

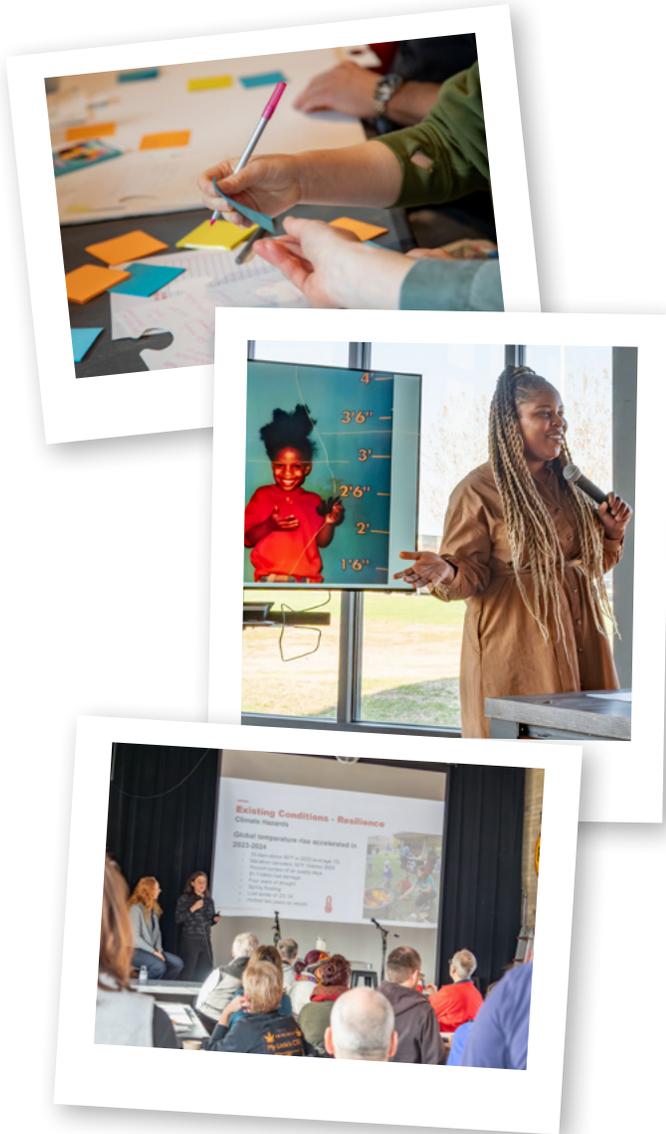
# Engagement Summary

Engagement for the Hopkins Climate Solutions Plan was designed to be inclusive, accessible, and reflective of community priorities. The City employed a variety of engagement methods and opportunities to gather input from a broad range of perspectives across the community. Engagement methods included in-person events, a virtual webinar, several focused conversations with community representatives, and a multilingual online survey. In total, nearly 300 people provided input. These engagement opportunities informed the vision, targets, and priorities of the five-year work plan. The process and themes that emerged are summarized below.

- + **January 25, 2025 Kick-off Event:** More than 40 people attended the kick-off at the Hopkins Depot, which included a presentation and feedback activities.
- + **February 5, 2025 Webinar:** Nearly a dozen people joined a virtual webinar to learn about the plan and share input.
- + **January–April Focused Conversations:** The City hosted six conversations with key stakeholder groups throughout February and March to have more focused discussions and gather broader perspectives. The following groups were engaged:
  - Hopkins Business and Civic Association (HBCA)
  - Youth Advisory Board (YAB)
  - Dow Towers residents and staff
  - Hopkins Apartment Manager Assoc. (HAMA)
  - Activity Center Lunch and Learn
  - City of Hopkins Division Managers



*Photos From Engagement Events*

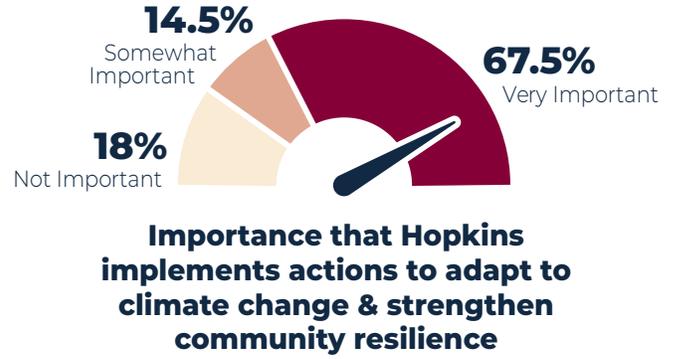
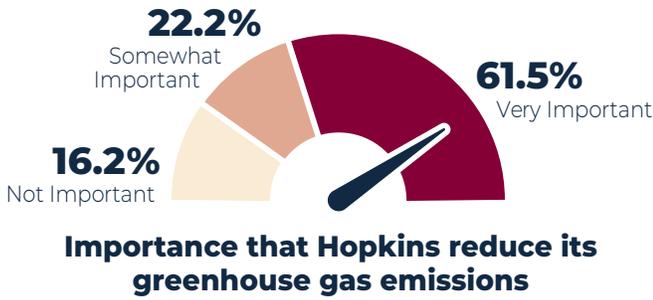


