

Appendix B: Community Engagement Report



The Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) was created from a mixture of data on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, the climate risk and vulnerability of the Grand Rapids community, existing community plans, and the lived experiences of residents and business owners in Grand Rapids. The process to create the plan followed the timeline below.

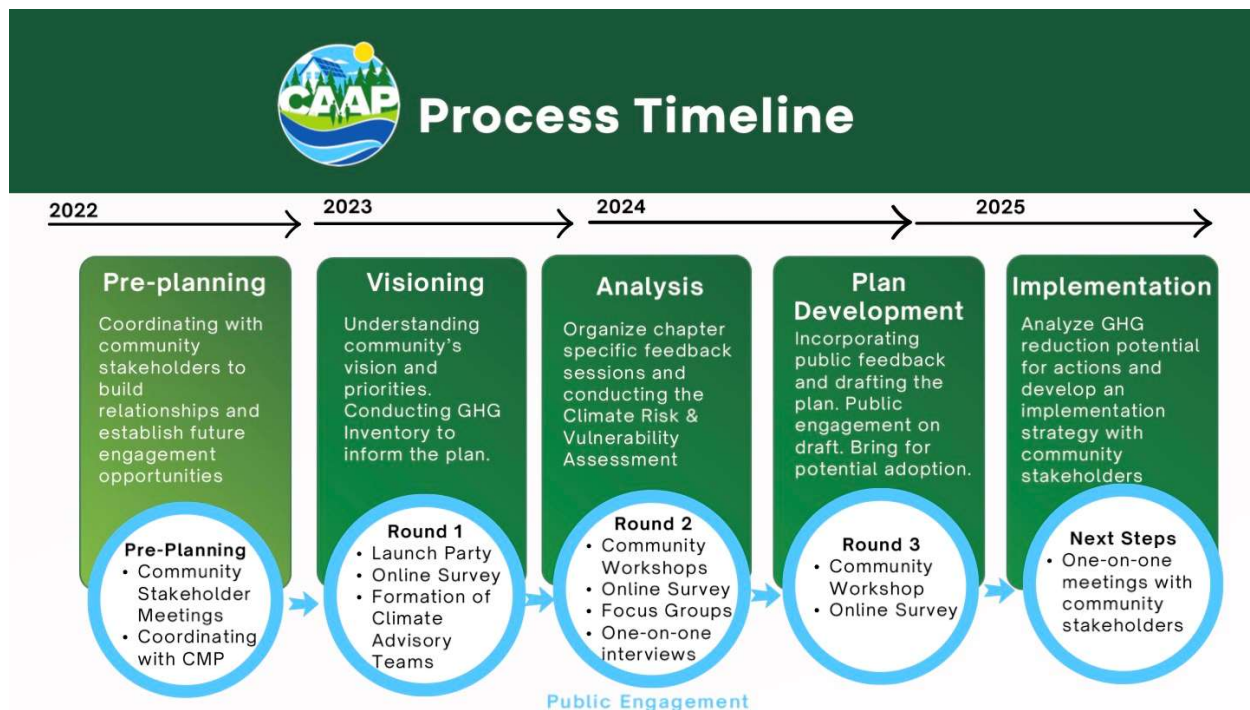


Figure 1. Climate Action & Adaptation Plan (CAAP) Process Timeline

Pre-Planning

In August 2019, the City of Grand Rapids worked with an intersection of 20 local Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) leaders, and traditional white environmentalists, to create the framework for the community-based organization known as the Community Collaboration on Climate Change, or C4. The vision of the C4 is to create a climate justice movement where BIPOC and historically white environmental organizations will dismantle extractive systems and build new systems to address climate change – centered in human wellbeing, the interconnectedness of life, and access to shared leadership. In 2022, the C4 Leadership Team hired a Project Coordinator along with two cohorts of Community Ambassadors to prepare to conduct engagement for the CAAP in their neighborhoods.

The City partnered with the C4 to design a planning process for the CAAP that would focus on a targeted universalism approach. Targeted universalism is a framework that begins with setting

universal goals and assessing how different groups in the community fare relative to the goals. Barriers, structural impediments, and resource deficiencies are addressed directly to ensure all groups achieve the goals.

In practice, the CAAP's targeted universal approach centered community engagement efforts on those most likely to face barriers to participation, including residents who are unhoused, identify as BIPOC, youth and seniors, and Spanish-speaking communities. The planning process was designed to include three rounds of community feedback opportunities. The C4 created a CAAP Committee to plan the engagement events, provide feedback on the CAAP process, and review drafted recommendations throughout the planning process.

During the pre-planning process the City's Office of Sustainability collaborated with the City's Planning Department to understand the intersectionality of the Community Master Plan (CMP) and the CAAP. As climate change and environmental justice emerged as key themes in the CMP's pre-planning engagement, the Office of Sustainability coordinated with the Planning Department and CMP consultants to receive applicable community engagement data from the CMP process to include in the CAAP.

Visioning: Round 1 Engagement

March 2023 – February 2024

Call to Climate Justice Kickoff Events

Outreach began in March 2023 with a "Call to Climate Justice" kickoff event held in partnership with the C4 at the Center for Community Transformation. The C4 prioritized engaging with community members that reside in the Neighborhoods of Focus (NOFs) in the 49507 zip code. The NOFs are 17 census tracts, where due to systemic and historic inequities, residents experience the most disparate outcomes in income, education, home ownership and wealth accumulation compared to other Grand Rapids census tracts and the city as a whole. Focusing engagement in NOFs was intentional, as community members in NOFs are most likely to be affected to be hit "first and worst" by a changing climate. The kickoff featured a free dinner for attendees from four BIPOC-owned caterers, free childcare services, and translation services for Spanish and Swahili. There were also complementary shuttles available for unhoused individuals that provided transportation to and from the event.



Photo: Call to Climate Justice Kickoff Event hosted by C4 for the CAAP Round 1 Engagement.
Photo Credit: Ned Andree #TheDNA

The kickoff included resource tables for community and engagement focused on facilitated group table activities with discussion among attendees. Community members provided their insight on the following three questions at the tables:

- Q1: What is climate change?
- Q2: What is climate justice?
- Q3: What climate actions can you take?

Q1: What is climate change?

Responses varied from identifying severe weather events and property damage, climate change processes, to emotions that the effects of climate change elicit in our community members. Consideration for global impacts and scale beyond Grand Rapids was also given by attendees. Several responses acknowledge that climate change is accelerated by human activity and is changing the composition of Earth's atmosphere.

Table 1. Responses from Kickoff Q1: *What is climate change?*

Our children's future
Global warming
Rising levels of moisture in atmosphere
Flooding, fires, and hurricanes

Melting icecaps
Weather related catastrophes
The changing over time and caused by human actions - disrupts the ecosystem and life
Any of the long-term effects to the Earth's atmosphere and biosphere
Ravaging, threatening, yet hopeful. Look what happens when we all come together (C4)
Environmental changes to the global climate like rising temps, water levels, increase in extreme weather events. These are often exacerbated or directly resulting from human activities.
GHGs going into the atmosphere and changing how the planet operates

Q2: What is climate justice?

Responses strongly displayed themes of equity and prioritizing distributing resources to communities that will be affected by climate change "first and worst." Solutions to climate change were presented such as clean energy generation, safe and healthy homes, sustainable waste management, medical care, access to healthy food, high-paying green jobs, and policy change.

Table 2: Responses from Kickoff Q2: What is climate justice?

Any action that reverses [the effects of climate change for] those least responsible and most affected
The most vulnerable communities are impacted by climate the worst
Advocacy that promotes equitable systems changes, policies and procedures
Recognizes the need to address inequity in how climate change impacts different populations
Transformation, justice, affordable housing, clean air, clean water, jobs that pay well to match inflation for BIPOC communities
Address the disparities in our community
Those who do not have power/money to change the system
"Equality" - housing up to code, insulation, windows. Accountability. Education. Medical Care - dental, immigration, Food - less for deserts
Making sure everyone's needs are being met and aided
The byproducts of food production [and] goods don't all end up in poor communities. Waste is managed in everyone's own community.
Climate change is an opportunity to shift and adapt from [an] unsustainable system of living where we extract and consume only to a circular economy where waste is a renewable resource and consumption is equitable to all living beings/all things that breathe.
Making sure frontline communities are no longer "frontline"

Q3: What climate actions can you take?

Responses predominantly supported engaging in political action by joining community-based organizations (CBO), like the C4, or by advocating for specific climate solutions. Examples of suggested solutions include investing in your home, eating a plant-based diet and reducing your consumption of animal products, planting trees, utilizing public transportation and bikes, properly disposing of waste, and investing in an electric or hybrid vehicle.

Table 3: Responses from Kickoff Q3: What climate actions can you take?

