



Environment

2019 REPORT CARD

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

Overall, 2019 has been a consistent year for progress relating to the goals and targets in the EMP. Positive trends were seen in air quality, corporate (City) greenhouse gas emissions, land-use, natural area protection and management, participation in waste and diversion programs, Sturgeon River watershed, river water quality, water consumption and environmental stewardship. With that said, challenges were still observed relating to community greenhouse gas emissions, commuter transit ridership, and municipal pesticide use. Looking to 2020, focus will remain on City facility energy use and management, community green-house gas (GHG) emissions, maintain and enhance natural areas and update the EMP goals and targets.

GOAL 1: MANAGE AIR QUALITY

TREND: STABLE AIR QUALITY

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

Progress Update

The Environmental Master Plan sets air quality targets at Level 2 triggers, as indicated in the Capital Region Air Quality Management Framework (CRAQMF). The Framework sets four air quality levels for each contaminant, with Level 1 being the lowest and Level 4 the highest.

To meet the Environmental Master Plan's target date of establishing an air quality baseline, an additional year of data is required.

Service Delivery Highlights



Since St. Albert's air quality monitoring station started collecting data in 2016, nitrogen dioxide has been at Level 2 and particulate matter has been at Level 3, while ozone has moved from Level 2 to Level 3 in more recent years.

GOAL 2: REDUCE ENERGY CONSUMPTION & GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

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

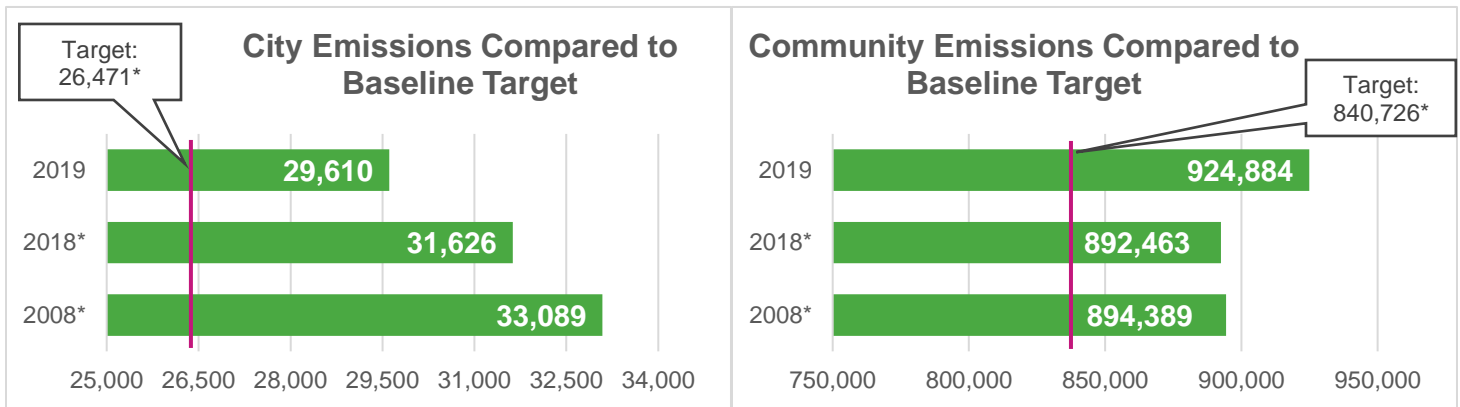
Progress Update

In 2019, the City of St. Albert was recognized for achieving a new milestone for corporate and community greenhouse gas emissions on behalf of the FCM-ICLEI Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program. This is the fifth and final milestone in the PCP program that St. Albert achieved, making St. Albert one of 85 Canadian municipalities to achieve this feat to date. Milestone 5 represents progress toward local greenhouse gas emissions reductions and reporting results from corporate operations and community initiatives.

