City of St. Albert
Cultivate Life

2010 Report on the Environment



The 2010 Report on the Environment is our way of sharing progress and achievement on the eight goals and targets of the City's Environmental Master Plan (EMP). To view the EMP, visit *www.st.albert.ca/our-environment*

City of St. Albert
Office of Environment
Green by nature

City of St. Albert's Environmental Policy

The City of St. Albert is committed to maintaining a healthy, natural environment and ensuring its sustainability for future generations.

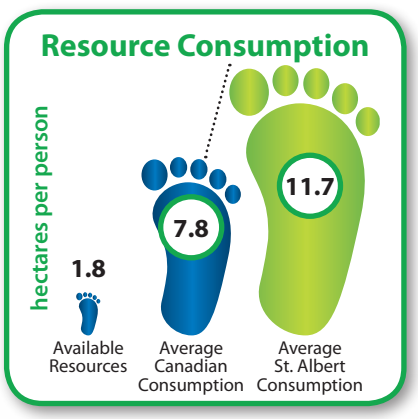
The City accomplishes this by adopting the following standards:

- Compliance with all environmental regulations
- Pollution prevention
- Use of an environmental management system
- Communication of its environmental performance to staff and the community
- Continuous improvement of its environmental performance

St. Albert's Ecological Footprint

The Earth is finite. There are only 1.8 hectares of land and sea resources available to support each person on the planet.

We are consuming resources faster than the Earth can produce them. The average person on the planet has an ecological footprint of 2.8 hectares. The Canadian average is 7.8 hectares per person, while St. Albert's is 50% higher at 11.7 hectares per person.





AIR

GOAL: Maintain Air Quality

Where are we now?

Although Alberta Environment classifies St. Albert's air quality as 'good,' they have noted that the levels of ozone and particulates are approaching trigger levels for National Air Quality Standards.

Where do we want to be?

TARGET:

- Establish an air quality monitoring station in St. Albert.

How are we reaching our target?

- As a member of the Alberta Capital Airshed Alliance, the City continues to work to develop a regional air quality monitoring system. The organization has recommended St. Albert as a priority for an air quality monitoring station in the Capital Region.

An airshed partnership is non-profit organization which is responsible for monitoring the quality of breathable air within a determined area and communicates information on air quality to policy makers and area residents. Alberta has a total of nine airsheds. For more information on Alberta's airsheds visit www.environment.gov.ab.ca



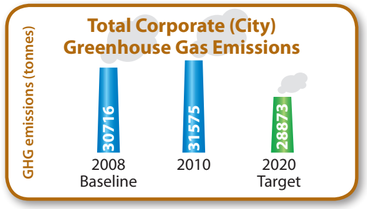


GOAL: Reduce Non-Renewable Energy Consumption and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions

Where are we now?

Baseline information from 2008 was calculated in 2010 through the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Project. Based on recommendations from this report, community emissions are calculated every three to five years and corporate (City) emissions are to be calculated every year. To view the full inventory and forecast document visit *www.stalbert.ca/greehouse-gas-emissions*

In 2010, the City's GHG emissions increased 2.79% over 2008 levels.



Where do we want to be?

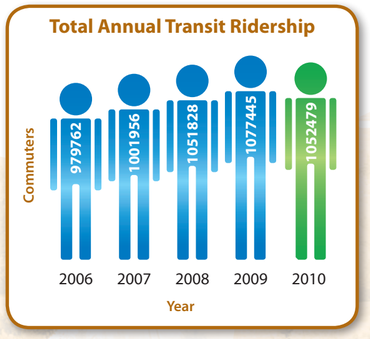
TARGETS:

- Reduce total corporate (City) emissions to 20% below 2008 levels by 2020.
- Reduce total community GHG emissions to 6% below 2008 levels by 2020.

How are we reaching our targets?

