

2014 REPORT ON THE ENVIRONMENT

The five-year review of the Environmental Master Plan (EMP) was completed and approved by St. Albert City Council in 2014. The 2014 Report on the Environment shares the progress and achievements on the goals and targets in the updated EMP. To read the EMP, visit stalbert.ca and search 'Environmental Master Plan'.

AIR



MANAGE AIR QUALITY:

In 2014, the City undertook a comprehensive review of potential air quality monitoring sites to determine the best place for the station. Three potential sites were identified and presented to the public in two open houses for feedback.

Based on public consultation, Council approved the Salisbury Park location, near the Sturgeon Reservoir, for the new air quality monitoring station. Administration is completing an agreement with Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development.

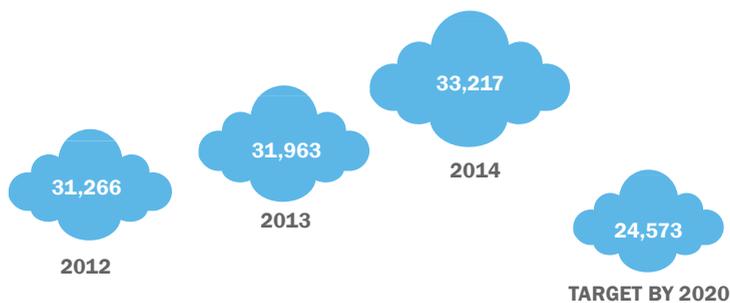
St. Albert's air quality monitoring station will be part of a network of monitoring in the Alberta Capital Airshed which will provide essential long-term trends of air quality for the community.

- The air quality monitoring station is anticipated to be operating in 2015.
- Once the air quality monitoring station site is operating, the next steps will be to establish a three to five year baseline and develop targets for air quality in St. Albert.

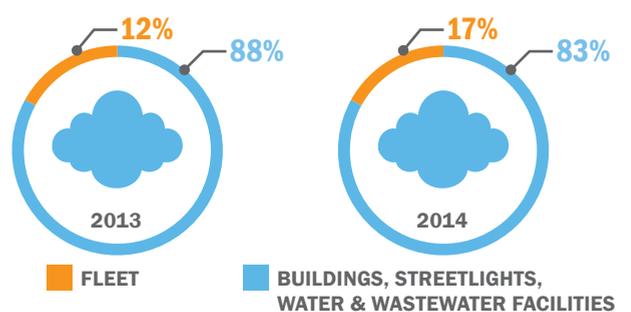


REDUCE ENERGY CONSUMPTION AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS:

Corporate (City) Greenhouse Gas Emissions
Tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent



Corporate (City) Greenhouse Gas Emissions
by sector



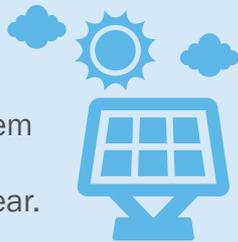
AIR



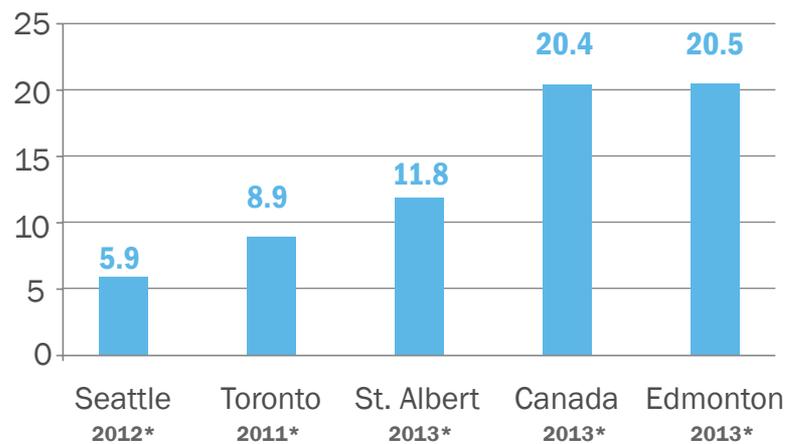
REDUCE ENERGY CONSUMPTION AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS CONTINUED:

As a recommendation from the Local Action Plan for Energy Conservation and Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions, the City utilized the Municipal Climate Change Action Centre municipal benchmarking program to benchmark energy and water use in 11 major City facilities. The program is a quick way to identify buildings that are high consumers. This information will be the basis of the City facility audit of the 11 facilities in 2015.

