

# THE WAY WE GREEN

## Our Environmental Initiatives

The City of Edmonton has innovative programs/initiatives or adapts to new technology in a way that make us a leader in some areas and noteworthy in others.

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## Topics

### Air

See how the City has helped develop emissions inventories, [anti-idling bylaw and education programs](#), and recommendations for improved [air quality](#) monitoring through its active participation in the [Alberta Capital Airshed Alliance](#).

### Biodiversity

Two thirds of Edmontonians live within a ten minute walk of a natural area park outside of the River Valley and ravines. We have created an [on-line "atlas" of natural places](#) that you can visit.

Wildlife passages help ensure that birds, mammals and amphibians are still able to move unharmed through the city when new roads need to be developed near natural areas. Read about the [Wildlife Passage Guidelines](#).

We are building an "ecological network" in our city by [purchasing, protecting and restoring natural areas](#)!

We are one of the founding organizations of the [Edmonton and Area Land Trust](#), a local land trust dedicated to the conservation of natural areas in the Edmonton region.

Ever wonder how you could be directly involved in the stewardship of natural areas? Learn more about the [Master Naturalist Program](#), as well as the [John Janzen Nature Centre](#), the city's [natural areas](#) and [Urban Forest Management Plan](#).

The over 160 kilometres of River Valley trails in Edmonton can be navigated with a [new series of maps](#)!

The City of Edmonton's efforts to protect natural areas and biodiversity were honoured with an Emerald Award in 2012.

## Conservation

The snow and sand removed from our roads in winter is stored in various facilities until it melts in the spring. After the snow melts, the sand left behind is [collected and cleaned](#) so it can be reused next winter.

Since 1981, the City has recycled asphalt and concrete from city street construction projects. The [Aggregate Recycling](#) Program currently diverts approximately 200,000 m<sup>3</sup> of waste products from landfill annually and saves money for aggregate that would otherwise be purchased by the City.

## Energy and Climate Change

The City of Edmonton is taking action on energy and climate change issues. See how we:

- Have developed our [City Operations Greenhouse Gas Management Plan](#)
- Are now implementing our [Green Building Plan](#)
- Are replacing old street lights with [LED technology](#)
- Have implemented a [Sustainable Building Policy](#) that mandates that all new City-owned buildings and major renovations be designed and constructed to meet LEED Silver Standard as a minimum
- Have assisted homeowners to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency with our [Carbon Dioxide Reduction Edmonton](#) (CO<sub>2</sub>RE) program

## Food

In consultation with citizens, interested groups and businesses, the City of Edmonton is developing a comprehensive [Food and Agriculture Strategy](#).

## Land

The City is involved in some [major sustainable residential and industrial development projects](#).

[Transit Oriented Development](#) (TOD) is an exciting approach to building a city.

We manage pests using economically and environmentally sound practices through [Integrated Pest Management](#). Find out more about our [current projects](#).

## Transportation

Edmonton's ETS [Centennial Garage](#) may be the greenest of its kind in Canada.

We have a cleaner, greener vehicle in our fleet - our first [all-electric vehicle](#).

The City encourages multiple modes of transportation by expanding [on-street bike routes](#), giving the option of [taking bikes on the bus or LRT](#) and promoting active transportation for [students travelling to and from school](#).

Get to know your community better by using these [walking maps](#). Take it a step further and get your community into [LocalMotion](#), a program focused on ecomobility.

## Waste Management

North America's largest collection of modern, sustainable waste processing and research facilities is at the [Edmonton Waste Management Centre](#). Currently 60% of residential waste is diverted from landfill with 20% of this being recycled and 40% composted. Once the City's waste-to-biofuels facility is operational in 2012, 90% of residential waste can be diverted from the landfill.

## Water

Edmonton is a world leader in wastewater recycling at the [Gold Bar Wastewater Treatment Plant](#)

Drainage Services helps ensure the safe management of [stormwater and wastewater](#). And school kids can learn how to [Treat it Right](#)®.

Don't "drain" your bank account – when it comes to fats, oils and grease, [store it, don't pour it](#) to avoid expensive property damage and sewer backups.

The City of Edmonton partners with the [North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance](#), [EPCOR](#) and other stakeholders to monitor water quality and improve [watershed health and management](#).

[Low Impact Development](#) (LID) minimizes the impact on the natural water cycle as land is developed.

## Greening in Action

Did you know that the City is addressing the [high cost of erosion](#)?

Have you heard about Edmonton's [Really Grate trees](#)?

## Programs

### Environmental Awards

The City of Edmonton's environmental efforts have been recognised nationally. The Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators (CAMA) has awarded the City of Edmonton with its [2012 Environment Award](#) for The Way We Green Environmental Strategic Plan.

### Environmental Management

The City manages its environmental responsibilities in accordance with the highest international standard, ISO 14001 [Environmental Management System\(Enviso\)](#).

## Small Business Eco Challenge

Small businesses operating in Edmonton are showing their innovation and greener practices through our [Small Business Eco Challenge](#).

## Other

### City Strategic Plans

[The Way We Finance](#)

[The Way We Green](#)

[The Way We Grow](#)

[The Way We Live](#)

[The Way We Move](#)

[The Way We Prosper](#)

[Transforming Edmonton](#)

### More Information

For more details on why our City is greening, take a look at [The Way We Green videos](#) , [discussion papers](#) and [expert panel feedback](#).

Interested in staying informed? The City of Edmonton and the University of Alberta are working together to bring [leading speakers](#) to the city.

Each year during [Environment Week](#), Edmontonians have the chance to [celebrate our environment](#) and learn about some of the new and energy-efficient residential and commercial buildings in our City.