

OUR CITY. OUR FUTURE.



# Resilient St. John's Community Climate Plan

What We Heard – Initial Community Conversations

March 2021

ST. JOHN'S

# OUR CITY. OUR FUTURE.



## A Sustainable City



# Disclaimer

- This document provides a summary of what was heard from participants during the first round of engagement of the planning process. It is not meant to reflect the specific details of each submission word-for-word.
- The City produces a What we Heard document for every city-led public engagement project. This collected commentary is shared with the community to ensure we heard you correctly.
- The full scope of commentary including individual submissions and comments, as well as the What we Heard document is used by city staff and Council to help inform recommendations and decisions.

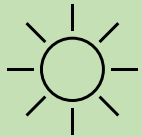
# Background

- The City of St. John's Declared a Climate Emergency in November 2019 and is committed to developing a Climate Plan to guide its actions to address Climate Change.
- The planning process is expected to produce a draft for Council by end of summer 2021.
- The Resilient St. John's Community Climate Plan will identify a 30-year Climate Action Strategy to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases, while re-enforcing efforts to stabilize energy costs by supporting energy efficiency. It will also provide strategies to further prepare the City to address the challenges and opportunities presented by the impacts from climate change.

## Temperature



Increase of  
2.7°C by 2050s  
4.6 °C by 2100

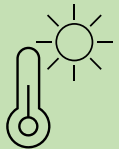


By 2100 maximum summer  
temperature of 30.4 °C



20% longer growing  
season by 2050s

From approx. May 20 – Oct 24  
To approx. May 11 – Nov 4



20% less demand for heating  
97% more demand for cooling



Warmer winter by 3.4 °C with  
25% less icing days by 2050s  
(icing days = days that don't go above 0 °C)



50 less days with frost  
(days with temperatures below zero)

## Changes in Climate in St. John's

From St. John's Climate Trends Report

### Precipitation

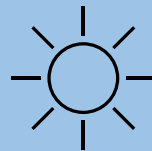


Little change in average  
annual rainfall 5% but  
change in seasonal patterns



Higher likelihood of intense  
storms and flooding

Summer 31% Fall 19% (90<sup>th</sup> PCTL)



Increased frequency of 7%  
dry days



Tropical storms are likely to  
be stronger and bring higher  
intensity rainfall



Wetter winter with 60% less  
snow depth by 2050s

### Sea Level Rise and Coastal Hazards



Increased ocean temperatures  
and coastal erosion

Sea level rise:

Up by 0.7 m by 2100

Up by 0.51 by 2080

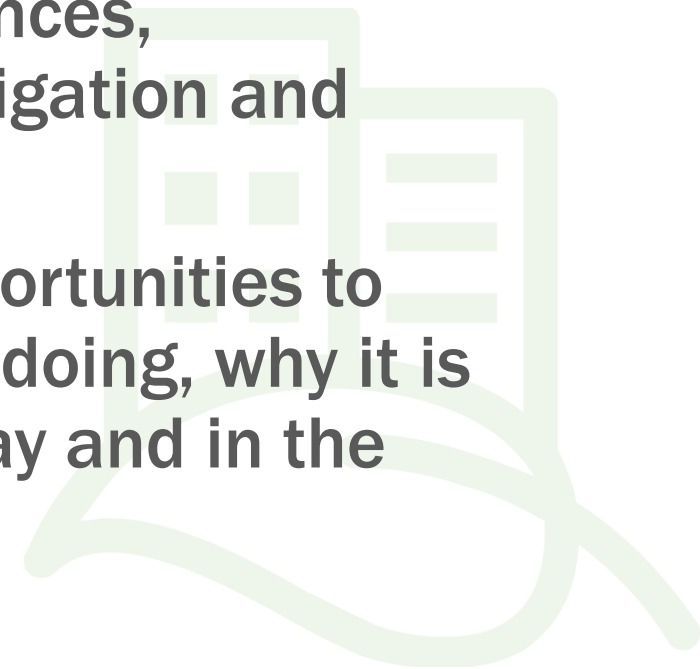
Up by 0.24 by 2060

2010 baseline

(source: DFO's CAN-EWLAT tool)

# Purpose of Engagement

- To initiate the discussion and help identify views on how climate change impacts St. John's; what is important to residents to bounce back; and what greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) mitigating actions are occurring within the community
- To engage with the public on their current experiences, observations, and suggestions related to GHG mitigation and resilience which can help inform the plan.
- Provide educational materials and discussion opportunities to create a shared understanding of what the City is doing, why it is doing it, and how the community is impacted today and in the future.



