St. Albert's 2007 Report on the Environment

www.stalbert.ca

Completed Initiatives

- Over $14,000 worth of Environmental Initiative Grants were approved by the City's Environmental Advisory Committee
- The Universal Transit Pass (U-Pass) was made available to University of Alberta and MacEwan College students
- An innovative wetland and fish habitat enhancement project was constructed at the Boudreau Bridge outfall



Ongoing Initiatives

- Environmental Initiative Grants
- Environmental Master Plan
- Idle-Free Bylaw
- Solid Waste Management System Review
- Energy efficient lighting and control systems installation at City Hall
- Transportation Master Plan

Upcoming Initiatives

- Sturgeon River Watershed Initiatives
- Partners for Climatic Protection Action Plan
- Household Hazardous Waste Roundup
- Tree Bylaw
- New/updated Office of Environment website

Air

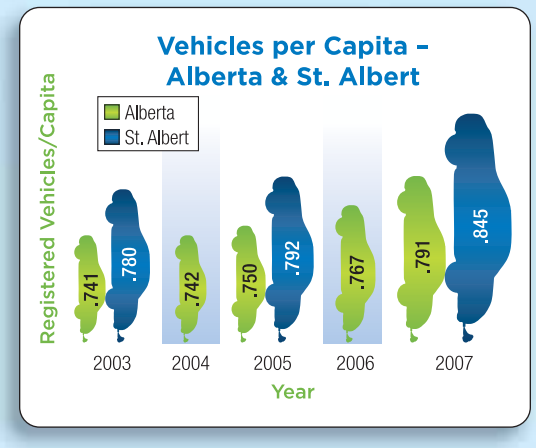
St. Albert has good outdoor air quality, as measured by the Alberta Environment Air Quality Index.

Air Quality Today

Automobile Use

Automobile use remains the primary contributor to air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions in St. Albert. Residents average 2.38 cars per household, which is up from 2005.

St. Albert averages 2.38 cars per household, one of the highest averages in Alberta.



Improving Air Quality – Initiatives

Public Transportation

Commuter ridership was up 2.3% in 2007 with an increase in the number of people traveling by bus between St. Albert and Edmonton. St. Albert Transit's fleet also continues to grow, increasing to 49 buses. The three new additions to the fleet produce significantly less emissions than the City's older models.

One St. Albert bus on the road is equal to taking approximately 40 cars off the road.

Check out St. Albert Transit at www.ridestat.ca.



U-Pass Program

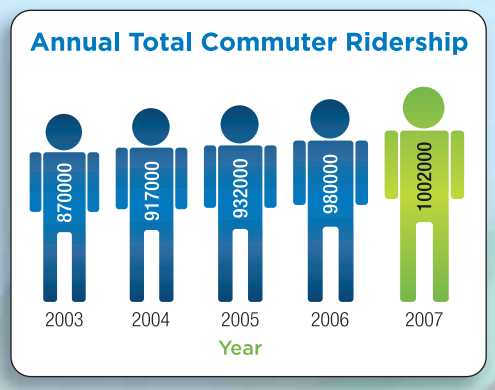
The Universal Transit Pass (U-Pass) program was initiated in September 2007. The U-Pass program offers undergraduate students at the University of Alberta and MacEwan College unlimited access to transit in St. Albert, Edmonton and Strathcona County. Approximately 46,000 students have the opportunity to use this program. Because the fees are collected from a large participant base, U-PASS prices are lower than the amount students would otherwise pay for monthly passes.

St. Albert Transit was the first of three Capital Region Transit Systems to approve the U-Pass transit program.

Alberta Capital Airshed Alliance (ACAA)

The City was one of the inaugural members of the newly formed Alberta Capital Airshed Alliance (ACAA), which includes representatives from Capital Health, Alberta Environment, the City of Edmonton and surrounding municipalities and industry groups. The group will focus on the impacts of ozone from burning fuel and particulate matter from dust and smoke.

Check out ACAA at http://www.capitalairshed.ca/.



