OKOTOKS EMP

REPORT ON 2017 PUBLIC & STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The Town of Okotoks' upcoming Environmental Master Plan (EMP) will be a long-term community plan to help protect and enhance our environment. It will encompass all aspects of the environment, from developing new land, to sustainable practices for energy, water, waste, emissions, urban forests, construction, and transportation networks – anything that impacts the natural world. In November 2017, the Town held two stakeholder workshops, a public open house, and a 'pop-up' in the community. This input will help shape the EMP, and ensures it will benefit all Okotokians!

What does success look like to our participants?

Urban Design & Transportation

A more compact Okotoks that reduces the need for cars; a safe and accessible transit system.

Water Management

An Okotoks that has reduced its water consumption by capturing and reusing grey, rain and storm water.

Energy, Emissions & Air Quality

An Okotoks with much lower energy consumption and lower greenhouse gas emissions.

Waste Systems

An Okotoks that is on track to becoming a zero-waste community and views waste as a valuable resource.

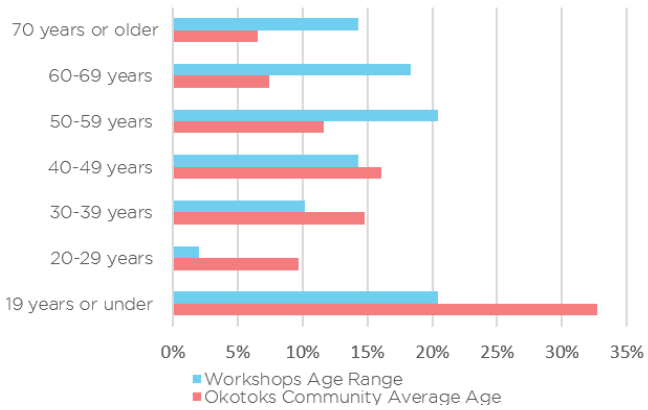
Ecosystems, Biodiversity & Food

An Okotoks that is connected by vibrant, multi-purpose green spaces, and committed to local food production.

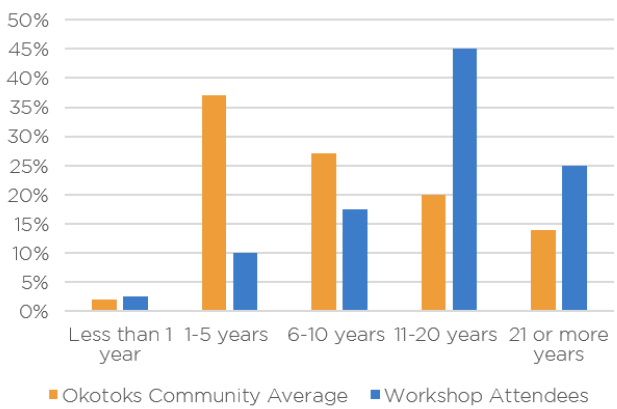
Who did we hear from?

Participants were primarily long-term residents of Okotoks, and spanned a wide range of ages.

How old are you?



How long have you lived in Okotoks?



What did we hear?

We heard lots of great ideas from the community, including:

Urban Design & Transportation

- Create compact, higher density communities that support healthier and more active forms of transportation (e.g. walking, cycling)
- Design communities to include more affordable, multi-unit housing options
- Expand the existing public transit system
- Use more permeable materials in new developments and public spaces to reduce the risk of flooding

Water Management

- Create incentives for residential and commercial grey-water reuse systems
- Explore opportunities to capture and reuse water on Town and public land
- Work with other towns in the region to conserve our shared water supply
- Encourage the use of drought-tolerant and native plant species on private lands

Energy, Emissions & Air Quality

- Adopt or require higher building standards, such as LEED and Passive House
- Create a retrofit program for existing buildings to improve their water and energy
- Develop programs to better educate residents on climate change and its impacts

Waste Systems

- Expand the existing recycling system to accommodate even more materials
- Develop youth-based waste initiatives in partnership with local schools
- Support companies that reduce their waste and find innovative ways to reuse it
- Showcase the benefits of community-wide composting (e.g. biogas pilot project)

Ecosystems, Biodiversity & Food

- Densify new communities to reduce impact of urban sprawl on surrounding ecosystems
- Connect our existing green spaces and encourage more natural habitat
- Enhance our connection to natural spaces
- Encourage residents to plant native species and food crops in their front yards
- Explore the use of indoor community gardens for winter food production