

# EMP



## ENVIRONMENTAL MASTER PLAN

**2025 SUMMARY**





## WATCH FOR LINKS!

Click on links throughout this document to access additional information.

Titles with supporting documents will display a hand icon when hovered over.

## INTRODUCTION

This report provides a high-level update on the status of The City of Red Deer's [Environmental Master Plan](#) (EMP) since its adoption in 2019. It illustrates progress made toward goals, targets and recommended actions, and highlights current projects as well as strengths, challenges and opportunities. Additional information and links to online resources are included throughout the report as well as in the Appendix. Developed by the Environmental Initiatives team of the Community Development Section with input from internal and external partners, this report will inform future implementation work and collaboration opportunities.

# 1.0

## BACKGROUND

### PURPOSE AND SCOPE

In 2019, the EMP was refreshed with a 25-year vision for Red Deer's environmental future, developed in collaboration with the community. The EMP serves as a road map to improved environmental performance with goals, targets and recommended actions. It provides guidance for both corporate and community-led sustainability initiatives for water, ecology, air, community design, energy and waste.

2.0



### IMPLEMENTATION AND COLLABORATION

Implementation of the EMP is guided by The City's Social Policy Framework, which outlines a collaborative approach with clearly defined roles between The City and the community. While The City has a vital role, the broader community (including organizations, businesses and individuals), contributes significantly to achieving the goals of the EMP. In some situations, The City plays a primary (lead) role, while in other situations The City may have a shared or complementary role (e.g. coordinator, funder) with other organizations taking the primary role. Although the Environmental Initiatives team coordinates the reporting process, implementation of the EMP community goals is collaborative effort between internal City departments and external partners.

### ANNUAL REPORTING

The City has a strong legacy of environmental reporting with opportunities for review, reflection and adjustment. Annual EMP reports to the Community are available on the City's website. Updates have been completed to The City's EMP webpage over the past few years to complement EMP reporting to the community. Since 2021, At-a-Glance brochures have been developed annually to provide a brief update on the status of actions and metrics. In 2024, Community Development presented to Council on the EMP metrics and implementation progress.

# 3.0

## HIGHLIGHTS OF ACHIEVEMENTS



### REPORTING

**90%**

of the EMP metrics are  
**achieving or  
partially  
achieving**

the targets for corporate and community  
metrics with significant progress for  
water conservation, residential waste,  
pesticide use, fuel consumption and  
transportation emissions.



### PARTNERSHIPS

The City has provided funding for  
**23**  
**community-led  
projects**

since 2023 through the Environmental  
Initiatives Grant – see We Are Red Deer,  
December 10, 2024.



### WATER

Over  
**7,000**  
**residential toilets**

were replaced with support from The City's  
toilet rebate program until it was retired in 2024  
(approximately 2.1 billion litres of water savings).



## TRANSIT

Ridership increased from 12.5 trips per capita in 2022 to

**23**  
trips per capita  
in 2023

with the assistance of The City's Transit Fare Subsidy<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Transit ridership declined during the COVID pandemic (2020 and 2021), but ridership returned to pre-pandemic levels by 2024.



## TRANSPORTATION

Since 2016, there has been a

**4%**  
decrease in single  
vehicle trips (driving)  
and

**4%**  
increase in walking,  
biking and  
micro-mobility  
(e.g. scooters)

# 4.0



**Titles with supporting documents will display a hand icon when hovered over.**

## CITY INITIATIVES

Below are examples of significant initiatives that have recently been completed or are underway.



### WATER CONSERVATION, EFFICIENCY AND PRODUCTIVITY (CEP) PLAN

In 2016, The City released a Water Conservation, Efficiency & Productivity (CEP) Plan for Red Deer that provides an overview of The City's water system, water use trends, and recommended targets and initiatives. In 2023, the plan was reviewed to evaluate the implementation of the recommended actions. Progress towards achieving the established targets indicates a downward trend in water use. Additionally, water losses have been reduced from 11% to 3% - meaning the 2035 target for water loss reduction has been achieved. This is a major accomplishment for the city.



