



**E.L. Smith Solar Farm
Community Integration Workshop Series**

WHAT WE HEARD REPORT

WORKSHOP 1 and WORKSHOP 2

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Executive Summary

EPCOR is proposing to build a 12 MW solar facility adjacent to the E.L. Smith Water Treatment Plant in Edmonton. As part of the overall solar project, the EPCOR project team invited community members and organizations to collaborate on the E.L. Smith Solar Farm Project Community Integration Workshop Series. This workshop series included pre-consultation stakeholder interviews, two in-person workshops (December 5, 2018 and January 23, 2019), and two subsequent What We Heard Reports. The purpose of the series was to hear ideas from stakeholders on how EPCOR could best integrate the proposed solar farm into the community.

Highlights from Workshop 1 and 2 stakeholder ideas include:

- Strong support for native and natural plantings within the solar farm and adjacent areas as well as potential for pollinator gardens
- The importance of wildlife connectivity in the area
- Access for Edmontonians, visitors and researchers to learn about solar technology and related aspects of solar development
- Celebrating the Indigenous history and culture related to the site and surrounding context
- Partnerships with elementary and high schools, post-secondary institutions, Community Leagues and the City of Edmonton to build programming and research opportunities.

Stakeholders and the EPCOR project team engaged in lively discussions, challenges, and creative problem solving. This document provides the outcomes from both workshops as well as a transcription of notes table facilitators documented. The first section is the Workshop 1 What We Heard Report that used the Community Integration Workshop Series project objectives as a starting point for discussion. The purpose of Workshop 1 was to collaborate with key stakeholders to find creative approaches and identify partnerships to achieve project objectives. Workshop 2 was an opportunity for the design team to present concepts developed from what was discussed at Workshop 1. At Workshop 2, stakeholders reviewed the concepts and provided feedback for EPCOR to further refine the concepts.

This report consolidates the engagement reporting for the Community Integration Workshop Series. Architectural Works is in the process of developing refined concepts that will be distributed to stakeholders.



E.L. Smith Solar Farm Community Integration Workshop Series

WHAT WE HEARD REPORT – WORKSHOP 1

Prepared by:
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January 16, 2018

Introduction

Workshop 1 – What We Heard Report

This report is a record of the ideas generated by stakeholders at Workshop 1. It also drafts an organizing framework for the project team to begin refining some of the key ideas. The EPCOR project team and Architectural Works will use this report as one of their resources when creating design concepts and approaches for community integration project objectives that will be reviewed by stakeholders at Workshop 2.

Project Background

EPCOR is proposing a 12 MW (megawatts) ground mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) system adjacent to the E.L. Smith Water Treatment Plant in Edmonton, Alberta.

The E.L. Smith Solar Farm Project Community Integration Workshop Series is being hosted by EPCOR to engage with community organizations to hear innovative and unique ways EPCOR could potentially implement for the solar farm, should it be approved. At the time this report was developed, EPCOR had applications under consideration with the Alberta Utilities Commission and the City of Edmonton.

Before filing the Facility Application (FA) with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC), EPCOR had over 750 conversations about the project. This consultation included compiling and assessing all of the information received. The input provided has been used to inform the project design and will continue to be used as EPCOR moves forward.

As a result of the feedback received to date, EPCOR revised plans to:

- Reduce the overall project footprint in an



effort to address concerns relating to aesthetics, land reclamation, environment and wildlife.

- Increase the space between the river and the proposed project fence line. This will provide more natural area along the river than is currently present.
- Provide the City of Edmonton with access through the property (outside the solar farm fence line) for future recreational trails to ensure connectivity of the surrounding trail system.

EPCOR's engagement process is ongoing and will continue until project completion. The community integration workshop is an example of EPCOR's efforts to continue engaging with the surrounding community regarding the proposed solar development.

As part of the application processes, EPCOR developed five project objectives related to community integration. They were used as a starting point for discussions at Workshop 1 and include:

Community Integration Workshop Series - Project Objectives

1. Integrate the solar farm into the North Saskatchewan River Valley and plan for future trails proposed by the City of Edmonton's *Ribbon of Green*.
2. Enhance the solar farm aesthetics and the natural landscape.
3. Provide educational opportunities about the history and cultural resources of the land in collaboration with stakeholders and Indigenous communities.
4. Construct an interactive public demonstration site to showcase the Solar Farm and provide education and awareness about solar technology.
5. Establish long-term partnerships and hands-on learning opportunities to support educational and research opportunities associated with solar energy generation.

Community Integration Workshop 1 - Overview

Stakeholder mapping

A substantial amount of stakeholder identification, engagement and outreach was initiated by EPCOR as part of AUC Rule 007 – Public Consultation Requirements beginning in 2016.

Stakeholder mapping from that work was used as the starting point for the Community Integration Workshop series stakeholder list development. In addition to that initial list, groups that would have an interest or knowledge in areas related to the Community Integration Workshop Series project objectives were also identified as potential stakeholders.

In total, 34 organizations were contacted to investigate whether the Community Integration Workshop series was of interest to their organization. Direct outreach occurred to 64 individuals to confirm key representative for those organizations between October 25th and November 26th. Twenty-eight individuals confirmed their attendance prior to Workshop 1 and represented 18 different organizations and/or departments.

Invited Stakeholder Organizations

- Alberta Culture and Tourism
- Cameron Heights Community League
- City of Edmonton, Energy Transition Team (declined); Ribbon of Green Project (declined)
- Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations (unable to attend)
- Edmonton Catholic Schools
- Edmonton Heritage Council
- Edmonton Native Plant Group
- Edmonton Public Schools
- EPCOR community advisory panel
- Make Something Edmonton (declined)
- Northern Alberta Institute of Technology
- North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance
- River Valley Alliance (declined)
- Solar People
- South West Edmonton Seniors Association (declined)
- The Ridge Community League
- University of Alberta, Department of Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science and Planning; Future Energy Systems, Department of Renewable Resources
- Wedgewood Community League
- Wild Rose Ramblers

Pre-workshop interviews

The time stakeholders commit to participate in workshops is extremely valuable, particularly given that the majority of stakeholders are likely volunteering for the organization they represent. To ensure stakeholders' time commitments are well spent, pre-workshop interviews were conducted with five individuals representing a diversity

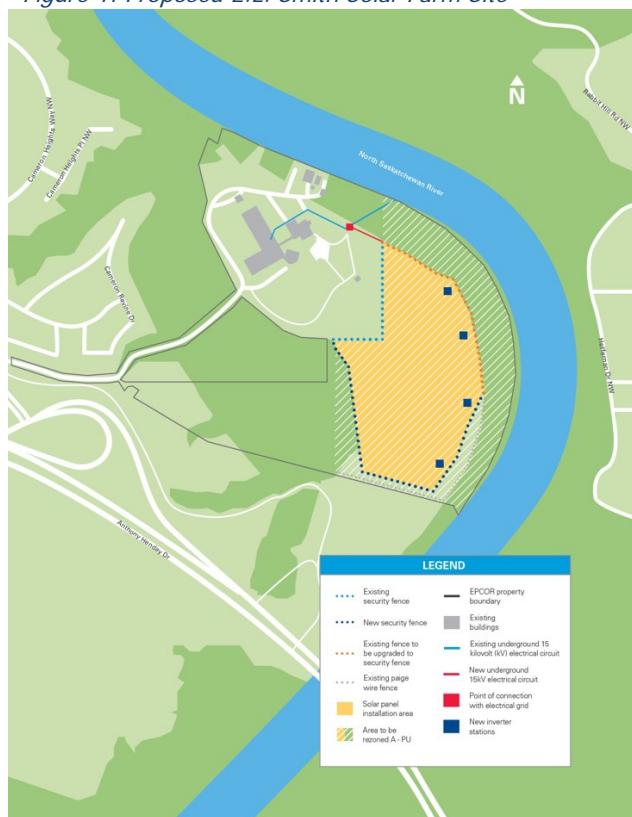
of stakeholder groups to test the workshop design and to improve the approach if required. Interview participants were asked to describe the focus of their organization/provide insight into the type of work they do; asked about their expectations for the workshop; whether they had questions about the workshop and its purpose; if they were interested in attending a tour of the potential project site; and were given the opportunity to provide additional thoughts or comments.

In summary, pre-workshop interviews indicated the purpose of the workshop was well understood; that overall the expectations for the workshop was to find out more about the project and contribute ideas to how the project could be best integrated into the area.

Site tours

Two site tours of the proposed project area and the E.L. Smith Water Treatment Plant were offered to stakeholders. The dates for the tours were Saturday, December 1 from 1:00 to 3:00 and the second was offered Tuesday December 4 from 3:00 – 5:00. Nine stakeholders attended the site tours prior to the workshop to better understand the context of the proposed project.

Figure 1: Proposed E.L. Smith Solar Farm Site



Workshop 1 Agenda

The following agenda was provided to stakeholders via email on November 26, 2018:

Workshop Location: Rossmore Water Treatment Plant,
Watermark building - 9469 Rossmore Road

Date: Wednesday, December 5th

Time: 1:00 – 5:00

Workshop Begins	1:00
Introductions	1:00 – 1:35
EPCOR, E.L. Smith Solar Farm Proposal: Overview, Project Objectives	1:35 – 2:10
Alberta Culture and Tourism, Site History	2:10 – 2:25
Architectural Works, Physical Context Mapping	2:25 – 2:30
BREAK	2:30 – 2:40
Innovation and Collaboration – Working Sessions	2:40 – 3:55
BREAK	3:55 – 4:10
Ideas Tour and Prioritization	4:10 – 4:30
Top Ideas - Discussion	4:30 – 4:45
Next steps, What We Hear Report and Workshop 2	4:45 – 4:50
Feedback Survey	4:50 – 5:00
Workshop Ends	5:00

Workshop 1

Introductions

At the outset of the workshop, participants were asked to pair with a person they did not know so they could interview them to find out their name, the organization they represent, and how they found out about the EPCOR E.L. Smith Solar Farm Project.