Key Themes of Recommended Actions	Number of responses
Organize in your community to shift politics and provide mutual aid	10
Invest in home energy efficiency technology such as insulation, solar panels, or LED light bulbs	8
Eat a plant-based diet/consume less animal products	5
Plant trees to absorb rain and produce fruit	5
Use less electricity or energy for heat and air conditioning	5
Use car alternatives such as bikes or buses	5
Address poor air quality and associated health risks such as asthma	4
Participating in community trash cleanups	4
Participating in recycling education and special collection events	4
Switch to an electric or hybrid vehicle	4
Boycott or divest from carbon-producing companies and buy or invest in sustainable companies	4

In June 2023, the C4 hosted the Eco-Justice Jam Poetry Slam to allow local artists to share their climate stories amongst community. The event was planned through C4 Ambassadors and focused on increasing connection to climate justice in ways that feel authentic and positive to community – sharing a meal, art, music, and games.



Photo: Eco-Justice Jam Poetry Slam Promotional Flyer

Round 1 Online Survey

An online survey was introduced to the community at the C4 Climate Plan Kickoff Event: A Call to Climate Justice and was subsequently posted publicly on the Office of Sustainability website and shared while tabling at a variety of diverse community events throughout 2023. The Round 1 Survey garnered a total of 440 responses. Residents provided their insight on the following questions:

Q1: How does a changing climate affect you?

Q2: What are your top 3 priorities for this climate plan?

Q3: What does a just climate future in Grand Rapids look like to you?

Q1: How does a changing climate affect you?

The Grand Rapids community is deeply concerned about the impacts of climate change on their health, well-being, local ecosystems, and the potential future of an unlivable planet.

Respondents recognize that climate change is here and is one of the largest threats to our communities' health and quality of life. A total of 440 responses were collected from the Round 1 Online Survey and six major themes emerged.

A changing climate...

- ...harms my mental health.
- ...increases my cost of living.
- ...affects all parts of my life.
- ...harms my physical health.
- ...disrupts my outdoor activities.
- ...does not affect my life.

Responses that indicated a changing climate is disrupting their outdoor activities primarily reference changes in seasonality (e.g. less snow in the winter) and extreme weather conditions such as heat, intense rain events, air pollution, and losing crops due to these effects.

Q2: What are your top 3 priorities for this climate plan?

For the second question of the Round 1 Survey, participants identified their top three priorities for the CAAP out of the following categories:

- **Climate Migration:** preparing for an increase in population due to climate displacement.
- **Community Resilience:** preparing for and recovering from extreme weather events as a community.
- **Economic Development & Innovation:** supporting businesses, workforce development and the creation of green jobs.
- **Energy Generation:** producing reliable, affordable energy with less emissions (renewable energy generation)
- **Food Systems:** improving how we produce, buy, eat, and dispose of food
- **Healthy & Resilient Homes & Buildings:** preparing buildings and homes for extreme weather and energy efficiency.
- **Land Use:** encouraging compact development patterns to reduce driving and energy consumption.
- **Natural Spaces:** using land and vegetation to reduce GHGs and absorb extreme weather events.
- **Transportation:** getting people from place to place with fewer GHG emissions.
- **Waste Management:** reducing, reusing, and recycling materials.

The top three priorities from our community were Energy Generation, Food Systems, and Transportation.

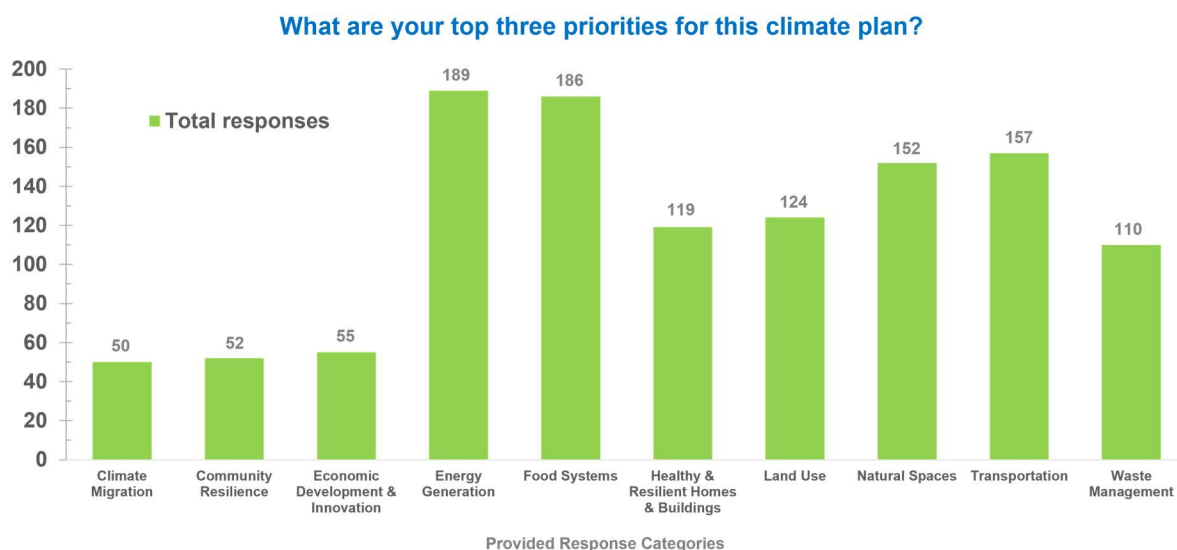


Figure 3: Round 1 Online Survey responses for Q2: What are your top 3 priorities for this climate plan?

Q3: What does a just climate future in Grand Rapids look like to you?

The Grand Rapids community is looking to address historic inequities that persist today in systems of oppression that are causing intentional disparities of health, wealth, and opportunity. For survey respondents a just climate future in Grand Rapids is possible and the solutions are known. In Q3 of the Round 1 Online Survey five major themes emerged.

A just climate future looks like...

- ...affordability and access to resources for resiliency and preparedness.
- ...ethical practices such as equity, inclusion, transparency, accountability, and prioritizing underserved communities and those at higher risk.
- ...sustainable policy changes.
- ...resilient practices such as trees, native plants, and local food systems.
- ...mental health support and community aid.

Only 8 responses (2%) stated they were unsure of what a just climate future could look like. Many responses address a variety of topics across multiple themes. Overall, the respondents provided insights on the strategies they desire in our community and advised the key sectors of focus for the CAAP.

A total of 116 responses (30%) mentioned an increase in mass transit and micromobility options (e.g. electric scooters and bicycles) in Grand Rapids. The desire for mass transit was expressed in more responses than any other subject. Additional desire for an increase in bicycle infrastructure and dedicated policy change for car-free, walkable, or “15-minute” cities were expressed.

A total of 74 responses (19%) mentioned increased access to clean, renewable energy and lower utility bills. Many of these responses referred to a future where they do not have to choose between paying for utilities or other necessary resources like food or education. A strong urge for a clean grid that is sourced from reliable, renewable energy was also expressed.



Figure 4: Word cloud of Round 1 Online Survey responses for Q3: What does a just climate future in Grand Rapids look like to you?

Climate Advisory Teams (CATs)

Using the results of the Greenhouse Gas emissions Inventory Report, the CAAP Visioning Survey, as well as mapping community resources, the City began to identify if Climate Advisory Teams (CAT) should be created for any sector. The priority of the CATs was to bring together local stakeholders across different fields to create draft strategies and actions for the climate plan. CATs were created for the Transportation, Commercial Buildings, and Residential sectors as no active local multi-stakeholder groups existed on these subjects that addressed climate change. The CATs met monthly to draft key sector strategies and actions. A total of 81 individuals participated across three CATs. The strategies and actions for the key sectors of Energy Systems, Nature Based Solutions, and Food Systems were drafted based on multiple rounds of survey feedback, focus groups and 1-on-1 meetings with local subject matter experts.

The Commercial Building CAT and the Residential CAT were coordinated through the Equitable, Healthy, and Zero Carbon Buildings (E.H.Zero) Initiative. The E.H.Zero Initiative is a partnership of the City of Grand Rapids, Michigan Green Building Collaborative (formerly known as the U.S. Green Building Council of West Michigan), and Urban Core Collective. The purpose of the E.H.Zero Initiative is to co-create programs and policies to reduce carbon emissions from residential and commercial buildings while saving energy, reducing costs, and improving health. The E.H.Zero Initiative is funded primarily through generous support from The Wege Foundation.

More information about the processes of engagement and drafting for each of the CATs can be found below.

Commercial Building Climate Advisory Team (C-CAT)

In February 2023, the Commercial Building Climate Advisory Team (C-CAT) was created and coordinated by the City and the Michigan Green Building Collaborative. The purpose of the C-CAT was to recommend how the City and our community can and should reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from commercial buildings by exploring opportunities and identifying obstacles associated with potential policies, processes, and programs that could be implemented. The C-CAT focused mainly on large commercial buildings (those over 10,000 square feet) and multifamily buildings (five or more units), although considerations were still made to support small businesses.

After consulting with equity partners, staff were advised that the most equitable approach related to commercial buildings would be to focus on how to get the largest carbon emitters to reduce their emissions. For this reason, the C-CAT did not have general resident participation in the monthly meetings, although it did have two representatives from the Community Collaboration on Climate Change (C4). The C-CAT was composed of stakeholders across various professional backgrounds relevant to the sustainable design, construction, and operation of

buildings. A cross-sector of voices were invited to the table in order to understand both new potential innovations in the industry but also to provide feedback on potential barriers for businesses. While staff were intentional to invite a diverse group of participants, unfortunately many of the BIPOC invitees declined to participate in the monthly meetings due to lack of capacity. These individuals continued to receive invitations to the public opportunities to comment on the draft plan recommendations.