### RESIDUALS MANAGEMENT FACILITY

In 2021, The City's water treatment process was upgraded to improve the quality of the waste stream before it is discharged into the Red Deer River. The facility is designed to reduce sedimentation, enhance river aesthetics, protect fish habitat and reduce energy use. The project was recognized for the sustainable design with an [Envision Canada Bronze Award](#).



### ADOPT A STORM DRAIN PROGRAM

The City's Adopt a Storm Drain program was developed to support the City's goal of increased local participation in environmental mitigation. The program was launched in 2024 and now has 73 volunteers and 84 adopted storm drains. Residents are actively involved in caring for the environment to improve the health of our river and ensure storm drains stay clear of debris.



## CLIMATE ADAPTATION STRATEGY

In 2024, the Red Deer Climate Adaption Strategy was developed to enhance the climate resilience of The City's assets, services, and operations to best serve our community. The Strategy outlines 20 key actions with cross-linkages to EMP goals. The strategy demonstrated leadership to the community and signaled to partner organizations and external stakeholders that The City is considering climate in future decisions. Having an adopted strategy is looked upon favourably by The City's insurers as a meaningful step towards risk reduction. This work is integral to building an adaptable, resilient community as we plan for a prosperous and growing Red Deer.



## SUSTAINABLE BUILDING STRATEGY

In 2024, The City developed a Sustainable Building Strategy to provide a consistent approach to guide decisions on City-owned facilities including new builds, retrofits and renovations. The Strategy provides a framework for The City to develop policies and tools for sustainable buildings. It provides leaders with the necessary clarity and information to comprehend what is required of City-owned facilities to achieve the environmental targets outlined in the EMP. The Strategy was used to develop of a policy for sustainable building and energy efficiency.



## MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The City's Multimodal Transportation Plan aims to improve the safety, quality, comfort and connection of all modes and provide more choice for residents. Several active transportation projects have been completed to fill in some of the gaps in the network along 77 Street, Ross Street, 30 Ave and Taylor Drive. As a result, there has been a notable shift from single vehicle use to active modes. In 2024, City Council approved e-scooters on a permanent basis with no limits on the number of companies or e-scooters that can operate in Red Deer. Also, The City's [Transit Network Improvements Project](#) has delivered a moderately restructured transit network.



## EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY

In April 2025, the burden of collecting, sorting, processing and recycling certain wastes shifted to the producers (manufacturers) and away from local governments and ratepayers. This provincial policy shift is intended to reduce waste by encouraging producers to create less packaging waste and to design packaging and paper products that are more easily recycled. As a result, Red Deer residents pay less for their monthly utility bills without any changes to their recycling services.

# EXAMPLES OF OTHER RECENTLY COMPLETED INITIATIVES



**Titles with supporting documents will display a hand icon when hovered over.**

## DROUGHT MANAGEMENT PLAN

In 2024, The City prepared a plan to proactively respond to drought conditions and the need for water restrictions in the community in collaboration with regional partners and stakeholders.

## BEAVER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

In 2024, The City partnered with the Miistikis Institute to develop some Beaver Best Management Practices and a coexistence decision making tool to support beaver coexistence within the city. Ultimately this tool will support management to protect and enhance biodiversity and the health of the watershed.

## NATIVE BEE INVENTORY PROJECT

From 2022-2025 The City of Red Deer partnered with local bee experts and Red Deer Polytechnic to inventory native bee species from various habitats throughout the city. Using various collection methods and assessment tools, a great diversity of species has been identified including several vulnerable species.

## WETLAND RESTORATION

The City's Wetland restoration projects are affiliated with the Alberta Wetland Replacement Program. Projects are led by The City's Engineering department and monitored by the Parks section. In the last several years two restoration projects have been completed - Edgar North Wetland and Three Mile Bend Wetland are now functioning wetlands producing habitat for waterfowl and associated plant and animal biodiversity.

## YEAR OF THE GARDEN

Encouraged by the Canadian Garden Council and Communities in Bloom, The City proclaimed 2022 as "Year of the Garden". The City collaborated with the community to provide enhanced opportunities for gardening, food production, landscaping, caring for nature and nurturing relationships - culminating with profiles of community initiatives through a series of locally produced short [videos](#).