Then each person introduced their partner to the larger group.

This provided participants with an introduction to the organizations represented in the room and provided EPCOR with an understanding of the ways outreach was occurring for groups in Edmonton.

The majority of participants had been in direct contact with EPCOR prior to the workshop and found out about it that way. A small number of participants had found out about the project through social media (3).

Presentations

EPCOR presented an overview of the E.L. Smith Solar Farm project, engagement to date and the overall approvals process.

Caroline Hudecek-Cuffe, an archeologist with Alberta Culture and Tourism (ACT) provided historical and archeological insights into the Edmonton river valley and E.L. Smith site.

Once the presentations were completed, Architectural Works introduced the table maps of the site as well as the precedent document for participants to use if they needed thought starters related to the objectives.

Working Sessions

Participants were then asked to move to the table with the objective they were most interested in. To begin the discussion, table facilitators asked participants to brainstorm ideas on how to achieve the objective they were discussing. *What kinds of programming, design or collaboration could take place to achieve the objective?*

Approximately 30 minutes of discussion and idea sharing took place before participants were asked to move to the next table of their choice. In total, there were 4 table moves and participants were given the opportunity to view the outcomes of the table they did not participate at.

To wrap up the working session, participants were each given 2 green dots representing \$100 each. They were asked to 'spend' their money where they thought it would be best used.

Outcomes

Ideas from each table were captured on flip charts and table maps. (See Appendix A for a transcription of the ideas generated by objective). The following section organizes ideas from the different tables into two categories: physical and programming.

A physical item is something that can be built, requires a location, or is a change to the landscape. A programming idea relates to research, education, information and site tours. By organizing the ideas this way, the project team will be able to develop design concepts for the physical elements and consider programming ideas for discussion at Workshop 2.

Items that had ‘dollars’ spent on them are listed below with the highest ranked items first.

- Research
 - Environmental impact research [5 votes]
 - Wildlife mobility
 - Soil erosion
 - Bird habitat
 - Plants
 - Plant different vegetation in different sections of the plan for research studies
 - Huge data gaps on the effect of solar on birds
 - Is there a “lake effect” in this climate?
 - Compare diversity before and after construction
 - Fencing – impacts on wildlife
 - Pollinators – how the bees react to the sound
 - Test hives in different places around the site
 - Research reclamation opportunities at the planned site.
 - Vantage point to view equipment/gazebo [2 votes]
 - Waterproof structure/building
 - Lower level information displays with information on walls
 - Four-tiered vegetation ground cover
 - Mosses, forbes/grasses, shrubs/understory, trees [2 votes]
 - Allow researchers ongoing access to the site to collect data. [1 vote]
 - Tie solar farm into existing elementary school tours of the Water Treatment Plant (WTP). [1 vote]
 - Site tours for technologists [1 vote]
 - Continue stakeholder connection with Indigenous (i.e. ceremony, ecological knowledge). [1 vote]
 - Alternative battery storage usage/demos and lifecycle of the solar energy usage [1 vote]
 - [Solar panels] could also be located in the local communities at public buildings
 - i.e. Cameron Heights [1 vote]
 - The Ridge Community Leagues proposed new building [1 vote]
 - i.e. solar panels – lighting on the new public building
 - Consider areas outside the fenceline of the site (i.e area in the SE) [1 vote]
 - Wave design of panels, or accentuate elevations of panels [1 vote]

- Walking path through section of solar farm [1 vote]
 - Counterpoint made that there are too many paths in the river valley already
- Olmsted like landscape architecture [1 vote]
 - See: <http://www.olmsted.org/the-olmsted-legacy/olmsted-theory-and-design-principles/design-principles>
- Native plants suitable to site and context [1 vote]
- Interpretive points for historic and cultural resources (in collaboration with Indigenous communities) along the trails [1 vote]
- Website with real time data for students to learn about the project. And for public information. [1 vote]

The following table organizes Workshop 1 ideas by two categories: programming and design. Items the project team thought should be considered even though no votes were allocated are included in the list.

PROGRAMMING
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Environmental Impact research [5 votes] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Wildlife mobility ■ Soil erosion ■ Bird habitat ■ Plants ■ Plant different vegetation in different sections of the plan for research studies ■ Huge data gaps on the effect of solar on birds ■ Is there a “lake effect” in this climate? ■ Compare diversity before and after construction ■ Fencing – impacts on wildlife ■ Pollinators – how the bees react to the sound. ■ Test hives in different places around the site. ■ Research reclamation opportunities at the site.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow researchers ongoing access to the site to collect data. [1 vote]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site tours for technologists [1 vote]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tie solar farm into existing elementary school tours of the Water Treatment Plant (WTP). [1 vote]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue stakeholder connection with Indigenous communities (i.e. ceremony, ecological knowledge). [1 vote]

- Incorporate Indigenous knowledge into the area (i.e. connected to the sun, plant species)
- Incorporate how the land is important to Indigenous communities (it's alive, needs to be respected, etc.)
- Invite Indigenous communities to create art work and display it at the site (once a year running for a week)
- Have a cultural day and if there is an opportunity (if pollinators) to sell honey at this event.
- Opportunities for public to make art (historical theme) in the river valley at the cultural day.
- Use ungulates for vegetation management

DESIGN

- Vantage point to view equipment/gazebo [2 votes]
 - Waterproof structure/building
 - Lower level information displays with information on walls
- Parking
- Washrooms
- Trail maps
- Destinations
 - How to reach nearby neighbourhoods from trails
- Incorporate Cree names into interpretive signage
- Consider areas outside the fenceline of the site (i.e area in the SE) [1 vote]
- [Solar panels] could also be located in the local communities at public buildings
 - i.e. Cameron Heights [1 vote]
 - The Ridge Community Leagues proposed new building [1 vote]
 - i.e. solar panels – lighting on the new building
- Wave design of panels, or accentuate elevations of panels [1 vote]

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking path through section of solar farm [1 vote] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Counterpoint made that there are too many paths in the river valley already
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work murals into potential sound barrier walls or into the potential gardens
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical and current art being displayed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpretive points for historic and cultural resources (in collaboration with Indigenous communities) along the trails [1 vote]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Viewing points for solar farm, see-through fencing to view technology
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living/live wall integrated (noise abatement and beauty)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural berms to create fencing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four-tiered vegetation ground cover <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mosses, forbes/grasses, shrubs/understory, trees [2 votes]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Olmsted like landscape architecture [1 vote] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ See: http://www.olmsted.org/the-olmsted-legacy/olmsted-theory-and-design-principles/design-principles
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native plants suitable to site and context [1 vote] • Plant different vegetation in different sections of the plan for research studies • Pollinator friendly in demo area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ May not be practical across whole area • Seasonal flowering for beautification
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildlife information: birds, vegetation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bee hotels • Bat houses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dashboard/screen on trail with generation and GHG reductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – historical <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In terms of vehicles removed off the roads. ○ How much energy to get a glass of clean water? ○ How much energy intensity of water (pumping, all WTP costs)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternative battery storage usage/demos and lifecycle of the solar energy usage [1 vote] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Demos and small-scale pilots along the pathway and destination
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Website with real time data for students</u> to learn about the project. And for public information. [1 vote]

'Parking Lot' Questions

During the workshop, participants were offered the opportunity to post questions that may be outside the scope of work being conducted at the workshop. Below is a list of participants' comments and questions. EPCOR will be providing responses to each of the items listed below in a separate document.

1. *AUC – environmental evaluation. Document location on web?*
2. *What is the entire area that EPCOR owns in the River Valley near E.L. Smith Water treatment plant? (Not only the proposed project area and existing plant).*
3. *Was there a life cycle analysis completed on the project? I had asked in July 2017 consultation. Eg. The manufacture of the solar panels in countries without similar regulatory legislation. I did not get a response.*
4. *Design of fence that considers noise abatement and is aesthetically naturally pleasing to blend into the natural river valley parkland. (the invertors will add noise to the proposed Anthony Henday expansion as well as Terwilliger Drive expansion).*
5. *Add noise abatement to #2 (enhance the solar farm aesthetics and the natural landscapes).*
6. *What is the cumulative effect of proposed noise of Anthony Henday expansion and Terwillegar Drive?*
7. *How will additional infrastructure (i.e. viewing platforms, demo sites, trail network) affect approvals process and will consult with stakeholders be continued with respect to those “extra” components?*

Next Steps

The second E.L. Smith Community Integration Workshop will be held on January 23rd from 1:00 to 5:00. The venue is currently planned for the same location: Rossdale Water Treatment Plant, Watermark Building.

At this workshop, the project team will present design concepts and ideas for potential programming for the site and around the site. As participants, you will be asked to provide your input on the following areas:

- i. Framing the ideas.

- a. Does the framing reflect the outcomes of Workshop 1?
 - b. Have we missed anything?
- ii. Conceptual level designs and programming.
 - a. Are there suggestions for how the concepts or programming could be improved?
 - b. Are some ideas *not* worth pursuing further?
 - c. What ideas are exciting for your organization?
 - d. Are there organizations interested in developing some of these ideas?

If you would like to comment on the contents of the *What We Heard Report* prior to workshop 2, please contact Kelly Learned by email (kelly@frankplans.com). Comments will be documented for the project team to consider. See you January 23rd at 1:00!