Photos From Engagement Events

- + **January–July Tabling Events:** City staff tabled at various community events in the City to share the planning process and gather feedback from attendees.
  - Tabling at the library (Jan-Feb)
  - West Metro Home Remodeling Fair (Feb)
  - Alice Smith Imagination Fair (March)
  - HOURCAR Event at Dow Towers (March)
  - Hopkins Academy (April)
  - Arbor Day (April)
  - Garden Plot Kick-off Day (May)
  - Sunset Concert Series (June)
  - Activity Center Open House (June)
  - Farmers Market (June)
  - Raspberry Festival (July)
  
- + **March–April Online Survey:** The City hosted an online survey in English, Spanish, and Somali to gather insight into what community members envision for a resilient City and their priority actions for climate mitigation and adaptation.
  
- + **April 22, 2025 Community Climate Event:** Over 30 people attended an event celebrating Earth Day and featuring climate stories from three Hopkins community members. Attendees learned about the progress of the Plan and were invited to share initial feedback on the vision statement and themes.
  
- + **July Invitation for Public Comment:** The City posted a draft version of the Plan and opened an online comment box for community members to react to the draft.



**Figure 1.1** General Climate Sentiment



*\*Dials represent the weighted average of responses*

## Survey Results

Hopkins also captured community sentiment via an online survey, which was posted in mid-March and available through mid-April. While the survey was available in three languages (English, Spanish, and Somali), the English language version was the only one with any responses. In total, 120 people responded to the survey. Among the respondents, 65% identified as residents, 15% said they work in Hopkins, another 15% both live and work in Hopkins, and the remaining 5% visit Hopkins.

The survey included questions about general attitudes toward mitigating and adapting to climate change. Most respondents consider addressing climate change “very important” (67.5%), while 14.5% said it is “somewhat important”, and 18.0% said it is not important at all. Questions also included asking respondents to prioritize strategies related to reducing emissions from building energy use, transportation, and waste. Additionally, participants were asked questions about strengthening built infrastructure, natural systems, and resilience among vulnerable populations.

The general sentiment from survey respondents was positive and enthusiastic about making Hopkins more green, walkable, and community-

focused. Themes that emerged were in support of more clean energy and efficiency, expanded green infrastructure and natural spaces, increased transportation options, and community well-being.

Some concerns that were expressed regarding mitigation actions include using public dollars for climate action, frustration with mandatory programs like organics recycling fees, strain on the electric grid, and the environmental impact of electric vehicles. Concerns for resilience-related actions include:

- + Perceived redundancy of services
- + Questions regarding need for cooling centers when most people have access to air conditioning
- + Questions about the practicality of vulnerable populations—especially children, people with disabilities, and seniors—getting to resilience hubs during extreme weather events.

A more detailed summary of the survey follows, organized by key themes and highlighting support and concerns.

## Transportation

Respondents were asked to choose their highest priority action from a list of eight actions to help reduce emissions from transportation.

The greatest support (36%) was for enhancing bicycle and pedestrian access throughout the community. This action was selected by 42 respondents. The next highest priorities were to provide incentives for electric bicycles (16%) and to do none of the suggested actions (17%).

Among the comments, these themes emerged:

### Electric Vehicle Charging and E-Bike Incentives

- + Support to expand EV charging access
- + Support for e-bike and hybrid vehicle incentives

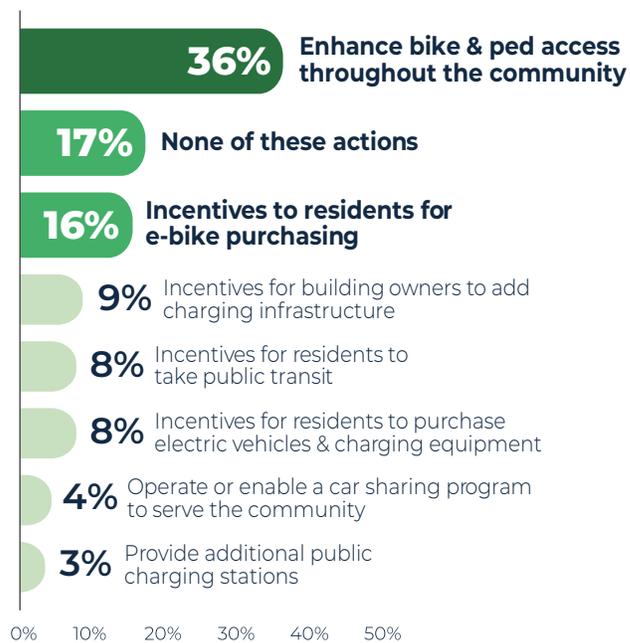
### Bike and Pedestrian Infrastructure

- + Strong support for better and safer biking and walking infrastructure
- + Suggestions to add protected bike lanes, more east-west bike connections, and replace concrete with more green space to enhance user experience

