

## Partners for Places Project Lessons Report

**Project Name:** *Multi-Sector Benefits of Energy Transition Programs*

- **Year Complete:** 2021
- **Local Government:** City of Edmonton, AB
- **Local Foundation:** Edmonton Community Foundation

### **Project Purpose**

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To ensure communities and organizations with low income, immigrant and Aboriginal citizens will be consulted and included in programming goals and action in energy transition programs.

### **Key Lessons Learned**

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*Lessons learned about tools and tactics through the project that other sustainability directors could use to advance their work.*

There is great power in building relationships from a place of openness and humility. Philanthropy for Active Civic Engagement (PACE) describes the impact of relationships well in an essay on systems-based changemaking: “In complex adaptive systems, the macro emerges from the micro, and it is the interactions between and among individuals that drive small- and then medium- and then large-scale transformation.” The success of this project and the opportunities to scale its impact rests on the bedrock of intentional, strong, and authentic relationships.

*Lessons for developing a collaborative process between a local government sustainability director and local place-based foundation(s).*

Large municipalities are very complex and it is difficult for outside agencies or potential collaborators to seek and find the right people. Community foundations often work with urban agencies as a proxy for the municipality, and success in these relationships is driven by the same distinctly human factors that lead to success in any other relationship:

- understanding the community landscape and who the key players are
- mapping or identifying the participatory ecosystem
- connecting the practitioners with the funders and community organizations working on shared interests
- finding common ground and shared outcomes
- building relationships and trust

### **Additional Information and Resources**

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The intentional direction of resources to organizations focused on the needs of low income, indigenous, and immigrant citizens allowed early-stage ideas to become multiple phase projects. It also revealed the uniqueness and vitality of EcoCity’s contributions. An example of this ongoing work can be found [here](#).