THE CITY OF St. Albert

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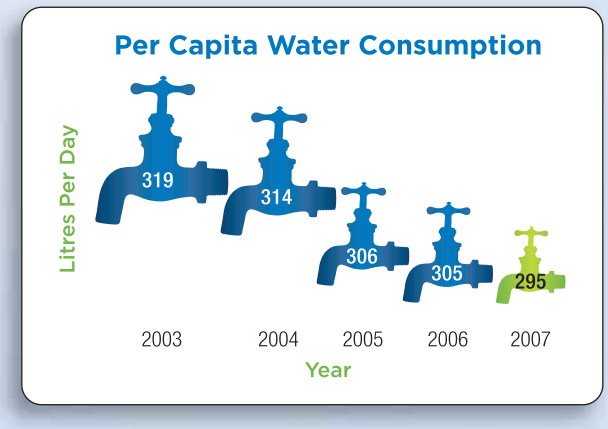


Water

Although the City gets its drinking water from the North Saskatchewan River, through EPCOR, the Sturgeon River and its resources remain in high demand.

Water Use Today

St. Albert's water consumption showed a downward trend from a per capita rate of 305 litres in 2006 to 295 litres in 2007. St. Albert residents can further reduce their overall consumption by limiting their outdoor water use and checking for indoor water leaks.



Perform your own water audit at www.epcor.ca/customers.

On average, a St. Albert family of four uses 35 cubic metres of water per month. Check your water bill to see how you compare.

Improving Water Consumption – Initiatives

Rain Barrel Program

Continuing with the success of the 2006 Rain Barrel Program, the City sold 650 barrels at a subsidized cost in 2007. The response has been very positive and the City plans to continue the program in future years.

Stormwater Management Today

The Sturgeon River's water quality is impacted by the pollution from stormwater runoff. Sand and salt used on roads, oil or gasoline leaks from vehicles and fertilizers and pesticides used in our yards all negatively affect stormwater quality and the health of the Sturgeon River.

Alberta Water Quality Awareness Day is celebrated annually on June 5th. This province-wide program is focused on increasing awareness about water quality and watershed health through hands-on water quality testing. Visit www.qwqad.ca to receive a free water testing kit.

Improving Stormwater - Initiatives

Stormwater ponds

The City received a $275,000 grant from Alberta Environment to complete a series of constructed wetlands at the Boudreau Bridge outfall. This project will ensure grit and contaminants are filtered from stormwater runoff before they reach the Sturgeon River.

The improvement also includes the addition of over 1,000 cubic metres of new spawning habitat for Northern Pike fish. The Boudreau Bridge outfall was identified as one of five high-priority sites in the City's 2004 Stormwater Master Plan.

Best Management Practices

To further reduce the amount of sand and grit that reaches the river, the City has an annual stormwater catch basin cleaning program.

In 2007, the City collected 276 cubic metres of grit and sand from its catch basins and grit interceptors, which is enough to fill 25 dump trucks.

Flood Plain Mapping

Big Lake Task Force, a partnership of seven municipalities in the Sturgeon River Watershed, completed a detailed flood plain mapping project that will help preserve valuable vegetative areas along the Sturgeon River.

Energy

The majority of the city's power comes from burning fossil fuels, like coal, which generate carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases (GHG).

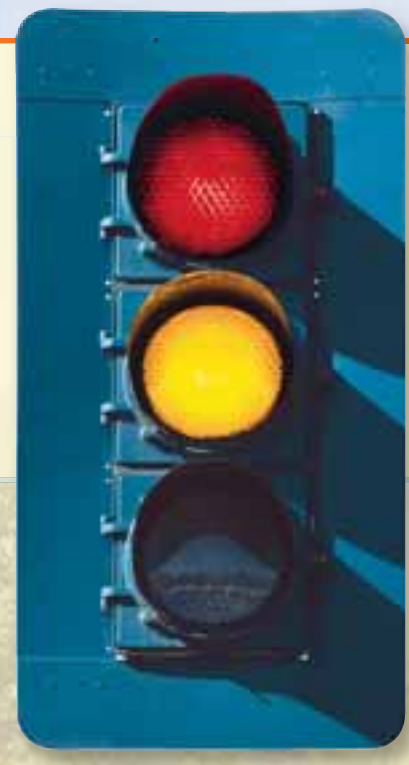
Energy Use Today

One third of Canada's GHG emissions come from Alberta, making the province the largest emitter of GHGs in the country.