## LIGHTBULB EXCHANGE

In 2017, The City partnered with the Kerry Wood Nature Centre to allow residents to trade in two inefficient lightbulbs and receive two LED light bulbs for free. The program was retired in 2023 with approximately 4000 lightbulbs exchanged and an estimated 1,642,958 kwh of electricity (\$164,296) saved by residents during this period.

## COMPOSTING AT HOME

This program ran for nine seasons and trained more than 1,800 residents how to compost until the program was closed in 2021.

# EXAMPLES OF NEW INITIATIVES CURRENTLY UNDERWAY

---

## ENERGY DIVERSIFICATION AND EMISSIONS STRATEGY

The City is developing a strategy to guide decision making regarding renewable energy sources and low carbon economy investments. The Strategy supports implementation of The City's [Community Energy and Emissions Plan](#) with a path towards reduced emissions and a diversified energy portfolio.

---

## SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PLANNING

Working with partners, this initiative connects with drinking water safety planning and watershed health as well as wastewater and stormwater management.

---

## NEIGHBOURHOOD RESILIENCE

This project is intended to facilitate connection, information sharing, climate awareness, and emergency preparedness activities amongst City residents at the neighbourhood level and with tools like the [Alberta FireSmart](#) program.

---

## NATURAL ASSET MANAGEMENT ROADMAP

In 2025, The City initiated a project to develop a roadmap with a prioritized list of actions that will provide City staff with direction on delivering natural asset management plans, programs, and projects.

---



# EXAMPLES OF ONGOING PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

## FUNDING

### ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES GRANT

Supports community-led projects that empower citizens to take action to achieve the vision and goals of the EMP (e.g. online [Red Deer Food Map](#), [Energy Innovation Fair](#), youth camps, community-based monitoring and habitat planters).

## REBATES

### SMART THERMOSTAT REBATE

Residents who purchase and install an Energy Star certified smart thermostat can apply for a \$50 rebate.

### WATERING TIMER REBATE

Residents can apply for a \$50 rebate towards a watering timer.

### PLANT REBATE

Allows residents to purchase native or drought-tolerant plants from the eligible plant list can receive 50 per cent of the total cost up to \$50.

### MULCH REBATE

Residents who purchase permeable mulch can receive 50 per cent of the cost up to \$50.

### RAIN BARREL REBATE

Allows residents to purchase a rain barrel and receive a rebate of 50 per cent of the cost up to \$50.



**Titles with supporting documents will display a hand icon when hovered over.**

## PROGRAMS & SERVICES

### WASTE MANAGEMENT

Provides green, blue and black cart service to residents living in single family homes, recycling and garbage collection for residents living in multi-family properties as well as garbage collection services for commercial customers.

### KICK IT TO THE CURB

Residents can place useful but unwanted items at the front of their property on the third full weekend of the month from May through October to be picked up by someone who can use them.

### GARDENING OPPORTUNITIES

The City's has many garden plots, community gardens or community food forests that are perfect for those wanting to grow some of their own food.

### MEDICATION RETURN

(education campaign) – Expired or unused medications can be dropped off for free, year-round at participating pharmacies.

### MICRO-GEN PROGRAM

The City's application and interconnection processes support solar and alternative energy installations. Red Deer currently has 537 microgeneration sites in operation, representing 6,729 kW AC capacity installed.

### ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Educational workshops and materials are available for residents, businesses, community organizations and apartment buildings. (e.g. Energy & Water Conservation Toolkit)

### IDLE FREE PROGRAM AND POLICY

These initiatives were designed to help raise awareness, reduce greenhouse gas emissions from fleet vehicles and improve air quality in Red Deer.

### WINTER ROAD SAND RECYCLING PROGRAM

As of 2024, The City diverted nearly 7,500 tonnes of sand per year used for winter road maintenance from going to the landfill.

### LIGHTING RETROFITS

In 2025, The City was able to complete retrofitting with LED lamps at several park sites including Riverside Meadows, Oriole Park, Westpark Elementary, Eastview Estates and Bower Ponds. The LED lamps use less energy and last longer.

### INTERNAL INITIATIVES

The City's Green Team has implemented several environmental initiatives to encourage sustainable practices at work. For example, the Mobility Hub was launched in 2024 to support staff use of alternative transportation. In 2024, staff initiated a battery recycling program. Annual tree planting and Green Deer clean ups have also been completed with over 100 employees volunteering in 2025.

