

Environmental Advisory Committee

Annual Report to Council (2025)



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RECOMMENDATION

That the Environmental Advisory Committee’s 2025 Annual Report be accepted as information and that the Environmental Advisory Committee continue to operate as presently constituted through 2026.Membership

MEMBERSHIP

Citizen Members (January 1 through to December 31, 2025)

Carmen Piercey (Chair)	Citizen-at-large	Last of two-year term
Monique Vetch (Vice-Chair)	Citizen-at-large	Last of two-year term
Scott Kilborn	Citizen-at-large	First of two-year term
Jordan Lucas	Citizen-at-large	Last of two-year term
Kevin Aschim	Citizen-at-large	Last of two-year term
Alan Luck	Citizen-at-large	Last of two-year term
Logan Sawatzky (Emily Cribb)	Citizen-at-large	First of two-year term

Council Representation

In October 2024, Council reappointed Councillor Biermanski as the City Council representative and appointed Councillor Killick as the alternate City Council representative for the Environmental Advisory Committee for 2025.

In November 2025, Council appointed Councillor Korotash as the City Council representative and appointed Councillor MacKay as the alternate City Council representative for the Environmental Advisory Committee for 2026.

The EAC appreciates that a Council representative can be made available for the scheduled committee meetings. The importance of this liaison has proven beneficial for this committee to bring environmental issues to Council.

City Administration Representation

Committee assistance was provided by Government/Indigenous Relations & Environment Department staff:

- Meghan Myers, Manager, Environment
- Payton Homeak, Environmental Coordinator – Community Strategy & Engagement

OVERVIEW

The Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) is established through [Bylaw 29/2005](#) to advise Council on issues related to the environment. The purpose of the Committee is to provide advice to Council with respect to environmental policies, plans, and initiatives, especially where a public perspective is desirable.

Direction and assistance to the EAC were obtained through the City's Government/Indigenous Relations and Environment Department staff.

On January 21, 2025, Council provided the EAC with the following annual priorities:

1. Review and approve the 2025 Green Community Grant Program and review and recommend the Community Recognition Program (environmental stewardship category) recipients.
2. Provide advice on the update and review of the Sustainable Buildings Policy C-P&E-12
3. Provide advice on the Climate Adaptation Implementation Strategy
4. Provide advice on the Natural Asset Management project.

ACTIVITIES PROGRESS REPORT

The EAC met eight times during 2025 (January to June, September and November). While the Committee typically meets nine times per year, 2025 was an exception as the October meeting was cancelled due to the Municipal Election. Meetings continued in a hybrid model, allowing members to optionally attend in person or via Zoom.

Priorities – Advice to Council

Sustainable Buildings Policy C-P&E-12 (2024 Priority)

Gage Tweedy, Municipal Energy Specialist, gave a presentation and led a conversation on the proposed Sustainable Buildings Policy updates and Administrative Directive.

Moved J. Lucas

That the Environmental Advisory Committee endorse the changes to the Sustainable Buildings Policy, as discussed in the meeting, for Council consideration:

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Community Recognition Program Nomination Review

On February 27, 2025 – Meghan Myers Manager, Environment, City of St. Albert, provided the nomination in the Environmental Stewardship category.

On April 24, 2025 –The committee reviewed and recommended the nomination in the Environmental Stewardship for the Community Recognition Program.

Green Community Grant Applications

On November 27, 2025, the EAC reviewed ten applications, and 9 applications were approved for funding.

Relevant motion from November 27, 2025, EAC Meeting:

Moved by M. Veitch

That the Environmental Advisory Committee approve the following Green Community Grant Program applications.

#	Project Name (alphabetical)	Project Description	\$ Requested	\$ Approved by EAC
1.	Big Lake Environment Support Society (BLESS)	Requesting funding to support long standing Summer Nature Program resources, which includes free environmental education for children and families at the John Poole Wetland, the observation platform, and surrounding natural areas in St. Albert	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
2.	Coal Mine Community Garden	Requesting funding to project to purchase hot composting and vermiculture system to safely and efficiently process the garden’s large volume of organic materials, in addition to education for gardeners and the broader community on multiple composting methods to reduce waste, improve soil health, and lower individual carbon footprints.	\$5,500.00	\$5,500.00
3.	Lacombe Park Permaculture Garden	The project focuses on maintaining and expanding a thriving permaculture food forest that has transformed a one-acre lawn into an edible, climate-resilient landscape using swales, berms, groundcovers and rainwater harvesting. The goal is to add more groundcover, host expert-led workshops, expand rainwater catchment in 2026.	\$5,000.00	\$4,000.00

4.	St. Albert Backyard Gardening Group	This project delivers a series of seasonal community events like seed swaps, plant and perennial exchanges, a spring gardening symposium, and a fall harvest celebration, to build local skills in sustainable, regenerative gardening while reducing waste and strengthening food resilience.	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00
5.	Chandra-Lily Food Bank Sustainable Fresh Food Project	This project aims to collaborate with the St. Albert Food Bank to grow and provide 5-Gallon Tomato Kits to give to the community. In addition to growing more food with purchasing additional planting boxes. Together, these efforts will improve access to fresh food, enhance sustainable land use, and reduce water needs while building community involvement in local food production.	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
6.	St. Albert Nature School	The SANS Native Plant Garden Project aims to create a 150 sq. ft. re-wilded learning space using native riparian plant species, honouring the forest that has supported the program's outdoor education for nearly a decade.	\$2,100.00	\$2,100.00
7.	St. Albert Nordic Ski Club	This project aims to provide affordable, local cross-country ski instruction and land-based winter learning for St. Albert schools, removing financial and transportation barriers that currently limit student access to outdoor winter recreation.	\$6,000.00	\$0.00
8.	St. Albert Seniors Centre	This project delivers a full growing-season plan, from workshops for volunteers and to support the expansion of the garden with vegetables, pollinator plants, and bee habitats. It aims to continue to create opportunities for seniors and volunteers to build gardening skills while staying active and socially connected.	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00