A 216-module solar panel system was placed atop the Alberco Construction building in Riel Business Park. The system produces roughly enough power to run nine homes or the Alberco office for a year.



Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions per Capita Tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per capita



*The most recent data available
Source: City of Vancouver

Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions* Tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per capita

711,303

2008

730,004

2013

*Based on the City's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory (2008) report recommendation, community emissions are calculated every three to five years.

GET INVOLVED

CLEAN AIR DAY
June 3
stalbert.ca/clean-air-day

CARPPOOL MONTH
October
carpool.ca

LAND



PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS AND TRANSPORTATION CHOICES:

New neighbourhood densities are determined when an Area Structure Plan (ASP) or Area Redevelopment Plan (ARP) is submitted. Each year, densities for new residential neighbourhoods are reported for each ASP/ARP approved by Council. In 2014, the City approved two ASPs – Jenson Lakes Area Structure Plan and Range Road 260 Area Structure Plan.

Residential Density

Dwelling units per net residential hectare

30 Units

JENSON LAKES ASP

37 Units

RANGE ROAD 260 ASP



TARGET 30-34 UNITS PER NET RESIDENTIAL HECTARE

Medium and/or High Density

Per cent per new neighbourhood

5.5%

JENSON LAKES ASP

12.9%

RANGE ROAD 260 ASP



TARGET 30%

LAND

Annual St. Albert Transit Commuter Ridership – Number of Commuters



Population has increased 3.7% over the past three years, while ridership has decreased 1.8% over the same period.

Our target is to increase ridership equal to or greater than population growth. This can be achieved with the construction of the Campbell Road Transit Centre/Park and Ride.

- The City purchased approximately 80 acres of additional land within the City boundaries. The purchase of this land supports economic goals to stimulate more industrial growth which will provide opportunities for residents to live and work in their community.
- Stage 1 of the LRT Functional Alignment Study was completed and Council approved the recommendation of St. Albert Trail as the preferred LRT corridor. Stage 2 will identify the conceptual LRT alignment and plan within St. Albert Trail, which will protect LRT needs through coming years, if required.
- Council approved the Utility Master Plan update which is a key planning document used by the City to identify existing infrastructure improvements as well as the new infrastructure required for growth.

St. Albert Transit (StAT) tested a fully electric bus in August 2014. The test was intended to provide StAT an assessment of the mechanics and an evaluation of how the bus drives. A winter pilot of the electric bus will take place in 2015.



PRESERVE AND MANAGE TREES, PARKS AND NATURAL AREAS:



The tree canopy is the uppermost layer in a forest, formed by the crowns of the trees in an urban forest. The City plans to measure existing tree canopy and set a future target. Work on this measurement is anticipated in 2016.



- In May 2014, a management plan for the Grey Nuns White Spruce Park was finalized. The management plan is meant to guide decisions about managing and protecting the forest, but also create opportunities for the community to learn about the use of the forest.
- The Urban Forest Management Council Policy was approved in 2014. The Policy will ensure the City's urban forest is preserved and managed through the development and implementation of an Urban Forest Management Plan.
- On September 2014, the City partnered with TD Canada Trust and Tree Canada to host a community planting of 181 white spruce trees by approximately 50 volunteers in the Grey Nuns White Spruce Park.



