

Carbon Budget Highlights

1. The carbon budget will inform our transition to a low carbon city.

Edmonton is one of the first cities in North America to present a carbon budget alongside our financial plans. This is an emerging field, and methods to determine and forecast emissions are continually evolving as knowledge and expertise grows.

The carbon budget will enable Council and Administration to adjust strategies as needed to make progress towards the emissions targets in our [Community Energy Transition Strategy](#).

2. It's a tool to support decision-making.

Unlike the capital, operating and utility budgets, Council will not deliberate or approve the carbon budget this fall. The carbon budget is a tool that shows the greenhouse gas (GHG) impacts of budget requests. This allows Council to weigh climate change impacts when they're making financial decisions.

3. We're making progress on reducing emissions.

The Community Energy Transition Strategy sets out Edmonton's goal of being carbon neutral by 2050. Edmonton is making positive strides. Our annual greenhouse gas emissions reduction target is 7 per cent. In 2021, Edmonton's community GHG emissions were about 15 megatonnes (14.2 tonnes per person). This is a 4 per cent decrease in emissions from 2020, and a 17.6 per cent reduction since 2005.

4. It shows much more action is needed.

The carbon budget measures and tracks progress against Edmonton's emissions targets. It treats 2021 as the starting point for measuring our progress moving forward, and makes it clear just how much needs to be done to meet Edmonton's emission targets:

- Without further action, forecasts show Edmonton will deplete its carbon budget of 176 megatonnes by 2037.
- Instead of being carbon neutral by 2050, Edmonton would have a carbon deficit of 12.95 million tonnes a year.

5. Climate change is a collective problem.

The carbon budget highlights that climate change is a collective problem that will take collective action. The City is limited in its ability to directly impact Edmonton's emissions; its corporate emissions make up about two per cent of Edmonton's overall emissions. City Administration is actively working to reduce the City's emissions, but to be carbon neutral by 2050, it will take a much larger collective effort, including collaboration and support from other orders of government, private investment and the actions of all Edmontonians.

