

Environment Week Edmonton



ENVIRONMENT WEEK 2016 AT A GLANCE

[Environment Week 2016](#) was one for the books with record-breaking engagement, excitement, and participation from Edmontonians. The week is dedicated to celebrating Edmonton as the green city that it is, while actively creating a sustainable future.

The eco-friendly events began with the [Eco-Solar Home Tours](#). The 17th annual event saw a terrific turnout with over 3,100 individuals visiting at least one of the 18 sites on the tour where environmentally friendly homes and businesses opened their doors to the public.

The week was officially kicked off on June 7 when Councillor Ben Henderson and Edmonton Oiler and sustainability advocate Andrew Ference proclaimed Environment Week and introduced Edmonton's brand new solar-powered technology, the [Soofa benches](#). The solar-powered benches are a social space where you can sit down, hang out and charge your phone!

[Edmonton's Waste Management Centre](#) participated in the festivities by offering free tours of our City's world class facility all week long. The tours hosted 289 interested citizens throughout the week.

June 8 was [Clean Air Day](#) in Edmonton. Citizens were inspired to take the [1-Day-a-Week Pledge](#) to take a sustainable form of transportation at least one day per week to reduce emissions and help improve Edmonton's air quality.



**June 5-11
2016**

Highlights:

- The Eco-Solar Home Tour showcased 18 highly energy efficient and eco-friendly homes and businesses in and near Edmonton
- Councilor Ben Henderson proclaimed Environment Week in Edmonton on Tuesday, June 7th.
- In honour of Environment Week, two brand new solar-powered & sustainable Soofa benches were installed.
- 289 people toured the Edmonton Waste Management Centre, a world-class facility, through the free tours offered throughout the week.
- Environment Week wrapped up with River Day at Rundle Park on Saturday, June 11. Edmontonians started their day with a pancake breakfast before heading to the water for a fun day outdoors, including hands-on activities for the whole family.



#ISPYEG

In honor of the new solar benches, an environment week themed “I Spy” contest was launched.

Edmontonians were invited to take a seat on one of the benches, named Winston and Soofia, snap a picture and post it to Instagram using #ISpyYEG for their chance to win sustainable prizes!

The contest was a huge success with Edmontonians heading down to Churchill Square and the Muttart Conservatory to visit Winston and Soofia for the first time.

SOLAR & SOCIAL SPACES: THESE BENCHES ARE SOOFA COOL

It was a beautiful, sunny Tuesday morning when Councillor Ben Henderson officially proclaimed this year’s Environment Week in Edmonton, presenting the proclamation to the City of Edmonton’s Director of City Environmental Strategies, Mark Brostrom. In honor of Environment Week, local athlete and sustainability enthusiast Andrew Ference announced the City’s brand new additions, the Soofa benches.

And what exactly is a [Soofa bench](#), you ask? Well, it’s a solar-powered bench designed to be a social space where anyone can sit and charge their phones –the perfect blend of smart, social, and

sustainable technology. Edmonton installed two Soofas: “Winston”, which sits in Churchill Square, and “Soofia”, located in the courtyard of the Muttart Conservatory.

Soofa is an innovative company out of MIT in Boston. Edmonton is the first city in Canada to introduce these benches and give Edmontonians a hands-on experience with solar energy.

Introducing the Soofa benches to Edmonton was a great way to demonstrate concepts and initiatives in the recently approved [Community Energy Transition Strategy](#).



Mark Brostrom, Andrew Ference and Councillor Ben Henderson introduced the Soofa benches

THE AIR WE BREATHE

As one of the fastest growing cities in Canada, clean air is vital to support Edmontonians, both present and future. The quality of our air has a major effect on our health. Clean Air Day is all about what we can do in our homes and communities to keep our air clean.

Over 2,000 Edmontonians have taken the [1-Day-a-Week Pledge](#) to move around the city sustainably.

Check out Edmonton.ca/CleanAirDay for more tips & tricks to support Edmonton’s air quality. To learn more about initiatives across the region, visit the Alberta Capital Airshed, capitalairshed.ca.

ENVIRONMENTAL INNOVATIONATIONS AT THE CITY

The [Charles Labatiuk Award for Environmental Excellence](#) is an annual event where environmental champions working for the City of Edmonton are recognized. Individuals or teams who go above and beyond to 'green' Edmonton are nominated for the distinguished award.