C-CAT members participated in monthly meetings to identify priorities and strategies for action based on their respective experiences and resident feedback from CAAP surveys. The C-CAT was provided with background information on programs and initiatives already in place by the City to promote and incentivize green building practices. Information was provided and feedback was collected on existing and potential opportunities for energy efficiency, electrification, renewable energy, and financial resources, as well as information on barriers and challenges related to implementation. Feedback was collected during each meeting through discussion, activities, and notes. The C-CAT priorities were narrowed to a list of five actions in progress to continue and 6 proposed opportunities to pursue. Staff integrated these priorities into strategies and combed through notes and comments to draft related actions. C-CAT participants were able to comment on the drafts and review feedback integrated from the June 2024 public engagement event for the commercial building draft recommendations.

Table 4. Commercial Building Climate Advisory Team (C-CAT) Participants

Name	Organization Name	Organization Type/Role
Kelsey Grosebeck	TowerPinkster	Architecture/Engineering
Jeff Groth	Trane Technologies	Commercial & Industrial Building Systems Technology
Keith Winn	Catalyst Partners	Sustainable Building Design Consultant
Ben Glendening	Catalyst Partners	Sustainable Building Design Consultant
Matthew VanSweden	Progressive Companies	Sustainable Building Design Consultant
Monica App	Rockford Construction	Developer
Bob Van Rees	Rockford Construction	Developer
Peter Skornia	Cella Building Company	Developer
Jon Ippel	Amplify GR	Non-Profit Developer
Latrice Harrison	LINC Up	Non-Profit Developer
Zach Verhulst	Pure Architects	Architecture
Andrew Queenan	Pure Architects	Architecture
Tim Mroz	The Right Place	Economic Development
Synia Gant Jordan	Samaria J's Salon, Community Collaboration on Climate Change (C4)	Small Business Owner, Community Organization
Katie Gordon	Grand Rapids Chamber	Business Representation

Jacqui Dolce	Grand Rapids Chamber	Business Representation
Julia Kehoe	Steelcase	Large Commercial
Matthew O'Malley	Vicinity Energy	Sustainable Energy Utility, Boston Building Performance Standards Perspective
Jesse Douglas	Vicinity Energy	Sustainable Energy Utility
Paul Miyamoto	ICCF Community Homes	Non-Profit Housing Developer
Ana Jose	Michigan Women Forward, C4	Non-Profit Community Development Financial Institution, Community Organization
Erik Petrovskis	Meijer	Food Industry
Jason Flanigan	Meijer	Food Industry
Cheri Holman	Michigan Green Building Collaborative	Buildings & Energy Non-Profit, E.H.Zero Initiative Partner, Coordinator
Kayla Snyder	Michigan Green Building Collaborative	Buildings & Energy Non-Profit, E.H.Zero Initiative Partner, Coordinator
Tyler Kent	City of Grand Rapids – Planning	Local Government Subject Matter Expert
Steve Devlaeminck	City of Grand Rapids – Development Center	Local Government Subject Matter Expert
Bill Hordyk	City of Grand Rapids – Development Center	Local Government Subject Matter Expert
Jonathan Klooster	City of Grand Rapids – Economic Development	Local Government Subject Matter Expert
Eric Jordan	City of Grand Rapids – Code Compliance	Local Government Subject Matter Expert
Steve Prins	City of Grand Rapids - Facilities	Local Government Subject Matter Expert
Bob Adcock	City of Grand Rapids – Grand Rapids Public Library	Local Government Subject Matter Expert
Paula Grivins-Jastifer	City of Grand Rapids – Assessor's Office	Local Government Subject Matter Expert
Jennifer VanHorssen	City of Grand Rapids - Innovation	Local Government Subject Matter Expert
Kristin Pfauth	City of Grand Rapids - Engineering	Local Government Subject Matter Expert
Annabelle Wilkinson	City of Grand Rapids - Sustainability	Local Government Subject Matter Expert
Alison Sutter	City of Grand Rapids - Sustainability	Local Government, Coordinator
Jennifer Spiller	City of Grand Rapids - Sustainability	Local Government, Coordinator

Residential Climate Advisory Team (R-CAT)

The Residential Climate Advisory Team (R-CAT) was launched in February 2024 to identify strategic priorities to reduce carbon emissions from housing while reducing energy burden, improving health, and increasing resilience of housing to the impacts of climate change. The purpose of the R-CAT was to recommend how the City and the Grand Rapids community can and should reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from Grand Rapids' small residential housing (1-4 units) by exploring opportunities and identifying obstacles associated with different policies, processes, and programs that could potentially be implemented. This team was organized by City Sustainability staff in partnership with the City's Community Engagement Manager and the Urban Core Collective, a partner of the E.H.Zero Initiative.

A diverse group of residents, housing-related organizations, non-profits, and neighborhood associations was invited to participate on the R-CAT. The R-CAT met monthly to work towards identifying a set of strategies and actions to lay the foundation for the CAAP Residential Homes chapter. The R-CAT reflected on urgent housing priorities related to climate change and climate resilience based on their own and each other's professional and lived experiences, such as the need to help residents save energy to save money on utility bills. The team reviewed examples of climate plans from other cities and discussed what solutions might apply to Grand Rapids. The R-CAT also discussed CAAP survey results and resident responses from public engagement events to assist City staff with integrating that feedback into the Residential Housing Chapter. Two public engagement events were organized in partnership with C4 for the public to comment on the draft housing recommendations. One event occurred on August 7, 2024 at the Center for Community Transformation, and the second was held completely in Spanish on September 19, 2024 at Home Repair Services. At each meeting, the R-CAT reviewed the most recent draft of the key housing priorities and continued to provide feedback to refine them into strategies and actions.

Throughout the process, the R-CAT members kept equity front of mind and consistently ensured that the need to allocate resources to the most vulnerable residents, especially those in low-income and BIPOC neighborhoods, was reflected in the Residential Homes chapter recommendations.

Table 5. Residential Climate Advisory Team (R-CAT) Participants

<u>Name</u>	Organization Name	Organization Type/Role
Fredericka Brown	Community Collaboration on Climate Change (C4) Ambassador	Community Organization, Resident
Robert Simmons	C4 Ambassador	Community Organization, Resident
Wende Randall	Kent County Essential Needs Task Force, C4	Non-Profit, Community Organization

Nick Dobkowski	Kent County Essential Needs Task Force, C4	Non-Profit, Community Organization
Tabitha Williams	Parents For Healthy Homes	Housing Advocacy
Brett Little	GreenHome Institute	Green Housing Non-Profit
Kamilah Outlaw	Elevate Energy	Green Housing Non-Profit
Alisa Flores	Home Repair Services	Housing Non-Profit
Kymie Spring	Creston Neighborhood Association; GR Climate Coalition	Neighborhood Association, Community Organization
Amy Brower	Roosevelt Park Neighborhood Association	Neighborhood Association
Tamika Wright	Seeds of Promise	Neighborhood Non-Profit
Jameela Maun	Healthy Homes Coalition of West Michigan	Housing & Health Non-Profit
Shawn Nienhouse	Habitat For Humanity of Kent County	Non-Profit Housing Developer
Dave Bulkowski	Disability Advocates of Kent County	Non-Profit
William Gallmeyer	Green Projects Group LLC, GR Climate Coalition	Sustainability Coaching & Consulting, Community Organization
Eva Martinez	South West Area Neighbors/John Ball Area Neighbors	Neighborhood Association
Margo Johnson	South West Area Neighbors/John Ball Area Neighbors	Neighborhood Association
Nancy Morales	Urban Core Collective	Social & Climate Justice Non-Profit
Sergio Cira-Reyes	Urban Core Collective, C4	Non-Profit, Community Organization, E.H.Zero Initiative Partner
Andrea Riley-Mukavitz	City of Grand Rapids - Communications Department	Local Government, Community Engagement
Jennifer Spiller	City of Grand Rapids - Sustainability	Local Government, Coordinator

Transportation Climate Advisory Team (T-CAT)

Identifying potential strategies and their accompanying actions requires a significant amount of input from City Staff, community partners, and members of the community. To lead these efforts, the Transportation Climate Advisory Team (T-CAT) was established in early 2023. The group consisted of Grand Rapids City Staff from departments such as Mobile GR, Engineering, Parks & Recreation, and the Office of Sustainability, representatives from community partners like The Rapid, Grand Valley Metro Council (GVMC), the Kent County Essential Needs Task Force (ENTF), C4, and other members of the community who were passionate about sustainable transportation.

The T-CAT group met regularly throughout 2023 to identify potential strategies or actions that were worth further consideration, always taking into account a number of existing plans and ongoing initiatives represented in the group. Twenty-eight possible strategies were initially identified and each were scored through a Racial Equity Framework tool to assess how impactful and equitable each strategy may be. From those exercises and a number of subsequent discussions, the list was shortened to include seven possible strategies. Those final seven strategies were presented to the community for feedback in February 2024 at a public engagement event. Members of the public were told about the T-CAT process that produced the working list of strategies and were then able to ask T-CAT group representatives about the strategies and related actions and provide feedback including the potential benefits, barriers, and ask any other questions. Strategies and actions were also scored with Green (positive) and Red (negative) stickers to highlight those that had a lot of support as well as the ones in need of more work. The T-CAT group then met again to review the community feedback and make necessary adjustments.