# Promotion



- City Website News
  - [Oct 13](#) "Understanding Climate Change"
  - [Oct 22](#) "Climate Change and the Economy"
  - [Nov 4](#) "Public Engagement Session"
- St. John's City Guide [Winter 2021](#)
- [Engagestjohns.ca](#) project page (848 unique visitors)
- Three e-mail newsletters delivered through [engagestjohns.ca](#) reaching about 2,831 users each
- City's social media sites:
  - Facebook (reach: 25,480; engagements: 382)
  - Instagram (reach: 11,113; engagements: 213)
  - Twitter (impressions: 93,701; engagements: 1,093)
- Media interviews/coverage – Interviews with councillors and media coverage of momentum actions related to the plan.

# Points of Engagement

- Online at [engagestjohns.ca](https://engagestjohns.ca):
  - An interactive map for the public to input past related hazards they may have experienced (6 locations/events)
  - Two Quick Polls:
    - What is your confidence level in discussing climate change risks and greenhouse gas sources in the community? (46 votes)
    - What is your level of awareness of climate change risks in St. John's? (31 votes)
  - A ranking tool asked:
    - Which criteria is more important to consider when selecting actions for St. John's clean energy transition? (4496 votes)
    - Which action do you think the community should prioritize to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions? (1458 votes)
  - A Q&A Section (received and responded to 8 questions)
- A virtual public session held in November 2020 (14 attendees)

# Points of Engagement

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## To support our community leaders with local information about climate change

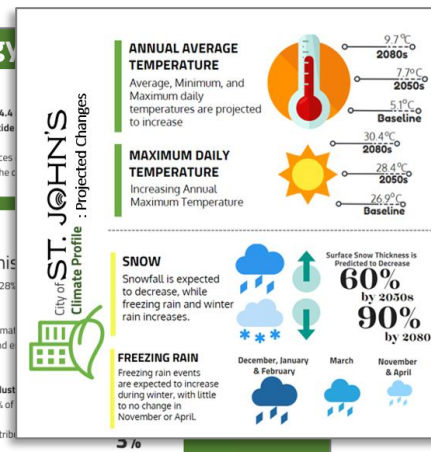
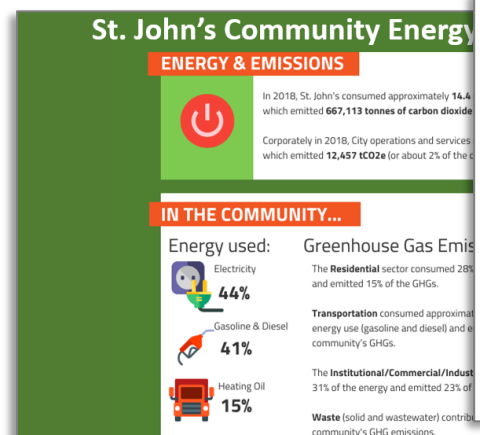
- A toolkit was developed to support community leaders in hosting conversations about climate change and to provide early feedback.
  - Two train-the-trainer style public sessions were held for anyone interested in using this tool (Oct 28 and Oct 29, 2020)
  - The sessions trained 7 members in our community
  - Two feedback forms have been provided to the City by the public from community group virtual events using the toolkit



### DIY Community Climate Workshop

For Community Groups and Citizens of St. John's  
2020

ST. JOHN'S



# Points of Engagement

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## St. John's Multi - Stakeholder Sustainability Team (MSST)

Detailed planning workshops are held with the MSST

Membership includes over 30 stakeholders from organizations in the community selected by the City's Environmental and Sustainability Expert Panel

The launch of the Multi-Stakeholder Sustainability Team provided early perceptions to complement other engagement efforts.