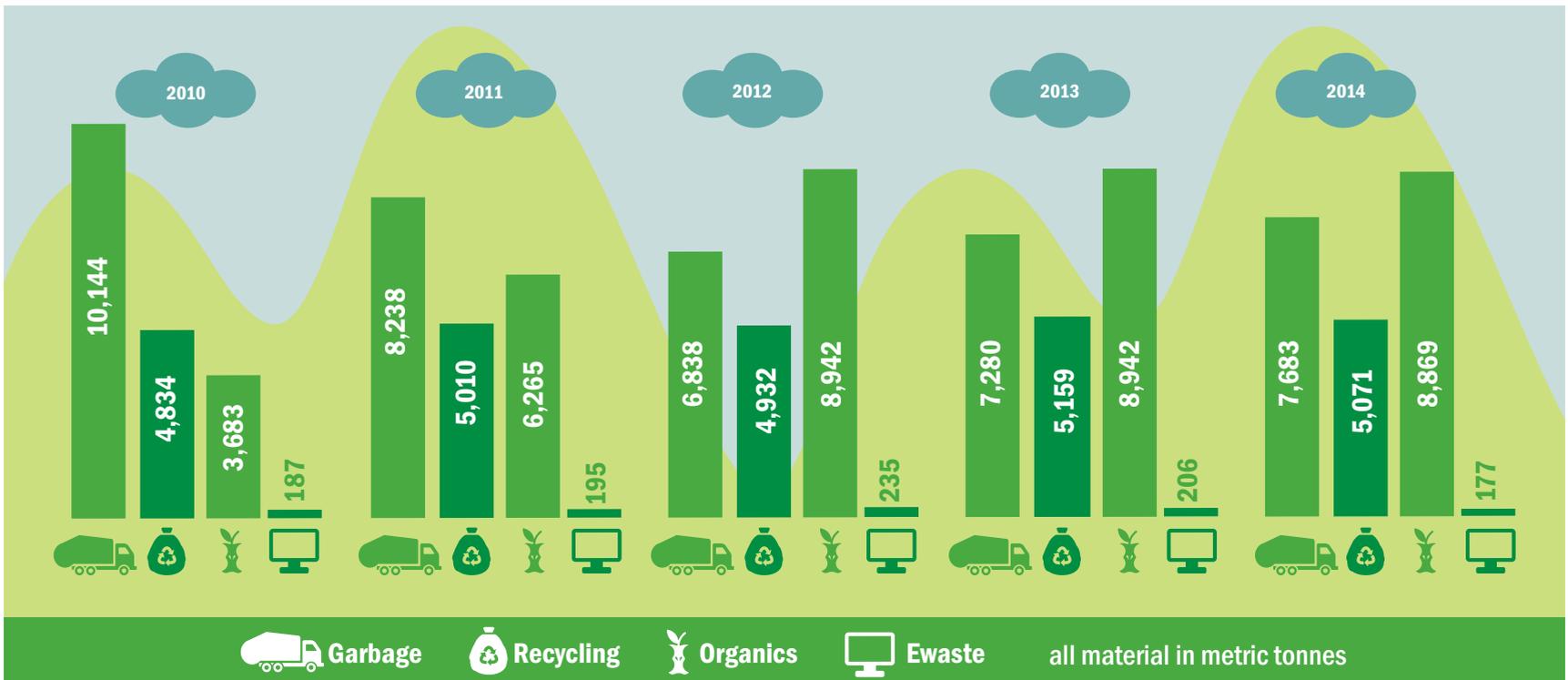
In 2014, the Christmas Bird Count resulted in volunteers identifying 36 species of birds for a total of 5,030 birds counted. Compared to 2013, volunteers identified 33 species of birds and counted 6,578 birds.

LAND



FIVE YEAR ANNUAL RESIDENTIAL WASTE COMPOSITION COMPARISON

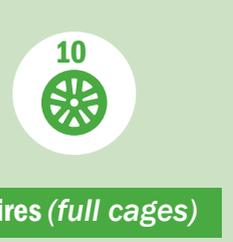
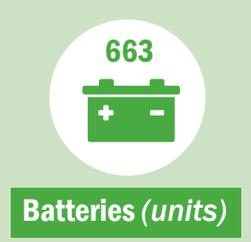
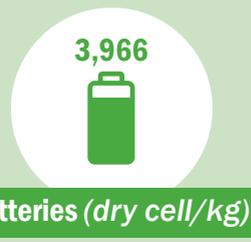
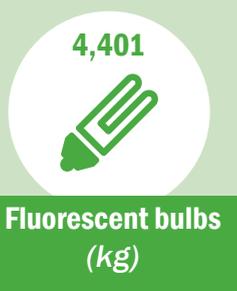
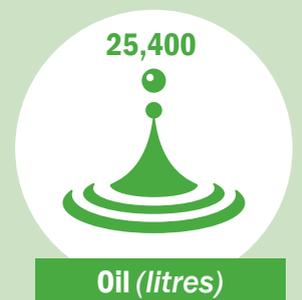
Below is a graphic of the amount of waste (in tonnes) per waste stream from 2010 to 2014. Since the introduction of the organic collection program in June 2011, the City of St. Albert is seeing a reduction of landfill waste of an average of 2,632 tonnes per year. Great job St. Albert!



