

Other Useful Websites

- Edmonton Horticultural Society
www.edmontonhort.com
Programs and activities for all levels of gardeners.
- Edmonton Native Plant Group
edmontonnaturalizationgroup.org
Information about where to buy native plants/seeds.
- The Urban Farmer
www.theurbanfarmer.ca
Natural, sustainable and edible landscapes.
- Wild About Gardening (Canadian Wildlife Federation)
www.wildaboutgardening.org
Advice, tools and resources for backyard gardening.

Recommended Reading

- *Go Wild! with easy to grow prairie wildflowers and grasses*
Cherry Dodd, Edmonton Native Plant Group
- *Living Near Urban Lakes*
Sarah Weaver Kipp

You're Gonna Love Green Publications

Apartments & Condominiums
Eco-Landscaping
Edmonton Green Home Guide
Edmonton Green Living Guide (coming soon!)

To download these publications,
visit www.edmonton.ca/LoveGreen.

Sign up for our newsletter

We have a biannual newsletter, as well as occasional updates on events and promotions. Sign up at www.edmonton.ca/LoveGreen.

YOU'RE GONNA LOVE GREEN

Eco-Landscaping

Environmentally friendly ways to reduce yard maintenance, costs and greenhouse gas emissions.




City of Edmonton – Environment

Phone: 311 (in Edmonton) / 780-442-5311 (outside Edmonton)

Website: www.edmonton.ca/LoveGreen

Take Action on Climate Change

Eco-landscaping reduces waste, fertilizer and chemical needs, conserves water and saves money through reduced energy and yard maintenance costs. It also helps reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions responsible for climate change.



Ecoscape: low maintenance landscaping

Incorporate diverse types of native, drought-resistant plants (including grasses and ground covers), practical turf areas and mulches into your landscape design to create an attractive, low maintenance yard. This type of design not only reduces water use but typically reduces fertilizer, pest and disease control requirements, helping the environment while saving you time and money. Also, group plants according to watering needs to reduce water use.



Plant trees

A well-placed line of evergreens on the north and west side of your home provides shelter against winter winds and reduces your home's demand for heat. Deciduous trees on the south side of your house provide shade in the summer while still allowing sunshine in during the winter.



Collect rainwater

Use a cistern or rain barrel to capture and store rainwater for irrigation. It reduces runoff and the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with tap water.



Water the lawn early in the morning

More than half of the water applied to lawns can be lost to evaporation and run-off due to over-watering. Watering during the cool part of the day reduces losses to evaporation. Single, deep waterings (25 mm / 1 inch once every 7-10 days) are more effective than several light waterings. Adding compost or 12-15 cm (5-6 inches) of good quality top soil will help hold water and fertilizer, reducing your need for watering.



Backyard compost

Compost your yard waste and kitchen scraps (e.g. eggshells, cores and peels) to reduce waste and produce your own natural fertilizer and soil conditioner. Composting is easy, and a family of three can reduce GHG emissions by more than 125 kilograms per year. Reducing your household waste means less waste needs to be collected, transported and processed.



Mulch

Cover the soil surface around your outdoor plants with compost, shredded bark or other organic material. Mulching in the spring reduces weeds and the need to water. Mulching in the fall protects plants against winter. Mulch can also create a habitat for beneficial insects, which will help reduce reliance on pesticides.



Use a push or electric mower

Consider using a manual push or electric mower. A typical gas-powered mower produces 48 kilograms of GHG emissions in a season and as much air pollution as a car driven 550 kilometres.



Grasscycle

Leave grass clippings on your lawn when you mow. Clippings will quickly break down, helping your lawn retain moisture, adding nutrients and reducing the need for fertilizers. Keeping grass out of your garbage by grasscycling can reduce over 500 kilograms of GHG emissions per household per year. It also eliminates the need to bag the clippings, saving both time and money.

Other Tips

- When landscaping, ensure that the lot is graded so that rainwater and snow melt runoff is absorbed or collected where it is useful.
- Use existing, salvaged/recycled or locally available materials for landscaping.
- Landscapes that produce food can help reduce the energy required for commercial food production, refrigeration and transportation.

Related City Websites

Visit www.edmonton.ca/LoveGreen and click on **Residents** for more eco-landscaping information.

- Edmonton in Bloom
www.edmonton.ca/BeautifyEdmonton
Learn about projects that help make Edmonton beautiful. And nominate your neighbour's yard for a Front Yards in Bloom Award! Categories include natural and edible yards.
- Good Growing Neighbours
www.goodgrowingneighbours.ca
Tips on pesticide reduction.
- Root for Trees
www.edmonton.ca/RootForTrees
Help plant more trees in the city.
- Waste Management
www.edmonton.ca/for_residents/composting-grasscycling.aspx
Information and tips on grasscycling and composting.
- yegTreeMap
www.opentreemap.org/edmonton
Map trees planted on public and private property and measure their environmental value.