# 2023 PERFORMANCE REPORT CORPORATE BUSINESS PLAN 2023–26

**CITY OF EDMONTON** 

Edmonton

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### **CITY OF EDMONTON PERFORMANCE REPORT**

The Performance Report is the City's commitment to public accountability for the priority actions outlined in the 2023–26 Corporate Business Plan. This includes delivering programs and services that Edmontonians need while achieving the long-term goals and objectives identified in the City's high-level, future-focused





## INTRODUCTION

The City responds to the evolving needs of our community and prioritizes this important work using three corporate objectives that complement each other: Transforming for the Future, Serving Edmontonians and Managing the Corporation. The following map outlines the various priorities and programs that contribute to these objectives, and indicates their linkage to ConnectEdmonton and The City Plan.



## SERVING **EDMONTONIANS**

RECREATION AND CULTURE Edmontonians are physically and emotionally healthy

SOCIAL SUPPORT Edmontonians have what they need to succeed

#### **CIVIC SERVICES**

Edmontonians contribute to civic society and are engaged in promoting the quality of the community

#### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

Edmontonians are safe and secure in our community

#### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Edmontonians are connected to their neighbours

#### **MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE AND GOODS**

Edmonton has an accessible and varied transportation system moving people, goods and ervices efficiently

### LAND DEVELOPMENT

Edmonton is developed to support growth and social, cultural economic, and environmental well-being

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Edmonton has a diverse and prosperous economy that thrives locally and globally

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL** PROTECTION

Edmonton has sustainable access to nature, parkland and green infrastructure while protecting the natural environment and biodiversity, minimizing environmental impact and mitigating climate change

## **MANAGING THE** CORPORATION

#### PEOPLE. RELATIONSHIPS **AND PARTNERSHIPS**

The City of Edmonton's service delivery is informed by Edmontonians and is optimized by relationships and partnerships

#### **PROJECT AND ASSET** MANAGEMENT

The City of Edmonton's projects are well managed and assests are maintained for accountable service delivery

#### **STRATEGY AND BUSINESS**

The City of Edmonton's corporate processes are robust and helpful for integrated service delivery

#### **TECHNOLOGY AND DATA**

The City of Edmonton's technology and data are leveraged to enable quality decision-making and enhance innovative service delivery

#### **POSITIVE EMPLOYEE EXPERIENCE**

The City of Edmonton's employees are safe and supported to achieve their aspirations and deliver excellent services

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP**

The City of Edmonton's operations and service delivery sustains and conserves the environment

#### **FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY**

The City of Edmonton's resilient financial position enables both current and lon-term srvice delivery and growth

Source: Corporate Business Plan 2023 – 2026

## **TRANSFORMING** FOR THE FUTURE

ConnectEdmonton is the City's highest level vision. It collaborates with public, private and nonprofit organizations to achieve Edmonton's four long-term goals:





Healthy City





Regional Prosperity



Climate Resilience

To support the growth of Edmonton into a city of two million people, The City Plan sets the direction for the way Edmonton grows and the choices that impact its mobility systems, open spaces, employment and social networks. Given the long-term and strategic nature of The City Plan, progress will be incrementally shared at population horizons of an additional 250,000 residents. The five Big City Moves within The City Plan are bold, transformative priorities that advance the four goals in ConnectEdmonton with an eye on creating an inclusive, vibrant, resilient and prosperous city:



Inclusive and Compassionate



Catalyze and Converge



A Communit v of Communities

Greener as we Grow



A Rebuildable City

## **TRANSFORMING** FOR THE FUTURE

Edmontonians share their priorities with City Council. Council, in turn, tasks Administration to focus actions on six transformational priorities, shaped by what they hear from Edmontonians, that will advance

ConnectEdmonton's strategic goals in the 2023-2026 period. These are listed below, as well as some of the initiatives that contribute to them:

COUNCIL PRIORITY	Community Safety and Well-being	Arts and Culture	District Planning
INITIATIVES (click on each to learn more)	<ul> <li><u>Community Safety and</u> <u>Well-being Strategy</u></li> <li><u>Affordable and Supportive</u> <u>Housing</u></li> <li><u>The Anti-Racism Strategy</u></li> <li><u>Homelessness in our</u> <u>Communities</u></li> <li><u>Core and Transit System</u> <u>Safety Plan</u></li> <li><u>The Indigenous</u> <u>Framework</u></li> <li><u>Neighbourhood Safety</u></li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Activities, Parks and Recreation</li> <li>Attractions and Events</li> <li>Grants and Funding</li> <li>Heritage, Archives and the Arts</li> <li>Connections and Exchanges Strategy</li> <li>kihcihkaw askî (Sacred Land)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li><u>District Planning</u></li> <li><u>Zoning Bylaw Renewal</u></li> <li><u>Current Planning Projects</u></li> </ul>

COUNCIL PRIORITY	Mobility Network	Economic Growth	Climate Action and Energy Transition
INITIATIVES (click on each to learn more)	<ul> <li><u>The Safe Mobility Strategy</u></li> <li><u>Regional Arc Electronic</u> <u>Fare System</u></li> <li><u>On Demand Transit</u></li> <li><u>Enhancing Snow and</u> <u>Ice Control</u></li> <li><u>Transportation Network</u> <u>Improvement Projects</u></li> <li><u>Mass Transit Planning</u></li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Business and Economy</li> <li>Economic Action Plan</li> <li>Business Supports</li> <li>Hydrogen Hub</li> <li>Downtown Vibrancy and Chinatown Recovery</li> <li>Industrial Investment Action Plan</li> </ul>	<ul> <li><u>Climate Adaptation</u> <u>Strategy</u></li> <li><u>Energy Transition Strategy</u></li> <li><u>Alberta Zero Emissions</u> <u>Hydrogen Transit</u></li> <li><u>Single-Use Item Bylaw</u></li> <li><u>The 25-year Waste</u> <u>Strategy</u></li> </ul>

The Performance Report presents a summary of accomplishments and activities for these initiatives in 2023, categorized under the nine programs that address our objective of Serving Edmontonians (see map on page 3). It also includes highlights from the supporting programs under Managing the *Corporation*, and progress on the everyday services provided to Edmontonians. Each program page demonstrates the links between the work of serving Edmontonians and the Council priorities using the icons in the table above.