# 5.0



**Titles with supporting documents will display a hand icon when hovered over.**

## COMMUNITY-LED INITIATIVES

The City's partners with several community groups to support local environmental programs. The following includes examples of community-led initiatives and partners that The City has collaborated with to implement actions that support the goals of the EMP:

### WASKASOO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION SOCIETY

#### GREEN DEER

This annual event brings people together to improve Red Deer's environment by removing litter from parks, streams, and neighbourhoods. Its community-led efforts foster environmental responsibility, protect wildlife habitats, and create cleaner, safer outdoor spaces for everyone to enjoy.

#### TRASH TO TREASURE SWAP MEET

Kerry Wood Nature Centre hosts this event on the same weekends as Kick it to the Curb. People bring in unwanted but usable small items and discover fresh finds. The swap promotes reuse, lowers environmental impact, and builds community spirit by helping residents rethink waste and keep valuable items in circulation.

#### TD TREE DAYS

A Nature Centre-led initiative to rebuild wildlife corridors on the north and west sides of the Gaetz Lakes Sanctuary. Working with City staff, the Nature Centre is reforesting sections of land along 45 Ave and the Sanctuary's north boundary at 67 St.

### PARKLAND AIRSHED MANAGEMENT ZONE

#### BLUE SKIES AWARDS

The City has representation on the PAMZ communications committee that oversees this program, which recognizes the efforts of companies, organizations and individuals in helping to maintain or improve air quality in the region.

#### AIR QUALITY MONITORING

The City has representation on the PAMZ Board of Directors that oversee the organization's operation. The City also supports the operation of two ambient air quality monitoring stations located alongside Riverside Drive and at the Lancaster Reservoir with the provision of power, access and security.

### LOCAL FOOD MOVEMENT

Since 2022, The City has been working with a dedicated group of community members, producers, non-profits to help expand local food production and consumption. In 2024, the group developed the [Red Deer Food Map](#) identifying local producers and food security resources to connect residents with local resources in the area.

## RED DEER RIVER WATERSHED ALLIANCE

### STATE OF THE WATERSHED REPORT

A scientific report on the condition of the Red Deer River watershed, summarizing key indicators such as water quality, quantity, biodiversity, land-use and climate resilience. The report serves to educate and support watershed management decisions by highlighting emerging pressures and collaboration opportunities.

---

### CANADIAN AQUATIC BIOMONITORING NETWORK (CABIN) PROGRAM

Partnership with the City made it possible to acquire equipment and assess aquatic health conditions upstream and downstream for river basin monitoring and follow up management purposes. CABIN measures freshwater ecosystem health with standardized methods, database, activities map and training.

---

### NATURAL ASSET ASSESSMENT

In 2025, RDRWA completed its third riparian (shoreland) intactness mapping project across the basin. Project information helps municipal partners prioritize natural asset restoration and conservation efforts for ecosystem service benefits such as source water protection. More information is available on the RDRWA [website](#).

---

## RETHINK RED DEER

### PIPER CREEK RESTORATION AGRICULTURE PROJECT

A multi-phase, brownfield redevelopment project that repairs and improves the historical impacts on an important riparian area and agricultural land in the Red Deer River watershed by regenerating and enhancing Red Deerians' understanding of, and relationship with, the natural world.

---

### COMMON GROUND GARDEN PROJECT

A multi-phase, brownfield redevelopment project fostering sustainable food security, connecting to the land, sharing seeds of knowledge, and growing an inclusive community. This urban farming project is in Red Deer's Capstone District and works to address local food security while creating a safe and vibrant public space that offers accessibility, inclusion, sustainability, and fellowship.

---

### ECOLIVING FAIR + ENERGY INNOVATION FAIR

These annual events bringing together community groups, innovative local businesses, makers and artisans in an indoor marketplace. Local experts provide workshops and presentations about what's happening in Red Deer's sustainability scene as well as the latest advancements in clean technology, energy efficiency, renewable/alternative energy, and innovative oil and gas technology.