If you would like more information on the proposed E.L. Smith Solar Farm Project and the other engagement work being hosted by EPCOR please contact:

greenproject@epcor.com
780-412-3599
Epcor.com/consultation

Appendix A

Notes Transcribed from Workshop 1

E.L. SMITH SOLAR FARM PROJECT – COMMUNITY INTEGRATION WORKSHOP SERIES

Objective 1: Integrate the solar farm into the North Saskatchewan River Valley and plan for future trails proposed by the City of Edmonton's Ribbon of Green.

p.1

- Parking and washrooms needs for solar farm "demonstration site"
- Signage and maps for trails and destinations
- Representation of archeological excavation site with display of findings
- Wildlife information (signage) – birds, vegetation
- Gazebo
- Trails resistant to erosion
- No panel design
- Flowering vegetation (sunflowers) under panels
- Walking path/area through a section of the solar farm [1 vote]
- Bee hotels
- Bat houses

p.2

- Viewing stand
- Allow access to solar farm
- Signage for water treatment plant
- Information about how water treatment plant is provided electricity from solar farm
- Displays (live/real time) for MWh= X CO² (GHG) reduction
 - = ~ number of cars off the road
- How to best reach neighbourhoods from trails
- Provide education/sponsorship for new Community League buildings in adjacent neighbourhoods (Cameron Heights, the Ridge)

p.3

- Look at initiatives to provide benefits to adjacent neighbourhoods
 - To assist with solar use/application in surrounding communities
- Education about solar [1 vote]
- Demo site
- Alternative battery storage usage/demos and lifecycle of the solar energy usage [1 vote]
- Application end-point
- There are demos and then small-scale pilots into the river valley context.
- Demos along the pathway and destination
- Interactive
- Maybe some open areas/viewing point for solar farm

p.4

- What if the solar farm was opened in the 'middle' so people could walk through it?
- Too many trails in the river valley already
 - Not supportive of a paved trail
 - Preference of non-paved trails

Objective 2: Enhance the solar farm aesthetics and the natural landscape.

p.1

- Add noise abatement to objective
- "noise reducer" added to inverter stations
- Living/live wall, integrated in landscape, fencing system that absorbs sound
- Consider "beauty" as adding value
- Wildlife visibility when planning fence
- Use trees for screening and or noise reduction, including coniferous specific to soils and landscape on site (deciduous won't block sound)
- Olmsted like landscape architecture [1 vote]

p.2

- Determine native plants suitable [1 vote]
- Consider 4-tiered vegetation ground cover (mosses, forbes/grasses, shrubs/understory, trees) [2 votes]
- Learning from 'green roof' research in Edmonton
- NSERC funded interest in pollinator plants in solar
- Pollinator friendly in demo area, may not be practical across whole area
- Ungulates for vegetation management [1 vote]

- Maintain top soil

p.3

- No barb wire
- Elk-fencing consideration
- Need to determine height
- Consideration for ecological balance at site (mice/voles, coyotes, hawks, etc.)
- "See-thru" fencing, ability to see new tech
- Some areas may have screening, others may not
- 'wave' design of panels, or accentuates elevations of panels [1 vote]
- Treating solar farm as artpiece
 - Colouring of infrastructure
- Using panels as canvas for lighting at night-time
 - Light pollution concerns

p.4

- Seasonal flowering for beautification
- Consider areas outside of fence, not just in fence line (area in SE) [1 vote]
- Consider post-solar (30+years) needs and in landscaping decisions

Objective 3: Provide educational opportunities about the history and cultural resources of the land in collaboration with stakeholders and Indigenous communities.

p.1

- Interpretive points (at solar farm site) and along the trails with a wide variety of topics – done through consultation [1 vote]
- Incorporate species at the site (allow access for collection)
- Incorporate indigenous education into school/public program
- Incorporate Indigenous knowledge of the area (i.e. connected to the sun, plant species)
- Continue stakeholder SH connection with Indigenous (i.e. ceremony, ecological knowledge). Doesn't just stop at the implementation of the project. [1 vote]

p.2

- History of the land over last 100 – 200 years to see transition of the site
 - Evolution of energy generation
- Incorporate resources and information on EPCOR and City of Edmonton websites

- Indigenous knowledge aspect with artifacts incorporated into a school program
- Put information into museums on solar farm and first nations and archeological site and the findings from the site. The importance of the site.

p.3

- Incorporate indigenous knowledge into existing water treatment plant tours and educate information on the First Nations lifestyle and how they lived
- Knowledge on the importance of the history in Indigenous at this site – pamphlets, print media, putting up signage at water treatment plant
- Incorporate Cree names into interpretive signage
- Opportunity for Indigenous to name the site based on archeological history (name would be in addition to the solar farm name)
- Incorporate how the land is important to Indigenous (it's alive, needs to be respected, etc.)

p.4

- Create a mock of an archeological site and place it on water treatment plant site to educate public and for tours
- Historical and current art being displayed
- Invite Indigenous to create art work and display it at the site (once a year running for a week)
- The First Nations (one individual) did participate in the digging of the site – you could turn this into a story
- Add natural history into interpretation signage
- Work murals into potential sound barrier walls or into the potential gardens
- Make replicas of artifacts and use as education

p. 5

- Have a cultural day and if there is an opportunity (if pollinators) to sell honey at this event.
- Put a mural up at "The winter lodge"
- As part of the school program kids could make an archeological artifact and take it home
- Energy use natural resources/timeline for the last xx years/evolution
- Opportunities for public to make art (historical theme) in the river valley at the cultural day.

Objective 4: Construct an interactive public demonstration site to showcase the Solar Farm and provide education and awareness about solar technology.

p.1

- Y Local data node posting to a website
 - o Like a company landing page with free wifi
 - o Giving live stats
 - o Ex. Leduc CRC TV, but not getting exposed to elements
 - o Self powered
 - o Different nodes have different information
 - Ex. Calgary's heritage park, hike nodes take you through time
 - Y Historic
 - Y Solar
 - Y After 30 years
 - o Future energy: river fusion
 - o Plant expansion
- Y Show things people don't know
 - o Tilt angles
 - o Snow effects
 - o DC/AC functions
 - o Scale model for the demo site/up close panels
 - o History of technology
- Y Displays on watering
- Y Align with AB curriculum
 - o Electricity/physics
 - o Biology
 - Pollinators/biodiversity
 - Natural landscape
- Y Other
 - o Natural berms to create fencing
 - o Careful planning with pollinator gardens to ensure use of native/non- invasive species. (positive response to idea)
- Y Vantage point to view equipment/gazebo [2 votes]
 - o Waterproof structure/building
 - o Lower level information displays with information on walls

- Y Include other stories for area, not just the solar farm
 - o River's history
 - o Power of glacial retreat
- Y Interactive displays
 - o Tilt angles you can touch/change power output
 - o Crank shafts
 - o Create electricity
- Y Energy is water/water is energy
 - o Pumping, storage and potential energy of water
 - o Banff's water energy reservoir/pumped hydro
 - o Solar's role
- Y How long it takes for a photon to get from the sun to the panel?
To get turned to electron?
- Y Opportunity to give feedback? To make the story less a monologue. Ex.
Speaker's Corner
 - o Instagram contests/hashtags

p.3

- Y Guided areas with more interactive displays and fixed plaques along the out areas.
- Y Consider the voice:
 - o Zoo, government, industry, academics (may want to partner to get better acceptance of information), national /Alberta/ Edmonton tense, work with schools to gear towards kids
- Y Information packs to gather information
 - o Handouts to gather information at each site/area along the trail
 - o Scavenger hunt/clipboard exercise
- Y Tie it into the water plant/cycle
 - o Energy needed to get water to house
 - o How water is distributed
 - o Make it relatable/so they can see scale
 - o Drive a tesla from xx to Edmonton...algebra
- Y Changing land use of the river valley as part of history. Balance of technology and nature
- Y Create energy literacy
 - o Changes in regulations over time
 - o Efficiency changes and scale
- Y It's more than solar

p.4

- Y Provide research access and opportunities to Universities
- Y Small scale demonstration panels
 - o School bus drives around large panels
 - o A panel for students to take apart and rebuild
- Y Building/construction process
 - o Hold/touch silica
- Y On website
 - o Include contacts/information for research opportunities and where to obtain data for projects/collaboration opportunities
 - o Database of central data
 - o Area to use for testing theories
 - o Templates for documentation
 - ex. From the AUC docs/application

Objective 5: Establish long-term partnerships and hands-on learning opportunities to support educational and research opportunities associated with solar energy generation.

p.1

- Tie solar farm into existing elementary school tours of the Water Treatment Plant (WTP). [1 vote]
- Website with real time data for students to learn about the project. And for public information. [1 vote]
- Dashboard/screen on trail with generation and GHG reductions – historical
- In terms of vehicles removed off the roads
- Interactive educational activities.
- How much energy to get a glass of clean water?
- How much energy intensity of water (pumping, all WTP costs)
- For Researchers
 - o Data
 - o Demo – sized accessible panels and interactive.
- Smart phones – nodes to connect to App

p. 2

- Mini demo of smart grid system
 - o Interactive

- Research
 - Environmental Impact research [5 votes]
 - Wildlife mobility
 - Soil erosion
 - Bird habitat
 - Plants
 - Plant different vegetation in different sections of the plan for research studies
 - Huge data gaps on the effect of solar on birds
 - Is there a “lake effect” in this climate?
- Compare diversity before and after construction
- Fencing – impacts on wildlife
- Pollinators – how the bees react to the sound.
- Test hives in different places around the site.