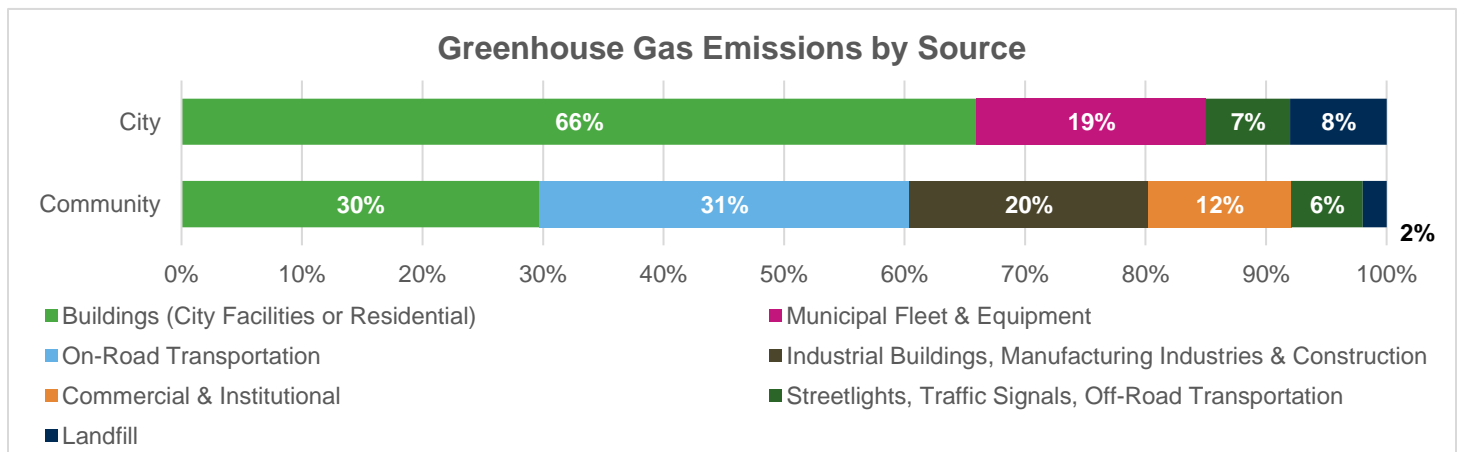
Compared to the 2008 baseline year and 2018 reporting year, the City's GHG emissions have declined nearly 11 per cent and six per cent, respectively. The target is to reduce emissions to 20 per cent below 2008 levels by 2020.

In 2019, community emissions were approximately nine per cent above 2008 levels. The target is to reduce emissions to six per cent below 2008 levels by 2020.

Service Delivery Highlights



*** Note: The baseline numbers, targets and the 2018 emission numbers has been updated based on emissions inventory calculations.



City emissions originate with buildings and facilities and community emissions originate in homes and transportation.

GOAL 3: PROMOTE NEIGHBOURHOODS & TRANSPORTATION CHOICES

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

Progress Update

St. Albert's Municipal Development Plan specifies density targets for new neighbourhoods as set out by the Edmonton Metropolitan Regional Board. In 2019, the completion of Erin Ridge North phase 2 development plans met these targets.

The Environmental Master Plan's public transit commuter target is to increase ridership equal to or greater than population growth. The most recent municipal census (2018) shows that St. Albert grew by 1.11 per cent. However, in 2019, St. Albert Transit ridership decreased 7.6 per cent.

The downward trend in ridership can be attributed to the Groat Road bridge construction and the detour of university routes to downtown. It is believed that commuter ridership will rebound once routes are restored to the university.

Service Delivery Highlights

36

Dwellings per net hectare
Target: 30 – 40 dwellings

57%

Medium and/or High Density in new neighbourhoods (Target: 30%)



TRANSIT RIDERSHIP STATS
Commuter Ridership

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

STATUS: ON TRACK

Progress Update

The Grey Nuns White Spruce Park (GNWSP) is a unique park that includes the White Spruce Forest, which is a designated Municipal Historic Resource. With the development of Riverside and the increasing use of the GNWSP, there is a need to provide better access to the area while ensuring the long-term sustainability of the White Spruce Forest. In 2019, the City initiated the development of a park plan that will allow the public opportunities to enjoy and learn about the historic and cultural significance of the area while protecting the forest through an appropriate trail system and amenities.

Service Delivery Highlights

24

Naturalization* project events

5,000

Native trees and shrubs were planted in 2.01 ha

1,668

Volunteers participated in naturalization activities

DID YOU KNOW?

St. Albert was recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation as one of 57 Tree Cities of the World.