Improving Energy Management – Initiatives

Traffic Light Upgrades

The City finished upgrading all City traffic lights from incandescent bulbs to light-emitting diodes (LED). The LED lights use 90% less energy and last 7 – 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs. The City expects to save between $50,000 and $80,000 in energy costs per year, resulting in a 449,600 kWh energy reduction and a decrease of 446 tonnes of carbon dioxide annually.



One tonne of carbon dioxide reduction is equivalent to taking two cars off the road each year or planting one tree.

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Land

St. Albert's area and population continue to grow steadily and this affects how the City plans its neighbourhoods, parks and open spaces as well as its approaches to pesticide use, contaminated sites and waste generation.

Land Use Today

City development has consisted mainly of low density, single housing units.

Improving Land Use – Initiatives

Municipal Development Plan (MDP) Revision

The updated MDP will help reduce the overall environmental impact of neighbourhood developments through:

- New area structure plans to encourage more compact, mixed-use neighbourhoods focused around neighbourhood activity centres
- Revised natural area assessment requirements for proposed developments
- The addition of Carrot Creek and Lois Hole Provincial Park to the park system

Land Use Bylaw

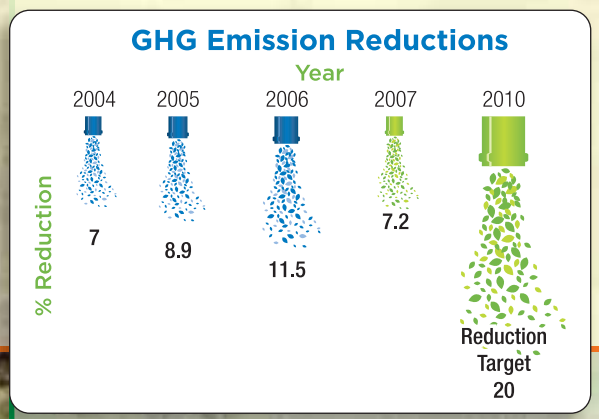
The City's Land Use Bylaw was amended to allow basement suites in single-family dwellings. This marks significant progress in the development of more affordable housing options in St. Albert.

LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design)

Construction has started on Fire Station #3, which will be the first LEED Gold Certified Fire Station in the province. LEED is a third party certification program and a nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high performance "green" buildings.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) Target

St. Albert Transit has been a leader within City departments by implementing an emissions management program to reduce greenhouse gases by 20% per passenger km by 2010.





Parks and Open Spaces Today

The City manages over 900 hectares of parks and open spaces. In 1999, a natural areas inventory identified 232 natural areas in the city. In 2007, the review was modified to include an additional 12 natural areas and 23 environmentally-sensitive areas acquired through annexation.

Improving Parks and Open Spaces – Initiatives

Parks & Open Spaces Management Plan

The Parks and Open Spaces Management Plan (POSMP) was approved in 2007. The City has initiated the first recommendation to digitally map all St. Albert parks and green spaces.

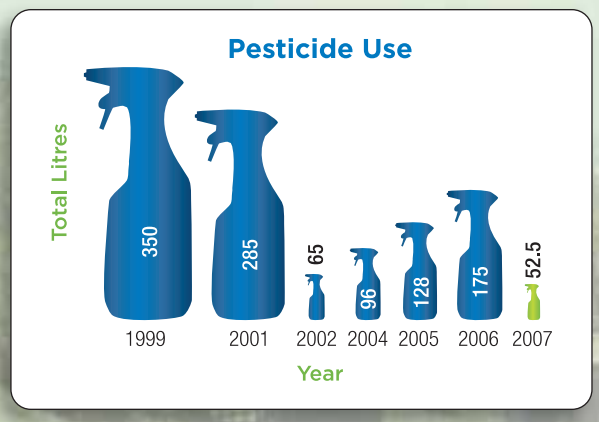
St. Albert has one of the highest per capita ratios of tree and open spaces for municipalities in North America.

Pesticide Use Today

Best Management Practices

Pesticides are used for the management and control of pests, weeds and plant diseases. Government regulations ensure the appropriate use and safe management of pesticides.

The amount of pesticide used each year by the City varies and is dependent on the weather and type of infestations. The City used significantly less pesticide in 2007 compared to the previous five years. The sharp decrease is largely a result of better application practices and the use of new, more efficient herbicides.