p. 3

- Research Reclamation opportunities at the plan site
- Plant is easily accessible by students
- NAIT: expansion, connecting generators
- Microgrid and battery with controller
 - NAIT students to assist with design
- Researchers get access to data
- MOU's with UofA and NAIT
 - Identify opportunities
 - Then work with professors on various aspects of the plant

p. 4

- We are currently lacking research on environmental interaction of solar sites.
- Data to Connect
 - Weather stations on site to monitor impact on generation
 - Impact of micro-climates on generation
 - Noise monitoring for neighbourhoods) – inverters
 - Amphitheatre effect in the valley

p.5

- Site tours for technologists [1 vote]
- Education:
 - With hands on opportunity to build a demo solar/micro-grid system
 - NAIT students – assemble racking and the panels as part of a course module

- How are we disposing of the solar panels?
- Micro-grid – chance to study grid management
 - “PIC” Centre (productivity Innovation Centre)
- Look at providing energy to the capacity market

p. 6

- Understand impact of piles on the archaeology after decommissioning
- Efficiency of solar panels under local weather conditions
 - Impact of snow on output
- How can we improve the energy efficiency of the panels?
- Use weather forecasts to predict solar generation.
- Allow researchers ongoing access to the site to collect data. [1 vote]
- Look at replacing with newer technology panels over time.

p. 7

- Interactive/Education (applied project) sites [1 vote]
- Could also be located in the local communities at public buildings
 - i.e. Cameron Heights [1 vote]
 - The Ridge Community Leagues proposed new building [1 vote]
 - i.e. solar panels – lighting on the new public building



E.L. Smith Solar Farm
Community Integration Workshop Series

WHAT WE HEARD REPORT – WORKSHOP 2

Prepared by:
Kelly Learned
FRANK planning collaborative

March 25, 2019

Project Background

EPCOR is proposing a 12 MW (megawatts) ground mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) system adjacent to the E.L. Smith Water Treatment Plant in Edmonton, Alberta.

The E.L. Smith Solar Farm Project Community Integration Workshop Series is being hosted by EPCOR to engage with community organizations to hear innovative and unique ways EPCOR could potentially implement for the solar farm, should it be approved. At the time this report was developed, EPCOR had applications under consideration with the Alberta Utilities Commission and the City of Edmonton.

Before filing the Facility Application (FA) with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC), EPCOR had over 750 conversations about the project. This consultation included compiling and assessing all of the information received. The input provided has been used to inform the project design and will continue to be used as EPCOR moves forward.

As a result of the feedback received to date, EPCOR revised plans to:

- Reduce the overall project footprint in an effort to address concerns relating to aesthetics, land reclamation, environment and wildlife.
- Increase the space between the river and the proposed project fenceline. This will provide more natural area along the river than is currently present.
- Provide the City of Edmonton with access through the property (outside the solar farm fence line) for future recreational trails to ensure



connectivity of the surrounding trail system.

EPCOR's engagement process is ongoing and will continue throughout the duration of the project. The Community Integration Workshop series is an example of EPCOR's efforts to continue engaging with the surrounding community regarding the proposed solar development.

As part of the application processes, EPCOR developed 5 project objectives related to community integration. They were used as a starting point for discussions at Workshop 1 and include:

Community Integration Workshop Series - Project Objectives

1. Integrate the solar farm into the North Saskatchewan River Valley and plan for future trails proposed by the City of Edmonton's *Ribbon of Green*.
2. Enhance the solar farm aesthetics and the natural landscape.
3. Provide educational opportunities about the history and cultural resources of the land in collaboration with stakeholders and Indigenous communities.
4. Construct an interactive public demonstration site to showcase the Solar Farm and provide education and awareness about solar technology.
5. Establish long-term partnerships and hands-on learning opportunities to support educational and research opportunities associated with solar energy generation.

Introduction

Workshop 2 – What We Heard Report

The Workshop 2 What We Heard report provides a summary of stakeholder feedback on the preliminary concept ideas presented by EPCOR and Architectural Works. Stakeholders were asked to review the concepts as presented, consider whether there was anything missing, what needed to change or be revised, and what additional ideas they would like to add.

Community Integration Workshop 2 - Overview

Thirty-eight invitations were sent to representatives of organizations invited to Workshop 1. In total, eleven representatives participated in Workshop 2. Several representatives that sent their regrets requested reporting and additional information be provided to them as they are interested in the outcomes of the workshop series.

Invited Stakeholder Organizations

- Alberta Culture and Tourism
- Cameron Heights Community League
- City of Edmonton, Energy Transition Team (declined); Ribbon of Green Project (declined)
- Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations (unable to attend)
- Edmonton Catholic Schools
- Edmonton Heritage Council
- Edmonton Native Plant Group
- Edmonton Public Schools
- EPCOR community advisory panel
- Make Something Edmonton
- Northern Alberta Institute of Technology
- North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance
- River Valley Alliance (declined)
- Solar People
- South West Edmonton Seniors Association (declined)
- The Ridge Community League
- University of Alberta, Department of Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science and Planning; Future Energy Systems, Department of Renewable Resources
- Wedgewood Community League
- Wild Rose Ramblers

Workshop 2 Agenda

The following agenda was provided to stakeholders via email on January 16, 2018:

Workshop Location: Rossmore Water Treatment Plant,
Watermark building - 9469 Rossdale Road
Date: Wednesday, January 23, 2019
Time: 1:00 – 5:00

Workshop Begins	1:00
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Introductions	1:00 – 1:25
FRANK- <i>Process Overview</i>	1:25 – 1:40
EPCOR - <i>Update on Engagement with First Nations</i>	1:40 – 1:45
Q&A	1:45 – 1:50
Architectural Works - <i>Concepts Overview</i>	1:50 – 2:20
Q&A	2:20 – 2:30
BREAK	2:30 – 2:40
Architectural Works - <i>Site Series Presentation + Group Discussion</i>	2:40 – 3:15
Stakeholder Table Discussions - <i>Site, Concepts, Programming</i>	3:15 – 4:15
BREAK	4:15 – 4:25
Facilitated Group Discussion - <i>Summary Statements</i>	4:25 – 4:40
EPCOR – <i>Next Steps</i>	4:40 – 4:45
Stakeholders – <i>Concept Survey</i>	4:45 – 5:00
Workshop Ends	5:00

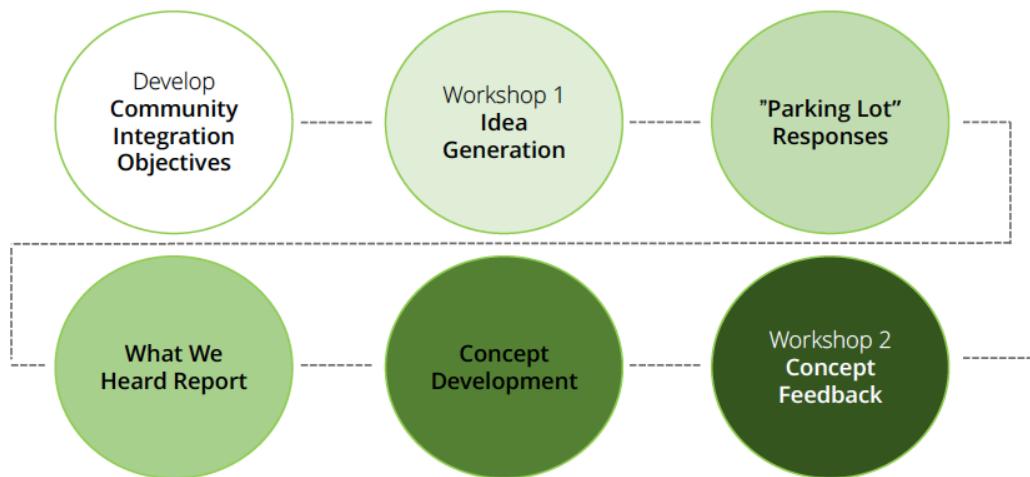
Workshop 2

Introductions

At the outset of the workshop, participants were asked to choose their favourite season and move to the designated area. Each participant then offered why (winter, spring, summer or fall) was their favourite season and introduced themselves and which organization they represented.

Presentations

Kelly Learned from FRANK planning collaborative provided an overview of the Community Integration Workshop Series to date. The graphic below provides a summary of the process.



EPCOR provided an overview of the engagement that is happening with First Nations regarding the Community Integration Workshop series and project objectives. Stakeholders were informed there has been ongoing engagement and the intent is to share the outcomes from the workshops as well as continue engagement and involvement going forward with interested Indigenous Communities and Nations.

Architectural Works then provided a comprehensive presentation of the preliminary organizing framework and design concepts based on the outcomes from Workshop 1 stakeholder idea generation. Stakeholders engaged in a large group discussion about the preliminary concepts before moving into the break out table discussions.

Break Out Discussions

Stakeholders had the opportunity to circulate around the room where tables were set up to discuss the details of the Framework Table and the various site suggestions. Stakeholders were asked to consider and provide feedback on: is there anything missing? Anything that needs to be revised? Any additional ideas you would like to suggest?

Group Conversation

To complete the discussions, the group was asked to come back together and asked, from what you heard today:

1. What is one top thing you would like to see change?
2. What excites you most about the preliminary concept designs?

Participant Survey

To ensure every participant had the opportunity to provide specific input, a hard copy survey was issued at the end of the workshop. The survey asked:

Name:

Organization:

1. What (if anything) do you hope will be revised?
2. Are there items your organization would be interested in pursuing further?
If yes, what are they?
3. Additional comments

Input provided through the individual survey is also included in the outcome tables for each of the site concepts below. Non-attributed summary of comments by question is included as Appendix C.