Table 6. Transportation Climate Advisory Team (T-CAT) Participants

<u>Name</u>	Organization Name	Organization Type
Steve Schipper	The Rapid	Transit Agency
Deb Prato	The Rapid	Transit Agency
Bethany Murphy	Resident/Consultant	Transportation Planning
Laurel Joseph	Grand Valley Metro Council	Regional Planning
Eleanor Moreno	Resident	Resident
Angelica Velasquez	Resident	Resident
Katie Gordon	Grand Rapids Chamber	Business Representation
Wende Randall	Kent County Essential Needs Task Force	Non-Profit
Patrick Parkes	Disability Advocates of Kent County	Non-Profit
Lisa Haynes	Grand Valley State University	Academic Institution
Ana Jose	C4	Community Organization, Resident
Wesley Watson	C4	Community Organization, Resident
Darren Riley	JustAir	Air Quality
Betsaida Valdivia	Resident, C4 Ambassador	Resident, Community Organization

Robert Simmons	Resident, C4 Ambassador	Resident, Community Organization
Kayla Snyder	Michigan Green Building Collaborative	Non-Profit
Cindy Irving	City of Grand Rapids – Engineering	Local Government
Karie Enriquez	City of Grand Rapids – Parks and Recreation	Local Government
Sean Moeller	City of Grand Rapids – Fleet	Local Government
Tyler Kent	City of Grand Rapids – Planning	Local Government
Trent Cerra	City of Grand Rapids – Mobile GR	Local Government
Erin Evenhouse	City of Grand Rapids – Mobile GR	Local Government
Annabelle Wilkinson	City of Grand Rapids - Sustainability	Local Government

Racial Equity Framework

In an effort to dismantle systemic and institutional injustices that have been prevalent throughout our history, the City has made the conscious choice to highlight equity in each strategy of the CAAP. The CAAP process recognizes that addressing climate change is impossible without racial equity. We realize that City infrastructure, policies, and investments have historically and systemically neglected and harmed BIPOC and low-income communities. The City acknowledges these injustices and the need to right these wrongs by creating a culture of equity.

We recognize:

- BIPOC and low-income communities are the most impacted by extreme weather, and climate change will worsen existing harms and challenges.
- BIPOC and low-income communities must be prioritized to receive the benefits of the transition to a carbon-neutral society.
- If we design and implement programs to serve BIPOC and low-income communities, we will positively impact all residents in Grand Rapids.

Because of this, the City has focused the CAAP process on co-creation with community. Building Equity Process from Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) was selected as a best practice to inform the Racial Equity Framework process. Climate Advisory Teams or reviewers used the Equity Process Framework to create and revise strategies for the CAAP.

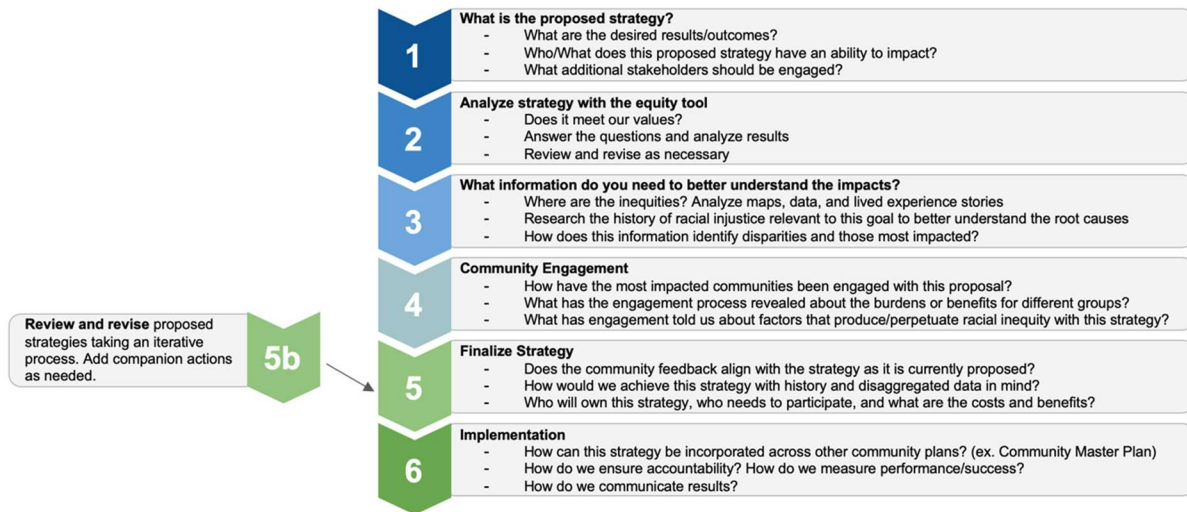


Figure 6: Six Steps for Building Racial Equity (adapted from GARE)

The Equity Toolkit from Austin (TX) Climate Equity Plan served as a best practice for the Racial Equity Tool and screening questions. Working with community advocates from the C4 the following subjects were selected to ensure the CAAP will increase racial equity: Health, Affordability, Accessibility, Just Transition, Community Capacity & Accountability.

1. **Health** – Strategy improves physical and mental health outcomes for low-income communities and communities of color. The strategy upholds the fundamental human right to clean, healthy and adequate air, water, land, food, education, transportation, safety, and housing.
2. **Affordability** – Strategy lowers and stabilizes costs related to basic living needs (housing, food, utilities, healthcare, transportation, etc.) for low-income communities and communities of color.
3. **Accessibility** – Strategy increases access to jobs, housing, transportation, funding, education, healthy foods, and a clean environment for low-income communities and communities of color. Strategy removes barriers through city infrastructure, policy, and investments.
4. **Just Transition** – Strategy ensures economic justice so that low-income communities and communities of color are prioritized in the benefits of the strategy and are protected from any potential negative consequences.
5. **Community Capacity** – Strategy elevates the voices of low-income communities, youth and communities of color by sharing power and cultivating leaders, skills, and resources that a community needs to survive, adapt, and thrive.
6. **Accountability** – Strategy ensures that low-income communities and communities of color can hold governments and institutions accountable for equitable implementation.

Subject 1: Health Strategy improves physical and mental health outcomes for low-income communities and communities of color. The strategy upholds the fundamental human right to clean, healthy and adequate air, water, land, food, education, transportation, safety, and housing.	Impact		
	Harm -1	Neutral or N/A	Benefit +1
Does the proposed strategy reduce air pollution (Ozone, VOC, NOx, etc.) and reduce asthma and other respiratory-related healthcare visits?			
Does the proposed strategy reduce extreme temperature exposure and healthcare visits for related illnesses (hyper/hypothermia, heat exhaustion, etc.)?			
Does the proposed strategy reduce stress, anxiety, and depression (i.e. improve mental health)?			
Does the proposed strategy help restore or protect ecosystem health (air, land, water, soil)?			
Does the proposed strategy encourage healthy local food systems?			
Overall response to these questions with justification:			

Figure 7: Racial Equity Tool Questionnaire for Health Subject (adapted from Austin's Climate Equity Plan)

The Climate Advisory Teams or reviewers analyzed proposed strategies through the CAAP Racial Equity Tool and evaluated responses through scores that indicated if the proposed strategy would provide a positive impact (benefit), neutral, or negative impact (harm). If a strategy after discussion presented with any potential harm, the strategy was revised or eliminated.

Each key sector of focus shifted slightly in how the Racial Equity Tool was reviewed – whether with a Climate Advisory Team or if there was no CAT for a sector a separate reviewer.

- **Energy Systems:** Sector strategies and actions created through 1:1s and focus groups with existing community partners. Racial Equity Framework and Tool worked through internally with Office of Sustainability staff.
- **Residential Homes:** The Residential Climate Advisory Team was comprised of a diverse group of housing advocates and community-based organizations, but due to timing the team was unable to review the strategies using the Racial Equity Tool. The Racial Equity Framework and Tool was worked through internally with Office of Sustainability staff.
- **Buildings & Industry:** Despite sending invitations to diverse participants, many of the BIPOC invitees had to decline to participate on the Commercial Building Climate Advisory Team (C-CAT) due to lack of capacity. Since the C-CAT lacked racial diversity, Office of Sustainability staff hosted two separate workshops with six paid local BIPOC Equity Consultants to review the draft Buildings & Industry sector strategies using the Racial Equity Tool.
- **Transportation:** Transportation Climate Advisory Team worked collectively together and in breakout groups to walk through each strategy proposed.

- **Nature Based Solutions:** Sector strategies and actions created through 1:1s and focus groups with existing community partners. Racial Equity Framework and Tool worked through internally with Office of Sustainability staff.
- **Food Systems:** Sector strategies and actions created through 1:1s and focus groups with existing community partners. Racial Equity Framework and Tool worked through internally with Office of Sustainability staff.