This report complements the information found on the City's Open Performance website where the most up-to-date performance information for the City's strategic plans is published. The Financial Annual Report outlines how the City uses financial resources to provide services and infrastructure.

#### SERVING EDMONTONIANS AND MANAGING THE CORPORATION

Service is at the heart of what the City does. The City continuously adapts and improves services, taking advantage of future opportunities, and meeting the evolving needs of those we serve.

The City has nine program areas and subsequent outcomes, each describing the overall benefit delivered to Edmontonians through services under each program. This report highlights notable achievements in Serving Edmontonians and Managing the Corporation.

## Youth attendance at City recreation centres went up 20% in 2023

**Northeast River Valley Park:** 190 acres of developed parkland

**Best Attraction of the Year Award: Muttart Conservatory** 

## **RECREATION AND CULTURE**

"Edmontonians are physically and emotionally healthy"



Arts & Culture



Community Safety and Well-being



District Planning

### **YOUTH ENGAGEMENT**

- The City established a long-term partnership with <u>C5</u> (a collaborative partnership of five leading community agencies) and Skillcity at Clareview Recreation Centre to create a free, safe space for at-risk youth, offering skill-building opportunities, employment resources, mentoring and cultural programming, supplies and activities.
- The Youth After School Initiative was implemented for the first full school year, in partnership with youth organizations, to provide holistic programming and discounted admission/memberships.

### INCLUSIVITY

- Programs were expanded at recreation and sport facilities through partnerships with not-for-profit groups that specialize in serving people with disabilities.
- Women and girls only swim programs, Indigenous golf lessons and transgender fitness classes were made available.
- The Leisure Access Program (LAP) has seen a significant increase in uptake (over 150 per cent since 2016); LAP continues to provide low-income families with free memberships and discounted program and attraction registrations.
- The Muttart Conservatory, John Janzen Nature Centre and Edmonton Valley Zoo received the KultureCity® certification to recognize the work done to make these spaces more inclusive and provide a more comforting visitor experience: through enhancing and supporting those with sensory process needs by creating sensory-related safe spaces, resources, staff training and accommodations.

## RECREATION AND CULTURE

#### **DESIGN AND DELIVERY OF RECREATION AND PARKS**

Planning and design was advanced for 78 projects, including:

- The completion of the preliminary design of Warehouse Park and Beaver Hill House/Michael Phair Parks.
- The designs for the renewal of Clarke Stadium artificial turf sports field, trails, stairs, playgrounds and other sports fields.

40 projects were advanced for delivery, so far successfully completing 29, including:

- Mill Woods artificial turf sports field.
- Renewal of seven trail projects.
- Enhancement and revitalization of five parks.

Additionally, the River Valley and Horticulture section worked to prepare the newly acquired Northeast River Valley Park, which opened in the fall of 2023.

#### **RECONCILIATION EFFORTS**

The City hosted:

• The 39th annual Ben Calf Robe Pow Wow at Clarke Stadium, which drew a crowd of over 10,000 people.

The 30th anniversary of the Native Youth Hockey Provincials featuring 238 teams, and involving 4,300 youth. Participants and the organizing committee represented Treaty 6, Treaty 7 and Treaty 8, as well as Métis and Urban communities.

#### **INVESTING IN THE ARTS**

The City:

- Supported the Edmonton Arts Council, which invested over \$14 million in 305 artists and collectives, and 194 arts and festival organizations.
- Created purpose-built spaces for artists at The Orange Hub at a reduced rate to provide an affordable, low-cost option for new and emerging artists.
- Awarded \$250,000 in grants to cultural, multicultural and Indigenous-led events, supporting smaller organizations that showcase and highlight the rich history and culture of our city.
- Collaborated with local community members, artists and youth to create a mural installation within the Clareview Skatepark, making it a space of collaborative expression.

# \$19.55 million invested

by the City and Canadian

Mortgage and Housing

Corporation (CMHC) to renew

1,955 homes managed

by HomeEd and Civida. This will ensure safe, stable and affordable housing for at least another 20 years.





## kihcihkaw askî-Sacred Land

Opened in September 2023, the Indigenous Knowledge and Wisdom Centre is a historically and culturally significant ceremonial and land-based teaching site.

\$182,000 of Community Safety & Well-being (CSWB) funding was provided for the site, with similar funding planned for the next three years.

## SOCIAL SUPPORT

"Edmontonians have what they need to succeed"



Community Safety and Well-being

#### HOMELESSNESS AND **AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

To complete the Homelessness and Housing Services Plan, the City has identified all City services that respond to homelessness, documented and evaluated existing internal efforts, and conducted an in-depth cost analysis of these efforts. This plan now aligns with Homeward Trust's strategic plan and sets a framework for homelessness prevention work within the City.

The 2019–2022 Affordable Housing Investment Plan achieved its affordable and supportive housing targets, as well as surpassing the total unit target; this means more affordable housing units developed in this four-year plan than in the previous decade.

Key highlights include:

- Starting in 2019, the City's investment of \$165 million to help create 3,116 units of affordable housing. This included 783 units of supportive housing.
- This investment was used to attract \$564 million in further funding from other orders of government and housing developers.
- In 2023, 96 supportive housing units opened for occupancy.
- The City is also investing up to \$20 million over four years to support Indigenous-owned affordable housing from 2023 to 2026.
- The new grants will provide up to 40 per cent of construction costs for Indigenousowned, environmentally sustainable affordable housing.
- An additional \$10 million is available annually to all housing providers for new affordable housing or the repair of existing affordable housing.

## SOCIAL SUPPORT

#### **COMMUNITY SAFETY** AND WELL-BEING

The Community Safety and Well-being (CSWB) Strategy has funded 38 initiatives to take action on a range of issues across its seven pillars: Reconciliation, Anti-Racism, Poverty, Safe and Inclusive Spaces, Crime Prevention and Crisis Intervention, Wellbeing and Equitable Policies, Procedures and Guidelines. Detailed results are in the <u>CSWB</u> dashboard launched in July 2023. Future updates will include information on the City's progress towards CSWB outcomes.