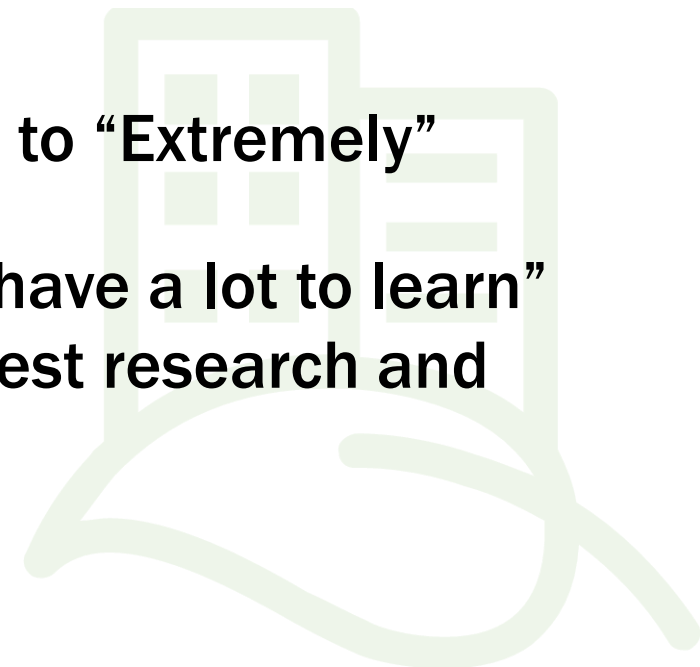


# What We Heard

Two early “quick polls” helped the City understand the existing level of awareness and knowledge to help scope subsequent engagement materials.

Engagestjohns.ca Quick Polls showed:

- **39% of respondents considered themselves “Very” to “Extremely” aware of climate change risks in St. John’s**
- **54% are “Somewhat knowledgeable but feel they have a lot to learn”**
- **37% are “Very Knowledgeable” and “Follow the latest research and information”**
- **2% don’t believe in climate change**



**In a word cloud the most prominent words were mentioned most often.**

- **Plan (well planned)**
- **Active transportation**
- **Energy efficient**
- **NetZero**
- **Resilient**
- **Accessible**
- **Electrified**
- **Adapted**
- **etc. ...**

# What We Heard

Attendees to the public session were asked to identify actions they are personally participating in to lower the community's greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs)



17%

**Buying secondhand  
items instead of new**



14%

**Eating less  
meat and dairy**



13%

**Growing/buying  
local food**



11%

**Keeping food and yard  
waste out of the landfill**



9%

**Taking Transit**



9%

**Vacationing  
closer to home**



[illegible]

transportation

## **Attendees to workshops and public sessions were asked to identify the changes in climate already affecting St. John's**

(in order of agreement)

