

# Environment

## 2022 REPORT CARD

Each year, the City of St. Albert publishes an Environment Report Card to update residents on the City's progress towards achieving the goals and targets set out in the Environmental Master Plan (EMP). This report card provides a snapshot of progress and highlights key projects and initiatives.

### GOAL 1: MANAGE AIR QUALITY

**TREND:** STABLE AIR QUALITY

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)  
St. Albert Air Quality Monitoring

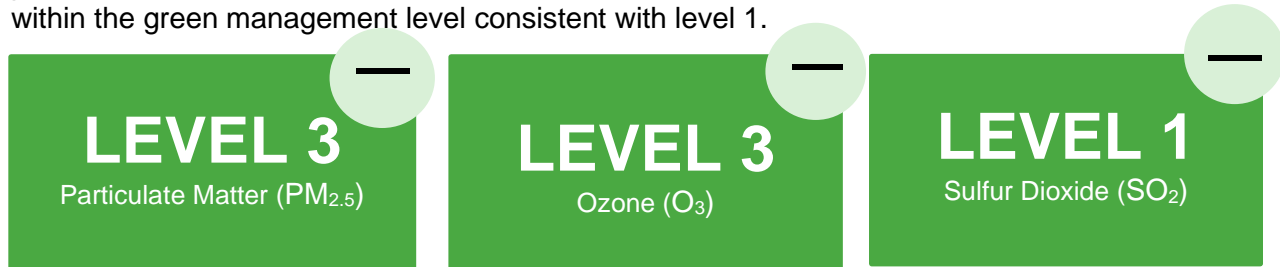
#### Progress Update

In 2022, the St. Albert Air Quality Health Index was mainly in the low- to moderate-risk range. The St. Albert Air Quality Monitoring Station had detected one high-risk rating in September, due to a wildfire smoke episode.

The EMP sets air quality targets at Level 2 triggers, as indicated in the Capital Region Air Quality Management Framework (CRAQMF). In recent years reporting on air quality measures have transitioned and are now based on the Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards assessment (CAAQS).

#### Service Delivery Highlights

Based on the most recent CAAQS report, St. Albert is within the orange management level for particulate matter and ozone, consistent with level 3 of the CRAQMF. Sulfur dioxide remains within the green management level consistent with level 1.



\*Note: This is based on [2018-2020 CAAQS report](#) was released in September 2022.

# GOAL 2: REDUCE ENERGY CONSUMPTION & GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

**CITY TREND: DECREASED EMISSIONS**    **COMMUNITY TREND: INCREASED EMISSIONS**

## Progress Update

The City launched the residential Clean Energy Improvement Program (CEIP) in November 2022 which reached full capacity within 24 hours. CEIP is a financing program designed to make residential energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades more accessible and is administered in partnership with [Alberta Municipalities](#).

The Home Energy Efficiency Grant (HEEG) also launched in late 2022 and is available to support homeowners who invest in improving the energy efficiency of their homes.

Compared to the 2008 baseline year, the City's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in 2022 have decreased 21.5 per cent. In 2022, the City's GHG emissions decreased approximately three per cent from the 2021 reporting year. The goal to reduce GHG emissions to 20 per cent below the 2008 baseline level has been achieved and maintained below the target level.

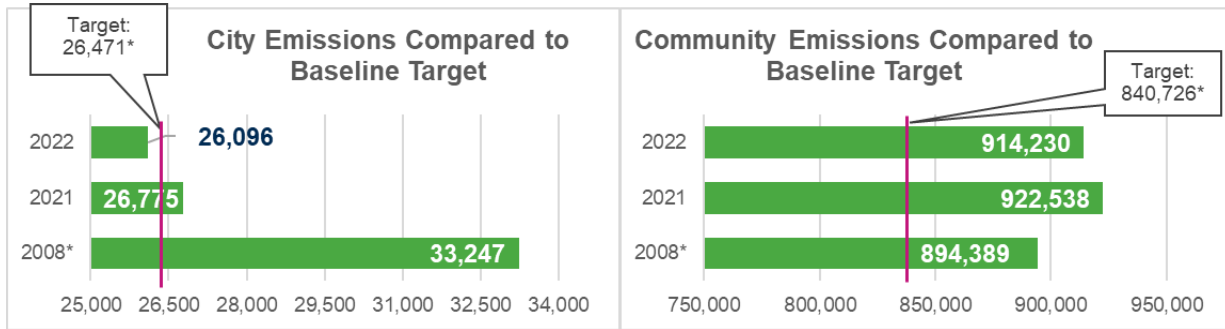
In 2022, community emissions were approximately two per cent above 2008 levels. Compared to the 2021 reporting year, the community GHG emissions have decreased by 2.2 per cent. The target to reduce emissions by six per cent from 2008 levels has not been met.