Strategic long-term initiatives funding in 2023 included:

- Truth and Reconciliation Municipal Response Plan
- Anti–Racism Strategy
- Indigenous Framework
- Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, Two Spirit Plus Municipal **Response** Plan
- Transit Safety
- Strategy for Community Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

CSWB funding has also helped address acute challenges related to safety, poverty and homelessness through initiatives, including:

- The Bridge Healing Centre
- Drug poisoning response
- REACH 24/7 Crisis Diversion
- Funding for women's shelters
- Healthy Streets Operations Centre

#### **SOCIAL SUPPORT PARTNERSHIPS**

- Development of a Strategy for Community Mental Health and Suicide Prevention with key community partners.
- Collaboration with the University of Alberta and local organizers, as part of the Gender Based Violence and Sexual Assault Prevention Initiative, on a virtual reality program to help active bystanders address the issue of street harassment, particularly as it relates to experiences of women and girls.
- Supported awareness campaigns for drug poisoning prevention and intervention. Engagement and relationship building with community agencies, organizations and other orders of government is underway to build a municipal response to the overdose crisis.

#### **TACKLING RACISM**

In 2023, the City Manager's Office launched the High-Level Office for Reconciliation and Anti-Racism, meeting one of City Council's commitments from the Anti-Racism Strategy. The second commitment in the strategy is to establish an independent anti-racism body: a 15-person community advisory panel will recommend the independent body's vision, mission, scope and resourcing requirements. The advisory panel expects to deliver its final recommendations in 2024.

- Through comprehensive engagement with community and City staff, the Anti-Black Racism Action Plan was developed. The next phase is implementation through anti-racism measures and actions.
- Administration, alongside the Canadian Race Relations Foundation, Islamic Family and Africa Centre, piloted a Council Internship, which saw 13 interns from racialized communities work in the Mayor and Councillors' offices for eight weeks. During this time, they gained leadership and professional skills, had the opportunity to share their voice and perspective with Council members, staff and Administration, and learned first-hand how municipal government operates. Since completion of the pilot, two of the interns have continued in their roles in a part-time capacity, and one intern has joined Administration.

- Administration made significant progress to improve the Ride transit program following an anti-racism review in 2022 by:
- Adding a letter from a Registered Social Worker as a qualifying eligibility document for the Ride Transit Program.
- Implementing conditional, temporary approval for the Ride Transit Program for applicants who submit their application at the Edmonton Service Centre.
- Offering day passes in addition to single-trip transit tickets through the Transit Access Grant Program.

An anti-racism grant program was launched and focuses on the following outcomes:

- Edmontonians are more aware of racism and its impact, and have a greater understanding of how to take action to address it.
- Edmontonians are knowledgeable of the community organizations that are working to dismantle individual, systemic and structural racism.
- diverse, inclusive and equitable city guided by anti-racism.



## SOCIAL SUPPORT

#### **RIDE TRANSIT PROGRAM**

The Ride Transit Program provides discounted monthly transit fares to low-income individuals, facilitating travel around the city to access jobs, education, healthcare, recreation, community resources and government services.

In 2023, the Ride Transit Program was one of Edmonton Transit Service's (ETS) most highly demanded transit fare programs. Over 257,500 Ride Transit passes were purchased during the year, representing a 47 per cent increase from 175,300 in 2022.

In 2023, City of Edmonton staff participated in six outreach events focused on low-income vouth. newcomers and families to further promote the Ride Transit Program. The City will be engaging plain language consultants to conduct a review of the Ride Transit Program communication materials to improve communication and program awareness.

## SOCIAL SUPPORT

## **MANAGING THE** CORPORATION

#### **POSITIVE EMPLOYEE EXPERIENCE:**

In March 2023, City Council officially declared September 30 a civic holiday in the City of Edmonton. The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (September 30) will be observed permanently by the City of Edmonton and learning opportunities, reflection and community events will be supported.

The internal City of Edmonton Art of Inclusion Framework provides learning opportunities such as ongoing anti-racism training for all City staff.

Mandatory Indigenous awareness training, delivered by Indigenous employees, was completed by 1,678 new City employees in 2023.

#### **STRATEGY & BUSINESS:**

The City advanced implementation efforts related to the Sustainable Procurement Policy, which includes the Indigenous Procurement Framework. The goal of the Framework is to provide equitable access when Indigenous businesses are interested in providing goods or services to the City of Edmonton.

#### **RECONCILIATION EFFORTS**

The City Manager's Office works closely with the Indigenous Relations Office to fulfil the commitment of regular reporting on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Municipal Response Plan. This includes regular updates on progress towards the City's actions to create awareness, address needs expressed by Indigenous communities and empower Indigenous resurgence in relation to the 94 Calls to Action. Some actions in 2023 include the following:

- The Indigenous Framework portal and video learning series was launched for all City Staff.
- The City supported community-led events, including the Alberta Indigenous Games, Red Dress Day, Moosehide Campaign Day, Enoch Cree Nation Pow Wow, Indigenous Experience at K-Days, MMIWG2S Calls for Justice Reading Circle, Sisters in Spirit Day and multiple events throughout Indigenous Peoples History Month.
- Indigenous Framework artwork was unveiled in City Hall.
- The City signed a Letter of Intent with the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations as a commitment to work together to address Indigenous housing needs in Edmonton.
- The City continued to partner with Indigenous community-based organizations on pilots and initiatives that address safety for Indigenous people in Edmonton, such as the Community Outreach Transit Team (COTT) partnership with Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society.

311 Service: 913,254 contacts offere electronically and by phone

**Over 5,700 ETS Senior passes were** distributed through the Edmonton Service Centre

687 FOIP requests were processed

953 Council/Committee reports were prepared

## 1,231 public speakers spoke at Counc **Committees and Public Hearings**



## **CIVIC SERVICES**

ed	"Edmontonians contribute to civic society and are engaged in promoting the quality of the community"
9	<ul> <li>Highlights in 2023 for the Civic Services program include:</li> <li>311 helped inform and educate Edmontonians on transformational changes, such as the three-stream apartment and condo waste collection, Arc Card rollout and opening of the Valley Line Southeast LRT.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>The Edmonton Service Centre supported almost 50,000 visitors seeking payment services for transit products, permits, business licenses, taxes and parking.</li> </ul>
cil	<ul> <li>Public transparency and access increased as a result of enhancements to government data on the Open Data Portal: 2,263 assets were viewed 572,958 times and downloaded 18,654,104 times in 2023.</li> </ul>

## PUBLIC SAFETY

## **MANAGING THE** CORPORATION

#### **TECHNOLOGY & DATA:**

In partnership with the Anti-Defamation League, launched the "Lighthouse" tool for Peace Officers to help identify and track hate symbols used in public places within the city; recent winner of the Minister's Award for Municipal and Public Library **Excellence in the Enhancing Community** Safety Category.