**More/heavier Rain Storms**

**Changes to Freeze-thaw cycles**

**More Inland Flooding**

**More Coastal and River Bank Erosion**

**Longer/Warmer Summers**

**Changes in Land Ecosystems**

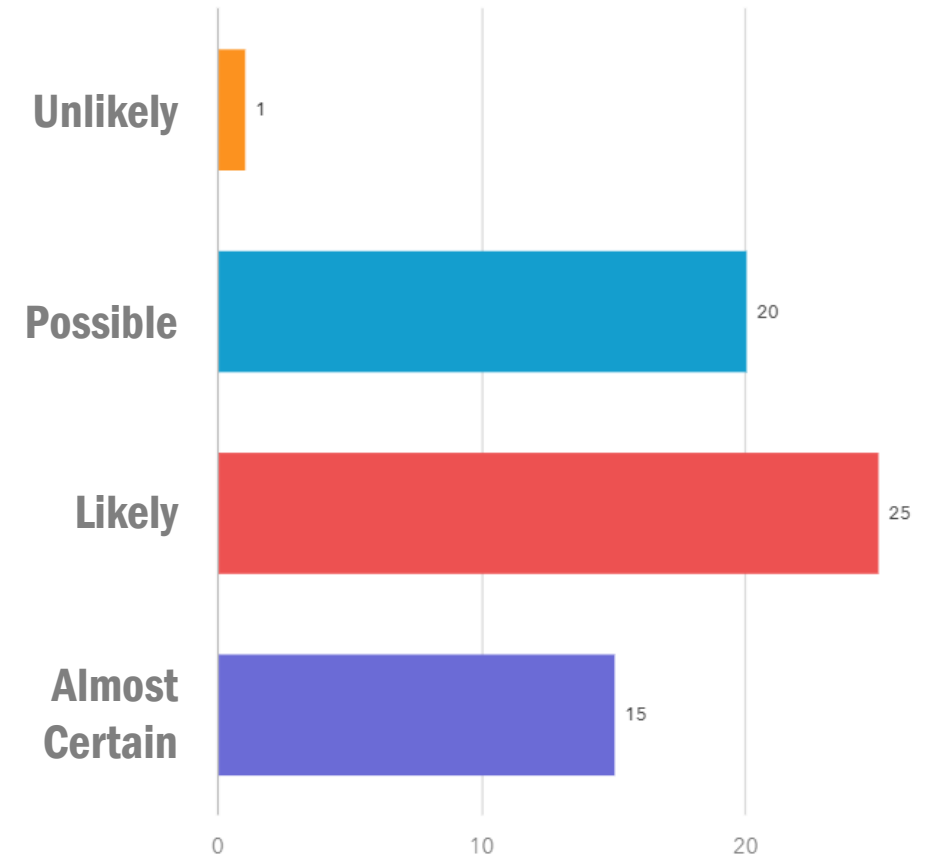
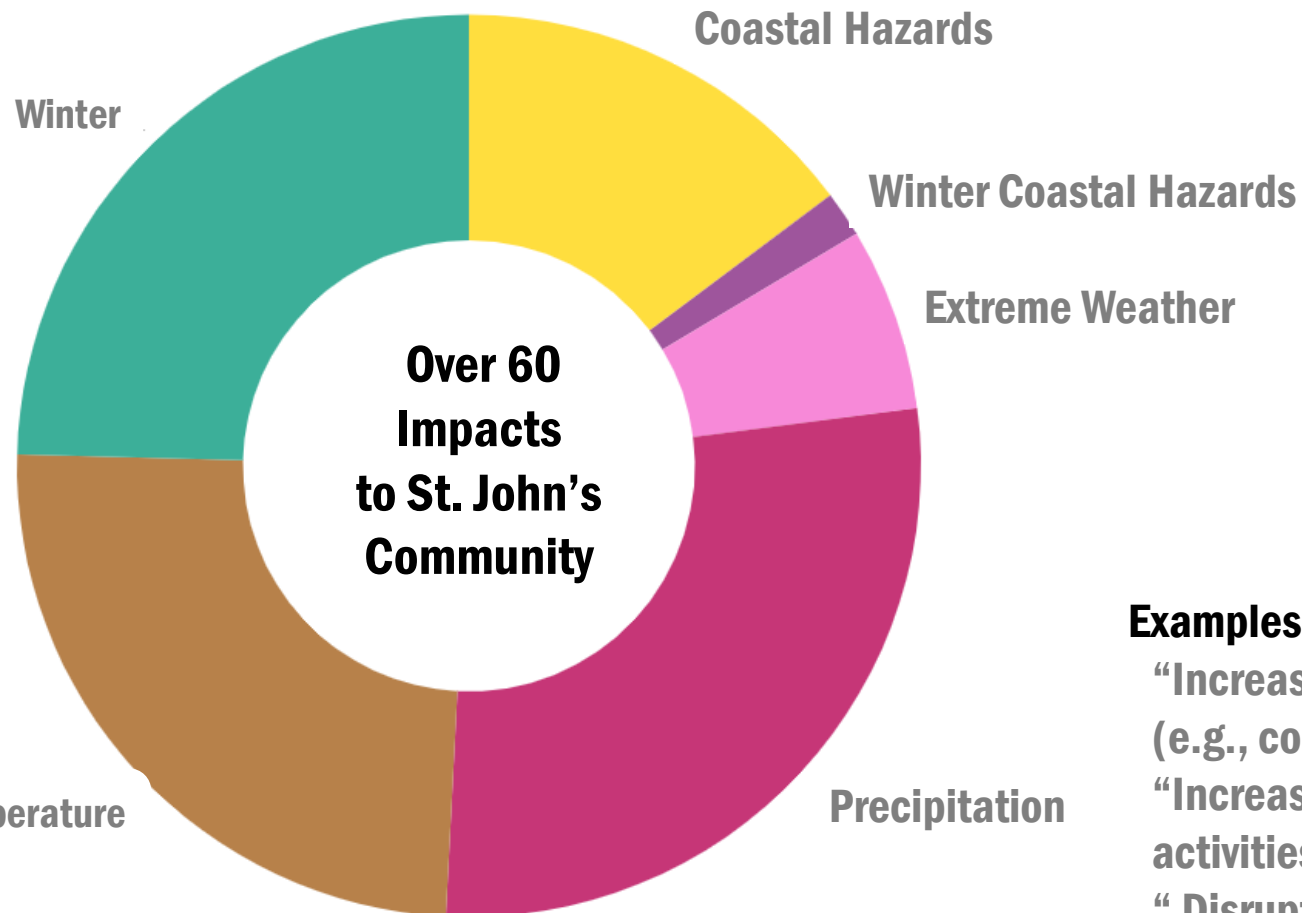
**More Coastal Flooding**