## Service Delivery Highlights

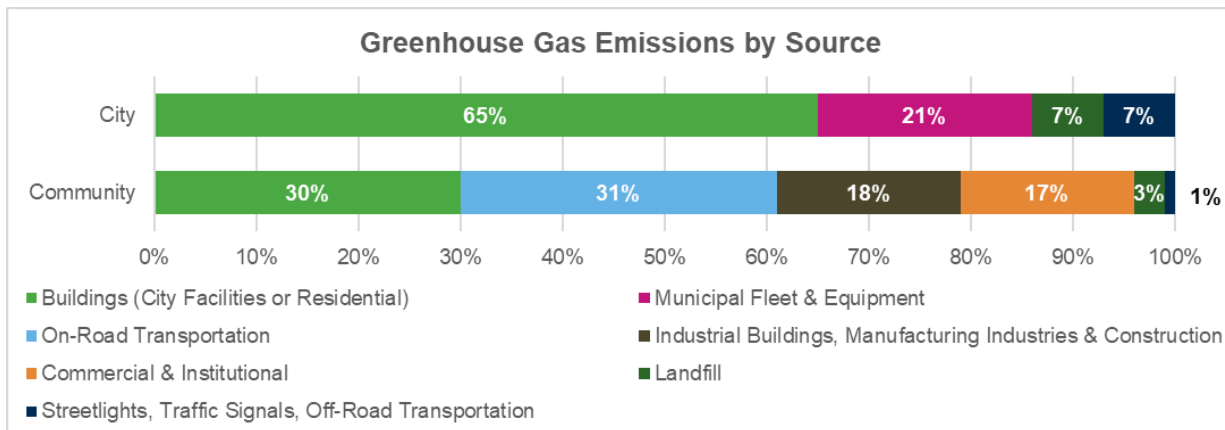
### DID YOU KNOW?

The City's electric buses travelled over 203,000 kilometres, saving 110,568 kilograms of carbon dioxide. The energy savings is equivalent to the carbon sequestered by 132 acres of forest per year.

[TO LEARN MORE, CLICK HERE](#)  
[St. Albert Electric Buses](#)



\*\*Note: The baseline and target emission numbers have been updated based on emissions inventory calculations.



## GOAL 3: PROMOTE NEIGHBOURHOODS & TRANSPORTATION CHOICES

**LAND-USE TREND:** MEETING TARGETS    **TRANSIT TREND:** DECREASED RIDERSHIP

### Progress Update

St. Albert achieved another milestone by completing the construction of the southbound bridge as part of the [Ray Gibbon Drive Twinning Project](#). The new bridge mitigates the disruption of the trail use during high water periods, while continuing to protect and maintain the wildlife crossing area under the bridge from Lois Hole Centennial Provincial Park to Grey Nuns White Spruce Park areas.

Standard adult fare transit riders can now access the newly launched [Arc card](#) and take advantage of an electronic, account-based system rather than relying on cash or paper transfers.

The Municipal Development Plan (MDP) - *Flourish* implements density targets by directing land use designations set out by the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board Growth Plan. St. Albert is part of the Metropolitan area, encompassing the highest concentration of existing and future urban development.

In 2022, two Area Structure Plans were amended including Erin Ridge North and Jensen Lakes in accordance with the MDP neighbourhood policies and land use designations that support transit, appropriately sized infrastructure supported by density while encouraging a diverse range of low, medium, and mixed-use housing types throughout the city.

### Service Delivery Highlights



\*Targets are based on the new [Municipal Development Plan](#) - *Flourish* Sustainable Growth goal and principles.

## GOAL 4: PRESERVE AND MANAGE TREES, PARKS & NATURAL AREAS

**STATUS:** ON TRACK

### Progress Update

The City of St. Albert constructed new amenities within the Grey Nuns White Spruce Park (GNWSP) that protect the park and forest for the long-term and maintain accessibility for everyone to explore. Over 2,000 white spruce seedlings were also planted within the forest bringing the total of seedlings planted since 2014 to just over 23,000.