Climate Risk & Vulnerability Assessment Engagement

The Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (CRVA) process, in partnership with Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), began concurrently with the visioning (Round 1) process and concluded before the end of the Analysis (Round 2) process to ensure the results were incorporated into the plan's development. The City began the CRVA process by convening staff and community stakeholders for a CRVA Working Group that began in October 2023. The participants represented a range of City departments as well as community expertise and interests. CRVA Working Group members attended virtual meetings and in-person workshops to complete the CRVA work. During meetings and workshops, participants got to know each other; learned about CRVAs and climate change adaptation; brainstormed climate change impacts in Grand Rapids; shared insights on community systems, vulnerabilities, and risks; reviewed deliverables; and shared priorities for adaptation action.

Table 7. CRVA Working Group Participants

Name	Occupation/Title	Sector
Allison Farole	City - Emergency Management	Emergency Management
Dan Taber	City – Environmental Services	Stormwater
Karie Enriquez	City - Parks & Recreation	Natural Systems
David Green	City - Communications	Communications
Tim Burkman	City - Engineering	Engineering/Roads
Jay Steffen	City - Planning	Planning
Michael Staal	City - Engineering	Engineering
James Hurt*	City - Public Services	Water/Infrastructure
Alex Fleet*	City - Water	Water

Tasha Blackmon	Cherry Health	Health
Nate Henschel	Consumers Energy	Utilities
Jonathan Wilson	DTE Energy	Utilities
Becky Pobst	Friends of Grand Rapids Parks	Natural Systems
Ned Andree	C4	Social
Fredericka Brown	C4	Social
Iris Gipson	C4	Social
Felicia Sims	C4	Social
Synia Gant-Jordan	C3	Social
Erik Petrovskis	Meijer	Business
Kelsey Groesbeck	TowerPinkster	Business
Steve Ramus and Jana Mueller	Perrigo	Business

In May 2024, the community was engaged in the CRVA process with six in-person focus groups organized and hosted by C4. For the focus groups, C4 Ambassadors held in-person gatherings to engage with residents. The participants of the focus groups discussed their past experiences with extreme heat and flooding, and their concerns of possible future impacts of more intense heat and flooding due to climate change. Participants shared coping mechanisms and identified what residents need from the City to build a resilient future in Grand Rapids. Five focus groups explored extreme heat, one of which was completed in Spanish. Two of the focus groups were composed mainly of younger and older African Americans. One group focused on flooding and was largely attended by unhoused residents.

Location	Date (2024)	Attendees	Topic and Demographic (if noted)
King Building	May 9	10	Heat
Cook Library	May 20	20	Heat (Spanish language)
GR Proactive, Division Ave S	May 23	21	Flooding (unhoused demographic)
Metro Night Club	May 26	18	Heat (20-30 years old)
Twelve 'O One Soul	May 28	20	Heat (youth to seniors, mainly African Americans)
Samaria J's Salon	May 30	20	Heat (youth to seniors, African Americans)

Table 7: Community Focus Groups hosted by C4 for CRVA



Photo: Community Focus Groups hosted by C4 for CRVA. Photo Credit: Ned Andree #TheDNA

Analysis: Round 2 Engagement

February 2024 – October 2024

Once all key sector chapters were drafted, the City, in partnership with the C4 and other community stakeholders, engaged with residents at community events, focus groups, and hosted seven community listening sessions (six of the seven located in NOFs) to receive input on the drafted strategies and actions.

- Transportation Event – February 15, 2024
- Commercial & Industrial Buildings Event – June 7, 2024
- Energy Systems Event – June 18, 2024

- Nature Based Solutions Event – July 9, 2024
- Food Systems Event – July 10, 2024
- Residential Housing Event – August 7, 2024
- Residential Housing Event in Spanish – September 19, 2024

Primarily attendees felt positively about the strategies and actions, and provided any changes or additions they would like to see in the chapters.

Community Events and Focus Groups

During the second round of engagement the City partnered with local consultant, Khamai Strategies, to support C4 and other community partners in community engagement efforts. In order to prepare for community participation in analyzing the CAAP chapters, Khamai Strategies hosted two virtual listening sessions to gather feedback from neighborhood associations and organizations on the best ways to engage diverse community members. The following list of neighborhood associations and community organizations were invited to participate in a community organization listening session.

Neighborhood Associations

- SW Area Neighbors
- Ottawa Hills
- Roosevelt Park
- Boston Square
- Madison
- Burton Heights
- Baxter
- West Grand
- SE End
- Heartside
- Oakdale
- Black Hills
- Madison
- Fuller Avenue
- Garfield Park
- South Hills

Community Organizations

- Disability Advocates of Kent County
- Hispanic Center of West Michigan
- Refugee Education Center
- Grand Rapids Pride Center

- Senior Neighbors
- Exodus Place
- Grand Rapids Area Coalition to End Homelessness

In partnership with the C4, Khamai Strategies attended BIPOC focused community events, such as LINC Up's Rock the Block and Dunham St. Block Party, during the summer months to engage an additional 180 residents on the Climate Plan. Participants were asked to review proposed CAAP strategies and provide feedback using a color-coded sticker system – red stickers for disagreement, yellow for uncertainty, and green for approval. This method allowed participants to easily and clearly express their opinion, making the feedback process both engaging and straightforward. Khamai Strategies also worked in collaboration with C4 and Matthews House Ministries to engage with the unhoused population in a focus group on the CAAP. Matthews House Ministries partnered to identify participants, and each participant was provided a meal and a \$50 Visa gift card to acknowledge their time and contributions.

Transportation

The CAAP Transportation Listening Session took place on February 15th, 2024 at Ottawa Hills High School with 45 participants. The event was hosted in collaboration with C4 and with support from the Urban Core Collective. Free dinner and onsite childcare were provided, and Visa gift cards were raffled off to 10 attendees.

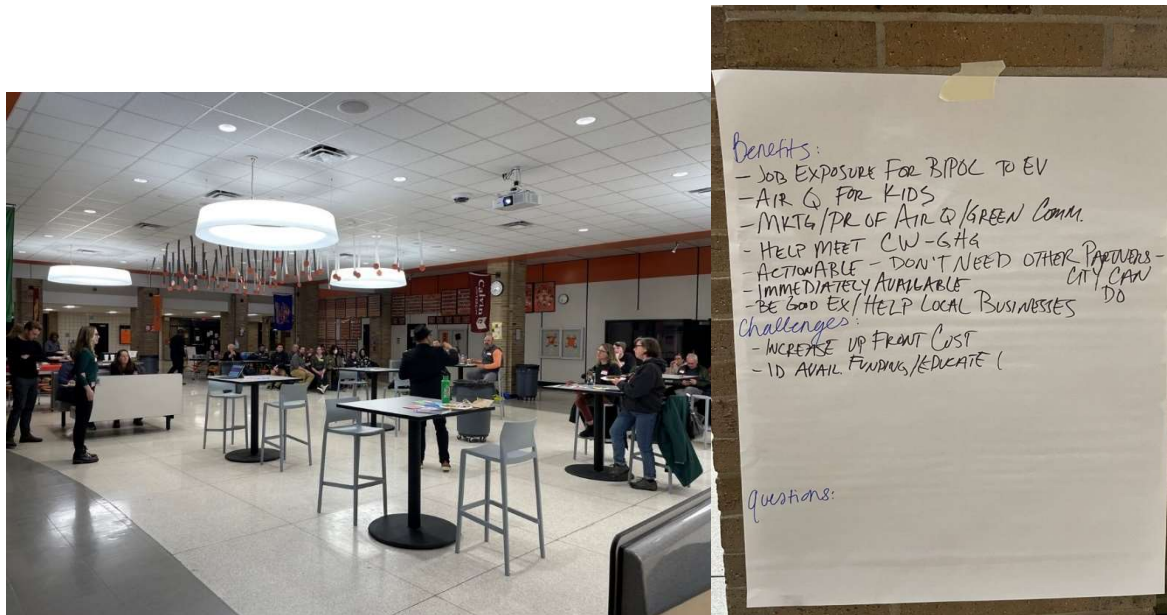


Photo: CAAP Transportation Event hosted at Ottawa Hills High School in partnership with C4.

After a 20-minute overview presentation, City staff and C4 facilitated conversations with residents at seven stations around the room each representing a different strategy from the transportation chapter. Residents rotated to a different station every seven minutes and

discussed with facilitators what the benefits would be, what challenges/barriers exist, other actions for consideration, and what questions they had for the drafted strategy. Each participant was provided with red and green stickers to indicate if they liked or disliked a potential action.

Benefits participants identified included increased education, health benefits, and lower greenhouse gas emissions. The main barriers participants were concerned with included encouraging mindset change, accessibility of walking/biking paths year-round, and the cost and safety of electric vehicles. All actions were positively received, with increasing electric vehicle actions receiving slightly more red stickers.

Commercial Buildings



Photo. CAAP Commercial & Industrial Buildings Event hosted at the Grand Rapids Chamber.

