



## Green Resource Guide December 2008



### 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.

This guide is produced by EcoVision Edmonton. Contact us at [env@edmonton.ca](mailto:env@edmonton.ca) or 311. Our website is [www.edmonton.ca/ecovision](http://www.edmonton.ca/ecovision)

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### 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 *EcoVision Edmonton*.

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.

All we do will be highlighted on a world stage during the 2009 ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability World Congress.

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 report 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.

- Contact: 311 or [env@edmonton.ca](mailto:env@edmonton.ca)

**Web trail:** [www.edmonton.ca](http://www.edmonton.ca) → Environmental → Environmental Policies → Environmental Plans and Initiatives

### [Read the EcoVision 2007 Annual Report](#)

The goal of the *2007 EcoVision Annual Report* is to promote environmental awareness and accountability on the condition of our environment. It relates detailed information about the status of the *EcoVision* program and accomplishments in 2007.

- Contact: 311 or [env@edmonton.ca](mailto:env@edmonton.ca)

**Web trail:** [www.edmonton.ca](http://www.edmonton.ca) → Environmental → Environmental Policies → EcoVision → EcoVision Edmonton: Report to Citizens

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### [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](mailto:naturalareas@edmonton.ca)

**Web trail:** [www.edmonton.ca](http://www.edmonton.ca) → Environmental → Natural Connections Conservation Plan → Natural Connections Strategic 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](mailto:naturalareas@edmonton.ca)

**Web trail:** [www.edmonton.ca](http://www.edmonton.ca) → Environmental → Natural Areas → Edmonton & The Location Action for Biodiversity Project

### [Read the EcoVision Report to Citizens](#)

The *EcoVision* program focuses on improving the city's air, land, water and climate. This easy to read report summarizes Edmonton's environmental accomplishments in each of these key areas.

- Contact: 311 or [env@edmonton.ca](mailto:env@edmonton.ca)

**Web trail:** [www.edmonton.ca](http://www.edmonton.ca) → Environmental → Environmental Policies → EcoVision → EcoVision Edmonton: Report to Citizens

### [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](mailto:env@edmonton.ca)

**Web trail:** [www.edmonton.ca](http://www.edmonton.ca) → Environmental → Environmental Policies → 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](mailto:naturalareas@edmonton.ca)

*Web trail: [www.edmonton.ca](http://www.edmonton.ca) → Environmental → Natural Areas Committees → Natural Areas Advisory Committee*

## Recycle

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: Phone 311 or [wasteman@edmonton.ca](mailto:wasteman@edmonton.ca)

*Web trail: [www.edmonton.ca](http://www.edmonton.ca) → For Residents → Garbage and 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: Phone 311 or [wasteman@edmonton.ca](mailto:wasteman@edmonton.ca)

*Web trail: [www.edmonton.ca](http://www.edmonton.ca) → For Residents → Garbage and 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: Phone 311 or [wasteman@edmonton.ca](mailto:wasteman@edmonton.ca)

*Web trail:* [www.edmonton.ca](http://www.edmonton.ca) → For Residents → Garbage and 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](mailto:wasteman@edmonton.ca)

*Web trail:* [www.edmonton.ca](http://www.edmonton.ca) → For Residents → Garbage and 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](mailto:wasteman@edmonton.ca)

*Web trail:* [www.edmonton.ca](http://www.edmonton.ca) → For Residents → Garbage and 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](mailto:john.helder@edmonton.ca)

*Web trail:* [www.edmonton.ca](http://www.edmonton.ca) → Environmental → Conservation and Landscaping → Edmonton in Bloom → Growing Good Neighbours

### [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: Gary Chan, 311 or [garychan@edmonton.ca](mailto:garychan@edmonton.ca)

*Web trail:* [www.edmonton.ca](http://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](mailto:capitalcitycleanup@edmonton.ca)

*Web trail:* [www.edmonton.ca](http://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](mailto:lot.grading@edmonton.ca)

*Web trail:* [www.edmonton.ca](http://www.edmonton.ca) → For Residents → Flooding and Sewers → Flood Prevention Program

## Reduce Waste

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: Phone 311 or [wasteman@edmonton.ca](mailto:wasteman@edmonton.ca)

*Web trail:* [www.edmonton.ca](http://www.edmonton.ca) → For Residents → Garbage and Recycling → Garbage

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

It is important to keep household hazardous waste out of your garbage. Edmonton has two Eco Stations (with a third to open in mid 2009) 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: Phone 311 or [wasteman@edmonton.ca](mailto:wasteman@edmonton.ca)

*Web trail:* [www.edmonton.ca](http://www.edmonton.ca) → For Residents → Garbage and Recycling → Garbage → 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](http://www.edmonton.ca) → For Residents → Garbage and Recycling → Garbage → Garbage Collection → Reuse and Reduce

### [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](http://www.edmonton.ca) → For Residents → Garbage and Recycling → Garbage → Garbage Collection → Reuse and Reduce → Reuse and Recycling Directory

## Save Energy

### [CO<sub>2</sub>RE](#)

CO<sub>2</sub>RE 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). CO<sub>2</sub>RE 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 CO<sub>2</sub>RE.