Hazardous Waste

The City's Recycling Depot (7 Cheviigny Street) accepts various hazardous or hard to recycle materials, including paint, aerosols, hazardous household chemicals, motor oil, fluorescent bulbs, automotive and household batteries and automotive tires. While some of these materials are incinerated for disposal (such as hazardous chemicals), many of these materials are recycled and turned into new products.

More information about the City's Recycling Depot can be found at stalbert.ca/recyclingdepot.



Waste Diversion Percentage



‘Waste Diversion Percentage’ is a great statistic for St. Albert residents to help identify the total amount of material leaving each household as waste and the destination of that waste. ‘Diversion’ is considered any destination for waste that is not the landfill, and can be recycled into new materials or turned into nutrient rich compost.

The Environmental Master Plan was recently updated in 2014 and has identified a new ‘Waste Diversion’ goal of 75% by 2020 under the ‘Land Section’. The City met and surpassed the last goal of 65% Waste Diversion in each of the last three years (2012-2014).



Waste Per Capita kg/person/year



‘Waste per Capita’ is calculated by taking the total amount of landfill waste recorded from St. Albert’s residential sector and dividing that number by the population. This number represents approximately how much material each resident in St. Albert produces, so the lower the number the better!

The ‘Waste per Capita’ goal in the Environmental Master Plan was updated in 2014 with a target of 105 kg/person/year. Residents are encouraged to continue making use of the City’s diversion programs (such as recycling and organic collection) and to minimize waste production in your everyday life to help reduce the ‘Waste per Capita’ recorded. Keep up the good work St. Albert!



COMPOST GIVEAWAY
Available May
stalbert.ca/recyclingdepot

TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT
June 6

CITY WIDE CLEANUP
September 19

ARBOR DAY
June 2

LARGE ITEM DROP OFF
July 25

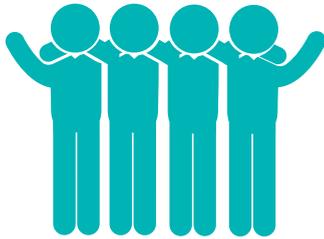
WASTE REDUCTION WEEK
October 19-25
wrwcanada.com

WATER



PROTECT AND IMPROVE THE STURGEON RIVER WATERSHED

Creation of the Sturgeon River Watershed Alliance
First official meeting held on March 27, 2014



WE HELP THE WATERSHED

- The primary objective of the Alliance is to build on the findings of the Sturgeon River State of the Watershed Report by developing a management plan for the Sturgeon River Watershed.
- In 2014, the Alliance completed a terms of reference, a communications plan, and an application for the Alberta Community Partnership grant to implement recommendations from the Sturgeon River State of the Watershed Report. This work will help develop the management plan for the watershed.



The Sturgeon River Watershed Alliance is a partnership between North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development and municipalities in the watershed including City of Spruce Grove, City of Edmonton, City of St. Albert, Town of Onoway, Town of Gibbons, Lac Ste. Anne County, Parkland County, Sturgeon County and Summer Villages of Lac Ste. Anne County East.



