



## Promoting Infill as Sustainable Practice

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### Executive Summary

Sustainability is increasingly valued as a model for strategic planning and the City of Edmonton is one of many Canadian municipalities leading the way in connecting city building to sustainable practice. Moving the City of Edmonton towards sustainability creates better outcomes in economic, ecologic, social and cultural arenas while maintaining a high quality of service for its citizens. One of the city's major strategic objectives is to move its urban form to greater sustainability by becoming more compact and seeking to regenerate its older neighbourhoods through residential infill development.

Residential infill development allows cities to accommodate growth without adding to sprawl and find efficiencies in established infrastructure. However, residential infill development is challenged with many barriers that make it difficult for cities to meet intended infill growth targets. The City of Edmonton has found that it is not yet meeting its modest goal of encouraging twenty five percent of new housing to occur in mature neighbourhoods. Missing these targets suggests that the City of Edmonton has an opportunity to review the barriers to infill development and apply best practices which have been employed in other municipalities to overcome them.

This study was conducted by researching best practices through secondary and primary research. The paper first discusses the connection between infill development and sustainability. The study presents an analysis of the City of Edmonton's approach to infill development. Next, the report presents best practices employed by other cities. Last, the paper offers recommendations to the City of Edmonton to better promote infill development.