



**OUR ENVIRONMENT
OUR ROLE**

**2018 REPORT TO
THE COMMUNITY**
ENVIRONMENTAL
MASTER PLAN

LOOKING BACK: 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

Looking back, 2018 was filled with many successes and achievements – including progress on the sustainability goals of the Environmental Master Plan (EMP) as well as work on the EMP refresh. The momentum on the EMP continued and at the same time the community provided their ideas on what they like about the EMP and what needs to be changed going forward.

The original EMP was created in 2011 to provide The City and the community with a road map to improved environmental sustainability. The plan established short, medium and long-term goals and measures in seven focus areas, and sets a course for achieving these outcomes. This report provides a 2018 snapshot of our progress toward the EMP's 25 year vision.

LOOKING FORWARD: A NEW BEGINNING

Based on community feedback and updated environmental data, an updated EMP will come forward in 2019. The EMP's vision (below) will remain the same while the metrics, targets, actions and priority areas may change to better address the environmental needs of the future. Keep watch in 2019 for the updated EMP and how we as a community can improve our environmental sustainability performance.

VISION

Red Deer actively enhances its rich natural environment and minimizes its ecological footprint through City leadership, community collaboration and active stewardship. Red Deer is a leading example of a resilient and sustainable community in which urban and natural systems are effectively integrated to the benefit of both.

ENVIRONMENTAL MASTER PLAN AT A GLANCE

8
ANNUAL
COMMUNITY
REPORTS

SHORT,
MEDIUM AND
LONG-TERM
TARGETS

20
METRICS
MEASURED AND
REPORTED ON
ANNUALLY

LOCAL,
NATIONAL AND
INTERNATIONAL
PARTNERSHIPS

7 FOCUS AREAS

-  WATER
-  ECOLOGY
-  AIR
-  BUILT ENVIRONMENT
-  TRANSPORTATION
-  ENERGY
-  WASTE



WATER

GOAL

TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF OUR WATER RESOURCES AND INCREASE WATER CONSERVATION.

POTABLE WATER CONSUMPTION

Water use in Red Deer has been declining steadily over the life of the EMP, meaning our community is on track to meet the 2020 water conservation target. Existing water conservation rebates for toilets and rain barrels continued to support Red Deer's homeowners in making changes for water conservation. As well, a new youth poster contest launched in cooperation with the Red Deer River Watershed Alliance helped promote water conservation ideas and messages about water conservation for all ages.

WATER QUALITY

Over and above considerations around potable drinking water, Red Deer values the River and our River watershed as an environmental resource. To protect water quality in the River and Tributaries, the EMP adopted the water quality parameters of the Red Deer River Watershed Alliance's Integrated Watershed Management Plan to track the quality of water in our river and tributary system. The water quality parameters measured include phosphorus, nitrogen, total suspended solids, dissolved oxygen and E.coli, and do meet all federal and provincial regulations for human health. As part of the Red Deer River Watershed Alliance, we continue to work towards increased collaboration with others up and down stream of our city with the goal of enhancing understanding of storm water infiltration and low impact development practices, and encouraging all residents and river users to help protect the River. It is important that our community and region not only continue to meet federal and provincial regulations but try and exceed them where possible.



AIR

GOAL

TO IMPROVE THE AIR QUALITY AND REDUCE EMISSIONS.

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

The EMP considers both corporate and community greenhouse gas emissions (GHG). The City is making strides on actively trying to reduce corporate GHG emissions – those generated by City operations – through initiatives like switching to a natural gas Transit fleet. With support of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and other partners, The City will be working to continue reduction efforts.

AIR QUALITY

The most recent data available (2015-2017) indicates that we continue to meet all of the air quality measures, with the exception of fine particulate matter PM2.5, which we have previously exceeded. The City continues to work in partnership with Alberta Environment and Parks, and The City is proactively implementing initiatives, such as the idle-free campaign, commuter challenge and other education campaigns, to decrease our PM2.5.



ECOLOGY

GOAL

TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE TERRESTRIAL AND AQUATIC HEALTH OF THE NATURAL HERITAGE SYSTEM.

NATURAL AREA AND MAN-MADE GREEN AREAS

In 2018 natural areas (including trees, wetlands and grasslands) increased by 67 hectares to a total of 990, surpassing the 2020 target. Man-made green areas (such as city parks, turf areas, shrubs beds and naturalized areas) decreased slightly by one hectare, indicating that while there has been progress under the EMP, more work is needed in this area.

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

Due to weather, plant cycles and other factors, the application of pesticides have varied each year during the reporting period of the EMP. In 2018, The City used 111 ml/acre. While this is an increase in use compared with the year before, overall The City was well within meeting the 2020 reduction target for volume of toxic herbicide and insecticide used in the parks and green spaces.

To stay within the target, The City is exploring the use of alternative non-toxic methods including bringing in 400 goats in July 2018. The goats munched on the weeds taking the place of toxic weed pesticides. Not only are they all natural – they sure were cute!



