



2015



During the We Love Cities campaign, you were asked for ideas to make Edmonton even better. Here are summaries of your comments and our responses. Thanks everyone, for helping to make our city more environmentally friendly.

- Energy..... 1
- Parks, Nature & Recreation 3
- Transportation..... 5
- Waste Management 6
- Other..... 8
- Learn More..... 9

Energy

Efficiency

- Increase efficiency of older buildings
- Require new buildings to be built sustainably, to a certain certification

Renewables

- Install a wind generator in Churchill Square
- Solar panels, green roofs on city buildings
- Increase use of "green" energy

General

- Invest in local energy businesses

City of Edmonton Response

In 2007, the City of Edmonton adopted Policy C532 which ensures that as of January 1, 2008, all City-owned buildings and renovations are designed and constructed to meet LEED Silver Standard as a minimum, and be formally LEED certified. In buildings that we lease, we encourage the property owners/managers to improve energy efficiency.

Additionally, in 2012, the City adopted a Green Building Policy (C567), which supports the design, construction, operation and retrofitting of City buildings to high performance green buildings.



For more information, please visit: edmonton.ca/greenbuilding

Winds in Edmonton are often intermittent and too variable in speed to generate significant quantities of electricity. As a result, it can be challenging to design a system to generate dependable wind power. However, Edmonton is one of the most suitable cities in Canada for solar photovoltaic (PV) because of the high potential amount of sunlight we get throughout the year.

For more information on renewable energy, visit: edmonton.ca/renewableenergy

This year, City Council gave administration the green light to develop a policy for Edmonton's Community Energy Transition Strategy, which includes a push for greater energy efficiency as well as the use of renewable ("green") energy in place of coal-burning.

Check out the Strategy at: edmonton.ca/energytransition

By supporting Edmonton to transition away from fossil fuels to a more renewable energy, local businesses that have the capacity to deliver on needs will be in demand.



Parks, Nature & Recreation

Parks

- More community events in parks
- Increased park pathways

Nature

- Edible forests
- Increased beautification/naturalization around highways and communities
- Reduce pesticide use

Recreation

- Cleanliness of recreation centres
- Development of river valley (promenade, food venues, etc.)

City of Edmonton Response

Parks

The City works with various community leagues and communities to encourage a friendlier, more neighbourly city. Community Recreation Coordinators are available to work with community groups to facilitate park events. There are also activities the City can help to implement in any community, including Block Parties and our newest program called the Abundant Community Initiative.

For more information on community engagement programming, visit:
edmonton.ca/programs_services/programs-community.aspx.

The City looks at adding new park pathways in two instances - during the development of new parks and during the revitalization of existing parks. Both of these instances require considerable public consultation to obtain resident feedback with respect to design, location, use, and amenities.

If you would like more information about a specific park, visit www.edmonton.ca/parks.

Nature

The City recognizes the opportunity for more sustainable edible forest planting efforts in our vast urban parkland. We have engaged in planting activities in the past and will continue to expand on this important program.

To increase beautification and naturalization around highways and communities the City began a master naturalization plan in 2014. The goal is to increase naturalization by stopping mowing in some areas and planting more flower and plants that are native to Alberta.

For more information, visit: edmonton.ca/naturalization

The City of Edmonton implemented a herbicide ban in July 2015 and now uses herbicides for essential uses only. Call 311 for more information.

Recreation

We take pride in our clean and safe buildings but need your cooperation to help keep a safe, fun and healthy, environment for everyone. Check out edmonton.ca/recentreguidelines for more information.



Though most events are not set up by River Valley staff, we do have a River Day each summer and recently added an annual I Love YEG Winter event each February. Both of these events are run by River Valley Programs.

In terms of facilities and amenities in the River Valley, we added three River Valley restaurants this summer. Each golf course has a Dogwood Cafe location and these restaurants are open to everyone. A winter chalet with weekend programming was added at Victoria Park Golf Course last winter and the winter chalet network will be extended this winter.



Transportation

General

- Higher quality and new technologies for road building
- Plow sidewalks before streets to encourage active transportation

City of Edmonton Response

Higher quality and new technologies for road building and fix potholes and implement a schedule

The City of Edmonton's Engineering Services houses one of North America's only dedicated asphalt research laboratories. The climate and temperature variation in Edmonton makes building and maintaining long-lasting roads a particular challenge, and the team at the asphalt research lab is constantly testing new mixes and techniques that will prolong the life cycle of the road, thereby preventing the formation of potholes that seems to challenge drivers every year. The City has over 11,000 lane kilometres of roads to maintain, and many of these require extensive work. Transportation Services, through the direction of City Council, is implementing an aggressive arterial rehabilitation program that is improving Edmonton's roadways throughout the network.

Plow sidewalks before streets to encourage active transportation

Roadway Maintenance has a mandate to clear city-owned sidewalks within 48 hours of the end of a snowfall. While it would certainly be ideal to have both roads and sidewalks cleared at the same time in order to accommodate all modes of transportation, we must first focus on restoring mobility on the roadways so that commuters, transit users, emergency vehicles and commercial traffic can move safely and efficiently. Crews do, however, get to work with sidewalk plows as soon as conditions and resources allow.



Waste Management

Businesses

- Enforce businesses to clean up areas surrounding buildings

Education

- Increased waste education in schools and communities
- Capital City Cleanup in spring and fall

Options

- Introduce "green bin" composting
- Run curbside Eco Station pickup occasionally
- Home pickup of refundables
- Underground garbage tunnel for new neighbourhoods
- Implement a plastic bag fee

General

- More recycling; encouraged use of recycled goods
- Public composting and recycling
- Introduce fee for surplus garbage bags

City of Edmonton Response

We are very pleased to see so many good suggestions and we will take them into consideration when we develop our Waste Management Services strategic plan in 2016.