Outcomes

In general, the feedback was positive regarding how the Workshop 1 ideas were organized, the site concepts and the Community Integration Workshop Series engagement overall. Several comments were documented that stakeholders felt heard, that EPCOR was doing genuine consultation and not just checking a box, and that they were excited to be part of a project that could lead the way for others similar.

Feedback for each table discussion were captured on flip charts. See Appendix A for a transcription of the feedback provided for the organizing Framework and Site Concepts. Appendix B provides the notes from the group discussion regarding what stakeholders wanted to see change and what excited stakeholders the most about the preliminary concepts. And as mentioned above, Appendix C provides a summary of comments from the individual survey. The section below organizes feedback by the following discussion topics:

- General comments
- Anything missing?
- What needs to change/be revised?
- Potential partnerships
- What excites you most about this concept?

1. Site Concepts Development Framework – Physical and Programmable Elements

A table was developed by Architectural Works to further organize ideas generated from Workshop 1. Four potential sites were identified and categorized as either “inside the fence” or outside the fence (sites adjacent to or potentially related to the solar farm (EPCOR property) but under another organization’s decision making). Ideas were further broken down into a spectrum ranging from “must

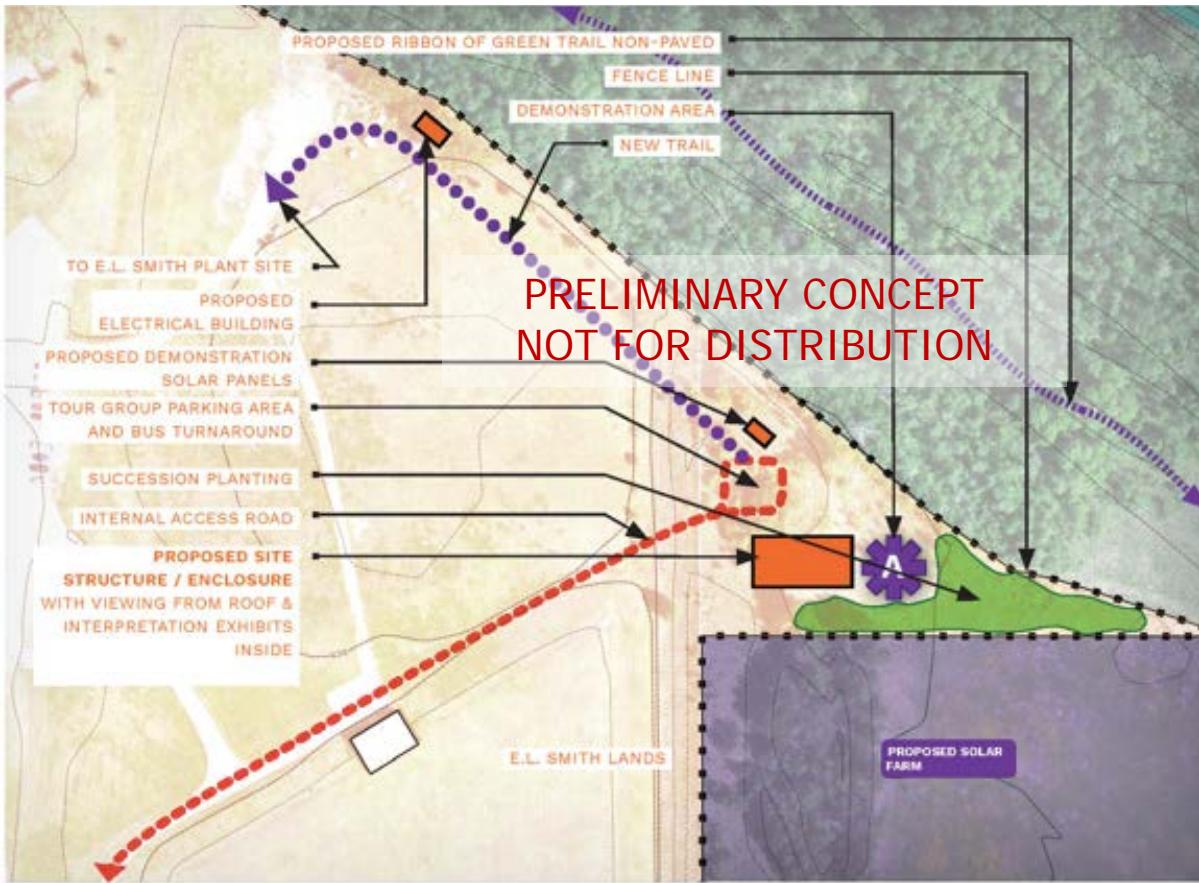
have”, to “nice to have”, to “great to have”. This spectrum considered ideas that would be fairly straight forward to implement first, then the more complex the implementation, the further along the spectrum the idea was placed.

Since most of the feedback on the Site Concepts Development Framework table referred to specific sites, the outcomes are included in the site sections below.

2. Site ‘A’ – Demonstration Site

Located at the northern end of the proposed solar farm site and accessible through the E.L. Smith Water Treatment plant site. Elements visualized for Site ‘A’ include:

- Proposed demonstration solar panels accessible by tours through EPCOR
- Tour group parking area and bus turnaround
- Succession planting area
- Internal access road
- Proposed structure or enclosure with viewing from roof and interpretation exhibits inside
- Proposed alignment with Ribbon of Green trail (non-paved)
- New trail proposed linking the E.L. Smith Water Treatment Plant to the proposed electrical building and demonstration site (internal site trail).



FEEDBACK SITE 'A'

General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open house concept annually - Earth Day or more frequent • No fee for entrance • Learning simulation site: comparison to other energy sources • Building blocks of panels, individual components • Tie in for career, jobs and types of skills • Real-time monitoring published off site <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ and on-site real time: solar farm production vs demo site • Data availability for learning purposes • Future Energy Systems: Canada-made map of renewables • Storage of energy and transfer of electricity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Science programs connection
Anything missing?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programming idea: tours for companies or other groups besides schools

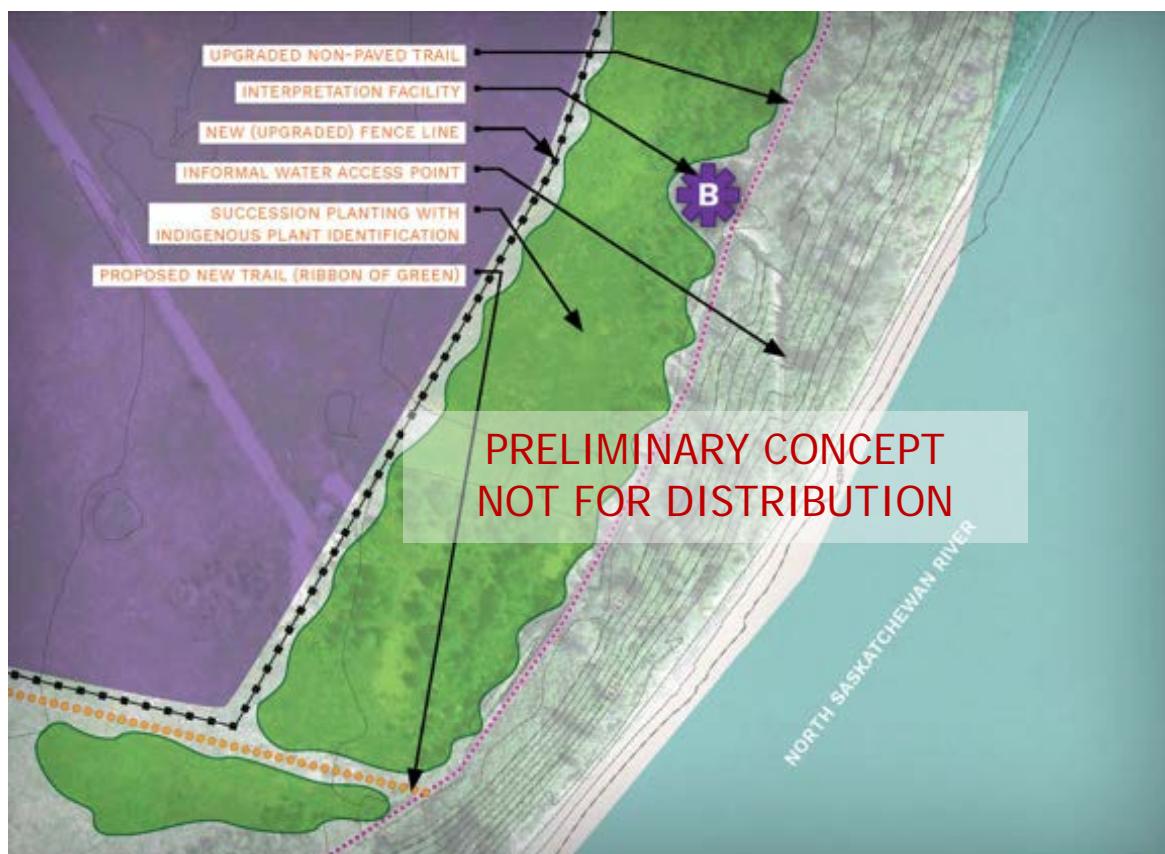
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of accessibility for those with limited mobility at demo site • Demo panels: could show different types of panels and orientations, tracking • Teaching about vegetation/planting for area of demo and farm. (photo to identify) • Labelling and details of vegetation • Herb species considered for solar farm • Apiary: honey bees area (Mosaic building did this) • Native species
What needs to change/be revised?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Succession planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ More demo planting ◦ Native planting • Site aesthetics
Potential partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telus world of science possible partnerships, connections • CMASTE: UofA Ed faculty – Kerry Rose <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ K-Univ.: learning development ideas ◦ Indigenous ideas • UofA, NAIT interested in research and suggest following topics: reclamation/vegetation, renewable control systems, environmental science, education, data access, optimization of operation. • Edmonton Native Plant group involvement in Demo Area, succession planting, vegetation of solar panel throughways • The Ridge Community Leagues would provide support for a demonstration/learning site at Haddow Park (new site 'E') • Edmonton Catholic Schools – explore possible interactive display development at various sites – could pilot with students. Energy transformation – cross discipline information and connections to AB Program of Studies.
What excites you most about this concept?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewable energy and GHG emission lowering • Education component draws people to the river valley and gets them active • Education and research opportunities, collaboration and partnerships are great opportunities • Innovation of new technologies. People will be proud in 15 years • Everyone here (workshop participants) can say they are a part of this first in the area and Canada

