

How to use this booklet

This is a directory of the City of Edmonton's environmental plans, programs and services. A short explanation, contact and link take you to any aspect of environmental management you wish to explore. For your convenience, we have also provided a list of local environmental organizations.

Contact us at env@edmonton.ca or 311. Our website is www.edmonton.ca/TheWayWeGreen.

- [Introduction](#)
- [Edmonton's Environmental Plans, Reports & Committees](#)
- [Recycle Smart](#)
- [Be Yard Smart](#)
- [Be Waste Smart](#)
- [Be Energy Smart](#)
- [Be Water Smart](#)
- [Reduce Water Pollution](#)
- [Be Travel Smart](#)
- [Edmonton's Green Sector](#)

Introduction

A healthy ecosystem is the foundation of a sustainable community. Knowing this, the City of Edmonton is taking action to protect our environment through *The Way We Green*, its environmental strategic plan and vision for an environmentally sustainable city.

Edmontonians have many reasons to be proud of their environmental achievements. We're home to North America's largest continuous stretch of urban parkland, a full 460 parks, and among the world's best waste management programs and wastewater treatment facility. We built North America's first LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) gold certified police station and are looking to build more. Many civic departments have achieved ISO 14001 environmental certification by passing rigorous third-party audits.

However, clearly, there is more we must do. Despite our excellent performance in many areas, we – and our entire region – need to do much more to meet our environmental commitments.

If you're looking for ideas, this guide can get you started. If you already have well-developed green habits, it shows you the range of involvement the City of Edmonton has in working towards environmental sustainability.

Edmonton's Environmental Plans, Reports & Committees

[Read the City of Edmonton Environmental Strategic Plan](#)

Edmonton's Environmental Strategic Plan was created in 2006 to reflect the City's commitment to sustainability and public engagement. This plan has led to the creation of the *EcoVision* program. This plan was revised in 2010 and is named *The Way We Green*.

- Contact: 311 or thewaywegreen@edmonton.ca

Web trail: www.edmonton.ca → City Government → City Vision & Strategic Plan → The Way We Green

[Read the Natural Connections Strategic Plan](#)

The *Natural Connections* Strategic Plan was developed in 2007 to provide direction to the City of Edmonton on how to best protect, restore and manage Edmonton's ecological network and how to engage Edmontonians in this effort.

- Contact: 311 or naturalareas@edmonton.ca

Web trail: www.edmonton.ca → Environmental → Natural Areas & Urban Biodiversity → Natural Connections Conservation Plan

[Read about Edmonton's Biodiversity Project](#)

The City of Edmonton was selected to participate in an international study of local governments' involvement in biodiversity protection. The 3-year project is called the "Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) Project".

- Contact: 311 or naturalareas@edmonton.ca

Web trail: www.edmonton.ca → Environmental → Natural Areas & Urban Biodiversity → Local Action for Biodiversity

[Get involved in City of Edmonton environmental planning](#)

The Environmental Advisory Committee is made up of Edmontonians. They provide advice and a community perspective to the City of Edmonton on environmental issues and provide input and feedback on Edmonton's environmental plans and programs.

- Contact: 311 or env@edmonton.ca

Web trail: www.edmonton.ca → Environmental → Environmental Planning → Environmental Committees → Environmental Advisory Committee

[Get involved in City of Edmonton natural areas planning](#)

The Natural Areas Advisory Committee is made up of Edmontonians. They provide advice and a community perspective to the City of Edmonton on ecological issues and provide input and feedback on Edmonton's natural areas plans and programs.

- Contact: 311 or naturalareas@edmonton.ca

Web trail: www.edmonton.ca → Environmental → Natural Areas & Urban Biodiversity → How can I get involved?

Recycle Smart

Recycling reduces our consumption of natural resources. Making products from recycled materials uses much less energy than manufacturing with raw materials. It also reduces the need for landfills.