---

# 6.0 STATUS OF METRICS

## BASED ON EMP GOALS AND TARGETS

METRIC	DESCRIPTION
<b>WATER</b>	
POTABLE WATER CONSUMPTION	Residential and industrial/commercial/ institutional water consumption
WATER LOSSES	Includes unmetered water, thefts, leaks and water main breaks
WATER QUALITY	Monitoring water quality in our flowing water bodies
<b>WASTE</b>	
OVERALL WASTE DISPOSAL	Total amount of solid waste disposed by Red Deirians
RESIDENTIAL SOLID WASTE	Residential garbage collected curbside in the city
WASTE DIVERTED	Waste diverted from the landfill
<b>ENERGY</b>	
RENEWABLE AND ALTERNATIVE ENERGY	Renewable or alternative electricity we can generate to meet the average electricity demand
COMMUNITY ENERGY USE	Total annual energy use for all of Red Deer: residential, commercial and industrial/ commercial/institutional sectors
<b>ECOLOGY</b>	
PROTECTED AREAS	The share of area protected from development as a percent of the overall urban area
TREE SPECIES SUITABILITY	Portion of tree population on City owned and managed land suitable for Red Deer's urban environment and adapted to regional conditions
TREE SPECIES DIVERSITY	Monitoring the genetically diverse tree population on City owned and managed property
INTENSITY OF SYNTHETIC PESTICIDE USE ON CITY LAND	Amount of pesticide used on publicly accessible City-owned and maintained land
<b>COMMUNITY DESIGN</b>	
LENGTH OF BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ROUTES	Length of all bicycle and pedestrian routes per hectare of urban development
FUEL CONSUMPTION	Total gasoline and diesel consumed annually in Red Deer
EMISSIONS FROM TRANSPORTATION	Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions attributed to transportation in Red Deer
TRANSIT RIDERSHIP	Annual transit trips taken on Red Deer Transit
LAND DEVELOPMENT FOOTPRINT	Measuring the amount of land within the city that is zoned for urban uses and roads
COMMUNITY GARDEN PLOTS	Number of garden plots and the number of people who benefit from produce grown
<b>AIR</b>	
AIR QUALITY	Measuring concentrations of airborne pollutants
GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS	Measuring GHG emissions for The City of Red Deer as an organization and for Red Deer as a whole

Note: Status of metrics is based on 2024 data. For more details, see [reddeer.ca/EMP](http://reddeer.ca/EMP).



STATUS	NOTES
✓ ACHIEVING	On track to achieve 2035 target
✓ ACHIEVING	Currently achieving the 2035 target
→ PARTIALLY ACHIEVING	Currently achieving three of the five parameters
✗ NOT ACHIEVING	While trending in the right direction, we did not achieve the 2023 target
✓ ACHIEVING	Currently achieving the 2023 target
→ PARTIALLY ACHIEVING	We will be challenged to achieve the 2035 target
✗ NOT ACHIEVING	Significant gains have been made but there is work to be done to achieve the 2035 target
✓ ACHIEVING	Currently achieving the 2035 target
→ PARTIALLY ACHIEVING	On track to achieve 2035 target
→ PARTIALLY ACHIEVING	While trending in the right direction we will be challenged to achieve the 2035 target
→ PARTIALLY ACHIEVING	We will be challenged to achieve the 2035 target
✓ ACHIEVING	Currently achieving the 2035 target
→ PARTIALLY ACHIEVING	While trending in the right direction we will be challenged to achieve the 2035 target
✓ ACHIEVING	Currently achieving the 2035 target
✓ ACHIEVING	Currently achieving the 2035 target
→ PARTIALLY ACHIEVING	We will be challenged to achieve the 2035 target
→ PARTIALLY ACHIEVING	While trending in the right direction we will be challenged to achieve the 2035 target
→ PARTIALLY ACHIEVING	While trending in the right direction we will be challenged to achieve the 2035 target
→ PARTIALLY ACHIEVING	While trending in the right direction we will be challenged to achieve the 2035 target
→ PARTIALLY ACHIEVING	We are currently achieving three of the four parameters, but will be challenged to achieve the 2035 targets
CORPORATE → PARTIALLY ACHIEVING COMMUNITY ✓ ACHIEVING	While trending in the right direction, we will be challenged to achieve the 2035 targets

# 7.0

## ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS

The following information describes some of the strengths, trends, challenges and opportunities regarding our ongoing efforts to implement The City's environmental goals and initiatives.