#### **POSITIVE EMPLOYEE EXPERIENCE:**

Created a new 30X30 website to support the launch of the Peace Officer recruitment campaign along with a Social Media Strategy for recruitment marketing. The 30X30 initiative seeks to increase the representation of women in enforcement to 30 per cent by 2030. Since 2022, 30X30 has resulted in a 3.9% increase in female enforcement representation, and doubled the number of applications received.

#### "Edmontonians are safe and secure in our community"





Mobility

Network

#### **ENCAMPMENTS**

- Implemented enhancements to the City's response to encampments, by engaging people with lived experience. This included improved data collection processes and piloting the addition of a social worker in the encampment assessment team.
- Initiated an in-person education program to reduce fire safety risks to those living in encampments. This included preparing workers onsite with the tools to identify fire risks and solutions to reduce the potential of fires.
- Lessons learned from this project will be used to improve the program and applied to other projects within the City's encampment response.

#### LICENSING AND BYLAWS

- Ensured public safety objectives are met at higher-risk establishments and determined how consultations between agencies are completed through a strategic partnership review with Business Licensing, the Edmonton Police Service and Edmonton Fire Rescue Services.
- Amended the Business Licence Bylaw to impose a Police Information Check requirement for Designated Driver Services.

The Public Washroom Strategy provided public washrooms in three Business Improvement Areas as well as launched a new city-wide washroom accessibility grant for businesses

#### **HEALTHY STREETS OPERATIONS CENTRE (HSOC)**

The two year Healthy Streets Operations Centre (HSOC) pilot project was implemented in 2023, with a mandate to address general crime and disorder in a focused geographic area (Chinatown, Downtown and Kingsway communities). Council allocated funding to the multidisciplinary community safety teams in the HSOC, from January 1, 2023 through the end of 2024. These teams include City Peace Officers, Police Officers, Fire Community Safety Officers, Community Safety Liaisons and Alberta Health Services (AHS) Paramedics.

The City is working with REACH Edmonton, Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society and Homeward Trust Edmonton to provide guidance on the Healthy Streets Operations Centre, ensuring work on the ground is coordinated and connected to other initiatives and efforts, and that the City and its partners adapt approaches as appropriate.

#### **ENHANCED TRANSIT SAFETY & SECURITY**

Safety and security in transit spaces remains a top priority for the City. The City continues to promote a safe transit experience through education and outreach activities for all who use and work in transit spaces. ETS will continue working with partners to advance the actions in the Enhanced Transit Safety Plan, and address public perceptions by promoting greater awareness of safety and security. Some 2023 highlights include the following:

- Expanded the Community Outreach Transit Team (COTT) program to seven teams. COTT includes Transit Peace Officers and outreach workers from Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society. In 2023, COTT had 876 meaningful engagements with vulnerable Edmontonians, and over 500 COTT clients were referred to agencies or services, including transportation supports, mental health resources, shelters, pharmacies and doctors.
- Started Transit Community Action Teams (TCAT), which involves proactive patrols by Transit Peace Officers in transit spaces.

## PUBLIC SAFETY I

- Launched and promoted safety awareness campaigns, including:
- The Bystander Awareness campaign, which aims to empower and educate by standers about how to safely intervene when witnessing genderbased violence and harassment in transit spaces.
- The Be Rail Safe campaign, which promotes the importance of being safe around trains, tracks and rail crossings.
- Improved safety and transit system cleanliness using the Alberta Transit System Cleanup Grant, a one-time provincial \$5 million grant. The funding allowed for enhanced cleaning, graffiti removal and facility enhancements like security cameras, door hardening, the Southgate LRT station mural and the Central LRT station outreach workstation.

#### **OTHER COMMUNITY** SAFETY SUPPORTS

- The Neighbourhood Empowerment Team (NET) successfully addressed over 450 requests and engaged with over 13,000 Edmontonians. This volume of requests represents a notable surge compared to previous years tracked under similar criteria, marking an increase of over 100 per cent from 2022. The primary focus was on disseminating safety strategies for personal, home and business security. Additionally, the City spearheaded 25 Community Safety Projects to mitigate community factors affecting residents' safety perceptions.
- A Community Safety Liaison (CSL) was dedicated to the Problem Properties Initiative, offering support to individuals facing complex barriers to suitable housing, potentially leading to homelessness.
  - The City received \$4.2 million from the Government of Canada: Public Safety Building Safer Communities Fund that will support local initiatives seeking to prevent and address gun and gang violence.

# Supported 44 community applicants with Macro **Connections Grants**

# Supported 504 individual neighborhood events



#### "Edmontonians are connected to their neighbours"





Community Safety and Well-being

Arts & Culture

COMMUNITY

DEVELOPMENT

Highlights for the Community Development program in 2023 include the following:

- Partnered with Indigenous Framework Elders, Stolen Sisters & Brothers Movement Edmonton, Women's Emergency Accommodation Centre, Edmonton Arts Council and Fort Edmonton Park to support Indigenous culture and activities.
- Relaunched Wahkotowin Family Nights, a celebration of Indigenous culture, with community partners.
- Convened Heartland Ceremony to begin work on creating a sacred site for Indigenous women in the river valley.
- Held community conversations in wards Karhiio and Sspomitapi, in partnership with community leagues, a resident association, Edmonton Public Library (EPL) and a seniors multicultural card club to address social isolation of seniors in the Mill Woods area. These conversations have led to EPL offering free spaces and an increase in the number of seniors at this EPL location.
- Implemented a new Collaborative Relationship Agreement with the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues to focus on navigation and co-ordination of City services.
- Awarded Revitalization Extensive Project Fund grants to support the Crossroads Business Improvement Area (BIA) beautification project and the Sinkunia community development engagement project.
- Funded six community projects in Balwin and Belvedere through the Participatory Budgeting Pilot Proiect.
- Renewed the Clareview Skatepark and revived Clareview Youth Nights.
- Launched the Beverly pop up park, a series of community engagement and development events, with the support of community partners.

