

Environmental Advisory Committee

Annual Report to Council (2018)



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RECOMMENDATION

That the Environmental Advisory Committee's 2018 Annual Report be accepted as information and that the Environmental Advisory Committee continue to operate as presently constituted through 2019.

MEMBERSHIP

Citizen Members (January 1 through to December 31, 2018)

Tanya Doran (Chair)	Citizen-at-large	First of two-year term
Bill Marsh (Vice Chair)	Citizen-at-large	First of two-year term
Allisson Lefebvre	Citizen-at-large	First of two-year term
Sarah Pearson	Citizen-at-large	Last of two-year term
Ben Thronson	Citizen-at-large	Last of two-year term
Matthew Wheatly	Citizen-at-large	First of two-year term
Joel Gervais*	Citizen-at-large	Last of two-year term

*Moved for work - resigned April 2018.

Council Representation

In October 2017, Council appointed Councillor Hansen as the primary and Councillor Watkins as the alternate representatives for the Environmental Advisory Committee.

In October 2018, Council appointed Councillor Joly as the primary and Councillor Hansen as the alternate representatives for the Environmental Advisory Committee.

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 Utilities and Environment Department staff:

Meghan Myers, Environmental Coordinator – Community Strategy & Engagement

Christian Benson, Manager, Environment

Leah Kongsrude, Director, Environment (January – March 2018)

Kevin Cole, Director, Utilities & Environment (March – November 2018)

OVERVIEW

The Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) was 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. The original Environmental Advisory Committee Bylaw was reviewed and updated (Bylaw 35/2015) in November 2015.

Direction and assistance to the EAC were obtained through the City's Utilities and Environment Department.

On January 15, 2018 Council provided the EAC with the following annual priorities:

-) Recommend the 2018 Environmental Initiatives Grant Program recipients;
-) Provide advice on the review of the Idle-Free Bylaw and Residential Waste Management Bylaw;
-) Provide advice on the Single Use Plastic Bags; and
-) Provide advice on the Implementation Plan for the Local Action Plan for Energy Conservation and Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions.

ACTIVITIES PROGRESS REPORT

The Environmental Advisory Committee met nine times during 2018, meeting monthly except in June (June meeting was rescheduled to July 5 – typically the Committee breaks for the summer), August, and December.

Priorities – Advice to Council

Environmental Initiatives Grant Program Recommendations

The EAC continued with its major function, namely reviewing applications submitted under the City's Environmental Initiatives Grant Program (EIGP) and providing funding recommendations to Council. A one-time submission of applications was received on October 4, 2018 for the EIGP in accordance with existing Council Policy C-EUS-02. The EAC reviewed nine applications and six were recommended for funding.

Relevant motion from October 25, 2018 EAC meeting:

Moved by M. Wheatley

That the Environmental Advisory Committee recommend to Council that the following Environmental Initiative Grant Program applications be approved:

Applicant	Project Description	Grant Allocation
Big Lake Environment Support Society (BLESS)	To fund activities, supplies, and promotions for International Migratory Bird Day at Lois Hole Centennial Provincial Park spring 2019.	\$1,280.00
Big Lake Environment Support Society (BLESS)	To update, print, and market the bird and plant guides to Lois Hole Centennial Provincial Park.	\$4,000.00
St. Albert Botanic Park	To construct 3 raised garden beds including a drip irrigation system as a teaching station for the Park's raised garden bed classes.	\$2,515.96
St. Albert Nature School	To expand the school's program by purchasing classroom supplies, develop and market field trip programs to St. Albert schools, and develop and promote nature-based education materials.	\$8,500.00
St. Albert Tool Library Society	To complete phase 2 of the project which will focus on marketing and improving the inventory and services (Fix It Café) of the Tool Library.	\$5,000.00
WILDNorth	Funds will be used to expand the wildlife rehabilitation and rescue care programs to St. Albert.	\$5,000.00
TOTAL		\$26,295.96

CARRIED

On November 26, 2018 Council accepted and approved the EAC EIGP recommendations.

Provide advice on the review of the Idle-Free Bylaw and Residential Waste Management Bylaw

Idle-Free Bylaw

At the February 22, 2018 EAC meeting, EAC discussed background and research for the review of the City's Idle-Free Bylaw 16/2007. The Committee discussed what changes should be incorporated into an updated bylaw. At the March 22, 2018 an updated Idle-Free Bylaw based on the stakeholder engagement and advice (Municipal Enforcement Services and EAC) was presented to the Committee. To finalize the advice, the Idle-Free Bylaw subcommittee drafted advice based on the updated bylaw for approval at the April 26, 2018 meeting.