[What Can I Recycle?](#)

2008 marked Edmonton's 20th year of curbside recycling. No matter where you live in Edmonton, you can participate in recycling everything from household items to construction waste to Christmas trees.

Edmonton has three recycling programs: 1) The blue bag program for single family homes; 2) the blue bin program at apartments and condominiums; and, 3) community recycling depots for residents and small businesses.

- Contact: 311 or wasteman@edmonton.ca

Web trail: www.edmonton.ca → For Residents → Garbage & Recycling → Recycling → What Can I Recycle?

[Blue Bag /Blue Bin](#)

Blue Bag recycling is easy and free. The Blue Bag program is for single family homes. Recyclables in blue bags are set out on the same day as garbage collection.

All apartment, condominiums and townhouses that are not part of the Blue Bag program are eligible for the Blue Bin program. If your apartment doesn't have a blue dumpster, contact your building manager.

- Contact: 311 or wasteman@edmonton.ca

Web trail: www.edmonton.ca → For Residents → Garbage & Recycling → Recycling → Blue Bag Recycling / Blue Bin Recycling

[Recycling Depots](#)

Edmonton's 22 recycling depots are spread across the city and are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

- Contact: 311 or wasteman@edmonton.ca

Web trail: www.edmonton.ca → For Residents → Garbage & Recycling → Recycling → Recycling Depots

Be Yard Smart

[How to Compost](#)

Composting is a natural process that breaks down organic materials and produces an excellent soil conditioner for plants, gardens and lawns. The City of Edmonton sponsors

composting workshops and sells compost bins and aerators to residents at subsidized rates.

- Contact: 311 or wasteman@edmonton.ca

Web trail: www.edmonton.ca → For Residents → Garbage & Recycling → Composting/Grasscycling → Composting

[How to Grasscycle](#)

Leaving grass clippings on your lawn while mowing is an easy way to reduce waste and improve the health of your lawn. Grasscycling eliminates the time and effort needed to fill garbage bags, releases nutrients back into the soil and reduces the need for watering.

- Contact: 311 or wasteman@edmonton.ca

Web trail: www.edmonton.ca → For Residents → Garbage & Recycling → Composting/Grasscycling → Grasscycling

[How to Naturalize Your Yard](#)

Naturalization is an alternative landscaping technique that supports native plant and wildlife species, reduces maintenance costs and contributes to quality of life for residents.

- Contact: 311 or john.helder@edmonton.ca

Web trail: www.edmonton.ca → Environmental → Conservation and Landscaping → Edmonton in Bloom → Naturalization

[Good Growing Neighbours](#)

Herbicides, insecticides and fungicides may help in the short term but using environmentally friendly alternative methods is a better choice for a healthy environment. The City of Edmonton has reduced its pesticide use by 68% since 1999. Find out how you can have a healthy, green yard without all the chemicals.

- Contact: 311 or garychan@edmonton.ca

Web trail: www.edmonton.ca → Environmental → Conservation and Landscaping → Edmonton in Bloom → Growing Good Neighbours

[Capital City Cleanup](#)

Capital City Cleanup is a year round litter and graffiti management program sponsored by the City of Edmonton and several partners. There are many ways you can get involved to pitch in and keep your city clean.

- Contact: 311 or capitalcitycleanup@edmonton.ca

Web trail: www.edmonton.ca → Environmental → Capital City Cleanup

[Flood Prevention](#)

The City of Edmonton's flood prevention programs help homeowners keep their property safe and dry in the event of a major rain storm or flood event. It offers free community workshops, on-site home check-ups, information on lot grading and subsidies for items such as backwater valves.

- Contact: 311 or lot.grading@edmonton.ca

Web trail: www.edmonton.ca → For Residents → Drainage and Flood Prevention → Flood Prevention Program

Be Waste Smart

The easiest way to reduce the waste you set out for collection is to grasscycle and practice backyard composting. More than 60% of household waste is organic.