"Edmonton has an accessible and varied transportation system moving people, goods and services efficiently"



#### TRANSIT

Transit saw service expansion and improvements for initiatives such as On Demand Transit, Light Rail Transit (LRT), Regional Transit Service and the Ride Transit Program.

#### **On Demand Transit**

On Demand Transit service was made a permanent part of the transit network as an outcome of the 2023-2026 budget deliberations. On Demand Transit is Edmonton Transit Services' (ETS) "first-kilometre/ last-kilometre" transit solution. Operating in over 50 neighbourhoods and seniors' residences in Edmonton, providing vital, right-sized transit service

## **MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE AND GOODS**

to areas that do not meet ridership thresholds for conventional bus service or other areas where it is difficult to operate conventional buses. This service enables more equitable access for those who live in neighbourhoods with no fixed-route service and rely on transit for travel needs.

On Demand service hours increased 25 per cent in September; this contributed to 56,000 trips in October, the highest monthly trip volume since the launch of On Demand Transit in 2021. In late November, On Demand Transit service reached a significant milestone by delivering its 1-millionth ride. This milestone reinforces the positive impact that On Demand Transit has had for riders.

## 45% increase in On–Demand transit trips from 2022 to 2023

**500** additional off-peak ETS service hours implemented in 2023

**ETS ridership reached** 53.5 million in 2023, a 27% increase from 2022

Source: Transit Annual Service Plan 2023-24

## **MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE AND GOODS**

#### Light Rail Transit (LRT) Expansion

LRT expansion involves designing and delivering energy-efficient mass transit that will improve mobility choices for residents. Along with reducing greenhouse gases, this development links to a larger number of destinations, integrates with active modes of transportation and promotes increased density while accommodating growth along the network.

Public input played an essential role in shaping the Valley Line; thousands of Edmontonians were engaged through workshops, meetings, online consultations and open houses. The Valley Line is part of The City Plan's approach to prioritize more sustainable mobility options as Edmonton continues to grow.

The 13 kilometre Valley Line Southeast LRT, which runs from downtown to Mill Woods, officially opened in November 2023. With 11 street-level stops and one elevated station, this is a significant addition to the City's transit network.

Work also progressed on the:

- 4.5 kilometre Capital Line South LRT extension from Century Park to just north of Ellerslie Road
- 14 kilometre Valley Line West LRT from downtown to Lewis Farms
- 11 kilometre Metro Line Northwest LRT extension

Redevelopment of the Stadium LRT Station was completed in 2023. It is the first major LRT station rehabilitation in Edmonton. Work included a new platform on the west side of the tracks for event traffic from Commonwealth Stadium, more accessible street-level ramps, heated shelters, a security office and public washrooms.

#### **MOBILITY NETWORK**

Planning is underway to rapidly build the active transportation network across the city, expanding accessible and predictable active transportation infrastructure for people of all ages and abilities.

Along with a comprehensive city-wide mass transit network, Council approved a \$100 million investment towards active transportation network expansion, including protected bike lanes and shared pathways.

Vendors in the City's Shared Micromobility Program recorded 225,000 people, approximately 20 per cent of Edmonton's population, as unique-registered app users that took over one million trips over the distance of 2.3 million kilometres, predominantly on the active transport network paths.

Shared Micromobility Program						
	2022	2023	Year Over Year Growth			
Number of Trips						
E-Scooters	452,170	1,011,756	123.76%			
E-Bikes	46,997	49,641	5.63%			
TOTAL	499,167	1,061,397	112.63%			
Number of Kilometres						
E-Scooters	1,090,886	2,237,109	105.07%			
E-Bikes	103,380	124,012	19.96%			
TOTAL	1,194,266	2,361,122	97.70%			

As well, Edmonton's active transportation network has trip counters collecting cyclist and pedestrian data on the usage of bike lanes, shared-use paths and river valley trails. This data is shared and updated weekly on the City's Open Data Portal and on the City's Tableau Public account.

More than 100 km of residential roads and sidewalks and 23 km of alleys were renewed in 18 neighbourhoods across the city, through the **Neighbourhood Renewal Program** 

#### **Bridges for Pedestrians and Vehicles**

The Smith Crossing Pedestrian Bridge opened in the fall of 2023, on budget and ahead of schedule. This bridge forms a key link in Edmonton's river valley trail network, as it provides a safe crossing over Whitemud Creek and access to the MacTaggart and Larch Sanctuaries.

Replacement of Latta Bridge, on Jasper Avenue between 90 & 91 Street, was completed in fall 2023. The new bridge has been widened to meet current City standards and includes a new shared pathway, enhancing accessibility and safety for all modes of transportation.

#### **SAFE MOBILITY**

The Safe Mobility Strategy 2021-2025 is a guide to help achieve the Council-mandated goal of Vision Zero: zero traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries by 2032, through safe and livable streets in Edmonton. The City asked Edmontonians about their experience on city streets, learned from traffic safety strategies from around the world, and looked at five years of collision data to create four themes and 16 actions focused on safe and livable streets. This strategy shapes how Edmonton's streets are planned, designed, built, activated and maintained. In the past year, the focus was on



Introduced a service notification tool to provide timely and geographic-based alerts for parking bans related to snow and ice and street sweeping operations (29,000 subscribers as of December 2023)

## **MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE AND GOODS**

continued implementation through new and evolved programs, including:

- Safe Crossings Program
- Vision Zero Street Labs
- 40 km/h default speed limit
- Safe Speeds Toolkit
- Vision Zero School Kits
- Asphalt Speed Tables and Humps Program
- Safe Routes to School Program
- The Safe Crossings Program expanded to further the City's commitment to Vision Zero by making Edmonton's streets safer and more livable. Approximately 400 crossings are planned for safety upgrades by the end of 2026, and 125 have been completed. Growth in the Vision Zero Street Labs program continues with an increase from five to 17 installations. With changes to the Automated Enforcement Technology Guidelines by the Government of Alberta in late 2021, the City worked to ensure compliance with the new requirements so that automated enforcement could remain an important tool in making speeds and streets safer.