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shows EPCOR has listened to community concerns. We will reach our renewable energy goals and it will encourage others to follow There is huge potential for educating youth. Authentic First Nations connections and good work is occurring
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3. Site 'B' – Historic/Cultural Site

Site 'B' is proposed to be a historic, cultural site where interpretive material could be installed. The site concept located site 'B' towards the southeast portion of the proposed solar farm site. Potential elements include:

- Interpretive facility
- New fence line with an upgraded fence (it was noted during the workshop there are regulatory requirements for fencing to comply with the *Canadian Electrical Codes* that will determine what can be installed for fencing around the potential solar farm site)
- Succession planting with indigenous plant identification
- Indication of a proposed new trail in alignment with the Ribbon of Green to the south portion of the potential solar farm site.



FEEDBACK SITE 'B'

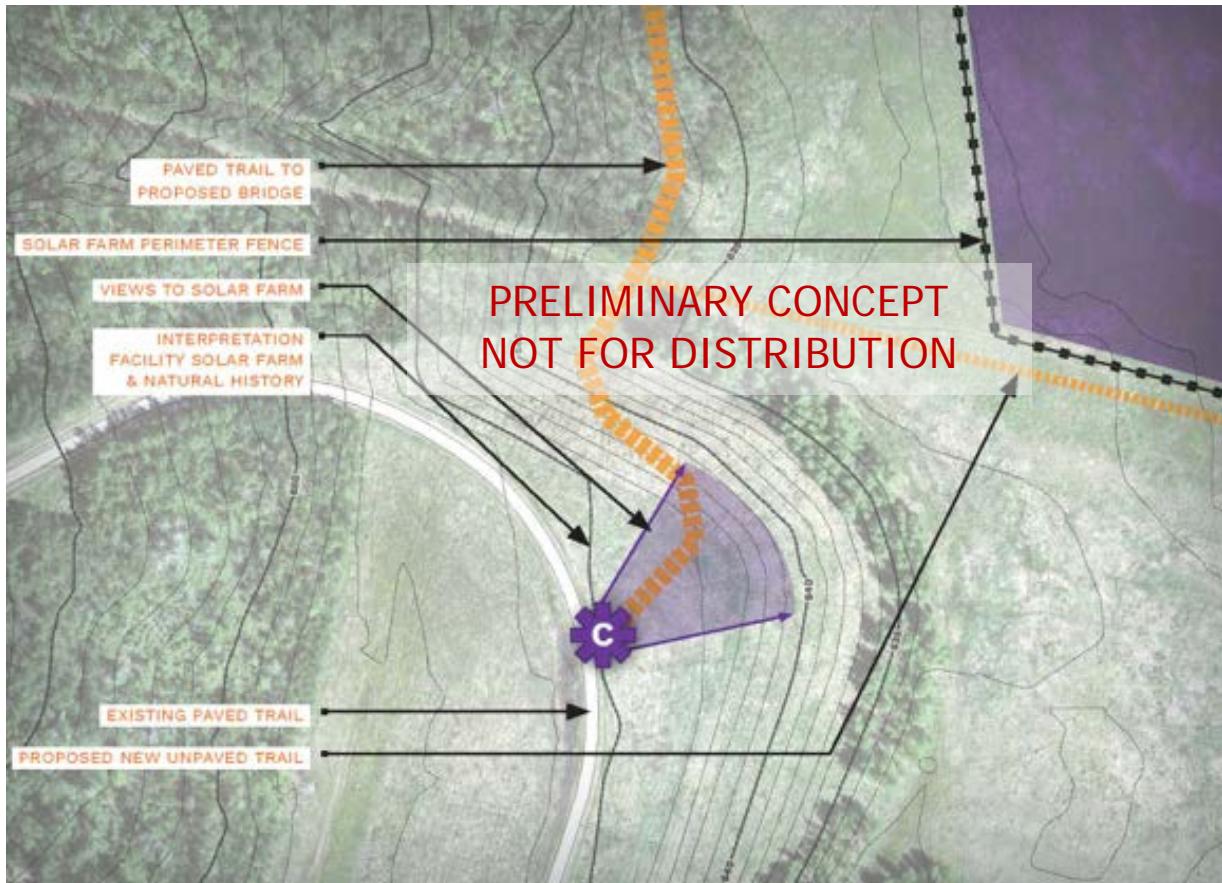
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep new vegetation short/shrubs and lower to feel safer in the area and reduce trail maintenance • Restoration is difficult to do. Get as much opinion as possible and plan long term and take into account natural restoration. Would be a good learning opportunity for the City. • If considering bee hotels in revegetated areas consider risks to attracting bears <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mason bees may be a good option (don't sting) • Where people are close to fence, consider smaller mesh size to reduce climbing (children) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Idea – put vines in these fenced areas as an alternative • Good for school groups to be involved in planting/revegetation
Anything missing?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No asphalt and concrete to increase infiltration • Suggest sitting/shaded area if people intend to stay for extended times • Idea: core of glass of the soil layers with information. • QR codes: dynamic/tech. assisted interpretive information (can constantly change/be updated) • Need more clarity on restoration plans. Needs more planning. Restoration vs reclamation and ecosystem resilience and revegetation. Native species planting, not cultivars. • Integrate into overall city plan to show historic nature of river valley • Increased visibility/accessibility
What needs to change/be revised?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hard to access for people with disabilities • Move site out of revegetated area to reduce effects on wildlife movement as it is a narrow area/pinch point • Concerned with wildlife corridor and deer movement in general, but not sure if it relates to this specific site. • Site B is too invasive. Concerned with wildlife movement • Move site B south (SE corner of property for ease of access) • Move closer to Site A/to an area that is wider or even on the north end of plant on trail adjacent to proposed bridge or move closer to site C (reduce impact on revegetated area)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce footprint or be mindful to effects of the footprint on revegetated area if stays in B • Option: put in several small/less impactful signage/interpretation items along • Add vines/vegetative cover or natural screenings at points on the fence (to cover/hide fencing) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fireweed
Potential partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edmonton Native Plant Council – revegetation adjacent to top of bank • Edmonton Catholic Schools – Indigenous garden (cultural) education potential. • Alberta Culture would be very happy to assist with interpretive panels/stories relating to the archaeological history of the site area.
What excites you most about this concept?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revegetation well received and idea of separate cultural/historical site • Excited by more vegetation • Excited about historical and interpretive areas because most people don't know about this • Commemorates the fullness of the story – solar and history of the area • “Opportunity” – there is so much that is being done more than just the solar farm

4. Site ‘C’ – Ribbon of Green Site

Site ‘C’ is referred to as the Ribbon of Green site because it aligns with the current Ribbon of Green Draft Plan (November 2018). The site suggestions include:

- The potential for views to the solar farm and the inclusion of a seating and gathering space where two trails meet (trail locations as per the Ribbon of Green Draft Plan (November, 2018)).
- An interpretation facility about the solar farm and the natural history of the area.



FEEDBACK SITE 'C'