BUILT ENVIRONMENT

GOAL

TO CREATE VITAL, WELL-INTEGRATED, COMPACT COMMUNITIES THAT MINIMIZE NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS.

LAND DEVELOPMENT FOOTPRINT

We continue to work towards managing our land development footprint – or the amount of land we all use to live, work, learn, play and travel in the city. The City is making progress on this measure through redevelopment projects like Capstone at Riverlands.

LAND AREA USED FOR COMMUNITY GARDENS

Red Deerians have shown they love local food through their demand for community gardens. While The City is still short of the 2020 target for garden space, in 2018, The City added more community partnership gardens (up to a total of 150 boxes/raised beds). The total garden area available is 0.24m²/capita.





WASTE

GOAL

TO DECREASE THE AMOUNT OF WASTE GOING TO LANDFILL AND INCREASE WASTE DIVERSION OPPORTUNITIES.

Waste is an area where we continue to make significant progress and we are on our way or already meeting the targets. Initiatives like the Green Cart, which rolled out in Spring 2018, are playing a big role in helping us achieve these goals.

RESIDENTIAL SOLID WASTE

At 412 kg in 2018, we have already met and bettered the 2019 target of 450 kg annually. Since 2009, that's an impressive 35 per cent decrease in the amount of waste collected per household.

OVERALL DISPOSAL RATE

Overall per capita disposal rate (meaning total solid waste disposed of per person) decreased this year. While we still have some work to do to continue to decrease waste, we are moving in the right direction. Events like Kick it to the Curb help Red Deerians find alternative ways to reduce waste.

WASTE DIVERSION

In 2018 The City saw a continued increase in the waste diversion rate, on track to meet the 2020 target. This measure is a critical element in helping us achieve our other waste-related measures, and we believe the new initiatives like the Green Cart will help us get there.



ENERGY

GOAL

TO REDUCE ENERGY USE AND MOVE TOWARDS USING RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES.

BUILDING ENERGY

This measures the amount of energy (natural gas, electricity and diesel) used to run City owned and operated buildings, including energy used for heating, cooling, lighting and running appliances/ machinery. Overall our trends suggest more focus is needed in this area to meet the targets. In the EMP refresh The City will examine whether this is the right measure and approach for making significant change.

RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES

In 2018, The City added new solar panels at Sorenson Station to generate more of our own renewable energy. The project was completed in October 2018, and provides power to the parkade, with excess energy flowing back into the electrical grid. Going forward, more work is needed in tracking the impact of The City's renewable energy initiatives.



TRANSPORTATION

GOAL

TO PRIORITIZE ACTIVE AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION.

FUEL CONSUMPTION (GASOLINE AND DIESEL)

Opting for alternative modes of transportation or simply driving shorter distances are ideas to help reduce individual fuel use. In 2018, the community of Red Deer saw another slight decrease in year to year fuel consumption, using 1,415 litres of fuel per capita. But overall the fuel consumption trend has increased since 2009. With the EMP refresh underway, we're looking at this area to determine how best to affect change.

DWELLING UNIT PROXIMITY TO COMMUNITY AMENITIES

Overall, Red Deer continues to make progress in this area, ensuring citizens are within reasonable walking distance of common amenities and therefore able to enjoy a "walkable community". The City has already met the 2020 targets for walking distance to trails and parks, transit stops, and we're just shy of the target for schools and commercial areas. City planning for walkable neighbourhoods demonstrates efforts to put these targets in action.

MODAL SPLIT

We have not met specific targets in this area; however, in 2018, The City continued to implement the Multimodal Transportation Plan (MTP), which charts the course for the future of driving, walking, cycling and transit in Red Deer. Enabling The City to plan, prioritize and evaluate transportation projects, the MTP aims to improve the safety, quality, comfort, connection of all modes and provide more choice for residents.

In 2018, thanks to community promoters, Red Deer welcomed a new event to strengthen our bicycle culture, called Cyclovia. This "Free Open Streets" event saw selected streets in the downtown core temporarily closed to automobile traffic. The streets became "paved parks" to encourage walking and biking. It was so successful, another bigger and better event was planned for 2019.

LENGTH OF TRAIL INFRASTRUCTURE

When you think of Red Deer's assets, one of the first things to come to mind is our valued parks and trail system. In fact, we enjoy an impressive 199.5 km of trail right within our city – increasing a bit from last year – we now have 1 km of trail for every 500 residents. At this level, we've already achieved the 2020 target of 1 km for every 605 people.



THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

For helping us advance our goals and initiatives

- Red Deer Public Library
- Red Deer River Watershed Alliance
- Waskasoo Environmental Education Society
- Parkland Airshed Management Zone
- Local school boards
- Red Deer College
- Re-Think Red Deer
- Alberta Environment and Parks
- Trout Unlimited Canada
- Clean Air Strategic Alliance
- Climate Literacy
- Commuter Challenge
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities



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For more information, the full Environmental Master Plan
can be viewed on our website at

reddeer.ca/EMP

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