TO LEARN MORE, CLICK HERE
Tree Cities of the World Standards

*Naturalization is an alternative management technique in which landscape maintenance is reduced by planting native trees and shrubs and restricting mowing.

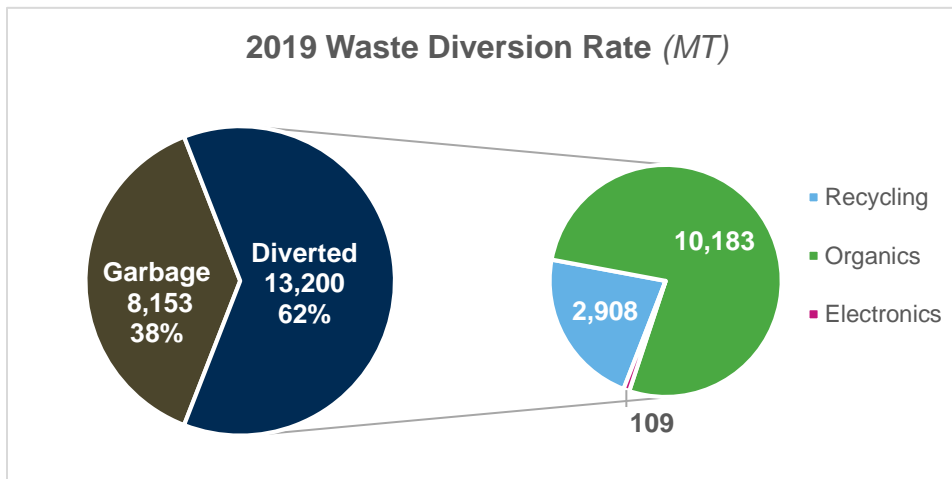
GOAL 5: REDUCE GARBAGE TO THE LANDFILL

TREND: STABLE PARTICIPATION IN WASTE AND DIVERSION PROGRAMS

Progress Update

In 2019, St. Albert residents generated just over 123 kg of garbage per capita (progressing towards the goal of 105 kg or less per person by 2020). It is important to note that garbage per capita is calculated based on the current population of St. Albert; however, the City does not provide curbside waste collection to residents living in some multi-residential buildings.

Service Delivery Highlights



Waste diversion is calculated as the volume of waste diverted from the landfill, as a percent of the total waste generated. Curbside diverted waste includes organics from the Green Organics Cart, recycling from the Blue Recycling Bag, and electronics. This calculation does not include tonnage from the Compost or Mike Mitchell Recycling Depots. In 2019, waste diversion was 62%. 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. The waste diversion rate target is 75% by 2020.

 **SOLID WASTE STATS**
Read the report online

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: ON TRACK

Progress Update

In 2019, a policy study was completed that reviewed existing policies and legislation and provided recommendations for alignment between municipalities. Additionally, a draft watershed management plan was completed with input from stakeholders that will result in the implementation of strategies and actions in the watershed for the next 10 years.

For more information on the SRWA and the watershed management plan visit nswa.ab.ca and search SRWA.

Service Delivery Highlights

5

Technical studies completed.

13

Key stakeholders form the Sturgeon River Watershed Alliance.

\$500,000

In grant funding to fill data gaps identified.

