



What We've Learned from the Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic came with little or no warning. It changed so much about how we live, work, get around town, and connect with friends and families. And along the way, it got many people in Ottawa and elsewhere thinking differently—about what matters most to us, who and what we depend on in our day-to-day lives, and who is most at risk in a crisis.

Now, Energy Mix Productions is working with six local groups to co-host a series of listening sessions to look at what we've learned from the pandemic. We'll be asking questions along these lines:

- How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected you and those close to you, for better and for worse?
- From the pandemic experience, what's more important to you now than before? What's less important?
- What changes are you hoping to make in your life as a result?

Energy Mix Productions is a local non-profit that works on climate change and the transition off carbon. *But we aren't planning to talk about climate change* in these sessions, unless that's where participants want to take the discussion. We believe the best way to open a community conversation about carbon reductions is to start out from what matters most in people's everyday lives. Which is why we're calling them *listening sessions*.

The *What We've Learned from the Pandemic* series will get a sense of how participants' needs and concerns have shifted, at a time when so much else has changed, too. Along the way, we hope the

What's Next?

Let's get a listening session organized! Contact Mitchell Beer at mitchell@smartershift.com, 613-889-5960.

conversations will generate some bright ideas and great input on how action on climate change delivers the things we already need and want in our lives, faster and better.

The Fine Print

Each listening session runs 60 to 90 minutes.

They can be held ... online or in person, depending on each group's comfort with and access to online technology.

They're taking place from late July through early September, while memories and takeaways from the early stages of the pandemic are fresh.

We take notes on each session, but *never* identify any participant by name.

Every participant and co-hosting organization gets a copy of the project report.

We'll also be producing news articles, a social media pack, and other material to share the results of the conversation far and wide.

Each participant receives a \$20 honorarium to thank them for their time and knowledge.