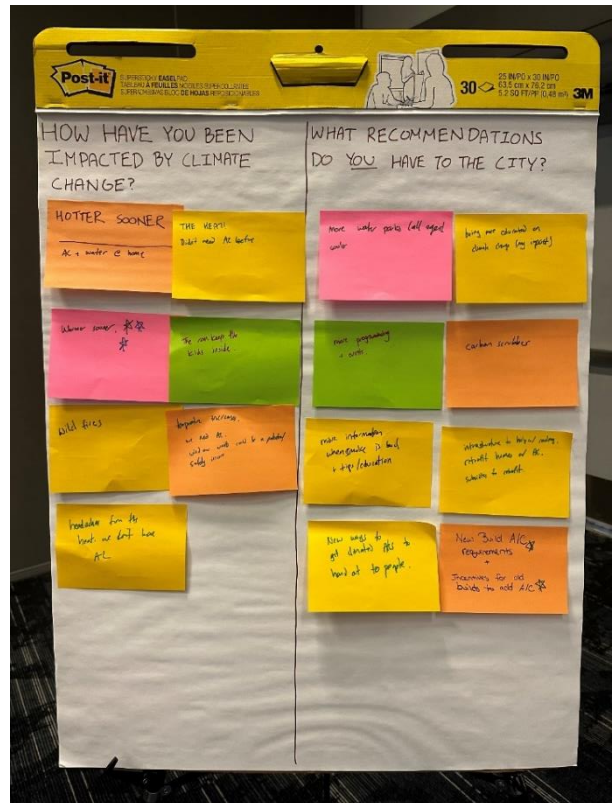
- Higher heat and rising temperatures were the biggest issues raised by folks. [author's note: it was hot today when I tabled so I wonder if that influenced anyone]
- There's a growing need for AC's, through retrofitting and new building requirements

How have you been impacted by Climate Change?

- Hotter sooner -> need AC and water at home
- The heat! Didn't need AC before but now I do
- Warmer soon *** (asterisks mean multiple people said this)
- The rain keep the kids inside
- Wild fires
- Temperature increases. We need AC. Wind over units could be a potential safety issue
- Headaches from the heat. We don't have AC

What recommendations do YOU have to the city?

- More water parks (all ages) cooling center
- Being more educated on climate change (my impact)
- More programming + events
- Carbon scrubbers (author's note: this is a technology investment)
- More information when smoke is bad + tips/education (author's note: on how to deal with it)
- Infrastructure to help with cooling retrofit home with AC. Subsidies to retrofit homes
- New ways to get donated AC's to hand out to people
- New Build A/C requirements + incentives for old buildings to add AC **



HOUSING

Key Takeaways

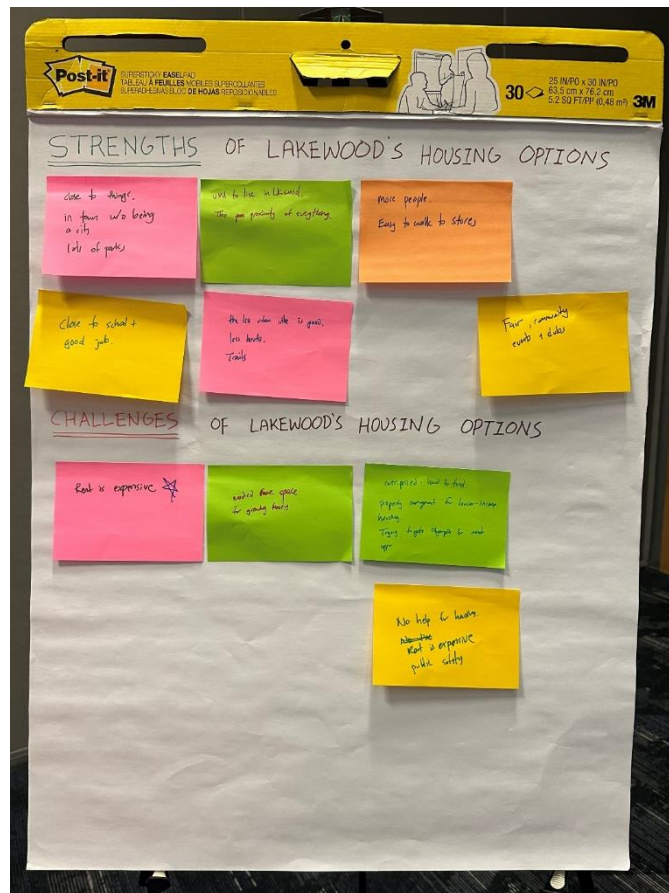
- Lakewood is a great place to live because of its proximity to neighborhood amenities, work, and good parks
- However, Lakewood is getting more expensive. People enjoy living in Lakewood but it's becoming more difficult to find affordable housing.

Strengths of Lakewood's Housing Options

- Close to things! (author's note: neighborhood amenities). In town w/o being in a city. Lots of parks
- Close to school + good job
- Used to live in Lakewood but enjoyed the proximity to everything. (author's note: they were priced out)
- More people. Easy to walk to stores
- The less urban vibe is good. Less hectic. Trails
- Fair, community events and clubs

Challenges of Lakewood's Housing Options

- Rent is expensive *
- Needed more space for growing family
- Overpriced. Hard to find [housing]
- Property arrangement for low-income housing
- Trying to get to Olympia for next housing
- No help for housing. Rent is expensive. Public Safety



Lakewood Youth Summit Pop Up

Introduction

On June 10th, 2023, BERK Consulting joined the Lakewood Youth Summit. The goal of the event was to have a space for the Lakewood community to share feedback on the topic of housing and climate change. BERK engaged the Summit visitors, who were overwhelmingly high school students, about their housing and climate change experiences.