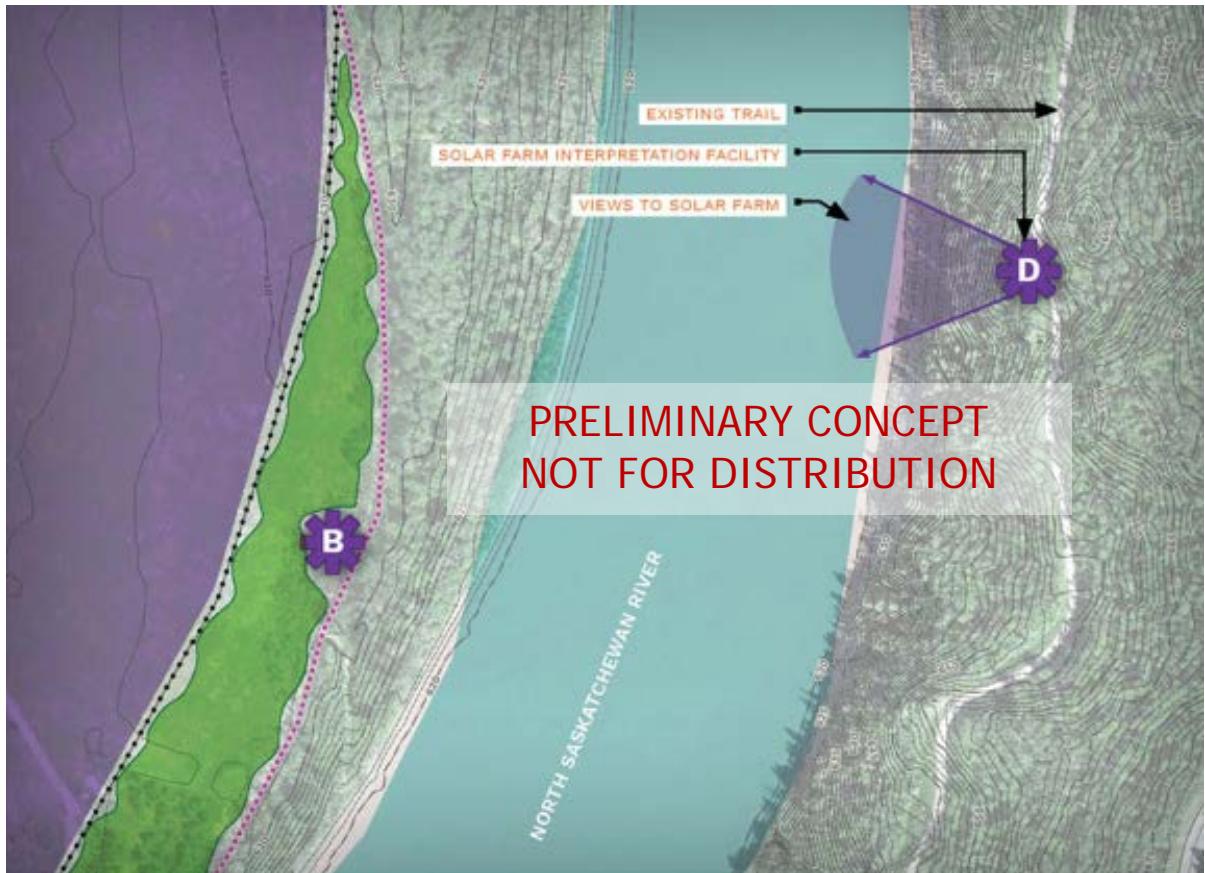
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpretive signs good – include QR codes and technology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Accessible ◦ Detail good ◦ Connect to website ◦ Interactive ◦ App? GPS with walking tour • Viewpoint good (Profile good) • Better view than 'D' • Close to existing path • Surprise experience /focal point
Anything missing?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar panel table – charge phones. EX – Kinsmen (Q1 Charger) • Motion sensor (Lights) • Alignment with Trans Canada Trail • Signage from Highway? [Anthony Henday Drive]

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Drawing people to solar farm.
What needs to change/be revised?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would like to see this more tied into the Ribbon of Green and see a story as you go along rather than one stop. Have it tie into the larger City of Edmonton, Ribbon of Green story. Ie. Start at 20,000 BC then progress to present then future along trail would tie nicely into site soil layers. The historic nature is being built now for our grandchildren. • Have integrated into other matrix, layer, local and regional information. Provide context into the bigger picture. • Possibly the location of some of the Ribbon of Green trails
Potential partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cameron Heights Community League – due to the potential increase in traffic in Cameron Heights, would participate in making sure security and visibility is taken into account.
What excites you most about this concept?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can tell interesting stories – as you exercise your body you also exercise your mind. i.e. photosynthesis in plants and in power plants, river valley source of energy through the years.

5. Site 'D' – Distant Viewing Site

The final site concept is site 'D' and is proposed as a distant viewing site across the North Saskatchewan River from the potential solar farm site. Suggested elements for site 'D' include:

- Utilizing the existing trail through the tree stands
- Construction of a fixed solar farm view stand and seating/gathering space
- Interpretive installations about the solar farm
- View to the solar farm.



FEEDBACK SITE 'D'

General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do need to see and have info combined as learning opportunity. If not viewable, then no longer a view site. • Area is unstable – may be difficult to build a structure. Need to keep anything build on trail granular • Make it a destination • Info/contact for how to do residential solar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Call to action/take the next step • Activity/exercise stops along trails to encourage use/loop route <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Encourage traffic to loop over 2 bridges
Anything missing?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should be part of Transcanada trail if available (can market) • Make sure interpretives light up so dusk/dawn can be viewable <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Make self-sustaining • Solar panel on bench or interpretive sign to charge phone • QR code so you can get more info and can update or live data, drone video of site, timelapse of construction

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add water fountain at any point along one of the trails (can tie to WTP) • Ensure lots of historical/geological/technical information is presented • Increased visibility/accessibility
What needs to change/be revised?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommends placing in Henderson or Haddow Parks to reduce footprint and/or impact to trail (erosion and trash) • What is the population survey of users in the area? Local vs general city. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If mostly local then should be placed in neighbourhood ○ Also type of users – may be mostly bikers, so low value ○ Place where many people gather (at parks you get soccer events and other users) ○ Incorporate into Community League building at Haddow. Don't need physical viewing • Signs are expensive, are vandalized and cannot be updated easily, one little sign with QR code would be better • Instead of viewing platform/site, have a pole with QR code scan – lower footprint <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Does not need to be elaborate, as long as you can see the farm. • Near powerlines and parking lot picnic area would be more accessible • Move D south towards bridge and use areas. Then do a survey after to see how much use the trail/area gets. Spreads information to rest of city by having near soccer fields where people gather from around the city. • Further south would also give a better view of face of panels vs side of profile (<i>two check marks beside this statement</i>) • Must it be distance view D? Or can we have a distance demo site, Site E? (Little Henderson or Haddow Park and Community League Building)
Potential partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ridge Community League – interested in helping promote/liase with other communities and to help with any community related questions and issues.

<p>What excites you most about this concept?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Like the idea of distance viewing – maybe from Henday trail <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Have binoculars like at Niagara Falls • Like the view idea (like see NY from Brooklyn)
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Additional Ideas

Throughout the workshop, stakeholders were generating ideas for continued outreach regarding the solar farm approvals process as well as education related to the solar farm should it be approved. These ideas are gathered below for EPCOR's consideration.

To keep stakeholders updated on the approvals process/outcomes:

- Social media avenues
- Link to subscribe to newsletter on website
- When/if approval goes out, send newsletter and news release. Let people know what the next steps are and how to provide input on integration.
- Include Ribbon of Green information in the newsletters (City of Edmonton consultations)

If project gets approved, some ideas for communication and continued education:

- Construction camera to show time elapsed progress of the solar farm or live webcam (like Kananaskis golf or giraffe birth)
- Continuity is important. Link construction to the final product. How long did it take? Who was involved? Etc.

'Parking Lot'

During the workshop, participants were offered the opportunity to post questions that may be outside the scope of work being conducted at the workshop. EPCOR will be providing responses in a separate document.

1. *How do we know EPCOR is going to incorporate any of these ideas and isn't simply using this exercise to obtain approvals from the City of Edmonton?*

Next Steps

This report wraps up what is currently planned for the E.L. Smith Community Integration Workshop series. The design team is revising the concepts based on what was heard from stakeholders at Workshop 2. A report will be produced by Architectural Works to outline what revisions have been made and what revisions were considered but due to restrictions or further consideration may not be possible. All stakeholders will receive notice once the revised concepts are completed.

Contact Information

If you would like to comment on the contents of the *What We Heard Report* please contact: Kelly Learned at kelly@frankplans.com.

If you would like more information on the proposed E.L. Smith Solar Farm Project and the other engagement work being hosted by EPCOR please contact:

greenproject@epcor.com
780-412-3599
Epcor.com/consultation

Appendix A: Site, Concepts Programming

Notes Transcribed from Workshop 2

Stakeholder Table Discussions – Site, Concepts, Programming (3:15 – 4:15)

Stakeholders had the opportunity to move around to the various tables where either the Framework organizing table or one of the preliminary site concepts was displayed.

Stakeholders were asked to provide feedback for the following questions:

1. Generally, does this reflect ideas from Workshop 1?
2. Is there anything missing/needs revision?
3. Additional ideas to add?

FRAMEWORK

p.1

- Backstory from where the panels came from (i.e. sourced, plan for recycling, etc. naturally exist)
 - Belongs in A or exists in all of them
- Nice to have distance between each site. Some people might not have accessibility to each site. Site B is most questionable.
- Need some sort of green setting
- Site D:
 - Access should be defined
 - If developed right, might be benefit to community
 - Lots of trees and slope so not ideal unless building at the top of the hill
- Site C:
 - Washrooms too expensive and too many issues (more of a wish than a reality)
or tie them into the existing EL Smith structure
- Site A:
 - Great idea to have bee and bat hotels
 - Looking at significant history of the river valley itself?
- Any cultural conversation included in site A – any value?
 - Would be value including other site must haves into Demo site A

p. 2

- Parking, picnic tables available?
- Would the parking lot become a party spot?
- Innotech – contact Aakash Goyal – pollinator looking for investors (1 acre) plot of land – trial plots
- Put information on the website (epcor.com) with electricity generation from solar panels each day, etc.
- Real time data like Devon community centre – check website
- Site D – no need for plaza and seating. All you need is signage.