- The City completed the first two steps of the Partners for Climate Protection five-milestone program. Updated greenhouse gas emissions targets have been established as a result of this work. City plans on completing step three, greenhouse gas emissions reduction plan, in 2011.
- Replaced all the lights at Akinsdale and Kinnex Arenas with more energy efficient fixtures.
- At the Capital Region Board's Regional Transit Committee, St. Albert supported Edmonton's request for pre-approval of its Green Transit Incentive Program (Green TRIP) proposal related to the construction of the NAIT LRT line.
- Bike racks were installed on all City buses providing more travel options to riders.
- New bus signs were installed at all bus stops in St. Albert that will assist in the implementation of "NextBus" an automated vehicle location system that provides real-time transit information to the public.

Every Saturday from June 18 to October 8, St. Albert Transit offers free local bus service.



LAND

GOAL: Promote Sustainable Urban Development

Where are we now?

St. Albert's residential development has mainly consisted of low-density single housing units. The City's current residential density is nearly eight dwelling units per gross residential hectare and most existing neighbourhoods have an average of 20% medium density.

Where do we want to be?

TARGETS:

- Achieve minimum density of 12 dwelling units per gross residential hectare for new neighbourhoods.
- Achieve minimum of 30% for medium- or high-density residential units for new neighbourhoods.

How are we reaching our targets?

- Council decided against the implementation of Smart Growth Guidelines which would have increased densities and multi-family dwellings in future developments.
- Basement suite program is fully subscribed with another 58 basement suite grants approved in 2010.
- Oakmont/Erin Ridge Trail Development was completed in 2010 which continues to provide residents with trail access to within 400 meters of their home as outlined in the Municipal Development Plan.



GOAL: Preserve and Manage Trees, Parks and Natural Areas

Where are we now?

The City manages more than 670 hectares of treed boulevards, sports fields, parks and natural areas. This represents one of the highest per-capita proportions of trees and open spaces for Canadian municipalities.

Where do we want to be?

TARGETS:

- Complete a review of the current standards for parks and natural areas as part of the Parks and Open Spaces Management Plan (POSMP) and Municipal Development Plan (MDP) update review process.
- Protect 100% of proposed prioritized important natural areas.

How are we reaching our targets?

- A land exchange between the City, Province and Beaverbrook Developments was announced that will expand Lois Hole Centennial Provincial Park by 378 hectares.
- City negotiated a land transfer of the White Spruce Forest which gives St. Albert jurisdiction and the ability to protect this important natural area.

In 2010, 375 residents participated in the Clean Up the Sturgeon event collecting 0.7 tonnes of garbage along the Sturgeon River.



GOAL: Reduce Solid Waste Generation

Where are we now?

St. Albert's solid waste generation is at 169 kg annually per person, which continues to be much lower than the provincial average of 267 kg annually per person. July 2010 marked a full year since the introduction of improvements and curbside recycling improvements. The amount of waste diverted from the landfill has increased from 41% to 46% in 2010.

Where do we want to be?

TARGETS:

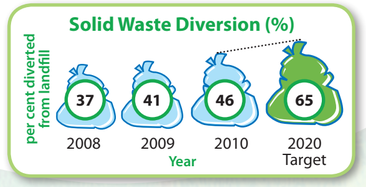
- Reduce solid waste generation to 125 kg per person per year by 2020.
- Increase solid waste diversion rate to 65% by 2020.

St. Albert will be the fifth municipality in the Capital Region to offer automated curbside organics collection service to their residents.

How are we reaching our targets?

- Council approved changes to the City's waste collection system adding curbside organics and yard waste pickup that will be implemented June 1, 2011. The City will also be moving to automated bi-weekly collection.

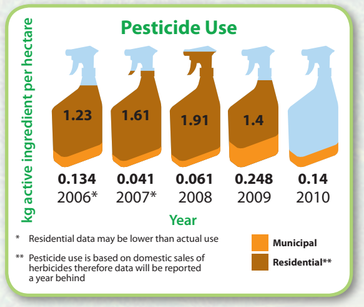




GOAL: Reduce Contamination by Improving Hazardous Waste Management

Where are we now?

The amount of pesticide used by the City varies and is dependant on the weather and types of weed and pest infestations.