Key Takeaways

Housing:

- Finding affordable housing in Lakewood is difficult
- More affordable housing is desired
- Need programs to help residents with homeownership and renting costs
- Lakewood is a diverse and accepting community

Climate Change:

- Overwhelming need for AC units in Lakewood. Many community members voiced that the heatwaves and wildfires have been getting worse year by year. Some community members suggested that AC units should be in every housing unit in Lakewood. Some also mentioned the need for financial assistance to get AC units for their homes
- The need for shelters—cooling and heating centers—to have a more climate resilient Lakewood

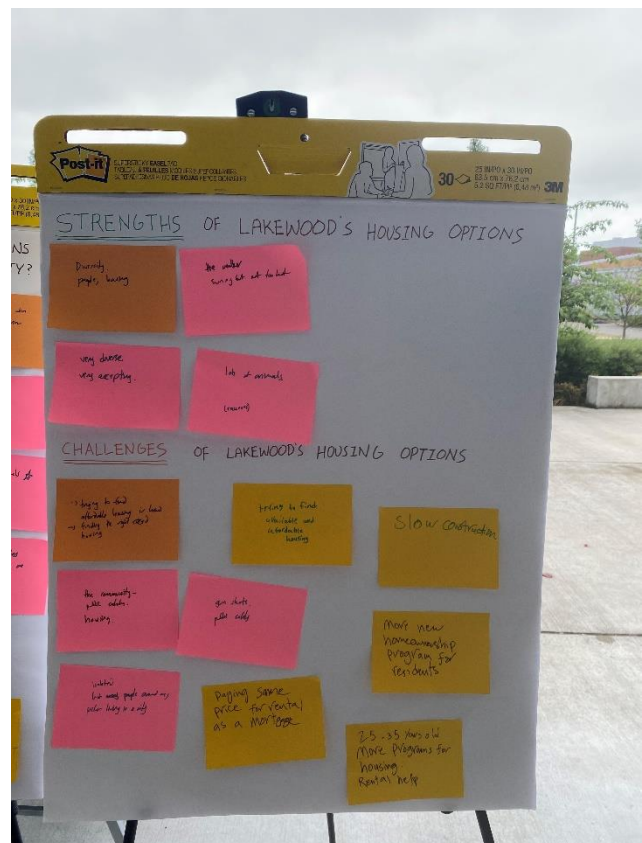
Post It Notes

Responding to **strengths** of Lakewood housing options:

- Diversity. People, housing
- Very diverse, very accepting
- The weather. Sunny, but not too hot
- Lots of animals

Responding to **challenges** of Lakewood housing options:

- Trying to find affordable housing is hard
- Finding the right housing
- Trying to find available and affordable housing
- Slow construction
- More new homeownership program for residents
- 25-35 year old need more programs for housing
- Rental help
- Paying same price for rental as a mortgage
- Gun shots. Public safety
- Isolated. Got many people. Prefer living in a city
- The community—public safety



Responding to personal impact by climate change in Lakewood:

- Lots of weather change. Impacts people’s health
- Wild fires. Couldn’t go outside. Prefer shelters
- Smoke got so bad. We couldn’t leave the school. Got held back
- Less fresh air
- Gets hot
- AC units not in every apartment. It’s hot.
- Heat waves. Have to spend money on AC.
- More snow in Enumclaw. We get stuck.

Responding to recommendations to the City for climate change:

- More AC in housing (x3)
- Allow ACs in all apartments
- AC subsidies
- More affordable AC
- AC program for low-income residents
- Program for AC for elderly
- Less gas companies in Lakewood
- Solar panels (x2)
- Better energy source—nuclear
- More snow plows after there’s extreme snow (x2)
- Build more shelters! Specific shelters for families, singles, friends
- Build more shelters for folks who are unhoused
- Better work management



Community Collaboration Focus Group

How have you (or people you serve) been impacted by recent climate change events? What can the City do to help address those concerns raised?

- Most of their residents are 65+, with minimal air circulation (10% of units), and an increase in heat, plus the wildfire smoke they have been trying to partner with the Health Department to get box fans but this is a real problem
- The air quality team has been giving out free box fans in park events, and the Puget Sound Clean Air also gives out box fans, but due to funding problems, they are unable to give out free box fans. Now they can only provide how to build their own

- The box fans go within an hour – if the city can help give out fans for free again that would be great
- Getting those with high health risk or coming home from surgery they would like to work with making sure they can go someplace with good air quality
 - Mold and smoke prevention
- Climate change and the elevated heat has affected our clients who the majority don't have ac and have to find cooling shelters, and we have had to get water out to the homeless community during the hot weather. Pierce county gives water to the out reach teams as does the city of Tacoma. Also the city of Tacoma gives 0 interest loans or rebates for ac I am not sure if Lakewood does that but that's helped Tacoma residents a lot.

Is there anything missing from this list? What has your experience been like working with the City of Lakewood?

- Rebuilding Together South Sound targeted neighborhoods in Lakewood (4) and holding a resource fair and inviting partners there. They gather applications to provide free upgrades on people's homes, and they found it easy to work with the City on this program
 - A lot of work in a mobile home park – Village Green
- Comment from chat- I know it's not explicitly said on the recommendation list but ensuring that community voice is centered and respected in the convos. A no-brainer for this group, but never hurts to continue saying.