## **MANAGING THE CORPORATION**

### **PEOPLE, RELATIONSHIPS AND PARTNERSHIPS:**



## **MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE AND GOODS**

#### **YELLOWHEAD TRAIL FREEWAY CONVERSION**

The Yellowhead Trail Freeway Conversion project will improve the movement of goods and services within the City and the region, as well as the level of service for commuters, and the overall safety of the corridor. At the conclusion of the conversion program, Yellowhead Trail will consist of six free-flowing core lanes with a target operating speed of 80 km/hr.

In 2023, the program continued work on a combination of large and small projects, including off-corridor network improvements to support the new freeway, local businesses and communities. Construction on the Yellowhead Trail Freeway Conversion in 2023 included:

- Fort Road Widening (Yellowhead Trail to 66 Street) - completing the lengthening of the CN Rail bridge structure, utility installations and construction of the new roadway on Fort Road under the rail bridge. Fort Road reopened to traffic in a reduced capacity at the end of October, with additional lanes opened by the end of 2023.
- Continuing work on the 156 Street to St. Albert Trail project – installation of drainage infrastructure, road widening, and casting of the median and perimeter traffic barriers. The majority of construction activities on the main corridor and the supporting road network at 149 Street and 142 Street is complete.
- Early construction activities on the St. Albert Trail to 97 Street project - removal of the existing signalized at-grade intersections at 127 Street, 124 Street, 121 Street and 107 Street and the construction of two new interchanges, parallel collector roads and an integrated active-mode corridor. The design phase of the St. Albert Trail to 97 Street project was completed in 2023, as well as early work on utility relocation, building demolitions and the implementation of the traffic detour plan at 127 Street and Yellowhead Trail.

"Edmonton is developed so that it supports growth and social, cultural, economic and environmental well-being"



**60%** of all Development Services applications met target service timelines in 2023

Over **42,000** development and building permits issued resulting in over **\$5.2 billion** in construction

## LAND DEVELOPMENT

#### **DISTRICT PLANNING**

District Planning streamlines land use planning, design, open space, mobility and growth management information for 15 districts. It covers all parts of a growing Edmonton that will eventually accommodate two million people. District plans will provide a more consistent application of city-wide land use policies; they will be updated, maintained and adapted over time.

In 2022, feedback from the public, internal groups and industry through 14 in-person open houses, two online surveys, 12 pop-up events, 13 online workshops and focus groups yielded over 4,500 comments. This feedback, along with direction from Urban Planning Committee, led to extensive revisions to the district plans through 2023, with another round of engagement that took place in the fall of 2023.

On December 5, 2023, Administration provided an update to Urban Planning Committee regarding changes to draft plans to provide greater clarity in the text, policy, maps and intent to bring final district plans, associated repeals and amendments to Public Hearing in the second guarter of 2024.

#### **GROWTH MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK**

The Growth Management Framework guides urban growth city-wide through strategy-based recommendations on the interpretation and implementation of policy and its impact on the deployment of City amenities, infrastructure and services. This promotes efficient growth and investment in a fiscally sound manner.

Growth management activities for 2023 include:

- Understanding infrastructure gaps and supporting redevelopment in priority growth areas.
- Refining the interpretation of The City Plan's direction on substantial completion of the developing area, to enable planning for the future growth area.

Ongoing community engagement will inform the development of these actions, including with industry and EPCOR.

### LAND DEVELOPMENT

#### **ZONING BYLAW RENEWAL**

A comprehensive overhaul of Edmonton's Zoning Bylaw provided the necessary framework to advance the strategic goals of ConnectEdmonton, implement The City Plan, transform the way the City delivers land development services and help advance equity.

After five years of dedicated work, including engagement, technical studies and research, and five days of speakers, presentations, questions and discussions at Public Hearing, Edmonton City Council voted to adopt a new Zoning Bylaw in the fall of 2023. It took effect in January 2024.

#### Four key projects of this renewal include:

- 1. Creating a new Zoning Bylaw
- 2. Rezoning land city-wide to align with the new Zoning Bylaw
- 3. Providing technology to manage the new Zoning Bylaw and improving the online customer experience for planning and development services
- 4. Ensuring a smooth transition to the new Zoning Bylaw and technology through thoughtful implementation

#### **REDEVELOPMENTS – BLATCHFORD** AND EXHIBITION LANDS

#### **Blatchford Redevelopment**

Blatchford is continuing to take shape and Edmontonians are getting to see what Blatchford will look and feel like. Nearly all of the land in Blatchford's first five stages is sold or is under negotiation with interested homebuilders. While the majority of these parcels are townhomes, there is also land zoned for four-six storey buildings, of which several lots have been sold.

On the west side of the site, construction on the next two stages of residential development progressed in 2023, including the installation of underground utilities, street lighting, roads and sidewalk construction, and expansion of the cycle track network. The parkade along Airport Road was demolished to make way for the new location of Fire Station No. 8, which will be connected to Blatchford's District Energy Sharing System.

It is estimated that the first five stages of development underway on the west side of the site include:

- 120 units complete or currently under construction
- 65 units planned for land that has been sold to builders
- Approximately 984 units planned for land that is pending sale to builders

On the east side of the site, 33 acres of land owned by NAIT continued site preparation work in 2023. The installation of deep underground utilities was completed and road construction is underway to prepare the land for NAIT's campus extension.

#### **Exhibition Lands Area Redevelopment**

The 200-acre Exhibition Lands redevelopment encompasses several major projects, including Borden Park expansion, transit plaza, Coliseum LRT and transit station replacement, and Wayne Gretzky Drive urban boulevard. Edmonton EXPO Centre continues to be an essential partner as the City moves forward with the projects.