The CAAP Commercial & Industrial Buildings Event took place on June 7th, 2024. It was hosted at the Grand Rapids Chamber in partnership with the Michigan Green Building Collaborative, C4, and the Michigan Sustainable Business Forum and supported by the E.H.Zero Initiative. After lunch and a 20-minute overview presentation of the draft Buildings & Industry strategies and actions, participants provided feedback at stations around the room. There was a station for each of three draft strategies and a fourth station to cover comments on solar and industrial processes. Each station had an E.H.Zero

team member writing comments on a large sheet of paper and answering questions as participants rotated in groups around the room.

Excluding City staff and hosts, there were 42 stakeholders with backgrounds that included building management, design, construction, executive leadership, and environmental consulting who participated in sharing their feedback. For each strategy, the following questions were posted for discussion: What are the benefits? What concerns do you have? What questions do you have? What is missing? Comments acknowledged the benefits of having support navigating utility data and resources to upgrade buildings. Participants discussed how to get more people to care about reducing carbon emissions from buildings and how best to incentivize action. Diversifying messaging and addressing the needs of different groups, including through an equity lens, was discussed. Concerns included addressing costs and the need for financing and case studies that demonstrate cost savings in projects. Many other contextual comments were made that helped staff further develop and clarify actions for each strategy after the event.



Photo: CAAP Commercial & Industrial Buildings Event hosted at the Grand Rapids Chamber.

The CAAP Commercial & Industrial Buildings Event took place on June 7th, 2024. It was hosted at the Grand Rapids Chamber in partnership with the Michigan Green Building Collaborative, C4, and the Michigan Sustainable Business Forum and supported by the E.H.Zero Initiative. After

providing free lunch and a 20-minute overview presentation of the draft Buildings & Industry strategies and actions, participants provided feedback at stations around the room. There was a station for each of three draft strategies and a fourth station to cover comments on solar and industrial processes. Each station had an E.H.Zero team member writing comments on a large sheet of paper and answering questions as participants rotated in groups around the room.

There were 51 participants at the event with backgrounds that included building management, design, construction, executive leadership, and environmental consulting who participated in sharing their feedback. For each strategy, the following questions were posted for discussion: What are the benefits? What concerns do you have? What questions do you have? What is missing? Comments acknowledged the benefits of having support navigating utility data and resources to upgrade buildings. Participants discussed how to get more people to care about reducing carbon emissions from buildings and how best to incentivize action. Diversifying messaging and addressing the needs of different groups, including through an equity lens, was discussed. Concerns included addressing costs and the need for financing and case studies that demonstrate cost savings in projects. Many other contextual comments were made that helped staff further develop and clarify actions for each strategy after the event.

Energy Systems

The CAAP Energy Systems Listening Session took place on June 18th, 2024 at the Center for Community Transformation with 38 participants. The event was hosted in collaboration with Khamai Strategies, C4 and with support from the Urban Core Collective. Free dinner and onsite childcare were provided, and Visa gift cards were raffled off to 10 attendees.



Photo: Residents taking an online survey at CAAP Energy Systems Event hosted by C4 and Khamai Strategies.

Photo Credit: Jim Nichols

After a 30-minute overview presentation, C4 Ambassadors facilitated table conversations with residents and helped answer questions about the draft strategies and actions. Each participant was provided with a worksheet that listed all of the draft goals, strategies, and actions for the Energy Systems chapter with space to add comments at the bottom of the page. For each strategy and action, the workbook asked participants to circle an emoji:

- Smiley face – Agree with the action
- Frowny Face – Disagree with the action
- Confused Face – Are unsure of the action

The majority of participants agreed with the actions as written, however actions that discussed more specific regulatory laws or specific energy districts or programs – like Consumer’s Voluntary Green Pricing program or Vicinity Energy’s steam district were often labeled as unsure, as residents were not acquainted with the laws and systems. Interest in local energy generation was a common theme in the feedback. Concerns expressed in the comments included how to fund the work and how to advocate for regulatory change.

Nature Based Solutions

The CAAP Nature Based Solutions Listening Session took place on July 9th, 2024 at LINC Up's Gallery Space with 40 participants. The event was hosted in collaboration with Khamai Strategies, C4 and with support from the Grand Valley Metro Council's Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds. Free dinner and onsite childcare were provided, and \$25 Visa gift cards were reserved for the first 50 attendees.



Photo: CAAP Nature Based Solutions Event hosted by C4 and Khamai Strategies.

Photo Credit: Jim Nichols

After a 30-minute overview presentation, C4 Ambassadors and Leadership Team Members facilitated table conversations with residents and helped answer questions about the draft strategies and actions. Each participant was provided with a worksheet that listed all of the draft goals, strategies, and actions for the Nature Based Solutions chapter with space to add comments at the bottom of the page. For each strategy and action, the workbook asked participants to circle an emoji:

- Smiley face – Agree with the action
- Frowny Face – Disagree with the action
- Confused Face – Are unsure of the action

The majority of participants agreed with the actions as written, however participants were unsure and disagreed with low-carbon land management practices. Interest in increasing and educating about native and pollinator plants was a common theme in the feedback. Concerns expressed in the comments included how to ensure equitable access to and maintenance of trees and greenspace.

Food Systems

The CAAP Food Systems Listening Session took place on July 10th, 2024 at the Center for Community Transformation with 42 participants. The event was hosted in collaboration with Khamai Strategies, C4 and with support from the Kent County Food Policy Council. Free dinner and onsite childcare were provided, and \$25 Visa gift cards were reserved for the first 50 attendees.





Photo: CAAP Food Systems Event hosted by C4 and Khamai Strategies.
Photo Credit: Jim Nichols

After a 30-minute overview presentation, C4 Ambassadors, City staff and Kent County Food Policy Council staff facilitated table conversations with residents and helped answer questions about the draft strategies and actions. Each participant was provided with a worksheet that listed all of the draft goals, strategies, and actions for the Food Systems chapter with space to add comments at the bottom of the page. For each strategy and action, the workbook asked participants to circle an emoji:

- Smiley face – Agree with the action
- Frowny Face – Disagree with the action
- Confused Face – Are unsure of the action

The majority of participants agreed with the actions as written, however participants were unsure and disagreed with supporting food business incubators and incentivizing equitable business models like shared ownership or cooperatives. Interest in increasing edible trees and increasing education for children about urban agriculture was a common theme in the feedback. Concerns expressed in the comments included the cost and need for education around composting, and how to ensure equitable access to healthy food.

Residential Housing – English

The first CAAP Residential Homes Listening Session took place on August 7th, 2024 at the Center for Community Transformation. The event was hosted in collaboration with C4 and with support

from the E.H.Zero Initiative. Free dinner and onsite childcare were provided, and \$25 Visa gift cards were reserved for the first 50 attendees.



Photo: Residential Homes Engagement Event for the CAAP, hosted in partnership with C4.

- After a 20-minute overview presentation, C4 Ambassadors and Residential Climate Advisory Team members facilitated table conversations with residents and helped answer questions about the draft strategies and actions. Facilitators were offered payment for their time assisting with the event. Each participant was provided with a 12-page, color-coded feedback form packet that listed all the draft goals, strategies, and actions for the Residential Homes chapter with space to add comments and suggested changes on each of them. For each strategy and action, the workbook asked participants to circle their opinion: "I Like It As Is", "I Don't Like It", or "I Like It With The Noted Changes". I like it as is

- I don't like it

I like it with the noted changes

Goal 1: Reduce carbon emissions from housing			
	Please Circle Your Opinion:		
	I LIKE IT AS IS	I DON'T LIKE IT	I LIKE IT WITH THE NOTED CHANGES
Strategy 1: Increase energy efficiency of housing COMMENTS/CHANGES:			
Action 1: Pursue funding to increase local capacity to provide weatherization and energy efficiency upgrades • Include funding for pre-weatherization work COMMENTS/CHANGES:			
Action 2: Continue and expand the E.H.Zero home renovation pilot program which seeks to create a local model of how best to braid resources to update existing homes to be as efficient as possible COMMENTS /CHANGES:			

Figure 8: Sample page from the CAAP Residential Listening Session feedback form packet

Overall, feedback on the draft housing recommendations was supportive. Comments affirmed the need to increase resources to help households reduce energy use and save money on utility bills. There was interest in roof-top solar energy, however, there were also calls for expanding access to solar for the whole community, not just for low-income households, including advocacy for community solar. Some expressed concerns that updating homes could lead to displacement. Many participants affirmed the need to bring more education and awareness to residents about resources related to housing and climate resilience, making it as accessible as possible. Many comments asked how actions would be funded and by what mechanisms which will be addressed during the implementation phase after the CAAP is published.



Photo. CAAP Residential Housing Listening Session hosted in Spanish at Home Repair Services. Photo credit: Jim Nichols

Residential Housing – Spanish



Photo: CAAP Residential Housing Listening Session hosted in Spanish at Home Repair Services.
Photo credit: Jim Nichols

After hearing feedback that the City needed to do more to engage Spanish-speaking community members, the E.H.Zero team decided to host a second public event on the draft housing recommendations. The CAAP Residential Housing Listening Session (“Viviendas Residenciales”) was hosted in partnership with the C4 at Home Repair Services on September 19, 2024 with 20 participants. Prior to the event, the draft CAAP housing recommendations were translated by the Hispanic Center of West Michigan, and all relevant materials (promotional flyer, presentation, feedback forms) for the event were translated and reviewed by Spanish-speaking members of the event planning team. Five Latina community leaders were paid as consultants to assist with event planning and for their time at the event to facilitate discussion at their tables. The event was marketed on social media and via a live interview with Acceso VIP.