## STRENGTHS & TRENDS

### WATER CONSERVATION

The City has demonstrated tangible improvements in its water system, especially for water loss reduction.

### PLANNING

Integration of climate adaptation planning has enhanced The City's resilience and response to emerging extreme weather events.

### ENGAGEMENT

Community and stakeholder engagement via environmental initiative grants and partnerships has magnified the reach of the EMP actions.

### TRENDS

Most of the EMP metrics are on track or making progress towards the targets suggesting the EMP remains a living instrument to guide progress.

### REBATE PROGRAM EVALUATION & ENHANCEMENTS

In 2022, an evaluation was completed of The City's environmental rebate programs. A satisfaction survey was sent to 465 past program participants, with 31 per cent responding. Responses indicated that the programs are incentivizing water conservation, and that the application process is effective. Overall, participation in the programs has been steady with interest in continuing with most of the current programs and expanding into other program areas such as rebates for energy efficiency and alternative energy products.

Below are examples of improvements that have been made based on community feedback:

- In 2022, a pilot program was launched for a high-efficiency dishwasher rebate and a smart thermostat rebate – the thermostat program continues based on the results of the pilot.
- Since 2024, residents who previously received rain barrel, plant or mulch rebates are eligible to apply for another rebate, subject to the updated limits for each program.
- In 2024, a multi-family plant and mulch rebate pilot was launched based on feedback from the community, but it was not continued due to low participation.
- In 2024, the toilet rebate program was closed after 16 years because participation had been declining in recent years, and most households now have low flush toilets.
- In 2025, a watering timer rebate for residents was launched and has had strong participation.

# CHALLENGES

## AGING INFRASTRUCTURE

Existing water, wastewater and stormwater systems were not designed for current and projected climate extremes. Ongoing monitoring and adaptation will help to ensure The City's infrastructure and services meet the needs of the community.

## FUNDING AND STAFF CAPACITY

Balancing environmental initiatives alongside operational and capital priorities is an ongoing challenge. Staff capacity for educational initiatives was reduced in 2020 resulting in less City programming available for school groups.

## COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Volunteer participation may be reaching saturation for some of the older rebate programs (e.g. the toilet rebate was retired in 2024 as most households are now utilizing low-flow toilets and participation had started to decline).

## DATA INTEGRATION

Improving coordination between internal data systems (e.g., energy tracking, asset inventories) and EMP performance reporting.

## EQUITY AND AFFORDABILITY

Rebates help to offset the cost of installing environmentally friendly products, but not all residents can afford these products. Also, recent increases in transit ridership may reflect broader socioeconomic factors such as affordability challenges.

# OPPORTUNITIES

## INTEGRATION

EMP targets and initiatives could be more integrated within broader corporate planning and decision-making processes. The Climate Adaptation Strategy and Sustainable Building Strategy are intended to guide decisions for operations, services and capital projects.

## ALIGNMENT

EMP outcomes could be embedded more into existing City planning, budgeting or operational frameworks to ensure alignment, which will require targeted investments and integrated capital planning. For example, active transportation and transit ridership initiatives can be tied together to help achieve The City's GHG emission targets.

## WATERSHED PLANNING

Integrate watershed, stormwater and utility data (e.g. River & tributaries studies, invasive species communication) to support long-term resiliency planning.

## ENERGY DIVERSIFICATION

Advance opportunities through The City's Energy Diversification and Emissions Strategy for renewable and low-carbon projects.

## CORPORATE LEADERSHIP

Apply lessons from the Sustainable Building Strategy to upcoming facility retrofits through grant funding (e.g. Strategic Energy Management for Industry).

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Expand collaboration with local groups (e.g. facility tours or videos), businesses and non-profits to extend the reach of environmental programs.

## DIGITAL DASHBOARDS

Expand the public-facing dashboard for transparency and education.

## DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Incorporate the principles and practices recommended in The City's 2023 Diversity and Inclusion Plan when implementing environmental initiatives.

# 8.0

## CONCLUSION & OUTLOOK

Since its adoption in 2019, Red Deer has made measurable progress in advancing EMP goals with most metrics either achieving or making progress toward their targets. Successes include reduced water losses, increased transit ridership and the implementation of strategies like Climate Adaptation and Sustainable Building.