Landfill cover was constructed over 19 of 28 hectares of the former landfill as part of the Riel Park Integrated Redevelopment Plan completing phase II of the project. Design of phases III and IV complete.

Where do we want to be?

TARGETS:

- Reduce municipal pesticide use to 0.5kg of active ingredient (ai) per hectare or lower by 2020.
- Reduce residential herbicide use (2-4D, Mecoprop, Dicamba) by 25% by 2020.
- Complete environmental management plan for the former landfill and the former Public Works yard by 2012.

Active ingredient (ai) per hectare is a measure of the amount (kilograms) of active pesticide substance used over a certain area.

How are we reaching our targets?

- St. Albert formed a partnership with the City of Edmonton and Strathcona County on the Good Growing Neighbours campaign. The campaign provides tips on environmentally friendly lawn and garden maintenance that reduces the need for pesticides. Visit *www.goodgrowingneighbours.ca* for more information.
- The City's one underground diesel storage tank, which is located at the transit facility, was replaced by a double-walled tank with an electronic leak detection system which follows best management practices under the Alberta Fire Code.

2010 Report on the Environment

WATER

GOAL: Protecting and Maintaining the Sturgeon River Watershed

Where are we now?

Since 2006, the City has regularly tested water quality at four locations along the Sturgeon River during the summer months. Based on the 2010 testing results:

- Pesticide levels in 2010 are still acceptable for maintaining a healthy river however pesticide concentrations increase as the water moves through the city.
- The levels of nitrogen and phosphorus are above guidelines for protecting the health of the river. Nitrogen and phosphorus, the main ingredients in turf fertilizers, are detected at high concentrations throughout St. Albert.
- Although within acceptable levels for protection of aquatic life, bacteria levels stayed high in 2010. Bacteria levels are usually related to waste water releases and animal waste.

The City of St. Albert initiated a State of the Sturgeon River Watershed Report which will help assess the current condition of the Sturgeon River. For more information visit *www.stalbert.ca/sturgeon-river-watershed*

Through the annual stormwater catch basin cleaning and spring street sweeping, the City continues to reduce the amount of grit and sand that reaches the river.

In 2010, the City collected 256 cubic meters of grit and sand from its catch basins and grit interceptors, which is equivalent to 23 dump trucks.

Where do we want to be?

TARGETS:

- Maintain river quality as its water moves through St. Albert.
- Capture 90% of municipal winter road sanding material by 2020.

How are we reaching our targets?

- City reviewed and analyzed the erosion and sediment controls in the 2004 Stormwater Master Plan that would minimize the impacts of stormwater on the Sturgeon River. As part of these controls, the monitoring data for the St. Anne and Butterfield hydrocarbon/grit interceptor was reviewed. This information will be used to develop a plan to build other similar sediment control structures.

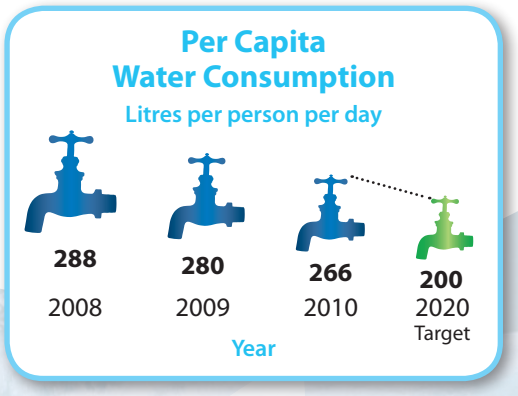




GOAL: Reduce Water Consumption

Where are we now?

Water consumption continues to decrease, moving from a per-capita rate of 280 litres in 2009 to 266 litres in 2010.



Where do we want to be?

TARGET:

- Reduce water consumption to 200 litres or less per person per day by 2020.

How are we reaching our target?

- Continuing with the success of rain barrel programs over the past four years, the City sold 450 barrels at a reduced cost in 2010.



We Need Your Input! Your Opinion Matters

For more information or to provide feedback, please contact:

Office of Environment
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Email: environment@st-albert.net