Improving Pesticide Use – Initiatives

Restricted/Noxious Weed Control

Public Works has developed a pilot program to address restricted and noxious weeds within the city. The program includes trying and monitoring various management options as well as new public education and awareness initiatives.

Contaminated Sites Today

The Environmental Management Plan for the former landfill at Riel Park was initiated in 2007. This will include capping and grading, revegetation and redevelopment to minimize the potential environmental impacts on the Sturgeon River.

10 of 30 hectares of the former landfill at Riel Park have been capped and graded.

Improving Contaminated Sites– Initiatives

Riel Redevelopment Plan

The City received a $55,000 grant from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) to develop an integrated recreation redevelopment plan for Riel Park.

Waste Management Today

Waste Generation

In the last year, St. Albert's waste generation decreased from 250 tonnes of garbage per person to 220 tonnes.

In 2007, St. Albert residents reduced the amount of garbage they produce by 30 tonnes per person.

Electronics Collection

St. Albert is one of 220 collection sites in the province available for residents to dispose of unwanted televisions and computers. In 2007, St. Albert residents dropped off a total of 187 tonnes of electronics, which is equivalent in weight to 93 average-sized cars.

Compared to 2006, St. Albert residents dropped off 54% more electronics for recycling in 2007.

Improving Waste Diversion – Initiatives

Pay-As-You-Throw Program Review (PAYT)

An internal committee reviewed the effectiveness of the current PAYT program, as well as some other components of the City's Solid Waste Management program.

Environmental Stewardship

St. Albert residents have said that the environment is one of the most important factors contributing to the overall quality of life in St. Albert.



Environmental Stewardship Today

The City of St. Albert is committed to managing our natural assets responsibly and minimizing negative impacts of growth and development on our environment. The City is using environmental management systems and environmental best practices as guidelines.

Through extensive volunteer commitment, the community continues to enhance the natural environment through various City programs and sponsored initiatives.

Improving Environmental Stewardship – Initiatives

Environmental Initiatives Grant Program

The City's voluntary Environmental Advisory Committee proposed an Environmental Initiatives Grant Program fund based on $0.50/capita/year (approximately $29,000/year). The first grant allocation distributed over $14,000 to 12 groups, including schools, non-profit groups and community groups to help with environmentally-focused projects.



Ecological Footprint

An ecological footprint measures the impact or demand people place on the environment, based on natural resource consumption and waste generation.

The ecological footprint is measured in hectares per capita – the amount of land and sea needed to support each person's current needs in the geographic area where they live.

There are only 1.8 hectares of land and sea resources available to support each person on earth. However, the average world footprint is just over 2.8 hectares per person, which means people are consuming resources faster than the earth can produce them. The average Canadian's ecological footprint is approximately 7.8 hectares per person.

St. Albert's ecological footprint is approximately 11.7 hectares per person. High water and energy consumption, as well as our dependency on personal vehicles, contribute to St. Albert's elevated rate.

St. Albert's ecological footprint is almost 50% higher than the Canadian average, which means at the rate our community is currently consuming resources, six Earths would be required to sustain St. Albert.

Improving St. Albert's Ecological Footprint

Lifestyle Changes

- Buy fuel efficient, low polluting vehicles
- Walk, cycle, carpool or use public transit
- Retrofit homes or businesses for increased energy efficiency
- Install energy and water efficient appliances
- Purchase locally grown foods

Environmental Master Plan

The City of St. Albert is committed to the maintenance of a clean, healthy environment

The Environmental Master Plan's (EMP) purpose is to identify and prioritize key environmental issues that are important to the St. Albert community.

The following six key environmental areas have been identified so far:

- Promote sustainable urban growth and neighbourhood development
- Preserve and protect natural areas
- Reduce solid waste
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Maintain and protect the Sturgeon River
- Reduce per capita water consumption

Over the next six months, the City will provide residents several feedback opportunities for the EMP, including a website survey and group workshops.

The Draft EMP will be presented at an Open House and available on our website in fall 2008.

Interested in EMP?

1. Fill out the EMP survey on the Office of Environment website at www.stalbert.ca
2. Attend a workshop on June 2nd and 3rd or June 11th and 12th by calling 459-1735.

We need your input!

Your Opinion Matters

For more information or to provide feedback please contact:
Office of Environment
Telephone: 780-459-1735
E-mail: environment@st-albert.net

www.stalbert.ca

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