Community engagement through grants, rebates and partnerships has extended the reach of EMP initiatives. However, challenges such as aging infrastructure, data integration, limited staff capacity and funding constraints highlight areas for strategic focus. Some programs have matured, requiring renewed approaches to maintain public interest and participation.

Looking ahead, integrating EMP goals into broader City planning, diversifying energy initiatives, leveraging digital tools and enhancing natural asset management will be key. Continued collaboration with residents, businesses, and regional partners will be essential to achieving the 2035 targets and building a sustainable, resilient Red Deer.

The EMP remains a living document that evolves with community needs, environmental realities, and innovative solutions. With ongoing commitment and adaptive leadership, The City is well-positioned to advance its environmental vision and create lasting positive change.

*Photos courtesy of Red Deer Watershed Alliance and WEES.*



# APPENDIX

## EMP ACTION PROGRESS

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	STATUS	
1	<b>Water Reuse Action Plan for City facilities</b>	Research and develop an approach to reuse water in City facilities	In progress – initial research conducted
2	<b>Water Conservation Programs</b>	Develop new initiatives to increase water conservation	In progress – programs being expanded (e.g. rebates)
3	<b>Implement Integrated Rainwater Management Plan</b>	Assess existing low impact development projects to identify best practices for Red Deer	In progress – monitoring and research being conducted
4	<b>Develop a Supplier Code of Conduct</b>	Create a document to share with suppliers to support reducing the environmental City suppliers	Partially completed - draft scoping document
5	<b>Update the Waste Management Master Plan</b>	Update the plan with targets for 2035 and expand organics diversion services	In progress - Extended Producer Responsibility
6	<b>Develop a Community Reuse and Repurpose Action Plan</b>	Design a strategy to support increased community-based opportunities for waste reduction	Partially completed - draft scoping document
7	<b>Develop an Electric and Low Emissions Vehicle Strategy</b>	Identify and develop initiatives to support the adoption of electric and low emissions vehicles	In progress - researching options
8	<b>Develop a Renewable Energy Strategy</b>	Evaluate and develop initiatives to support increase renewable energy capacity and use	In progress - Energy Diversification and Emissions Strategy
9	<b>Develop a Sustainable Building Strategy</b>	Develop standards to guide construction decisions for City-owned facilities and retrofits	Completed in 2024
10	<b>Develop a Biodiversity Strategy</b>	Research and develop actions to increase biodiversity in Red Deer	In progress - research being conducted
11	<b>Implement the Urban Forest Management Plan</b>	Continue to implement the previously accepted plan to enhance Red Deer's urban forest	In progress
12	<b>All City-owned trees have been inventoried and classified</b>	Create and maintain a tree inventory of the urban forest	Partially completed
13	<b>Explore naturescaping options</b>	Explore how to enhance and expand natural landscaping elements in new development	In progress - research being conducted
14	<b>Establish a strategy to expand land conservation efforts</b>	Continue planning for long term land protection	In progress - research being conducted
15	<b>Research a Redevelopment Strategy</b>	Research, engagement, and develop actions to increase land redevelopment	In progress - research, bylaw development and engagement
16	<b>Develop a Greener Neighbourhood Strategy</b>	Identify opportunities for the community to participate in reducing environmental impacts in their own neighbourhoods	In progress - Neighbourhood Resilience project
17	<b>Develop public transit and active transportation programs</b>	Explore new actions to encourage and reduce barriers to using alternative transportation such as transit or cycling	In progress
18	<b>Develop an Urban Agriculture Action Plan</b>	Research and draft a set of key steps to expand knowledge and actions for enhanced urban agriculture	In progress – Local Food Movement
19	<b>Advance Red Deer's Leadership in addressing climate change</b>	Build corporate and community climate resilience and support mitigation	In progress – Climate Adaptation Strategy implementation
20	<b>Develop a Clean Air Action Plan for Red Deer</b>	Create a comprehensive approach to protecting Red Deer's air quality	Partially completed - <a href="#">Fine Particulate Matter Response</a>



Progress on the metrics is reported annually at

[reddeer.ca/EMP](http://reddeer.ca/EMP)