[Garbage Collection](#)

Household waste collected in Edmonton is taken to a composting facility where garbage is sorted mechanically and the organic component turned into compost. Find out what happens to your garbage.

- Contact: 311 or wasteman@edmonton.ca

Web trail: www.edmonton.ca → For Residents → Garbage & Recycling → Garbage Collection

[Household Hazardous Waste, Electronics and Computers](#)

It is important to keep household hazardous waste out of your garbage. Edmonton has three Eco Stations where you can drop off motor oil, paint, pesticides, cleaners, light bulbs and other household hazardous waste. The Stations also accept old computers and all kinds of electronic and electrical waste.

- Contact: 311 or wasteman@edmonton.ca

Web trail: www.edmonton.ca → For Residents → Garbage & Recycling → Eco Stations

[Choose to Reuse](#)

Edmonton's Reuse Centre accepts smaller household items and makes them available to groups and individuals who will reuse them. More than 200 items are accepted, from games and puzzles to jewelry and greeting cards.

Web trail: www.edmonton.ca → For Residents → Garbage & Recycling → Reuse

[Reuse and Recycling Directory](#)

Edmonton's Reuse and Recycling Directory has a list of charities, businesses and services that can take your unwanted household items and find someone who will put them to good use.

Web trail: www.edmonton.ca → For Residents → Garbage & Recycling → Recycling / Reuse

Be Energy Smart

[CO₂RE](#)

CO₂RE is the City of Edmonton's community greenhouse gas emissions reduction strategy. Its goal is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Edmonton by 20% by 2020 (compared to 1990 levels). CO₂RE provides access to many rebates and subsidies and on-going information about how to make your home and lifestyle more energy efficient. Thousands of Edmontonians are members of CO₂RE.

- Contact: 311 or co2re@edmonton.ca

Web trail: www.edmonton.ca → Environmental → Environmental Programs (EcoVision) → Carbon Dioxide Reduction Edmonton (CO₂RE)

[Zerofootprint Edmonton](#)

Zerofootprint Edmonton is a personal carbon footprint calculator that helps you find out what impact you are having on our environment. Use the calculator to find your personal carbon footprint, get tips on how to reduce your footprint and pledge to make lifestyle changes that will shrink your footprint and help the city of Edmonton.

- Contact: 311 or env@edmonton.ca

Web trail: <http://edmonton.zerofootprint.net>

[Riverdale NetZero Project.](#)

This is a prototype NetZero home located in Edmonton's Riverdale neighbourhood. The home generates enough power to meet its energy needs through green technologies and building materials. There are free tours periodically.

- Contact: info@riverdalenetzero.ca

Web trail: www.riverdalenetzero.ca

[ATCO Energy Sense](#)

ATCO EnergySense was established in 2001 as a dedicated energy management service. As a certified service organization for Natural Resources Canada, EnergySense delivers the ecoENERGY Retrofit program in Edmonton.

- Contact: 310-7283 (toll-free anywhere in Alberta. Note: It is not necessary to dial 1-800 first) or energysense@atco.com

Web trail: www.atcoenergysense.com

Be Water Smart

[Water Reduction Tips](#)

The average single family home in Edmonton pays around \$22 per month for water usage (not including fees and sewage charges). You can reduce your household water usage and save money on your water bill. EPCOR can teach you how.

- Contact: 780-412-3414 or water@epcor.ca

Web trail: www.epcor.ca → Edmonton → Efficiency & Conservation

[Water Efficient Appliances](#)

Water-efficient models of various household appliances save money on both the water you use and the energy used to heat it. Water-efficient equipment, especially Ultra Low Flush toilets often pay for themselves within 1 to 2 years.