**Changes in Marine Ecosystems**

**Longer Growing Season**

**Less Winter Ice (sea ice and pond ice)**

## Impacts and their likelihood to our Structural, Ecological and Socioeconomic Systems



### Examples:

- “Increased demand on stormwater infrastructure leading to failures (e.g., collapses, washouts)”
- “Increased demand for summer cooling (including cooling/cooled activities for children and youth)”
- “Disruption of marine ecosystems impacting specific species and interconnected food chains”

## Ranking Tool Results:

**Which actions do you think our community should prioritize to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions?** in order of priority (4496 votes)

**Support micro-grid neighbourhood energy sharing (e.g., heating, solar, wind)**

**Improve public transit infrastructure**

**Support local food availability**

**Develop solar/wind farms**

**Improve (residential and commercial) buildings' energy efficiency through passive measures first (airtightness, insulation, triple glazing)**

**Develop neighbourhood energy plans (addressing how energy can be saved and/or generated at the neighbourhood level)**

**Expand the landfill gas collection system to reduce the gas impact on climate change by about 30X**

**Improve active transportation (e.g., trails, bike paths, etc.)**

**Retrofit existing homes and businesses to improve their energy efficiency**

**Install solar, wind, and/or passive heat systems on commercial buildings**

## Ranking Tool Results:

Which criteria is more important to consider when selecting actions?

in order of priority (1458 votes)

**CLEAN WATER**, impact on water pollution

**PUBLIC HEALTH**, impact on chronic diseases and injuries and support for a physically and mentally healthy population

**CLEAN AIR**, impact on air pollution

**GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS**, impact on GHG reductions

**RESILIENCE**, impact on capacity to survive, adapt and grow despite chronic stresses (e.g., seasonal change) or acute shocks (e.g., natural disasters).