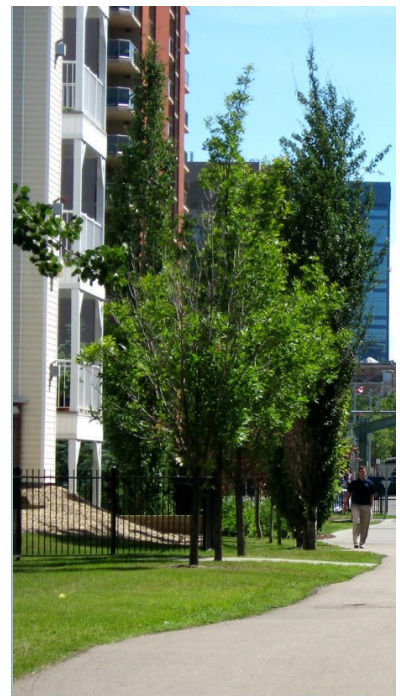
The top award went to Jill Gillis, Rachel Dumont and Barb Ireland from the City's Integrated Infrastructure Services Department for developing and managing the City's first stormwater reuse system. This uniquely sustainable method of irrigation is installed at Ivor Dent Sports Park and maintains 138 acres of world class sports facilities.

The team will be honored with a special tree planting and plaque through the City's Commemorative Tree Program.

The Labatiuk Award is named in honour of the late Charles Labatiuk, Ph.D., P.Eng. Charles was a long-time employee of the City of Edmonton and a passionate environmentalist.



Barb Ireland, Jill Gillis, and Rachel Dumont of the Ivor Dent Sports Park: Stormwater Reuse for Irrigation team



The three finalists were:

- ◇ **Queen Elizabeth Outdoor Pool Solar Panel Project:** This team installed 200 solar panels on the roof of the outdoor pool that now generates about 40% of the pool's annual energy use.
- ◇ **Brownfield Redevelopment Grant Program:** This award-winning program develops spaces in Edmonton that were previously considered unusable, also known as brownfields. These sites are developed in a safe and environmentally friendly way including the requirement of LEED certified buildings.
- ◇ **Ivor Dent Sports Park Stormwater Reuse for Irrigation:** This team developed and implemented the City's first stormwater reuse system for irrigation.



EDMONTON'S GREEN HOME GUIDE

Homeowners guide to
sustainable living.

Whether you're buying, selling, or renovating a home, Edmonton's Green Home Guide can help you achieve a greener standard, lower utility bills, and join other Edmontonians on the quest to become a carbon neutral city.

Looking to purchase energy efficient appliances?

Want to lower your home water consumption?

Searching for ways to landscape your home in a sustainable way?

It's all in the guide!

**edmonton.ca/
GreenHomeGuide**

ECO-SOLAR HOME TOUR SHOWCASES THE BEST OF ECO-FRIENDLY EDMONTON

The annual [Eco-Solar Home Tour](#) was back for the 17th year.

This year, the tour featured 18 eco-friendly sites with high-tech upgrades that facilitate sustainable living. The sites had sustainable technology like solar PV systems, energy efficient mechanical systems, top of the line insulation, ground source heat pumps, and more.

The tour was kicked-off by Premier Rachel Notley on Friday, June 3 at one of Edmonton's most energy efficient businesses, Earth's General Store.

Over 3,100 Edmontonians came out to take a look at the cutting-edge environmental technology that can be found within homes in our city.



Greener Days

Interested in more green events happening in Edmonton?

Check out the Greener Days event calendar to find more environmental events throughout the year.

The calendar features environmental events hosted by the City of Edmonton as well as by organizers like post-secondary institutions, Solar Energy Society of Alberta, Edmonton Nature Club, and more.

Check it out at edmonton.ca/GreenerDays

TIPS & TRICKS TO LIVE GREEN

Nature & Biodiversity

- ◇ [Eco-landscape](#) to reduce the impact of your flower bed on the environment and your wallet.
- ◇ Learn to identify and stop the spread of [weeds](#).

Food & Agriculture

- ◇ Did you know the City of Edmonton recently introduced a bylaw to allow [urban beekeeping](#)?
- ◇ Read [fresh](#), Edmonton's Food and Urban Agriculture Strategy.

Water

- ◇ Conserve water. Fix any leaky fixtures and check your toilets, pipes, and faucets. Undetected leaks can waste hundreds of liters of treated water in a year. Outdoors, set up a [rain barrel](#) or construct a [rain garden](#).

Air

- ◇ Improve the air quality of the places that you spend the most time, like work or home. Keep houseplants like the Peace Lily or Areca Palm to purify indoor air.

Energy

- ◇ Use a fan instead of air conditioning to reduce your energy consumption.

Transportation

- ◇ Take the [1-Day-a-Week Pledge](#) to move around Edmonton sustainably.

Waste

- ◇ Go ['bagless'](#). Grasscycle because it's easier for you, healthier for your lawn, and better for the environment.

Sustainable Buys

- ◇ Our city is moving toward a [sharing economy](#), which allows people to borrow or rent items instead of buying them. Think of the Edmonton Public Library or a more recent addition to the city like [Pogo Carshare](#) and the soon-to-be Edmonton Tool Library.
- ◇ Check out Edmonton's year round farmer's markets to support local vendors.

Looking for even more Green living tips?

Check out [Edmonton's Green Living Guide](#) and [Edmonton's Green Home Guide](#)

City Environmental Strategies

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