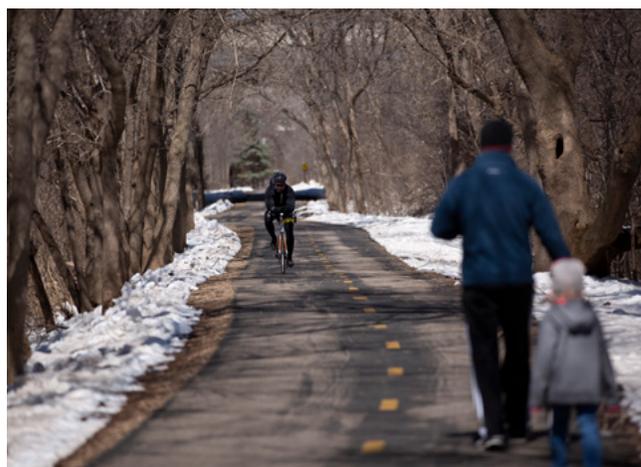
### Public Transportation and Car/Bike Sharing

- + Support to electrify buses
- + Interest in electric car and bike sharing programs
- + Ensure transportation options are accessible to all abilities

**Figure 1.2** Preferred Transportation-Related City Actions



### Transportation-related actions that Hopkins should prioritize over the next five years



Multi-use trail

**Figure 1.3** Preferred Building Emissions-Related City Actions



**Building emissions-related actions that Hopkins should prioritize over the next five years**



Solar power on the roof of Hopkins Pavilion

## Building Energy Use

Respondents were asked to select their highest priority action related to reducing emissions from building energy use.

Increasing access to clean energy for all residents had the greatest support among respondents; 28% selected it as the highest priority. Providing resources about available technologies and incentives received support from nearly 20% of respondents, and decarbonizing city buildings was selected as a priority by 16% of respondents.

Among the comments, the following additional suggestions emerged:

### Incentives and Education

- + Broad support for resident education workshops and community awareness campaigns on clean energy and electrification
- + Desire for more actions that are renter-specific
- + Support for renter and landlord collaboration

### Clean Energy

- + Support for solar on all City buildings where feasible
- + Desire to explore geothermal heating districts, thermal energy networks

### Regional Collaboration

- + Suggestions to partner with neighboring communities

## Waste

Respondents were asked to select their highest priority action related to reducing emissions from waste.

The action that had the greatest support was organic material collection for residents in multi-family buildings (35%). The next highest priority was to enhance citywide waste reduction and diversion programs and services (20%). Nearly 15% selected “none of the above”.

Additional comments include:

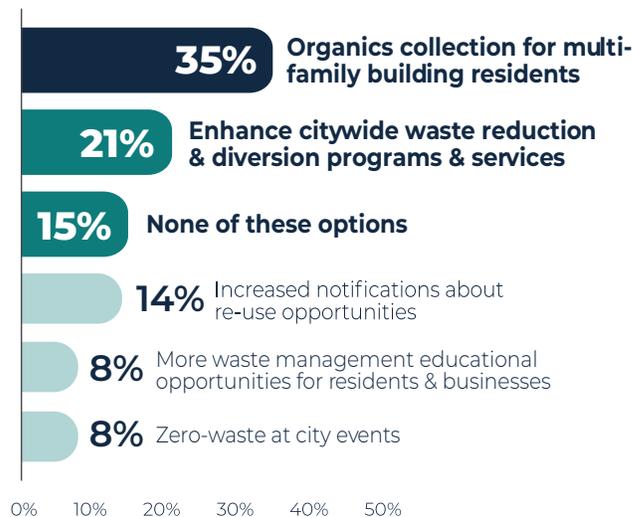
### Expanded and Inclusive Access for Organics

- + Support for commercial organics program
- + Desire for apartments to have access to organic material collection

### Education and Engagement

- + More education and workshops on waste management
- + Clear instructions for composting
- + Zero-waste City events with educational component