The City developed a 30-year development and sale timeline budget; brokerage partners are assisting with marketing and sale to expedite development at the Exhibition Lands. Recent milestones include:

- Decommissioning and demolition of underutilized buildings north of Borden Park in late summer 2023; reducing operation costs and preparing the land for future development and sale.
- First parcels totalling approximately 20 acres were listed for sale in May 2023 and designated for ground-oriented residential development. Evaluation of initial purchase proposals began in July 2023 and negotiations were underway before year end.
- Development phasing, servicing and net-zero feasibility reports were completed for the neighbourhood development in September 2023. Planning, engineering and design of the Phase One development area began in October 2023.
- Council approved funding to commence the demolition of the Coliseum, as early as 2025, with preliminary planning/scoping of the demolition beginning in late 2023.



## LAND DEVELOPMENT

## **BLATCHFORD**

**Canada's Best New Community** Named by Canadian Home Builders **Association at National Awards for** Housing Excellence and Edmonton **Region Awards of Excellence in** Housing (2023)

Two International Awards from the Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC) for the community's first phase of the District Energy Sharing System

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

"Edmonton has a diverse and prosperous economy that thrives locally and globally"





Economic Growth

Climate Action & Energy Transition

#### **ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN**

The Edmonton Economic Action Plan (EAP) supports The City Plan direction of adding 121,000 net-new jobs within Edmonton by 2030. The Action Plan is on track to achieve its 10-year goals. The City and its partners have contributed to the completion of several key actions, including the following:

- Leveraged projects designed to improve Edmonton's regulatory processes and reduce red tape.
- Aligned relevant economic development activities, reporting metrics, funding agreements and grants to ensure collaboration and effectiveness.
- Prioritized local and equitable procurement through the sustainable procurement policy.
- Identified economic development outcomes in City Capital Budget requests.
- Developed an integrated investment intake, business retention and expansion, and aftercare program that supports the efforts of Edmonton Global and others to attract foreign direct investment as well as existing and new Edmonton businesses.
- Developed and implemented an integrated place brand strategy.

Much of this work will remain a continuous improvement effort.

Some notable actions taken by the City and its partners to advance the EAP in 2023 include:

• The City conducted the Business Census pilot in Ward O'day-min. The program provided a comprehensive count of businesses and firmographic information and will continue to expand in following years.

- The City allocated the total EAP budget of \$1.7 million in 2023 to support projects run by businesses or business associations that advance actions of the EAP.
- The City of Edmonton awarded 25,803 purchase orders to local businesses worth \$27.18 million.

# **\$19.1 million** total economic impact of 2023 JUNO Awards hosted

by the City Source: Explore Edmonton

According to University of Toronto's 'Downtown Recovery Rankings' Edmonton's Downtown was at 80% of the pre-COVID activity levels in 2023

#### **DOWNTOWN VIBRANCY**/ **CHINATOWN STRATEGY**

Our city's downtown is the heart of the Edmonton region and the City is committed to creating the conditions for a vibrant, inclusive, safe and sustainable economy in our downtown core. Implementation of the Downtown Vibrancy Strategy continues, in collaboration with community partners, and these efforts continue to produce results and support major investments in our downtown.

The City developed the Downtown Vibrancy Fund to support achieving the outcomes in the strategy: downtown as a safe, welcoming place; as a home; as an economic hub; and as a destination. The fund was designed to provide financial support to projects led by businesses and organizations that demonstrate a long-term and sustained impact.

**\$7.3 million** committed by the **Downtown Vibrancy Fund and Meet Me** Downtown Grant to support projects that increase vibrancy and improve downtown safety

#### **Centre City Service Optimization Project**

A pilot was launched in June 2023, aimed at enhancing cleanliness, maintenance, safety and vibrancy within the City's centre by taking a proactive approach and increasing responsiveness to complaints within this geographic area. The Centre City Team of 50 staff was deployed strategically in the pilot area to enable key enhancements supported by three sub-units:

- The Clean City Crew, scheduled seven days a week, 10 hours a day, completed "hotspot" maintenance that responded to the symptoms of social disorder in the area. This team focused on needle collection, biohazard cleaning, power washing, graffiti removal and the collection of loose waste, debris or any other cleanliness concerns in publicly operated spaces.
- The amalgamated Parks Landscape Team McCauley Neighbourhood Renewal Chinatown increased service levels within the area through the Streetscapes (98 St, 99 St, 100 St, portions of frequency of mowing and trimming cycles. They 105 Ave) – in design phase with delivery planned also performed renovation work to rehabilitate for 2025. green infrastructure through mulching, replanting and rejuvenative pruning, with a focus on safety: Mary Burlie Park Redevelopment – in concept for example, ensuring adequate sightlines were design. Two phases of engagement will be present in parks and public spaces. completed in 2024 with delivery planned for 2025-2026.
- The **Inspector Team** reported deficiencies as they arose to the Clean City operations team; they also Harbin Gate – throughout 2023, the project team provided connectivity and "eyes on the ground" compiled the scope of work for the new gate. intelligence to other sections, branches and Design work and community engagement are departments to ensure integrated alignment to underway. In 2024, the design of the new gate the Downtown Vibrancy Strategy and City Plan will continue to progress, in collaboration with goals. This inspection team worked in conjunction key community partners in Edmonton and key with the Clean City Crew to identify and remedy individuals from the City of Harbin. concerns before members of the general public reported them.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Taking a proactive approach to service delivery, the Centre City team addressed 10,605 notifications in the first eight months of service (June 2023 to January 2024), the majority of which resulted from internal inspections. This approach reduced public concerns and prevented areas from slipping into serious disrepair. The Centre City Optimization Project was provided an additional \$1.5 million in funding to continue enhanced services for the remainder of 2024.

#### Chinatown Strategy – Implementation

The Chinatown Strategy identifies key priorities for programs and projects that will directly contribute to supporting Chinatown. The following projects advanced in 2023 to support implementation of the strategy:

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

#### **HYDROGEN ECONOMY**

The City is a founding member of the Edmonton Region Hydrogen HUB, an alliance of government, Indigenous, academic and economic development leaders.

The HUB's primary focus is to leverage municipal and private sector opportunities to create demand and supply at scales to meet future needs and create an economically sustainable "hydrogen as fuel" economy. With the HUB's initial three years of funding concluding at the end of 2023, the City is actively exploring options with industry and other regional partners to continue the work of this group.