GOAL 7: IMPROVE WATER QUALITY IN THE STURGEON RIVER

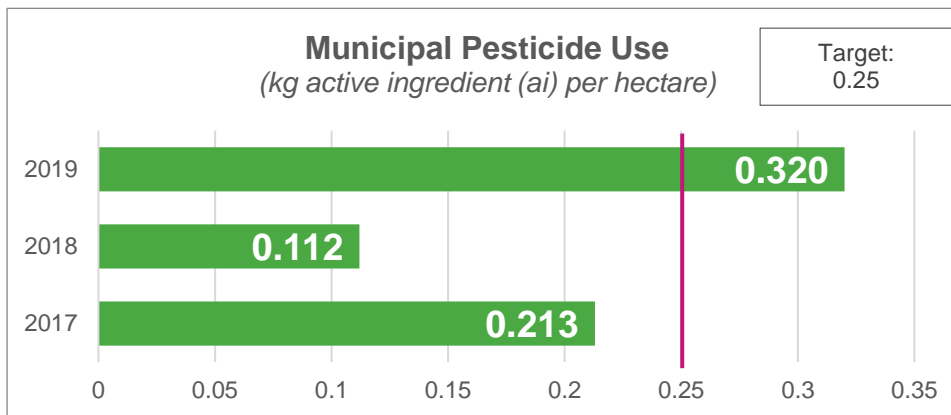
TREND: STABLE WATER QUALITY

Progress Update

Overall, within St. Albert's boundaries, chloride and *E. coli* levels are well below provincial water quality guidelines. Nutrient levels (total phosphorus and total nitrogen) are high but remain consistent with historical levels and are not unusual for a small prairie river system such as the Sturgeon River.

Total phosphorus and total suspended solids moved from excellent to good on the River Water Quality Index in 2019. This change can likely be attributed to increased rain events in 2019 therefore runoff from the surrounding landscape entering the Sturgeon River. Changes in nutrient levels can be linked to changes in total suspended solids so have similar sources.

Service Delivery Highlights



DID YOU KNOW?
 Each year, water quality is tested at six locations on the Sturgeon River and four locations on Carrot

[TO LEARN MORE, CLICK HERE. River Water Quality Index \(RWQI\)](#)

Provincial legislation requires the City to take action on invasive weeds. When treating these weeds, the amount of pesticides used varies dependent on the weather, the type of species or pests and the management techniques used. In 2019, the wet growing season provided optimal conditions for invasive weed infestations in St. Albert. As a result, the City's pesticide use slightly exceeded the target in 2019. In addition, invasive weed control focused on caragana and Manitoba maple in the Grey Nuns White Spruce Park.

GOAL 8: REDUCE WATER CONSUMPTION

TREND: DECREASE IN WATER CONSUMPTION

Progress Update

St. Albert's water consumption experienced a drop in 2019 after leveling off between 2017 and 2018. The drop can be attributed to the efforts of residents and businesses following the Water Conservation Bylaw. In addition, the drop in per capita water use is due to the wet summer season. We didn't need to water our lawns so as a result, water consumption was impacted.

Service Delivery Highlights

DID YOU KNOW?
 St. Albert monthly e-billing helps homeowners monitor use in real-time.

[TO REGISTER, CLICK HERE. E-billing](#)

REMINDER!
 Daytime water use is limited between 7 PM and 9 AM according to the Water Conservation Bylaw.

[TO LEARN MORE, CLICK HERE. Water Conservation Bylaw](#)

200L/day
 Target

220 L/day
 2019 per capita water consumption

GOAL 9: FOSTER COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

TREND: INCREASE IN PARTICIPATION

Progress Update

2019 was another record year of participation in environmental activities. St. Albert residents demonstrated their commitment to being green by participating in naturalization activities including, Clean and Green RiverFest and Arbor Day.

Service Delivery Highlights

133

Environmental Initiatives Grants awarded since 2007

42

School and neighbourhood clean-up events held

2,432

Bags of garbage collected through volunteerism

9,400

Volunteers involved in environmental initiatives and events

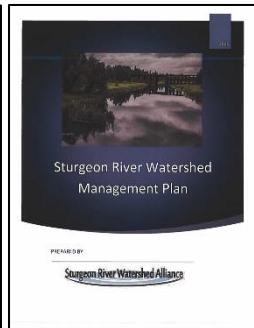
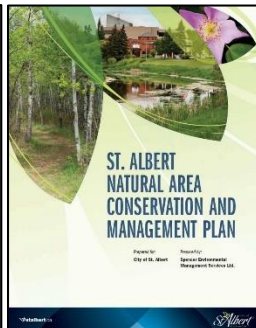
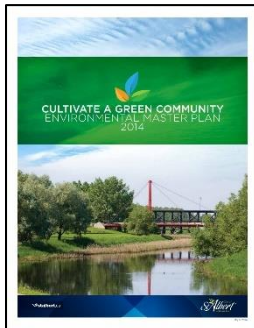
+2,000

Hours by 330 volunteers through the Partners in Parks program

153

Sites cared for through the Partners in Parks program

Other Reports that Help Tell Our Story



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ENVIRONMENT CONTACT:

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