Relevant motion from April 26, 2018 EAC meeting:

Moved by J. Gervais

That the Idle-Free Bylaw advice to Council be approved and submitted with the Council agenda report.

CARRIED

Residential Waste Management Bylaw – Medical Waste Exemption

At the January 25, 2018 EAC meeting, Olivia Kwok, Supervisor, Waste and Diversion Program, presented the background on the amendment of the Residential Waste Management Bylaw to include medical waste exemption. The Residential Waste Management Bylaw subcommittee drafted advice to Council for approval of the Committee at the March 22, 2018 meeting.

Relevant motion from March 22, 2018 meeting:

Moved by B. Marsh

That the Solid Waste Bylaw Home Healthcare Waste Exemption advice be approved as amended.

CARRIED

Provide advice on Single Use Plastic Bags

On January 25, 2018 EAC meeting, Olivia Kwok, Supervisor, Waste and Diversion Program, presented on the background of the single use plastic bags topic. O. Kwok returned to EAC at the October 4 meeting to present the recommended phased approach to a plastic bag ban in St. Albert. To finalize the advice to Council the subcommittee drafted advice for approval at the November 22 meeting.

Moved by B. Marsh

That the Council advice on banning single use plastic bags be approved and submitted with the Council agenda report.

CARRIED

Update of the Implementation Plan for the Local Action Plan for Energy Conservation and Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The update of the Implementation Plan for the Local Action Plan for Energy Conservation and Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions was delayed due to Administration staff workload and priorities. The update will be included in the 2019/2020 EAC Work Plan.

EAC Input Provided to Administration

2018 public consultation for Environmental Master Plan Update

February 22, 2018 - the Committee reviewed a draft public participation plan document for the update of the Environmental Master Plan between April 2018 and November 2019. Overall the EAC was supportive of the plan and encouraged by the opportunity to obtain meaningful input from the public.

Environmental Master Plan Review

July 5, 2018 – Committee reviewed the Environmental Master Plan goals, targets, and initiative highlights between 2014-2018 and provided feedback in a world café workshop format. A summary document was developed and distributed to the Committee in the September 27 meeting agenda package.

Review of Road Sand Recovery Target

Review postponed to 2020.

Park Bylaw and Fire Bylaw

Review of bylaws postponed to 2019/2020.

Environmental school curriculum support materials

April 26, 2018 - Erin Pickard, Environmental Project Associate – Community & School Liaison, provided an overview of the environmental school curriculum resources being developed for St. Albert teachers. The resources will be adaptable for changing trends in environment and project in addition to different grade levels. The Committee reviewed the classroom presentation materials around the topics of natural areas, air/energy/water conservation, Sturgeon River, and waste and diversion and provided feedback.

Environmental Leadership Recognition

Environmental leadership recognition was included in the EAC 2016-2018 Work Plan. Updating the existing Community Recognition Policy to include an environment category is the most effective way to implement this EAC priority. At the October 4 meeting, EAC reviewed the draft Policy with the inclusion of environmental stewardship category. Committee supported the update and the Policy was approved by City Council at the November 26 meeting.

Canadian Smart Cities Challenge

February 22, 2018 – Gordon Coulman, Director, Innovation & Technology Services and Travis Peter, Smart City & Innovation Manager, presented the City of St. Albert's Federal Smart City Challenge project for grant funding which focused on intelligent transportation systems. EAC provided the following key suggestions for the City's applications: the inclusion of environment in the challenge statement, use of sensors to measure and identify environment issues and the fact that St. Albert is a commuter community.

Environmental Initiatives Grant Extension Requests

As per the Environmental Initiatives Grant policy, recipients are required to use funds within one year of being awarded unless an extension is approved by the EAC. Administration received three requests for grant extensions and forwarded them to EAC for their approval.

Relevant motion from July 5, 2018 meeting:

Moved by B. Marsh

That Father Jan School Council be granted a project extension for the creation of an outdoor classroom to October 1, 2018 and St. Albert Tool Library Society be granted a project extension for the tool library project to September 15, 2018.

CARRIED

Relevant motion from October 4, 2018 meeting:

Moved by M. Wheatley

That the St. Albert Daycare Society be granted a project extension to complete the greenhouse portion of the project to November 27, 2019.

CARRIED

Updates Provided to EAC

Flyer Opt-In Bylaw

April 26, 2018 – The Halifax Flyer Opt-In Bylaw was brought to the EAC's attention. The Committee discussed this waste management opportunity and noted that they would be interested in discussing in more detail if Council decided to pursue this topic in St. Albert.