9.	Star of the North Retreat Centre	In 2026, the project will expand its education-focused model with guidance from a Master Gardener, explore adding bees or chickens, strengthen its orchard, and host multiple learning events, school tours, and community workshops.	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00
10.	Wildrose Elementary School; Howl and Harvest 2026	This project aims to support students in Grades 1 and 4 to learn about the Indigenous culture, environmental stewardship, and their connection to the land through hands-on programs led by community experts, including taking home their own strawberry plant to care for.	\$5,000.00	\$2,350.00
Total Grant Funds Requested:			\$50,100.00	
Total Grant Funds Available:			\$50,000.00	
Total Grant Funds Approved:			\$40,450.00	

Climate Adaptation Implementation Strategy

Due to conflicting priorities and resources, the Climate Adaptation Plan is postponed to 2026.

Natural Asset Management Project

Due to conflicting priorities, the RFP for this project was delayed. City Administration will be presented to EAC in 2026.

EAC Input Provided to Administration

Red Willow Park West Interpretive Plan

September 25, 2025 – Payton Homeak, Environment Coordinator– Community Strategy & Engagement, Environment, City of St. Albert provided an update and review of the Red Willow Park West Interpretive Plan.

Updates Provided to EAC

Planning 101 Workshop

January 23, 2025 – Craig Walker, Planner, and Sajid Sifat, Planner, Planning and Development, City of St. Albert, gave a presentation about the Planning and Development Framework in the City of St. Albert.

Mock Election—Ballot Count

March 20, 2025 – Janice Vollrath, FOIP & Legislative Projects Coordinator, City of St. Albert presented information on the changes in legislation and process for Alberta municipal elections.

Community Vision and Pillars of Sustainability

March 20, 2025 – Darija Slokar, Manager Strategic Services, City of St. Albert, provided an overview and gathered feedback on the update of St. Albert's Community Vision and Pillars of Sustainability.

Waste and Diversion Programs

April 24, 2025 – Felipe Albuquerque, Supervisor, Waste and Diversion, Public Operations, City of St. Albert, provided an update on the 2024 Waste and Diversion program.

Home Energy Efficiency Grant Final Report

April 24, 2025 – Payton Homeak, Environment Coordinator– Community Strategy & Engagement, Environment, City of St. Albert, provided a presentation on the Home Energy Efficiency Grant Final Report.

Big Lake Remediation Proposal

May 22, 2025 – Committee member Kevin Aschim presented information on nutrient loading concerns around Big Lake and introduced an opportunity for a project at a stormwater management facility.

Riparian Condition Assessment—Sturgeon River

May 22, 2025 – Melissa Logan, Environment Coordinator – Sturgeon River & Natural Areas, Environment, City of St. Albert, provided a presentation on the riparian condition assessment of the Sturgeon River using a geospatial approach.

Environmental Projects Tour

June 19, 2025 – The Committee went on a scheduled tour across the city and stopped at four unique locations.

1. Sister Alphonse Academy, community members provided an overview of their project supported by the previous Environmental Initiatives Grant Program.
2. Lacombe Park Community Garden, community members provided an overview of the work that was supported by the previous Environmental Initiatives Grant Program.
3. Clean Energy Improvement Project tour with St. Albert resident.
4. Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program Site, Alan Robertson, Naturalization Coordinator, and Melissa Logan, Senior Natural Assets Specialist gave a tour site and the committee got to see past and present successes of the Naturalization program.

St. Albert Air Quality

September 25, 2025 – Salina Fairbank, Engagement Coordinator – Alberta Capital Airshed, provided a presentation on St. Alberts air quality and monitoring station data.

3-YEAR WORK PLAN

On December 14, 2022, the Environmental Advisory Committee finalized its three-year work plan for 2023–2025. This plan was designed to provide a strategic outlook on the Committee’s anticipated workload and to identify key priority areas over the three-year period. As 2025 concludes, this plan will require an update. Following Council’s Strategic Planning Session and development of the Corporate Business Plan in 2026, City Administration will prepare and present a three-year work plan (2026–2028) for Committee review and feedback.

2026 Priority Recommendations

Council approves annual priorities that require the Environmental Advisory Committee’s (EAC) formal and detailed engagement. A standing priority includes reviewing and endorsing the Green Community Grant Program, as well as evaluating and recommending recipients for the Community Recognition Program in the Environmental Stewardship category. Additional priorities will be determined and provided to Council for consideration following Council’s Strategic Planning Session and the finalization of the Corporate Business Plan in 2026.

The EAC greatly appreciates the support provided by City Administration in the completion of the EAC's priorities. The EAC was always provided comprehensive background information before taking up key issues and making recommendations to the Council.

EAC ENDORSEMENT OF CITY PROGRAMS

The EAC would like to acknowledge the continued support and leadership of St. Albert Council for establishing the EAC to provide advice to Council and Administration on environmental matters. The EAC supports innovative programs and encourages citizen participation in environmental responsibility as an extension of the Environmental Master Plan.

The EAC acknowledges the dedication and competency of the City of St. Albert’s Environment staff throughout 2025 as well as their ongoing support towards the Committee. It is through the efforts of the Government/Indigenous and Environment, department that important sustainability focused programs are developed and put into practice in the community to ensure resilience.