

NEIGHBOURING for Climate

A toolkit to help you get climate ready with your neighbours!

Use these checklists with your neighbours to take inventory of the challenges and opportunities in your neighbourhood! Every neighbourhood is unique, so adapt and edit to fit your needs.

Consider printing a map of your neighbourhood to help you mark locations of interest.

For all identified features, note if it is on City (public) or private property to help you determine how to handle it and who to contact. Visit edmonton.ca/climateneighbours for additional resources.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Identify Neighbourhood Hazards

Previous Incidents & Challenges

- Where has there been damage caused previously to properties from hazards / weather events?

Extreme Cold

- Which areas get the most slippery / icy in the winter? Are there areas where snowmelt refreezing causes icy spots?

- Are there any areas that snow collects / piles up?

- Are there any areas where snow or ice falling from buildings/etc. could fall onto someone?

Extreme Heat

- Which areas are the hottest in the summer? (e.g. south facing, no shade, paved surfaces)

Flooding

- Are you in a river flood hazard area? (See <https://floods.alberta.ca/>)

- Are you in an overland flood risk area? (See [Edmonton's 2016 Flood Study Maps](#))

- Which areas collect / pool with water after a rainstorm?

- Do downspouts from buildings drain far enough away from the building?

- Where are the main stormwater drains? Are they clear of debris?

High Winds

- Are there any tree branches overhanging houses or power lines?

- Are there any dead standing trees or branches on trees that could pose a hazard in high winds?

- Are there any loose items that could blow away in severe winds? (e.g. roof shingles, yard umbrellas, sheds)

Get Personally Prepared

- Does everyone have an emergency kit prepared for their home and/or vehicle?

Is everyone insured for the hazards you identified earlier? (e.g. fire, flood)

Who may need assistance in an emergency? (e.g. young kids, anyone with mobility challenges, pets). Is there someone who can be their buddy in an emergency?

How can we communicate with each other in an emergency? Are there any language barriers or those without access to cell phones / internet?

What other resources do we have that could help in an emergency? (e.g. BBQs, camp stoves, wind-up radios, battery packs, generators, tools, trailers)

What other skills do we have that could help in an emergency or to recover from one? (e.g. camp cooking, first-aid / CPR, repair)

Do we have a neighbourhood muster point (a place to meet in case of emergency)? If not, where is a good location to gather?

BIODIVERSITY & ECOLOGY

Conduct an Ecosystem Assessment

Species

Conduct a survey of all the species you observe on your block:

- How many different species of each type can you find?
- How many total living things can you see?

Use the table below to help keep track of your findings.

Type	Different Species	Counts
Animals		
Insects		
Trees		
Plants & Flowers		
Total		

Green Network

Map the green network on your block:

- Where are the currently vegetated areas? How well are these areas connected?
- Where are the mature trees? How connected is the tree canopy on your street? Could a squirrel leap from tree to tree (squirrels can leap about 2m)? Where are the gaps in connectivity?
- Are there any water courses / riparian areas?
- Are there any naturalized areas with native plants, trees, or shrubs?
- Where are the pervious surfaces (where water can absorb into the soil)?
- Where are there impervious surfaces (where water runs off - e.g. asphalt, concrete)?
- How has your neighbourhood environment changed over time?

Other kits and resources:

[Citizen's CoolKit \(UBC\)](#)

[Biodiversity in your Neighbourhood \(University of Guelph\)](#)

[Urban Nature Checklist \(Nature Alberta\)](#)

FOOD SECURITY

Create an Inventory of Food Gardens, Shrubs and Trees

- Where are food trees located? If these are on private property, is the owner interested in sharing the harvest?

- Where are there berry bushes or other food-bearing shrubs?

- Who has a vegetable or container garden in their yard?

- Does anyone have available growing places with south, east, or west facing solar exposure they would let their neighbour use to grow food?

- Who has gardening experience or supplies?

- Who has canning and preserving experience or supplies?

Other resources:

edmonton.ca/veginstead

edmonton.ca/communitygardens