Integrated Pest Management Plan and Invasive Species

May 24, 2018 – Melissa Logan, Environmental Coordinator – Sturgeon River & Natural Areas, reviewed the Integrated Pest Management Plan initially developed in 2011 and updated in 2017 including the major pests of concern in St. Albert (ex. purple loosestrife, garlic mustard, flowering rush, goldfish, etc.).

Environmental Management Systems

May 24, 2018 – Christian Benson, Manager, Environment presented on ISO 14001 standard background, Environmental Management System 2018 audit results and contaminated sites update.

PACEAlberta

October 4, 2018 – Leigh Bond, Founding Director, Property Assessed Clean Energy, presented on the PACEAlberta financing tool and the vision for the program in Alberta.

UPDATE 3-YEAR WORK PLAN

EAC members attended a 3-year work planning session on Saturday, October 27. The purpose of the workshop included:

-) To update the EAC 3-year work plan developed in 2016;
-) Reaffirm Committee's role (Bylaw 35/2015);
-) Determine Committee's planned actions for next 3 years based on the Environmental Master Plan and the EAC EMP Review (July 2018);
-) Ensure Committee's work is aligned with major City plans and guiding environmental plans; and
-) Provide advice to Council priorities related to environment.

The EAC 3-Year work plan 2019-2021 summary is attached in Appendix II.

2019 Priority Recommendations

These are the major environmental initiatives that are being developed in 2019 that require in depth formal involvement from EAC and written advice to Council.

1. Recommend 2019 Environmental Initiatives Grant Program Recipients
2. Provide advice on the environmental policies included in the Municipal Development Plan
3. Provide advice on leadership opportunities in waste (Council priorities)
4. Provide advice on the Parks Bylaw and Fire Bylaw reviews and PACE Bylaw development

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 2018 as well as their ongoing support towards the Committee. It is through the efforts of the Environment branch, that important sustainability focused programs are developed and put into practice in the community to ensure resilience.

APPENDIX I – WRITTEN ADVICE TO COUNCIL

Home Health Care Exemption – Residential Waste Management Bylaw

Recommendation – approved March 22, 2018

The Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) supports the creation of a Home Health Care Exemption within the Residential Solid Waste Management Bylaw.

This exemption will allow residents who may generate additional waste as a result of their individual home health care needs to apply for an additional 60L, 120L, or 240L Brown Garbage Cart. This exemption would be renewable on a yearly basis on re-application. EAC members support this compassionate accommodation for residents with home health care needs.

From an environmental perspective, the EAC is glad to see that the proposed exemption would not permit residents to use the Brown Garbage Cart to dispose of materials such as biomedical waste, hazardous materials, sharps, and pharmaceuticals. These materials pose a threat to the natural environment and should not be disposed of through the municipal waste collection system.

The EAC is also pleased that the exemption is restricted to those who submit an application through the City and that it must be renewed from year-to-year. This will ensure that the exemption serves its intended purpose of accommodating individuals with additional home health care waste needs.

Idle-Free Bylaw Update

Recommendation – approved April 26, 2018

The Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) supports the amendment of Bylaw 16/2007 to better align the Bylaw with the City of St. Albert's Environmental Master Plan and reflect current Canadian recommendations.

The proposed amendments to the Bylaw include a clarification to the General Prohibitions and the removal of an Exemption. Specifically, under Article 3 the EAC supports replacing the text "No Person shall cause or permit a Vehicle to Idle for more than 3 minutes in a continues 30 minute period" with "No Person shall cause or permit a Vehicle to Idle for more than 3 minutes at any time" and under Article 4 removing clause (g) "while the ambient outside temperature is above 30°C or below 0°C."

From an environmental perspective, the EAC is pleased that the City of St. Albert is pursuing an environmentally responsible position on limiting unnecessary emissions

from vehicles. Avoiding unnecessary idling for 3 minutes a day, would save Canadians over \$630 million per year and prevent more than 1.4 million tonnes of CO₂ from entering the atmosphere daily and contributing to climate change. (Natural Resources Canada, 2016) Furthermore, given refinements made in recent years to vehicle engines, lubricants, coolants, and computer control, and the recommendation by Natural Resources Canada for as little as 30 seconds to no more than two to three minutes of warm-up time, the EAC believes that it is appropriate to amend the anti-idling bylaw, in conjunction with an education awareness program to further reduce idling in St. Albert.

