# Glossary

The following are some common defined terms that you may come across while reading the draft Climate Resilience Planning and Development Action Plan and engagement materials. The terms are organized alphabetically.

## Climate Change

Climate change is the long term change in weather patterns (for example, an increase or decrease in extreme weather events such as hurricanes, droughts or floods) over periods of time ranging from decades to millions of years.

## Climate Resilience

Climate resilience is the ability to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change and climate-related events.

- Adaptation means making adjustments to social, economic and environmental practices to reduce vulnerabilities to climate change.
- Mitigation involves using new strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Together, adaptation and mitigation enable sustainable development and improved well-being in the face of a changing climate.

## Climate Resilient Edmonton: Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan (2018)

The Climate Resilient Edmonton: Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan outlines the primary climate risks facing Edmonton and what actions need to be taken to prepare for these risks. It was developed to help us respond to the impacts of climate change and protect the community, infrastructure and services.

## Climate Resilience Policy (C627A) and Procedures

The purpose of Climate Resilience Policy, C627A, is to provide clear and consistent governance and accountabilities for achieving a climate resilient community, and to demonstrate to Edmonton's citizens, businesses, and community and industry partners the City of Edmonton's commitment to climate solution leadership in all aspects of city planning, development and business decisions. The procedures are specific to City-owned buildings or City-funded, non-City owned buildings.

### Climate Risk Index

A Climate Risk Index compiles data to help assess and track exposure, vulnerability, risk, and resilience to climate change at the neighbourhood level. The results of this index can help to support the City's work to build climate resilience by identifying neighbourhoods or demographics that may require more targeted action or support.

### Design and Construction Standards

The City of Edmonton's Design and Construction Standards establish standards for the City's expectations in the design and construction of their assets (road, landscaping, power, water and drainage infrastructure). The standards apply to the City of Edmonton contracts and private development projects. The standards are organized into 8 volumes by discipline:

- Volume 1: General
- Volume 2: Complete Streets Design and Construction (Roadways)
- Volume 3: Drainage (managed by EPCOR)
- Volume 4: Water (managed by EPCOR)
- Volume 5: Landscaping
- Volume 6: Street Lighting Standards
- Volume 7: Power (managed by EPCOR)
- Volume 8: Pavement Marking

### District Energy Opportunity Areas

District Energy Opportunity Areas are prioritized opportunity areas in Edmonton for District Energy planning and development. The prioritization is based on a combination of expected demand density, timing of development and other key success factors such as presence of anchor loads or low-carbon energy sources. They have been aligned with the 15 minute major or district nodes outlined in The City Plan.

### District Energy System

District energy systems are local, centralized energy systems that produce and distribute energy (electricity, space heating / cooling and/or hot water) for multiple buildings (i.e., customer use).

### Edmonton's Community Energy Transition Strategy (2021)

Edmonton's Community Energy Transition Strategy is a path forward for a low carbon city and is the City of Edmonton's climate change mitigation plan. The strategy will help shape Edmonton's future economy and the way Edmonton is built - transforming how energy is generated, how people move around the city, how buildings are constructed, all through the lens to ensure a just and equitable transition.

### Energy Codes

Energy codes are energy efficient requirements for buildings and housing and are a subset of building codes. The National Energy Code for Buildings 2020 and energy efficiency requirements of Section 9.36 of the National Building Code (Alberta Editiona) 2023 have been introduced by the Government of Alberta as part of the greenhouse gas emission reduction strategy.

### Energy Efficiency

Energy efficiency refers to how effectively energy is being used for a given purpose. For example, providing a similar (or better) level of service with less energy consumption on a per unit basis is considered an improvement in energy efficiency.

### Floodplain Protection Overlay

The purpose of the Floodplain Protection Overlay (FPO) in Zoning Bylaw 20001 is to mitigate the potential negative effects of a flood event and ensure the safety of those living in lands partially or wholly contained within the defined floodplains of the North Saskatchewan River and its tributaries.

### Greenhouse Gases

Greenhouse gases (GHG) are gases, such as carbon dioxide, methane and nitrogen oxide which actively contribute to the atmospheric greenhouse effect. Greenhouse gases also include gases generated through industrial processes.

### Low Carbon Energy

Low carbon energy is produced using significantly lower amounts of carbon dioxide emissions than is emitted from fossil fuel energy.

### Low Impact Development

Low impact development (LID) is a land development and stormwater management approach that works with nature to manage stormwater as close to the source as possible. LID focuses on maintaining and restoring the natural hydrological processes of a site.  LID examples include rain gardens, green roofs and rainwater harvesting for reuse.

### Natural Area

A natural area is an area of land or water that is dominated by native vegetation in naturally occurring patterns. Such areas could include grasslands, forests, wetlands, peatlands or riparian areas. Tableland natural areas are natural areas that exist outside of the River Valley. Areas such as groomed parks, sports fields and schoolyards

are not natural areas. Natural areas are classified as Ecological Parks in [Breathe - Edmonton's Green Network Strategy.]

### Overlay

An overlay provides additional development regulations in Zoning Bylaw 20001 superimposed on specific areas of the Zoning Map that supersede or add to the development regulations of the underlying zone.

### Planning and Development Continuum (or Process)

The planning and development continuum is a dynamic process that begins with raw land and ends with a finished development. The continuum includes setting policies on how land is used and redeveloped and how new developments are built. Various planning tools, such as statutory plans, standards, guidelines, bylaws, codes, etc., determine the layout and function of our neighbourhoods, how parcels of land are divided into smaller lots, the necessary infrastructure to service the lots, and how lots are to be used and buildings are to be built.




### Solar Photovoltaic

Solar photovoltaic (PV) cells are small tiles that are combined in groups to make a solar panel. They are electrical semiconductors made up of silicon atoms that convert the sun's energy into electricity. The term solar photovoltaics is sometimes used as a more technical way of saying solar panels.

### Terms of Reference for New Neighbourhoods

The Terms of Reference (TOR) for statutory plans provide information and guidance on creating new Area Structure Plans (ASPs) and Neighbourhood Structure Plan (NSPs) as well as on the process for amending existing statutory plans that are in effect. The goal of the TOR is to enable the creation of unique neighbourhoods to serve Edmontonians while ensuring minimum standards are in place for creating and evaluating the statutory plans that guide their development.

- ASPs lay out an area's long-term development plan and provide a framework for the development of several neighbourhoods at a time. ASPs identifies where residential, commercial, institutional and recreational development will occur, and specifies how essential municipal services such as water, sewer systems, arterial and collector roads, schools, parks and fire protection will be provided.

- NSPs are detailed sub-plans within an ASP. The NSP specifies the land uses within a neighbourhood by type, size, location, facility mapping, and transportation networks.

### Zoning Bylaw 20001

Edmonton's Zoning Bylaw is a document that contains the rules and regulations for the development and use of land in Edmonton. The Zoning Bylaw may be amended over time. Under provincial legislation, all municipalities are required to adopt a land use bylaw. Edmonton's Zoning Bylaw 20001 is our land use bylaw.