- Contact: 780-412-3414 or water@epcor.ca

Web trail: www.epcor.ca → Edmonton → Efficiency & Conservation → Inside Your Home

[Lawn Maintenance](#)

CO₂RE's eco-landscaping program can show you how to reduce waste, fertilizer and chemical needs, conserve water, and save money through reduced energy and yard maintenance costs. Eco-landscaping helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

- Contact: 311 or co2re@edmonton.ca

Web trail: www.edmonton.ca → Environmental → Environmental Programs (EcoVision) → Carbon Dioxide Reduction Edmonton (CO₂RE) → CO₂RE Publications & Resources → Eco-Landscaping

Reduce Water Pollution

[Fats, Oil and Grease – Store It, Don't Pour It!](#)

Pouring fats, oil and grease down the drain can cost homeowners money and causes huge problems in the city's sewers. Store fats and grease in a disposable container and throw it out with the garbage.

- Contact: 311 or 780-496-1609

Web trail: www.edmonton.ca → For Residents → Drainage and Flood Prevention → Store It, Don't Pour It!

[Stormwater and Wastewater – Treat It Right!](#)

City of Edmonton Drainage Services offers a variety of educational programs for adults and children. Programs include flood prevention workshops and the Treat It Right! stormwater and wastewater programs for students in grades four and five.

- Contact : 311 or Janice.Dewar@edmonton.ca

Web trail: www.edmonton.ca → Environmental → Stormwater and Wastewater → Drainage Strategies → Drainage Education

[Help Keep the River Clean](#)

Pollutants like fertilizers, motor oils and cleaning products dumped in Edmonton's storm sewers wind up in the North Saskatchewan River. You can help the North Saskatchewan River stay clean and healthy by taking a few simple actions.

- Contact: 311 or harry.abbink@edmonton.ca

Web trail: www.edmonton.ca → Environmental → Stormwater and Wastewater → Sewers → Help Keep The River Clean

Be Travel Smart

[Reduce Idling](#)

Excessive idling is a bad habit that wastes fuel, adds to pollution and contributes to an unhealthy environment. The City of Edmonton has taken action to reduce unnecessary idling with transit buses and other fleet vehicles. It encourages Edmontonians to do the same.

- Contact: 311 or env@edmonton.ca

Web trail: www.edmonton.ca → Environmental → Environmental Programs (EcoVision) → Be Idle Free

[Carpool](#)

Transportation represents the largest single source of Canada's greenhouse gas emissions, accounting for 27% of the total. The City of Edmonton sponsors a carpooling program to encourage individuals to join others in carpooling to work, thus saving money and the climate.

- Contact: information@carpool.ca

Web trail: www.carpool.ca

[Take Edmonton Transit](#)

About 16% of Edmontonians get to school, work and around town by public transit. Edmonton Transit is now adding clean diesel buses to its fleet, to make the transit experience even greener. You can help the environment by taking public transit.

- Contact: 311 or 311@edmonton.ca

Web trail: www.edmonton.ca → Transportation → Edmonton Transit System (ETS)

[Public Transit Trip Planner](#)

Want to take public transit but not sure how to get where you want to go? Use the trip planner to find the best way to get from point A to point B.

- Contact: 311 or 311@edmonton.ca

Web trail: www.edmonton.ca → Transportation → Edmonton Transit System (ETS)

[Cycle Edmonton](#)

Bicycles are the most energy efficient means of transportation. The City of Edmonton encourages cycling by offering kilometres of shared paths, multi-use trails, street bike routes and bike lanes.

- Contact: 311 or cycling@edmonton.ca

Web trail: www.edmonton.ca → Transportation → Cycling & Walking → Cycling

[Walk Edmonton](#)

Walking adds strength and enjoyment to the fabric of community life. Walking is a great way to meet neighbours, get exercise, discover your community and enjoy public spaces.

- Contact: 311 or walkableedmonton@edmonton.ca

Web trail: www.edmonton.ca → Transportation → Cycling & Walking → Walking → Walkable Edmonton

Edmonton's Green Sector

To get your organization listed here, contact us at env@edmonton.ca or 311

Environmental Symbols

[EcoLogo](#) was launched by the Government of Canada in 1988. It is North America's most widely recognized and respected certification of environmental leadership. By setting standards and certifying products in more than 120 categories, EcoLogo helps identify environmentally preferred (green) goods and services.