The format of this event mirrored the August housing event. Participants listened to an overview presentation before using the translated 12-page feedback form packets to write their comments on the draft strategies and actions. Dinner was provided as well as \$25 Visa gift cards for participation. The feedback from this event was generally supportive, with many being satisfied to see actions to increase resources and incentives to support energy savings. There was interest in more transparency on energy costs from utilities and property owners listing homes for sale/lease. Many were interested in solar energy, although some expressed concerns about how it would be marketed to low-income households and that energy upgrades to homes don’t lead to more costs on residents. Participants also affirmed the

need for more resources and education to increase the climate resilience of homes. Some questions were posed related to specifics on how the actions would be implemented which will be addressed during the implementation phase after the CAAP is published. Summary of Spanish housing event feedback

Round 2 Online Survey

In October all key sector drafts were posted on the City's CAAP website with a survey available for public feedback, which garnered a total of 44 responses, with 31 responses from Grand Rapids residents and an additional 13 responses from nonresidents. Participants selected a key sector of the CAAP to provide input on what they liked, disliked, and specific changes they would like to see included in that chapter.

Transportation

This chapter received the most positive feedback from residents, and they identified the strategies to increase bike infrastructure, micromobility options, and electric vehicle infrastructure as positive highlights. Increased education about micromobility and pedestrian safety were requested as potential additions to the plan.

Buildings & Industry

Residents appreciated the chapter's themes of equity in building economic prosperity and climate resiliency in our communities. Preparing our buildings to be energy efficient, safe to occupy, and prepared for changes in severe weather will ensure that Grand Rapids will be healthy and productive. They valued this chapter's prioritization of electrification and efficiency to reduce GHG emissions and the urban heat island effect. A minority of residents expressed concerns about the unintended consequences of increased reporting and energy transparency requirements for commercial building owners. Increased costs of maintenance, initial investment of energy efficient technologies, and complications with retrofitting historic buildings were identified as potential barriers to achieving the CAAP strategies.

Energy Systems

This chapter's goals of sourcing renewable energy, increasing access to residential solar, and applying a systems thinking approach to our local energy grid were highlighted by residents. Concerns about the prevalence of natural gas to power homes and businesses in Grand Rapids were expressed.

Nature-Based Solutions

This chapter also received generally positive feedback from residents about the increase in tree canopy coverage and access to green spaces. Increased education about proper tree maintenance, increased interconnectedness of separate parks and trail systems, and prioritization of trees during redevelopment were requested to be included in the chapter.

Food Systems

The main suggestion to add to the Food Systems chapter provided by residents was municipal composting. A minority of residents also expressed desire to ban extruded foam products (commonly referred to as Styrofoam) in restaurants and grocery stores. In addition, a few residents identified the lack of direct public transit connections to grocery stores as a barrier to accessing food.

Residential Homes

This chapter's thorough and intersectional strategies to reduce health risks associated with climate change were appreciated by residents. The chapter's goals of providing resources to the community members that contribute the least but are affected the most by climate change were also highlighted as positive by residents. Requested changes to this chapter included goals for green career development and certification for sustainable contractors and builders. As well as considerations and adaptations of the chapter's goals for historic houses that are limited by their design for energy efficiency upgrades.

Feedback from all Round 2 engagement from events, listening sessions and survey results were taken into consideration and incorporated into the final draft plan in anticipation for Round 3 engagement.

December 2024 – February 2025

Round 3 engagement began in December 2024 with the release of the full draft of the Climate Action & Adaptation Plan and a feedback survey. 180 respondents completed the survey and provided feedback on the draft of the CAAP. The majority of participants said they were satisfied with the Climate Action & Adaptation Plan. If respondents were not satisfied, they were asked to provide any additional suggestions they had for the plan.



Figure 9: Word cloud of Round 3 Online Survey responses for Q1: *If you are not satisfied with the current plan, do you have suggestions?*

Overall, the feedback received from the survey on the CAAP was constructive, providing thanks for the plan and relaying technical language adjustments of the goals, strategies and actions. Respondents critiqued the lack of consideration for other renewable energy sources, such as wind, and would like to see addressing transportation as a higher priority in the plan. Interest in future funding mechanisms, cost and reduction potential of actions was also key themes priming residents for implementation.

Round 3 Feedback Session



Photo: Third Round CAAP Engagement Event hosted by C4.

The Final CAAP Feedback Event was held in partnership with the C4 at The Venue on February 6th, 2025. To increase accessibility to the event the C4 ensured the location was in one of the City's NOFs. The event featured free dinner from BIPOC caterer, The Candied Yam, free childcare, Spanish translation services, and provided gift cards to participants who turned in their feedback sheets. After a 15-minute introduction, attendees were encouraged to take their feedback sheets to the six stations that each represented a chapter in the CAAP. A subject matter expert facilitator was present for each chapter station to answer any questions participants may have had and to receive any verbal feedback provided. Over 100 people participated in the event, with over 50 feedback sheets turned in.

Overall, the feedback collected was positive and community members acknowledged the variety of strategies and intersectionality of the CAAP's scope of work. Each attendee was able to provide their input on each chapter (Transportation, Buildings & Industry, Energy Systems, Nature-Based Solutions, Food Systems, and Residential Homes) of what they liked, dislike, and

[illegible]

Dislikes

41

Round 1 Online Survey	March 2023 – February 2024	-	440
CRVA Working Group		23	
CRVA Workshops			
Extreme Heat	May 9, 2024	10	-
Extreme Heat – Spanish	May 20, 2024	20	-
Flooding – Prioritizing Unhoused	May 23, 2024	21	-
Extreme Heat – 20 to 30-year-olds	May 26, 2024	18	-
Extreme Heat – Youth to Seniors 1	May 28, 2024	20	-
Extreme Heat – Youth to Seniors 2	May 30, 2024	20	-
Additional Community Engagements with Khamai Strategies			
CBO Virtual Listening Session 1		23 CBOs invited	-
CBO Virtual Listening Session 2		23 CBOs invited	-
Rock the Block Dunham St. Block Party Unhoused Community Focus Group	June 2024	180 residents engaged	
Climate Advisory Teams			
C-CAT Participants	February 2023 -	41	-
R-CAT Participants	February 2024 -	21	-
T-CAT Participants	February 2023 -	24	-
Community Feedback Sessions			
Transportation	February 15, 2024	45	-
Commercial Buildings	June 7, 2024	5142	-
Energy Systems (Khamai)	June 18, 2024	40	-
Nature Based Solutions (Khamai)	July 9, 2024	40	-
Food Systems (Khamai)	July 10, 2024	40	-
Residential Housing – SpanishEnglish	August 7, 2024	31	-
Residential Housing – EnglSpanish	September 19, 2024	20	-
Round 2 Online Survey- Chapter Review	October 2 - 31, 2024	-	44
Round 3 Online Survey	December 2024 – March 2025	-	180
Round 3 Feedback Session	February 6, 2025	106	-
	Totals:	937	664

**estimated*

Total in-person numbers (events and groups):1,601

Did we hear from all three wards and the majority of neighborhoods?

Yes

Small summary of which engagements we received this info for and a chart that shows which wards responded and how that matches up to the community layout as a whole. See CMP Appendix A pg. 60 is an example of what we're looking for

<https://www.grandrapidsmi.gov/Government/Programs-and-Initiatives/Community-Master-Plan/Community-Master-Plan-Documents>

Do we have data on who we heard from? Race, ethnicity, age, gender identity

Small summary of which engagements we received this info for and a chart that shows who responded and how that matches up to the community layout as a whole.

See CMP Appendix A pg. 55, 56 & 58 for examples of what we're looking for here.

FYI estimates for Food Systems and NBS event were 50% BIPOC. If it's only surveys that have reliable data just use that and I'll write a small paragraph on our intentionality for reaching folks for events.

The majority of those engaged (937) in the CAAP engagement process were during in-person events. While demographic data was requested at events with feedback sheets, often demographic data was not provided. However, by focusing on a targeted universalism approach, CAAP in-person events removed barriers to participation (compensation, childcare, food, etc.) and were intentionally located and marketed to residents in the neighborhoods of focus. Demographic data was collected from each round of the CAAP survey. Information about race, ethnicity, gender identity was collected for each online survey and ward information was collected only for Round 3 online survey.

664 participants engaged with one of the three CAAP surveys. Demographic data was collected from each round of the CAAP survey. Information about race, ethnicity, gender identity was collected for each online survey and ward information was collected only for Round 3 online survey. The representation of participants in each category was tracked against the overall percentage of the population of Grand Rapids, according to the US Census. While this helped the planning team identify gaps in engagement and be more intentional about outreach efforts, not all participants disclosed their information and the small amount of survey participants in CAAP Survey 2, can affect the overall data.