St. Albert was one of three cities in Alberta to receive the [Tree City of the World](#) designation. In 2022, the community continued to meet the five core standards that illustrate our long-term commitment to caring for our trees and forests.

### DID YOU KNOW?

GNWSP is a designated Municipal Historic Resource that is home to white spruce trees that are over 100-years-old!



TO LEARN MORE, CLICK HERE  
[Grey Nuns White Spruce Park](#)

## Service Delivery Highlights



\*Naturalization is an alternative management technique in which landscape maintenance is reduced by planting native trees and shrubs and restricting mowing. For more information, on naturalization projects please visit [stalbert.ca/spruceup](http://stalbert.ca/spruceup).

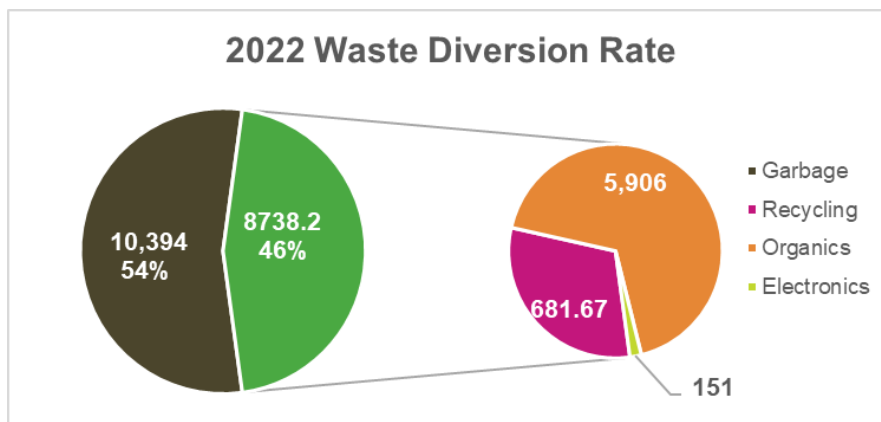
## GOAL 5: REDUCE GARBAGE TO THE LANDFILL

### TREND: INCREASED PARTICIPATION IN WASTE AND DIVERSION PROGRAMS

#### Progress Update

In 2022, residents generated 10,394 metric tonnes (Mt) of garbage – just over 148 kilograms per capita, or 500 kilograms per household. This equates to a decrease of 171 Mt city-wide compared to 2021 (10,565 Mt). The Waste and Our World Program returned to in-person presentations and was delivered to over 750 Grade 4 students in 29 classrooms. The Curbside Waste Education Program also achieved a new milestone by visiting every household that receives three-stream waste collection. This means the team can also begin revisiting houses and tracking the neighbourhood trends in waste sorting in the future. In 2022, the number of rejected Green Organics Carts has decreased by 3.6 per cent from 2021.

#### Service Delivery Highlights



Waste diversion is calculated as the volume of waste diverted from the landfill, as a percentage of the total waste generated. Diverted waste includes organics from the Green Organics Cart, recycling from the Blue Recycling Bag. This calculation does not include tonnage from the Compost or Mike Mitchell Recycling Depots. In 2022, waste diversion was 46 per cent (8738 Mt). Diversion continues to be highest in the spring and summer due to residents placing large volumes of leaf and yard waste in the Green Organics Cart.

## GOAL 6: PROTECT AND IMPROVE THE STURGEON RIVER WATERSHED

The Sturgeon River Watershed Alliance (SRWA) was formed in 2014 to assess, advocate for and protect the long-term health of the Sturgeon River watershed by developing and implementing a management plan.

### STATUS: TARGET ACHIEVED

#### Progress Update

In 2022, the SRWA continued the implementation phase of the [Sturgeon River Watershed Management plan's](#) goals by completing a water quality study on the entire length of the river,

holding a Road Salt and Snow Management Workshop and undertaking a Riparian Health Assessment Summary for the North Saskatchewan River Watersheds.