Recycling

Edmontonians are great recyclers – over 90 per cent of residents participate in our voluntary recycling programs – but it's great to see that residents would like to see even more recycling and encourage the use of recycled goods. One way to increase recycling in Edmonton is to make sure you are recycling as much as possible. If you visit edmonton.ca/whatgoeswhere you will find a list of all the items we accept for recycling. If you live in an apartment building that does not have a recycling bin, please approach your property manager to request a bin from the City. Our commercial collection services will also provide collection services for businesses that choose to collect mixed recycling.

Waste Reduction Education

We offer a variety of education programs in schools and communities including tours and presentations about waste reduction for children and adults. We now offer tours of the Edmonton Waste Management Centre for adults every Friday. If you would like to join a tour or request a presentation, please visit edmonton.ca/learnaboutwaste.

Composting Bins

The City has one of the largest composting facilities in North America and we recover the organic material in household garbage and make compost out of it.

Capital City Clean Up

Capital City Clean Up is a program that runs year-round and it has several initiatives to keep Edmonton clean with the help of the residents (visit edmonton.ca/capitalcitycleanup). During the spring, summer and fall we have the Big Bin Events where residents can take large items that are not acceptable for collection.



Bottles

We do accept refundable bottles in our recycling programs (blue bags, apartment bins and depots). In turn we sell them to market.

Public Consultation

We underwent a public consultation process in 2012 to gather input on methods of financing waste services. The results indicated that the majority of residents wanted to stay with the current flat fee system. We did learn at that time that residents and City Council wanted us to focus more on waste reduction and we have been doing that since. If you would like to see and share ideas on how we can all reduce our waste, please visit 90WaysTo90.com.



Other

Home

- Subsidies for efficiency upgrades/building
- Encourage clotheslines, remove clothesline ban

General

- GPS system to improve emergency vehicle access (warning lights for drivers)
- Continue rebranding of winter as a fun time of year
- Decrease light pollution
- Community engagement
- Climate controlled resort area in downtown

City of Edmonton Response

Home

The City currently offers a rebate for qualifying-income households to make energy efficient upgrades to their home through the HOPE program (edmonton.ca/hope). We also have a number of programs focused on energy efficiency, from tips in Edmonton's Green Home Guide (edmonton.ca/greenhomeguide) and Green Living Guide (edmonton.ca/greenlivingguide), to setting higher efficiency standards in City-developed sites such as Oxford Place (edmonton.ca/oxfordlandsales), Laurel Green (edmonton.ca/laurelgreen) and First Place Homes (edmonton.ca/firstplace)

As well, included in Edmonton's Community Energy Transition Strategy is a suggestion for a Green Renovation Program for existing homes in Edmonton (page 37).

There is no City bylaw prohibiting residents from hanging laundry outside to dry. However, your homeowner or condominium association may have their own rules. In these cases, residents are encouraged to talk to their board.

General

Edmonton Fire Rescue Services currently uses GPS technology to ensure the closest Fire apparatus are sent to emergencies and is also a tool used to assist in routing emergency vehicles to events. GPS technology is also used in several traffic corridors to control traffic lights to clear intersections and provide green lights for responding Fire vehicles. Additional traffic corridors are being equipped with the GPS traffic preemption equipment over the next three years.

For more information on Fire Rescue, visit edmonton.ca/firerescueservices.

WinterCity continues to expand with new ideas. Find out what's happening at edmonton.ca/wintercitystrategy. And make sure to subscribe to the newsletter, WinterCity Blizzard!

The City's environmental strategic plan, The Way We Green, addresses light pollution:

- minimize the impact of lighting and buildings on wildlife (Objective 3.13, page 32)
- establish, implement and maintain an Outdoor Lighting Plan for Edmonton that promotes light use where needed, when needed and no more than is necessary for safety and security (Strategic Action 6.6.1, page 53)

Community engagement is important to the City. So important that we continue to develop new programs such as:



- Insight Community (edmonton.ca/insight)
This is a growing group of diverse Edmontonians who provide feedback on City policies, initiatives and community issues. Sign up and be a part of the panel!
- City Hall Express (edmonton.ca/cityhallexpress)
City Hall has been going on a road trip throughout the summer, bringing City experts out to various neighbourhoods.

Council's three-year initiative on improving public engagement is moving into its second phase. Learn more at edmonton.ca/publicinvolvement.

Edmonton's downtown is transforming. While the existing pedway system, new developments and the Ice District are not exactly a resort, combined, they will provide citizens with an exciting destination, year-round. For more information, visit edmonton.ca/go_downtown/downtown-projects.aspx.

Learn More

To learn more about Edmonton's environmental strategy, The Way We Green, spend some time exploring edmonton.ca/thewaywegreen. You will find links to the topic areas addressed by the plan, more information about City initiatives, ideas for citizens to take action and educational resources.

In addition, Edmonton's Report on the Environment provides a snapshot of our environmental performance for 2012/13. Visit edmonton.ca/greenannualreport to view a dynamic online version or to read the hard copy. The 2013/14 report will be coming out in Fall 2015.

The We Love Edmonton campaign was a great way to connect with our citizens and the City intends to continue the community-wide conversation about sustainability in the coming months and years.

Are you interested in putting your name forward to be surveyed regularly by the City on various initiatives? Visit edmonton.ca/insight to learn more.