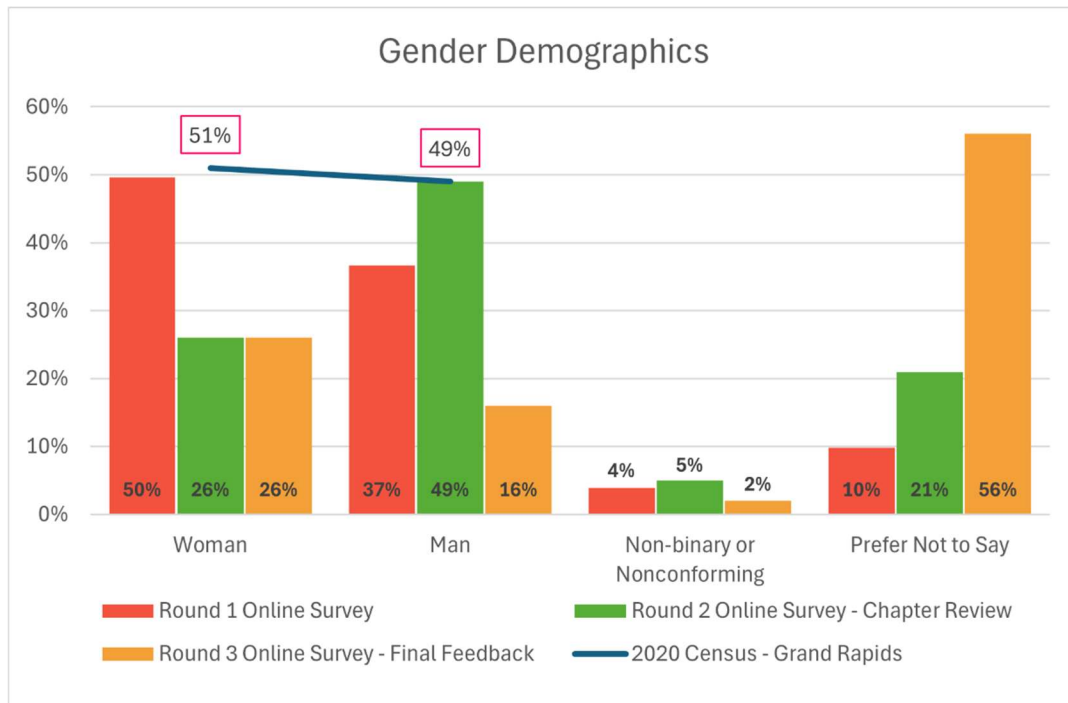


Figure 13: Gender Identity Demographics across all CAAP Surveys

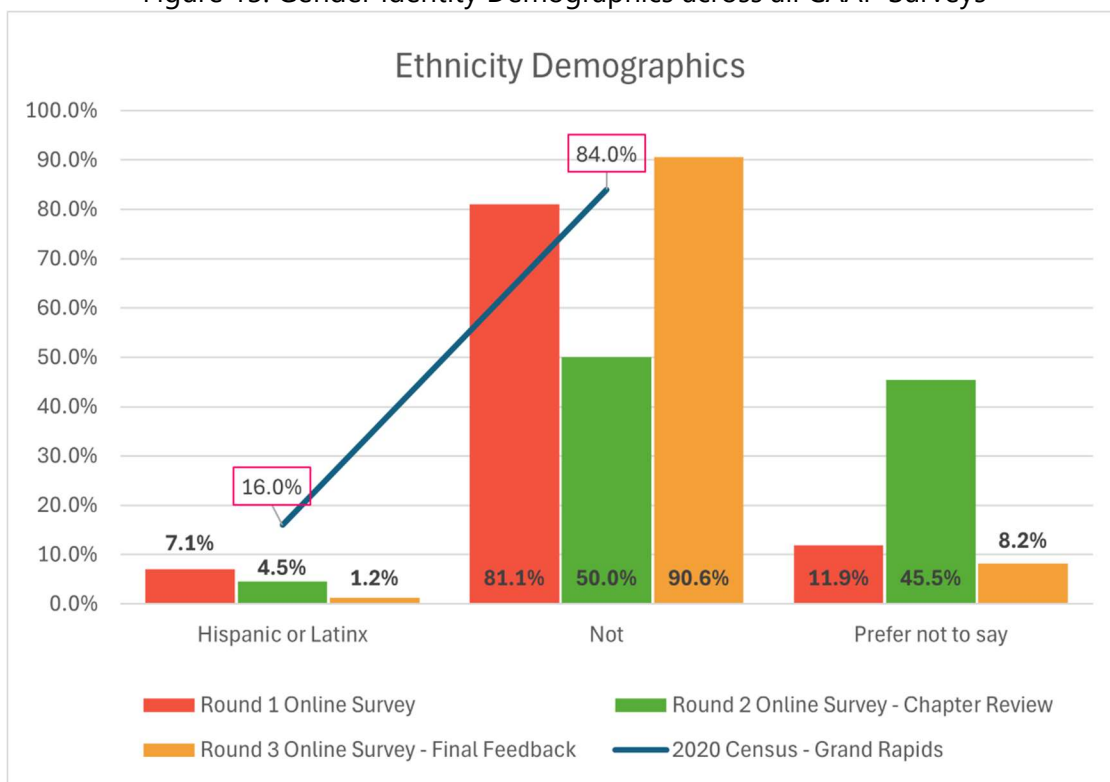


Figure 14: Ethnicity Demographics across all CAAP Surveys

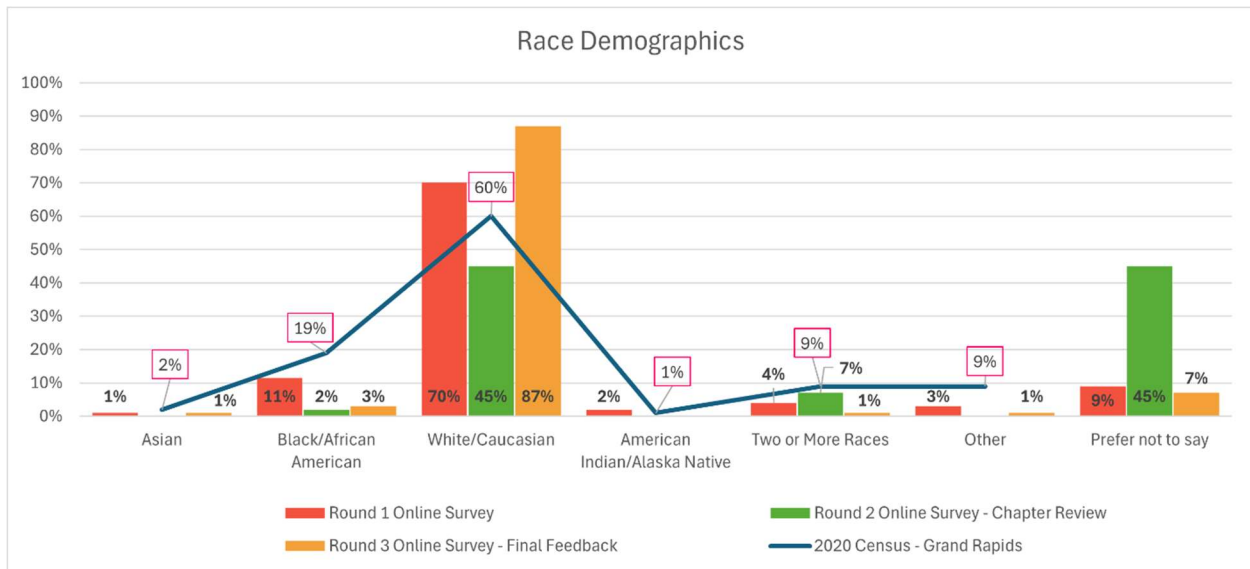


Figure 15: Race Demographics across all CAAP Surveys



Figure 16: Ward Demographics in CAAP Survey #3

Lessons Learned

While the CAAP engagement process placed equity at the forefront, during the process insights and experiences provided key takeaways for consideration for future engagements:

- Invite everyone to the table before the process begins and check-in on capacity and how to support continued or extended engagement. During the CAAP process Indigenous representatives from the C4 expressed they did not have the capacity to continue the work, were not authentically engaged, and therefore are not adequately represented within this plan.
- The need for the City to do more to support engagement with communities that speak other languages.
- Having a separate event marketed and hosted in Spanish was helpful for collecting in-depth feedback from participants, as opposed to hiring an in-person translator for an English-speaking event.
- Marketing for events in advance was critical for attendance. Social media really helped draw in new faces.
- Some main barriers to engagement included overwhelming information, lack of direct relevance to daily life, and historical distrust towards city initiatives. "It feels difficult when the City is behind it... Building rapport would be beneficial," a community organizer suggested. To overcome these barriers:
 - Offer a variety of engagement options, recognizing different capacities and interests.
 - Engage in existing community events rather than creating new, separate ones.
 - Establish a clear feedback loop to show how community input is used, enhancing trust and accountability.

Attachments to Engagement Appendix:

Khamai Strategies Report

CAT's Racial Equity Framework

Commercial Events Data:

[Commercial Buildings Public Event CAAP Event Feedback.xlsx](#) (42 attendees)

[Commercial Building CAAP Event Feedback.pptx](#)