Single Use Plastic Bag Ban

Recommendation – approved November 22, 2018

The Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) supports the initiative to ban the use of single-use plastic bags. This ban would focus on single use bags utilized by merchants for transporting transacted goods from a place of business to another destination.

Since the beginning of 2018, the reduction of single-use items has been in the media and caused many businesses across the country to change their operating practices. This attention to reducing single-use items, such as but not limited to: plastic bags, straws, coffee cups, Styrofoam, plastic utensils, etc. is encouraging a lifestyle change and behavior shift for the public.

There has also been a market shift for recyclable plastics with the majority of used recyclable plastics no longer being accepted in the marketplace. This is driving municipalities to reconsider their recycling practices. Ultimately these recyclable plastics are being diverted to regional landfills.

There are some Alberta examples of bylaws being generated to ban the use of single-use bags. Recently, the City of Wetaskiwin's Council unanimously voted for a single-use plastic bag ban which takes effect on July 9, 2019. The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo generated a "Single-Use Shopping Bag Bylaw," that came into effect in September of 2010.

The City of Vancouver is undertaking a single use reduction strategy to ban single use items by the year 2025. Education is the key to mobilizing the public and corporations to take personal responsibility to diminish their plastic dependence and reduce plastic waste.

In the City of St. Albert, single-use plastic bags have been considered non-recyclable for some time. In St. Albert, through the City's Curbside Waste Education Program, staff have noticed plastic bags are one of the most commonly missorted items in recycling. Roseridge Waste Management Services Commission also states that plastic bags are the most common item that causes litter at the landfill and on surrounding properties.

Given there is a heightened public awareness around reducing single-use products, the EAC feels the time to enact change is now.

EAC provides the following recommendations:

- a) Council task Administration to prepare a bylaw to ban single-use plastic bags by the fourth quarter of 2019 using a two-phase approach. As part of Phase 1, EAC recommends that adequate stakeholder consultation is completed within the business community; an education and outreach campaign be implemented. As part of phase 2, Administration would provide Council with the information gathered in phase 1 and seek direction on the development of a bylaw banning single use plastic bags.
- b) For this bylaw to be effective, EAC recommends that consultation be completed with member communities in the Edmonton Metropolitan Region for a coordinated campaign.

Council take into consideration that incorporating a ban on all single use items (listed above) be included into the bylaw.

APPENDIX II – EAC 3-YEAR (2019-2021) WORK PLAN SUMMARY

The EAC 3-Year Work Plan is developed around the nine goals in the City’s Environmental Master Plan. Committee actions are either **Provide advice to Council**, **Provide input to Admin**, or **Receive information**.

1. Manage Air Quality			
Targets: <ul style="list-style-type: none">) Establish baseline of St. Albert’s air quality by 2020.) Maintain air quality below Level 2 triggers (nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide, fine particulate matter and ozone) as outlined in the Capital Region Air Quality Management Framework (CRAQMF) completed by Alberta Environment and Parks in partnership with the Alberta Capital Airshed (ACA). 			
Topic	2019	2020	2021
Air quality data	Receive information 2016-18 ambient air quality data (level within CRAQMF, trends, number of poor air quality days, comparison with other locales, etc.) from AEP and ACA.	Receive information 2019 ambient air quality data (level within CRAQMF, trends, number of poor air quality days, comparison with other locales, etc.) from AEP and ACA. Provide advice to Council State of the ambient air quality in St. Albert and recommend actions	Receive information 2020 ambient air quality data (level within CRAQMF, trends, number of poor air quality days, comparison with other locales, etc.) from AEP and ACA.
Citizen Science		Receive information Current citizen science and small sensor activities in St. Albert and Alberta Capital Airshed.	
Education		Provide input to Admin New public awareness opportunities (displaying live Air Quality Health Index on existing electronic boards, why we monitor, etc.)	Receive information Metrics of Idle free bylaw update
Transportation Master Plan			Provide advice to Council

			Air quality considerations for the TMP
Fire Bylaw Review	Receive information Connection between air quality and rules governing wood burning	Provide advice to Council Air quality considerations for the Fire Bylaw	

2. Reduce Energy Consumption and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- Targets:
-) Achieve 20 per cent reduction of total corporate greenhouse gas emissions from 2008 levels by 2020.
 -) Achieve six per cent reduction of total community greenhouse gas emissions from 2008 levels by 2020.