[Energy Star](#) is program sponsored by the Government of Canada. Only manufacturers and retailers whose products meet the ENERGY STAR criteria can label their products with this symbol.

[Forest Stewardship Council](#) is an independent, not for profit organization that promotes responsible management of the world's forests. Products carrying the FSC label are certified as coming from forests that are properly managed.

Green Education

[Green Alberta](#) is an online library of sustainable building materials and products. Its goal is to transform Canada's building and construction industry to a more sustainable marketplace.

[Green Edmonton](#) is a non-profit website that shares information about green living in Edmonton.

[John Janzen Nature Centre](#) is a City of Edmonton learning centre that offers programs, events, exhibits and information to encourage awareness and understanding of nature in an urban setting.

[LocalMotion](#) is an EcoMobility project that encourages a shift to more sustainable travel behaviours.

[My Green House](#) is a TV series and an on-line resource that provides tips for living green.

[RaisingSpaces.com](#) is a Canadian, open community information hub about healthy and eco-friendly building products and services.

[Trimline Training Centre](#) is an Edmonton facility that showcases renewable technologies and provides hands-on training on the use of the technology year-round.

[University of Alberta Department of Renewable Resources](#) offers a series of seminars and lectures each year.

Green Events

[The Way We Green Speakers Series](#) is a monthly series of speakers on a variety of topics related to sustainability and our environment.

[Greener Days](#) is a calendar of community-sponsored environmental programs and activities. Hosted by the City of Edmonton, it is updated continuously.

Environmental Groups

[Alberta Environmental Network](#) works with concerned citizens and organizations that strive to protect, preserve and restore the environment, and to affect how society thinks about environmental issues. Its mandate is to protect the earth and promote ecologically sound ways of life.

[Clean Air Strategic Alliance](#) is a multi-stakeholder partnership that recommends strategies to assess and improve air quality in Alberta.

[Climate Change Central](#) (C3) is a public-private not-for-profit organization focused on reducing greenhouse gases and empowering Albertans to take action on climate change.

[Edmonton Bicycle Commuters' Society](#) works to promote and facilitate cycling as everyday transportation in Edmonton by providing bicycle services and resources.

[Environmental Law Centre](#) is a source of information about environmental and natural resources law. Its mission is to ensure that laws, policies and legal processes protect the environment.

[Federation of Canadian Municipalities](#) is the national voice of municipal government and provides a number of supports to its 1,750 members include resources and incentives related to green environments and sustainable development.

[Recycling Council of Alberta](#) promotes and facilitates waste reduction, recycling, and resource conservation in the Province of Alberta.

[Sierra Club Canada](#) advocates on issues ranging from climate change and energy to toxic chemical contamination and loss of biological diversity. It has an office in Edmonton.

[Toxic Watch Society of Alberta](#) aims to improve the quality of air, water and life for Albertans through a blend of advocacy and community projects.

[Young Environment Professionals](#) of Canada is a national organization that creates opportunities for young and emerging environmental and sustainability professionals. There is a chapter in Edmonton.

Green Home Supplies and Products

[Home Depot Eco Options program](#)

[Home Hardware Earthcare Products](#)

[Method Products](#)

[Rona Eco Responsible Products](#)

Alternative Power

[Bullfrog Power](#) offers customers the choice to support clean, renewable power for a small supplementary fee. You don't have to switch electricity suppliers. In Alberta, 100% of consumer dollars are used to support wind power.

[Enmax](#) has a number of new green technologies to offer consumers including wind energy, smart metering and micro combined heat and power generation.

[EPCOR](#) supports customers who want to generate their own power and manages *EnVest*, an environmental stewardship program from commercial and industrial enterprises.

[Spark](#) is a new green energy co-op focused on green energy and renewable energy reinvestment.