### Service Delivery Highlights

<p><b>6</b></p> <p>Key outcomes from the Sturgeon River Watershed Management Plan</p>	<p>Plan includes strategies and actions to implement over the next</p> <p><b>10 years</b></p>	<p><b>\$200,000</b></p> <p>Alberta Community Partnership Grant to address short-term actions</p>
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## GOAL 7: IMPROVE WATER QUALITY IN THE STURGEON RIVER

**TREND:** STABLE WATER QUALITY

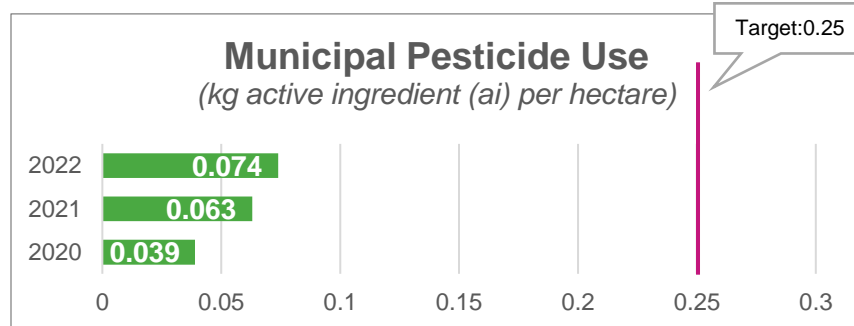
**TO LEARN MORE, CLICK HERE.**  
River Water Quality Index

### Progress Update

Within St. Albert's boundaries, chloride and bacteria levels remain well below Provincial water quality guidelines. Nutrient levels remained excellent, staying consistent with historical levels. Total suspended solids remained at the excellent end of the scale, perhaps due to decreased landscape runoff and consistent flowing water in the river, allowing solids time to settle out of the water column.

The installation of oil and grit interceptors in all high priority outfall sites was completed this year along with riparian health assessments on eight stormwater management facilities to assess vegetation health.

### Service Delivery Highlights



Provincial legislation requires the City to take action on invasive weeds. When treating these weeds, the number of pesticides used varies and is dependent on the weather, the type of species or pests, and the management techniques used. The addition of the annexed area of 1,558 hectares imposed new challenges for pest management. Overall, the City's pesticide use increased compared to 2021 however, pesticide use continues to be well below the target.

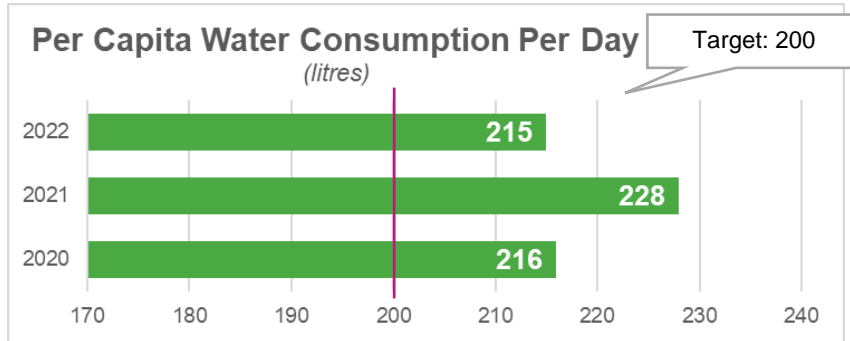
## GOAL 8: REDUCE WATER CONSUMPTION

**TREND:** DECREASED WATER CONSUMPTION

### Progress Update

Residential water consumption in 2022 decreased to 215 litres per day compared to 2021 (228 litres per day). The decrease is likely due to the rise in popularity in front yard gardens, capturing rainwater through the City's annual Rain Barrel Sale and encouraging smaller less landscaped residential lots in new developments.

## Service Delivery Highlights



**REMINDER!**  
From **May 1 to October 1** outdoor sprinkler water use is limited between **7 p.m. and 9 a.m.** according to the City's Water Conservation Bylaw.

## GOAL 9: FOSTER COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

**TREND:** STABLE PARTICIPATION

### Progress Update

In October 2022, the [Environmental Initiatives Grant Program \(EIGP\)](#) received 12 applications, ranging from \$1080 to \$5,000, 10 of which were approved and covered a diverse range of topics relating to land, water, air and people.

[Spruce Up St. Albert](#) ran from April to October and included its kickoff event with Grade 1 students celebrating trees and forests during Arbor Day. Twenty-two schools also participated in spring and fall schoolyard clean ups, totaling over 7,000 participants. This year the annual TD Clean and Green Riverfest, continued to be held in late September, with over 200 participants in attendance who all worked together to cleaning up the city's river valley and planted over 485 native trees and shrubs.

Overall, the community's exceptional response in participating in environmental initiatives and programs has been a rewarding experience for all City staff involved as we continue to work together in building a hopeful future.

### Service Delivery Highlights



### TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ENVIRONMENT, CONTACT:

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