Topic	2019	2020	2021
Greenhouse Gases	Provide input to Admin Review of implementation plan of the Local Action Plan for Energy Conservation and Greenhouse Gases Emissions	Provide advice to Council Review of implementation plan of the Local Action Plan for Energy Conservation and Greenhouse Gases Emissions	
City Energy Usage	Provide input to Admin Green utilities	Provide input to Admin Disclosing energy use of City facilities (ahead of mandated disclosure in 2027)	
Transportation	Provide input to Admin Local bus route review and plan to increase ridership within Transportation Master Plan	Receive information Regional Transportation System	
Green Energy	Provide advice to Council PACE (Property Assessed Green Energy) bylaw to support financing of green energy upgrades		

3. Promote Sustainable Neighbourhoods and Transportation Choices

Targets:

-) Achieve a minimum density of 30-40 dwelling units per net residential hectare for new neighbourhoods.
-) Achieve a minimum of 30 per cent for medium- and/or high-density residential until for new neighbourhoods.
-) Increase transit ridership equal to or greater than the overall rate of population growth of St. Albert.

Topic	2019	2020	2021
Municipal Development Plan	Receive information Net zero residential development (Council Priority 6.3)		
	Provide input to Admin Municipal Development Plan updates		
Transportation		Receive information Active transportation implementation	Provide input to Admin Review and update Transportation Master Plan

4. Preserve and Manage Trees, Parks and Natural Areas

Targets:

-) Measure existing tree canopy cover and set future targets.
-) Protect top three priority natural areas in the undeveloped areas of St. Albert.

Topic	2019	2020	2021
Climate Resiliency		Receive information Climate Resiliency Plan	
Trees	Receive information Urban Forest Management Plan		Provide advice to Council Urban Forest Management Plan (tree canopy targets, incentives, etc.)
Natural Areas	Receive information Grey Nuns White Spruce Park projects update	Provide advice to Council Natural Areas Acquisition Strategy	
Municipal Development	Provide input to Admin Preservation of trees through conservation reserve within Municipal Development Plan	Provide input to Admin Review management plans of alignment	

5. Reduce Solid Waste Generation

Targets:

-) Reduce solid waste to 105 kg per person per year by 2020.
-) Increase diversion rate to 75 per cent by 2020.

Topic	2019	2020	2021
Waste Management	<p>Provide advice to Council</p> <p>Technologies to reduce waste to the landfill (Q1) (Council Priority 6.1)</p>	<p>Provide advice to Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Leadership opportunities in waste management ▪ Commercial waste disclosure plan ▪ Extended producer responsibility 	

6. Protect and Improve the Sturgeon River Watershed

Targets:

-) Create watershed group by 2015.
-) Complete a watershed management plan by 2020.

Topic	2019	2020	2021
Watershed Management	<p>Receive information</p> <p>Watershed Management Plan public engagement</p>	<p>Provide advice to Council</p> <p>Watershed Management Plan</p>	

7. Improve Water Quality of the Sturgeon River

Targets:

-) Reduce nutrients, pesticides and bacteria levels detected in the Sturgeon River by 2020 as measure by future River Water Quality Index.
-) Capture 75 per cent or greater of municipal winter sanding material by 2020.
-) Reduce municipal pesticide use to 0.25 kg of active ingredient (ai) per hectare or lower by 2020.

Topic	2019	2020	2021
Water Quality	<p>Receive information</p> <p>River water quality index</p>		
Roads		<p>Provide input to Admin</p> <p>Road sand recovery</p> <p>Provide input to Admin</p>	

		Chloride use on roads	
Stormwater		Provide input to Admin Stormwater rate bylaws	

8. Reduce Water Consumption

Targets:

-) Reduce total water consumption to 200 litres per person per day by 2020.

Topic	2019	2020	2021
Smart Water Meters	Receive information Water usage tracking	Receive information Impact of residents tracking water usage with online tool	Receive information Outcomes of smart water meters adoption
Water Conservation			Provide advice to Council Review of Water Conservation Bylaw

9. Foster Community Environmental Stewardship

Targets:

-) Grow participation in the Clean and Green RiverFest, Arbor Day and Naturalization projects to 1000 participants or more by 2020.
-) Allocate funding to a total of 150 Environmental Initiatives Grant applications by 2020.
-) Develop one or more new community and/or interdepartmental partnerships each year by 2020.

Topic	2019	2020	2021
Environmental Initiatives Grant (EIG)	Provide input to Admin EIG review and brainstorming of potential initiatives / projects		
	Provide input to Admin Update of public participation targets		
Environmental Master Plan		Provide input to Admin Update of EMP	Provide advice to Council Update of EMP