- Contact: 311 or [co2re@edmonton.ca](mailto:co2re@edmonton.ca)

**Web trail:** [www.co2re.ca](http://www.co2re.ca)

### [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](mailto: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](mailto:info@riverdalenetzero.ca)

**Web trail:** [www.riverdalenetzero.ca](http://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. There are rebates available.

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

**Web trail:** [www.atcoenergysense.com](http://www.atcoenergysense.com) →Tools and Resources →Grants and Rebates

## Save Water

### [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](mailto:water@epcor.ca)

**Web trail:** [www.epcor.ca](http://www.epcor.ca) → About Epcor → Environment → Power and Water Conservation → Water Conservation

### [Water Reduction Tips](#)

### [Water Conservation Tips](#)

Setting your water heater to 50°C (120°F) can substantially reduce energy used for heating water. Low-flush toilets use six litres of water per flush – reducing the water use by 70%. CO<sub>2</sub>RE has lots of other great tips and information on how to conserve water.

- Contact: 311 or [co2re@edmonton.ca](mailto:co2re@edmonton.ca)

**Web trail:** [www.co2re.ca](http://www.co2re.ca) → Publications and Resources → Residential Tools → Water

### [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](mailto:water@epcor.ca)

**Web trail:** [www.epcor.ca](http://www.epcor.ca) → About Epcor → Environment → Power and Water Conservation → Water Conservation → Water Efficient Appliances

### [Lawn Maintenance](#)

CO<sub>2</sub>RE'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](mailto:co2re@edmonton.ca)

**Web trail:** [www.co2re.ca](http://www.co2re.ca) → Ecolandscaping

## 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: 780-496-1609

*Web trail:* [www.edmonton.ca](http://www.edmonton.ca) → For Residents → Flooding and Sewers → 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](mailto:Janice.dewar@edmonton.ca)

*Web trail:* [www.edmonton.ca](http://www.edmonton.ca) → City Government → City Organization → Departments and Branches → Asset Management and Public Works → Drainage Services Branch → 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](mailto:harry.abbink@edmonton.ca)

*Web trail:* [www.edmonton.ca](http://www.edmonton.ca) → Environmental → Wastewater and Sewers → Wastewater → Help Keep The River Clean

## 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](mailto:env@edmonton.ca)

*Web trail:* [www.edmonton.ca](http://www.edmonton.ca) → Environmental → Environmental Policies → What You Can Do To Help The Environment → Anti-Idling Information

### [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](mailto:information@carpool.ca)

*Web trail:* [www.carpool.ca](http://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 and hybrid busses to its fleet, to make the transit experience even greener. You can help the environment by taking public transit.

- Contact: 311 or [etransit@edmonton.ca](mailto:etransit@edmonton.ca)

*Web trail:* [www.edmonton.ca](http://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 [etransit@edmonton.ca](mailto:etransit@edmonton.ca)

*Web trail:* [www.edmonton.ca](http://www.edmonton.ca) → Transportation → Edmonton Transit System (ETS) → ETS Online Tools

### [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 [transplanning@edmonton.ca](mailto:transplanning@edmonton.ca)

*Web trail:* [www.edmonton.ca](http://www.edmonton.ca) → Transportation → Roads and Traffic → Transportation Options → Cycling in Edmonton

## [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](mailto:walkableedmonton@edmonton.ca)

*Web trail: [www.edmonton.ca](http://www.edmonton.ca) → For Residents → Residents Services and Programs → Programs → Walkable Edmonton*

## Edmonton's Green Sector

To get your organization listed here, contact us at [env@edmonton.ca](mailto:env@edmonton.ca) or 311

### Environmental Symbols

[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.

[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.

[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

[Raisingspaces.com](http://Raisingspaces.com) is a Canadian, open community information hub about healthy and eco-friendly building products and services.

[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.

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

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

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[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.

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

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

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

### **Green Events**

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

### **Environmental Groups**

[The People's Pedal](#) is a non-profit organization in Edmonton that offers access to a network of shared bicycles for a small yearly or monthly fee.

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

[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.

[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.

[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.

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[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.

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

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

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

### **Green Home Supplies and Products**

[Rona Eco Responsible Products](#)

[Method Products](#)

[Home Hardware Earthcare Products](#)

[Home Depot Eco Options program](#)

### **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.