#### Alberta Zero Emission Hydrogen Transit (AZEHT)

A major hydrogen initiative is the Alberta Zero Emission Hydrogen Transit (AZEHT) project. To increase familiarity and confidence in fuel cell electric bus (FCEB) technology in Alberta's climate, transit fleet services from Edmonton and Strathcona County have partnered with Suncor, Ballard, New Flyer, Hydrogen Technology and Energy Corporation (HTEC), and the Transition Accelerator to trial two FCEBs. Preliminary results of this two-year project are meeting or exceeding expectations.

The AZEHT project relies on fuel and a fueling station donated by Suncor for the two-year term of the project, which will conclude in 2025. The City of Edmonton is once again partnering with Emissions Reduction Alberta and has secured \$6.9 million in funding for the Alberta Zero Emissions Fleet Fueling (AZEFF) project. This three-year initiative will create a redeployable transitional fueling system to bridge the gap between current pilot stations and future permanent large-scale stations.



## WASTE MANAGEMENT

41% of waste generated by residents was diverted from landfills

**Edmontonians generated** 7.8% less residential waste per person on average from the 2019 baseline (when the Waste Strategy was approved)

3,510 tonnes of compost were given back to the community free of charge

Approximately 20,000 participants in Waste **Education programs** 

**Volunteer Master Composter Recyclers volunteered** 2,226 hours educating **Edmontonians about** home composting and sorting organics from our waste system

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

"Edmonton has sustainable access to nature, parkland and green infrastructure while protecting the natural environment and biodiversity, minimizing environmental impact and mitigating climate change"







Climate Action & Energy Transition

District Planning

Economi Growth

### **25-YEAR WASTE STRATEGY**

The 25-year Waste Strategy aligns programs and activities that promote waste prevention, waste reduction, reuse of materials, diversion from landfills and circular economic innovation. Program development and changes to the City's waste processing facilities will fundamentally transform service delivery and impact how waste is sorted in households as the City moves towards source separation of organics across all sectors.

Waste Strategy highlights from 2023:

- A business case for three-stream waste collection from approximately 167,000 units of apartment and condo housing was unanimously approved by City Council; 11,300 units at 157 sites began receiving three-stream waste collection from October to December of 2023. Rollout will continue until 2027.
- The Single-use Item Reduction Bylaw came into effect on July 1, 2023. Edmontonians disposed of 450 million single use items per year before the bylaw took effect. The bylaw aims to reduce single-use items by approximately 20 per cent in four years.

#### **CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION STRATEGY AND COMMUNITY ENERGY TRANSITION STRATEGY**

Several actions are underway to implement the Energy Transition Strategy and work towards achieving Edmonton's greenhouse gas emission reduction goals, including:

Promoting climate action in the community through programs and grants, such as the launch and scale-up of the Clean Energy Improvement Program (CEIP) and Building Energy Benchmarking.

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

- Improving building energy efficiency and solar photovoltaic installations on City facilities.
- Exploring zero emission vehicles and charging infrastructure needs.
- Expanding public and active transportation.

Progress on the Climate Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan includes:

- Developing climate adaptation resources and tools for the community and businesses.
- Neighbouring for Climate activation to support citizens working together to adapt to a changing climate.
- Disclosing City of Edmonton climate related financial risks in the Annual Financial Reports.
- Improving climate risk understanding and tools, including assessing climate risks at a neighbourhood scale.

\$47.8 million invested (matching investment from Canada's 2 Billion Trees Program) to plant 1.5 million trees in Edmonton, contributing to biodiversity, water conservation and lower GHG emissions.

Over 138.000 net new and replacement trees were planted in 2023, including naturalization and open space, and boulevard trees. Additionally, over 50,000 net new naturalization shrubs were planted. This work is part of the Greener as We Grow City Plan initiative.



#### **RENEWABLE DISTRICT ENERGY SYSTEMS**

As cities have begun to develop climate action plans, there has been increasing recognition that existing and new District Energy Systems can be the most cost-effective path to low-carbon heating within dense urban areas.

#### District Energy Strategy

This strategy identifies a pathway for a decarbonized district energy network implementation over time, with the goals of increasing our energy resilience and reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Edmonton's heating and cooling energy sector. Over the next four years, the City will start implementing its first District Energy Strategy and developing the next potential District Energy Nodes.



## **ENVIRONMENTAL** PROTECTION

- In 2023, Administration began implementing near-term actions outlined in the District Energy Strategy, including:
  - Advancing district energy feasibility studies in priority opportunity areas.
  - Initial screening for private partnership development.
  - Identifying initial tools available to compel building connection.

As of December 31, 2023, the City's 17 installed solar PV systems have reduced approximately **935 tonnes** of CO<sub>2</sub>e (since 2015)

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



**BOMA Best Environmental Building Silver Certification** for Muttart Conservatory, Confederation Leisure Centre & Arena, Meadows Community Recreation Centre & Library and Mill Woods **Recreation Centre & Arena** 

## **MANAGING THE CORPORATION**

#### **PROJECT AND ASSET** MANAGEMENT:

The \$11.5 million Emissions Neutral City Fleet and Equipment Capital Profile includes the initial planning, design and delivery of a lower/ zero-emissions vehicle fleet and equipment transition, as well as associated required infrastructure.

#### FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY:

The City implemented advanced Carbon Budgeting to allow measurement of planned actions and progress towards greenhouse gas reduction goals each year, adjusting as needed in efforts to combat climate change.

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

#### Blatchford Renewable Energy

Through the use of an innovative District Energy Sharing System, the Blatchford Renewable Energy utility is providing renewable heating, cooling and hot water services to the growing community.

The first residents have been connected to Blatchford's District Energy Sharing System for five years; the system has been reliably providing renewable thermal energy from the coldest winter nights to the hottest summer days. In 2023, work to expand the community energy centre took place, through the addition of another centralized heat pump.

#### **Downtown District Energy Initiative**

The Downtown District Energy Initiative is an opportunity to connect existing, energy-intensive buildings in downtown Edmonton to a district energy system reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing energy resilience in the downtown core.

The Downtown District Energy Initiative is currently in design with the central district energy plant nearing construction completion. The first phase, in partnership with EPCOR, is expected to be operational in the third quarter of 2025 and will include a connection to the Winspear, Century Place and Chancery Hall.

Edmonton named as a Climate Action Leader on the International Carbon **Disclosure Project A List** 

