



Vaudreuil-Dorion

PRESS RELEASE

L'avenir est ICI

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Environmental Policy 2023-2027: Results of Public Consultation

Vaudreuil-Dorion, September 28, 2022 – Between July 8th and August 28th, the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion gave its population the opportunity to be heard so that the process of creating the new environmental policy may reflect the concerns of the people. Two initiatives were carried out simultaneously, consisting of an online survey and a consultation exercise conducted in the eight parks where the Fêtes de quartier block parties took place.

A total of 193 respondents participated in the online survey (179 in French and 14 in English). Overall, 75% of people indicated that environmental issues are very important to them, while 24% find them fairly important. About two-thirds of respondents believe that the environment is a collective responsibility and that everyone has an impact: Individuals, municipal authorities, the provincial and federal governments, organizations, businesses and industries. Climate change is already influencing the day-to-day decisions of 93% of respondents.

About 41% of those who responded to the survey report feeling anxious about climate change on a regular basis. Extreme weather events and access to safe drinking water, followed by increased temperatures, are the effects of climate change that are of the greatest concern to them.

These respondents have integrated the following lifestyle habits into their daily life: Recycling, gardening, and food waste collection. They claim not to use chemical pesticides and fertilizers and do not water their lawn. In respect for the environment, about 1 in 5 respondents believe it would be interesting to have access to services directly at home, such as the collection of large waste items or construction residues. A proportion of 18% say they are in favour of imposing a tax on pollution according to the user-pays principle.

«Every year, we take many actions to protect the environment, such as planting trees, offering better subsidies, raising awareness about drinking water consumption, collecting organic waste, etc..., but the City cannot act alone. It is important for everyone to do their part in protecting the environment. I am thrilled to see that this is also what citizens think, since two-thirds of survey respondents believe that the issue is indeed a collective responsibility,» said Mayor Guy Pilon.

Biodiversity, agriculture and forestry, infrastructure and waste management were ranked first in order of importance by respondents for the future environmental policy. The topics they identified as most important to them include the reduction of greenhouse gases, the conservation of wetlands and natural environments, the reduction of waste and the quality and saving of drinking water. In terms of which priority environmental actions they believe should be carried out in neighbourhoods, the majority of respondents would like to see more tree planting and

Interactive activity at block parties

Environmental Awareness Officers attended block parties in eight different parks over the summer and took the opportunity to survey visitors on environmental issues in an entertaining way.

The environmental initiative that the City should focus on for neighbourhoods is the planting of trees (43%), followed by self-service bicycles (26%). To improve the environment, the majority of respondents would like the City to prioritize projects that propose green spaces such as nature parks (32%), followed by the implementation of a buy-local market (27%).

The results of the 2023-2027 Environmental Policy Survey can be found on the City's website at ville.vaudreuil-dorion.qc.ca, in the Citizen Participation section.