SITE A

p.1

- Programming idea: tours for companies or other groups besides schools
- Accessibility for demo site
- Demo panels: could show different types of panels and orientations, tracking
- Demo site does not need to match solar farm racking
- Open house concept annually - Earth Day or more frequent
- No fee for entrance
- Learning simulation site: comparison to other energy sources
- Building blocks of panels, individual components
- Tie in for career, jobs and types of skills

p.2

- Self-sustaining
- Telus world of science possible partnerships, connections
- CMASSTE: UofA Ed faculty – Kerry Rose
 - K-Univ.: learning development ideas
 - Indigenous ideas
- Real-time monitoring published off site
 - and on-site real time: solar farm production vs demo site
- Data availability for learning purposes
- Future Energy Systems: Canada-made map of renewables
- Solar farm part of larger solution of renewables
- Storage of energy and transfer of electricity
 - Science programs connection

p.3

- Teaching about vegetation/planting for area of demo and farm. (photo to identify)
- Labelling and details of vegetation
- Succession planning
 - More a demo planting
 - Native planting
- Herb species considered for solar farm
- Apiary: honey bees area (Mosaic building did this)
- Native species
- Edmonton Native Plant group involvement in Demo Area, interested

SITE 'B'

p.1

- Revegetation well received and idea of separate cultural/historical site
- Hard to access for people with disabilities
- Move site out of revegetated area to reduce effects on wildlife movement as it is a narrow area/pinch point
- Move closer to Site A/to an area that is wider or even on the north end of plant on trail adjacent to proposed bridge or move closer to site C (reduce impact on revegetated area)

- Reduce footprint or be mindful to effects of the footprint on revegetated area if stays in B
- No asphalt and concrete to increase infiltration
- Option: put in several small/less impactful signage/interpretation items along
- Dogwood (use parkland species), buffalo berry – no cultivars
- Keep new vegetation short/shrubs and lower to feel safer in the area and reduce trail maintenance

p.2

- Add vines/vegetative cover or natural screenings at points on the fence (to cover/hide fencing)
 - Fireweed
- If considering bee hotels in revegetated areas consider risks to attracting bears
 - Mason bees may be a good option (don't sting)
- Suggest sitting/shaded area if people intend to stay for extended times
- Where people are close to fence, consider smaller mesh size to reduce climbing (children)
 - Idea – put vines in these fenced areas as an alternative
- QR codes: dynamic/tech. assisted interpretive information (can constantly change/be updated)
- Good for school groups to be involved in planting/revegetation

SITE C

p.1

- Solar panel table – charge phones. EX – Kinsmen (Q1 Charger)
- Motion sensor (Lights)
- Interpretive signs good – include QR codes and technology
 - Accessible
 - Detail good
 - Connect to website
 - Interactive
 - App? GPS with walking tour
- Alignment with EX. Trans Canada Trail
- Viewpoint good (Profile good)
- Better view than 'D'
- Close to existing path
- Surprise experience /focal point

p.2

- Signage from Highway?
 - Drawing people to solar farm.

SITE D

p.1

- Recommends placing in Henderson or Haddow Parks to reduce footprint and/or impact to trail (erosion and trash)

- What is the population survey of users in the area? Local vs general city.
 - If mostly local then should be placed in neighbourhood
 - Also type of users – may be mostly bikers, so low value
 - Place where many people gather (at parks you get soccer events and other users)
 - Incorporate into Community League building at Haddow. Don't need physical viewing
- Do need to see and have info combined as learning opportunity. IF not viewable, then no longer a view site.
- Instead have a pole with QR code scan – lower footprint
 - Does not need to be elaborate, as long as you can see the farm.
- Near powerlines and parking lot picnic area would be more accessible
- Further south would also give a better view of face of panels vs side of profile (*two check marks beside this statement*)
- Signs are expensive, are vandalized and cannot be updated easily, one little sign with QR code would be better

p.2

- Must it be distance view D? Or can we have a distance demo site, Site E? (Little Henderson or Haddow Park and Community League Building)
- Likes the idea of distance viewing – maybe from Henday trail
 - Have binoculars like at Niagara Falls
- Area is unstable – may be difficult to build a structure. Need to keep anything built on trail granular
- Like the view idea (like see NY from Brooklyn)
- Should be part of TransCanada if available (can market)
- Make sure interpretive signs light up so dusk/dawn can be viewable
 - Make self-sustaining
- Solar panel on bench or interpretive sign to charge phone
- QR code so you can get more info and can update or live data, drone video of site, timelapse of construction
- Add water fountain at any point along one of the trails (can tie to WTP)
- Make it a destination
- Info/contact for how to do residential solar
 - Call to action/take the next step
- Activity/exercise stops along trails to encourage use/loop route
 - Encourage traffic to loop over 2 bridges

Appendix B: Summary Statements

Notes Transcribed from Workshop 2

Facilitated Group Discussion (4:25 – 4:40)

Stakeholders were asked to answer the following questions:

From what you heard today...

- What is one top thing you would like to see change?
- What excites you most about the preliminary concepts?

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What is one top thing you would like to see change?

- No changes suggested, like what they've seen (✓✓)
- Like to see if more tied into the ROG [Ribbon of Green]. See a story as you go along rather than one stop. Have it tie into larger ROG COE [City of Edmonton] story.
 - Ex. SE at 20,000 BC then progress to present then the future along the trail. Would tie in nicely to site soil layers (HRA comments). The historic nature is being built now for our grandchildren.
- Have information integrated into other matrix, layer, local and regional information. Provide context into the bigger picture.
- Site B is too invasive. Concerned with wildlife movements.
- Restoration is difficult to do. Get as much opinion as possible and plan long term and take into account natural restoration. Would be a good learning opportunity for City.
- Move D south towards bridge and use areas. Then do a survey after to see how much use the trail/area gets. Spreads information to the rest of the city by having near the soccer fields where people gather from around city.
- Concerned with wildlife corridor and deer movement in general, but not sure if it relates to this specific site.
- Need more clarity on restoration plans. [Need to get terminology right/accurate]. Needs more planning (solar, site B)
 - Restoration vs reclamation and ecosystem resilience and revegetation
 - Native species planting

What excites you most about the preliminary concepts?

- Renewable energy and GHG [greenhouse gas] emission lowering
- Education part draws people to River Valley and to get active
- Concepts are more clear. Excited by more vegetation and interpretive areas.
- Education and research opportunities, collaboration and partnerships are great opportunities
- Listened to and incorporated majority of comments
- Innovation of new technologies and people will be proud in 15 years

- As an archeologist, excited about interpretive and historical aspect most people don't know about it.
- Would be cool to see a core in glass of the soil layers with information
- Everyone here can say they are a part of this first in the area and Canada
- Commemorates the fullness of the story – solar and history of area.

p.2

- Unique project and involves the public – exciting to be a part of it
- Like the idea of history and looking back in the future (✓)
- Excited about what I can learn and provide
- Shows EPCOR has listened to community concerns and feels it will go forward. We will reach our renewable energy goals and it will encourage others to follow.
- Fascinating – this is a nice part of the journey and there is huge potential for educating youth. Authentic First Nations connections and good work is occurring.
- "Opportunity" – there is so much that is being done more than just the farm.
- Can tell interesting stories – as you exercise your body you also exercise your mind. Ex. Energy electron times from sun to panel vs to you, photosynthesis in plants and in power plants, river valley source of energy through the years
- Genuine consultation, not just a check box

Appendix C: Participant Survey

Summary of Answers

Participants were asked to complete a hard copy survey at the end of Workshop 2. The survey asked the participant name and organization in order for the project team to follow up with them directly if there were partnership opportunities or further discussion on ideas. The summary below does not attribute comments to individuals.

1. What (if anything) do you hope will be revised?

- Move site B south (SE corner of property for ease of access).
- Location of Site B and wildlife movement/corridors generally
- Impressed with the thoughtfulness of the planning. Main concern is keeping access for wildlife especially deer being displaced near 199 Street and 23rd Avenue.
- Site B integrated into overall city plan to show historic nature of river valley
- Relocating B, D, sites, increasing visibility/accessibility
- Move site D south to near paved trails near bridge or to Henderson Park
- I would like to see some improvement on site reclamation and restoration.
- Possible location of some of Ribbon of Green Trails
- Ensure lots of historical/geological/technical info is presented
- Look at integrating info sites at Haddow/Henderson Park
- Site aesthetics
- Nothing specific that I hope to be revised. I just hope to see continued consultations and discussions around best ideas/thoughts on the project.
- No major revisions – just continue to focus on the interpretive potential and possibilities, especially relating to the history of the area and Indigenous engagement.

2. Are there items your organization would be interested in pursuing further? If yes, what are they?

- Help share and distribute the learnings to the community
- Helping promote, liaise with our and other communities
- Feel free to contact us with any community related questions and issues, we have a very active board
- Support a demo/learning site (E) at Haddow Park
- Any research i.e. teaching aspects related to University of Alberta (and other e.g. NAIT) in form of partnership are greatly welcome.
 - E.g. (topics for engagement) reclamation/revegetation, renewable control system, environmental science, education, data access, optimization of operation.
- UofA is looking forward to research collaboration with EPCOR
- Yes: some of the native plantings (succession planting) near Site A, vegetation of solar panel throughways, and revegetation adjacent to top of bank.
- Indigenous garden (cultural) education potential
- Alberta Culture would be very happy to assist with interpretive panels/stories relating to the archaeological history of the site area.
- Potential increase in traffic in Cameron Heights. Making sure security and visibility is taken into account.

- Explore possible interactive display development at the various sites – could pilot with students.
- Energy transformation – cross discipline information
- Connections to the AB Program of Studies
- Curriculum components
- Educational opportunities from tours
- Ways to bring students in to learn about the project and alternative energy
- Sharing as much resulting tech. knowledge with us as possible so that some aspect may be more readily replicated.

3. Additional comments:

- Thank you very much for listening to our comments and suggestions. I felt heard.
- Concept presentation was clear. Good opportunity to hear other's opinions and ideas. Food more than adequate!
- Good process, glad to be part of it.
- Very interesting to see the extent EPCOR has gone to to consider public concerns.
- This would be a great project
- Excellent process of sharing information and truly listening to stakeholders. I learned a lot and look forward to sharing the information at our next community board meeting. Spread the support.
- Thanks for the opportunity to learn about this project and provide education input. My grand babies thank you!!
- Really enjoyed the conversations and discussions from these workshops.