**Figure 1.4** Preferred Waste Emissions-Related City Actions

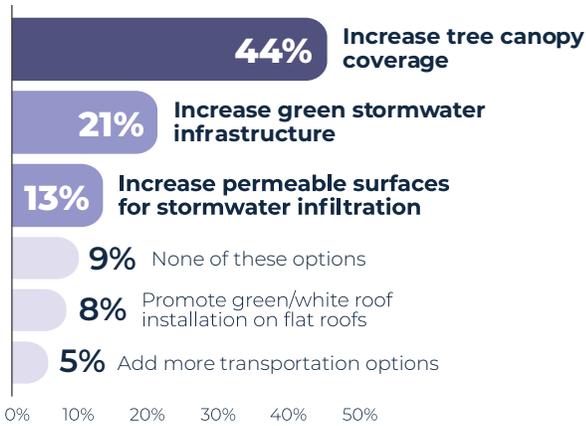


**Waste emissions-related actions that Hopkins should prioritize over the next five years**



*Food waste collection bin*

**Figure 1.5** Preferred Resilience-Related City Actions



## Resilience & Climate Adaptation

Respondents were asked to select priority actions to help the City adapt to climate change.

Nearly 65% of all respondents selected increased tree canopy coverage (44%) and increased green stormwater infrastructure (21%).

Additional comments are summarized below:

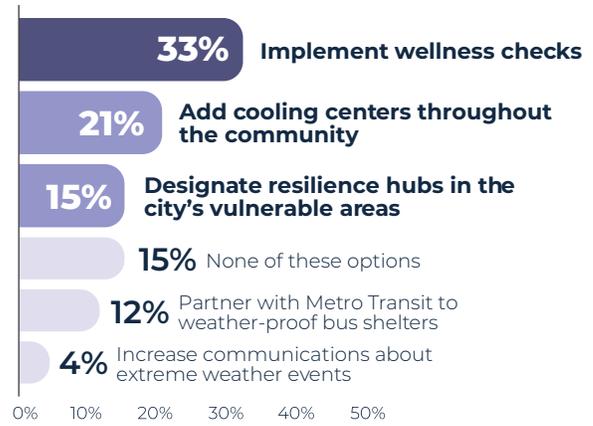
### Green Infrastructure and Stormwater Management

- + Strong reiteration of support for more trees, permeable surfaces, and green infrastructure
- + Desire to replace parking lots with permeable surfaces
- + Concerns about impact of flooding

### Ecological Benefits

- + Replace lawns and turfs with native plants and pollinators
- + Convert mowed public turf to prairie/native plants

**Figure 1.6** Preferred Vulnerability-Related City Actions



## Population Vulnerability

Respondents were asked to select priority actions to help strengthen the resilience among vulnerable populations.

Approximately 33% of respondents support implementing wellness checks for neighbors during extreme weather events. There was also strong support for resilience hubs and cooling centers throughout the community.

Additional comments are summarized below:

### Community-Centered Resilience

- + Additional support for wellness checks and helping vulnerable neighbors
- + Strong sentiment to support most vulnerable groups
- + Suggestion to partner with Park Nicollet for wellness checks for seniors and people with disabilities

### Communication and Education

- + General support for improved communication about extreme weather risks and community resources

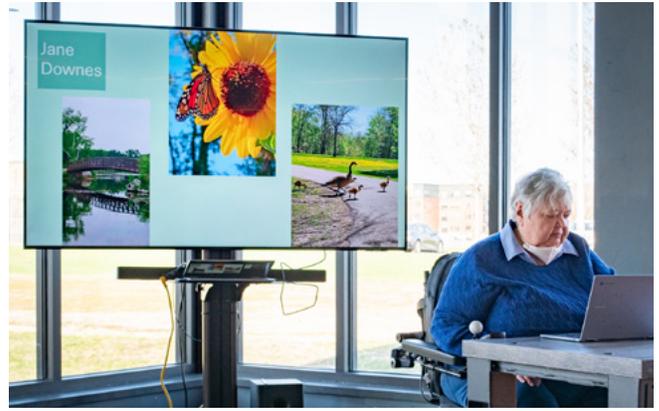
Finally, respondents were asked to share **any additional ideas to address climate change** in the next five years. Generally, most comments reiterated support for priorities that were previously expressed, including **more trees and green infrastructure**, better **access to bike and pedestrian infrastructure**, and **maximizing clean energy and affordability**. Additional comments **criticized the use of tax dollars** for this work, however there was **general consensus that planting trees, reducing trash, and improving infrastructure were desirable**.

# Storytelling

In partnership with Change Narrative, the City of Hopkins hosted a community event on Earth Day to wrap up engagement and shift the focus of the process to developing the work plan. The event featured an introduction of the draft vision, with an opportunity for attendees to react to the draft ideas, insights from community discussions, and climate stories from three Hopkins community members.

Climate stories are personal reflections of lived experiences and how they connect to and are impacted by climate change. Climate stories were included as a key piece of the project, to highlight community members' experiences and create an opportunity for residents to explore their stories. Storytelling can enhance community connection, improving resiliency.

The stories featured at this event can be found on the [City's sustainability page](#) and excerpts have been woven into the Hopkins Climate Solutions Plan.



*Photos from storytelling event*