**BIODIVERSITY**, impact on the variety of life locally or internationally

**ACCESS TO GREEN SPACE**, impact on opportunity for citizens to experience parks and green spaces

**ENERGY SECURITY**, impact on a stable and reliable energy generation and delivery system

**QUALITY AFFORDABLE HOUSING**, impact on safe housing options in various price ranges

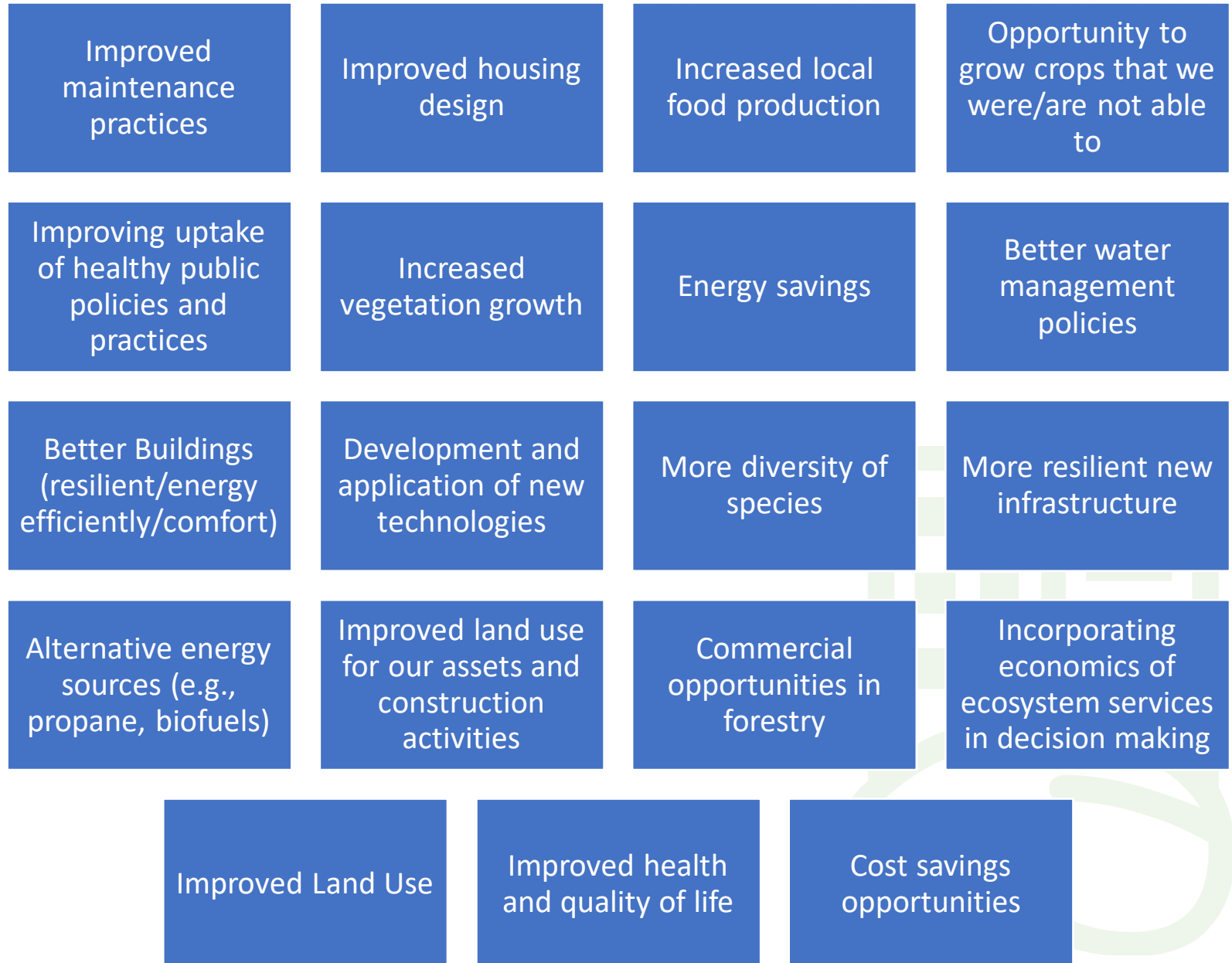
**MOBILITY**, impact on affordable, convenient access to key destinations for all community members through transportation options

# What We Heard

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**Attendees to workshops and public sessions identified the following opportunities and co-benefits from climate action and the changes in climate in St. John's**



# Next Steps

- Identify and rank consequences for each of the identified impacts to finalize the Climate Change Risk Assessment to prioritize adaptation on impacts of most consequence to our community
- Incorporate insights, ideas and criteria in Community Energy and GHG model to evaluate impact of actions in our Community to ensure an equitable and economically viable plan (e.g., GHG reductions, energy savings, household cashflow)
- 2021 Engagement will be focused on the strategies and actions and their priority developed with the Multi-Stakeholder Sustainability Team and the Environmental and Sustainability Expert Panel
- To stay informed about this project, visit [engagestjohns.ca](https://engagestjohns.ca) and register to receive emails.