IMPROVE WATER QUALITY OF THE STURGEON RIVER

River Quality

The City regularly tests water quality at five locations along the Sturgeon River and four locations along Carrot Creek. Based on the 2014 testing results:

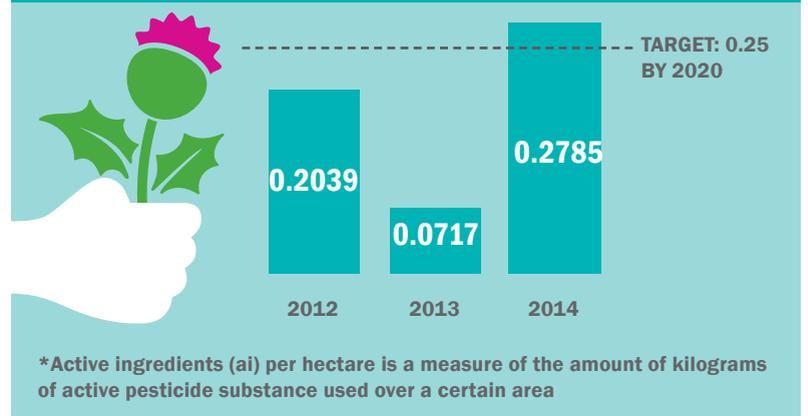
- Pesticides were detected in lower numbers and concentrations along the Sturgeon River, which may be attributed to the provincial ban on Weed and Feed products in 2010.
- The level of nitrogen and phosphorus continue to be well above guidelines for protecting the health of the river. Nitrogen and phosphorus, the main ingredients in fertilizers, were detected at high concentrations along Carrot Creek but slightly lower levels through St. Albert.
- Although within acceptable levels for the protection of aquatic life, bacteria levels continue to be high through the city. High bacteria levels from stormwater outfalls are likely related to animal waste (e.g. dog feces).



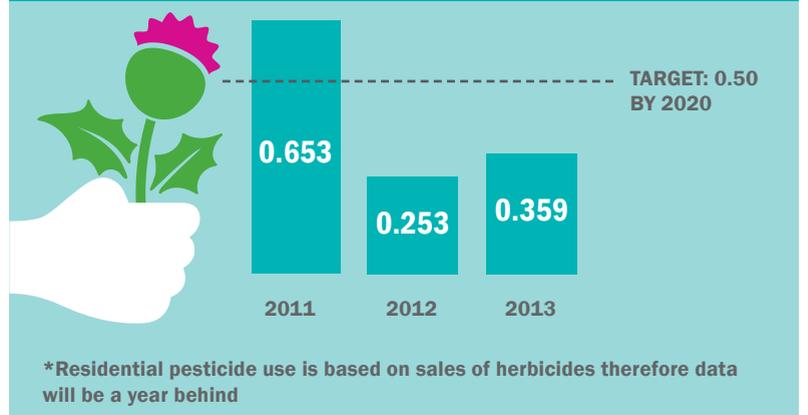
Reduce Pesticide Use

The amount of pesticide used by the City varies and is dependant on the weather and types of weed and pest infestations addressed year to year.

Municipal Pesticide Use Kg active ingredient per hectare*

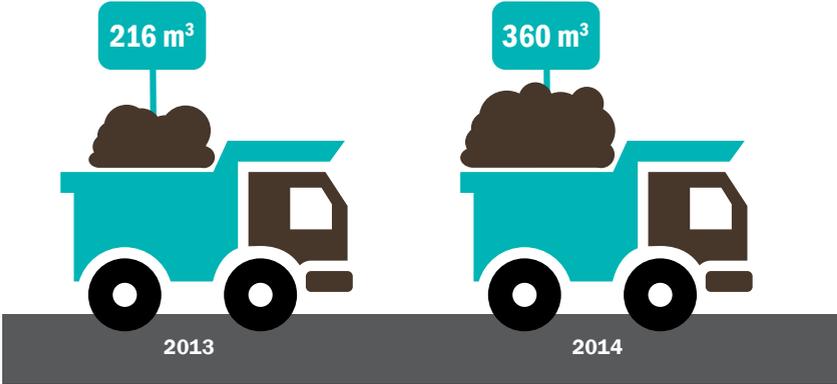


Residential Pesticide Use* Kg active ingredient per hectare**



Grit and Sand Collection

The annual stormwater grit interceptor and catch basin cleaning program reduces the amount of grit and sand that reaches the river.



- The Sediment and Erosion Control Project continued at a high priority outfall location along the Sturgeon River. Twin grit interceptor structures were completed at the Children’s Bridge in 2014.
- The new Animal Bylaw came into effect September 1, 2014 which included emphasis on dog owners picking up after their pets. This change to the bylaw will help reduce the bacteria levels detected in the Sturgeon River.



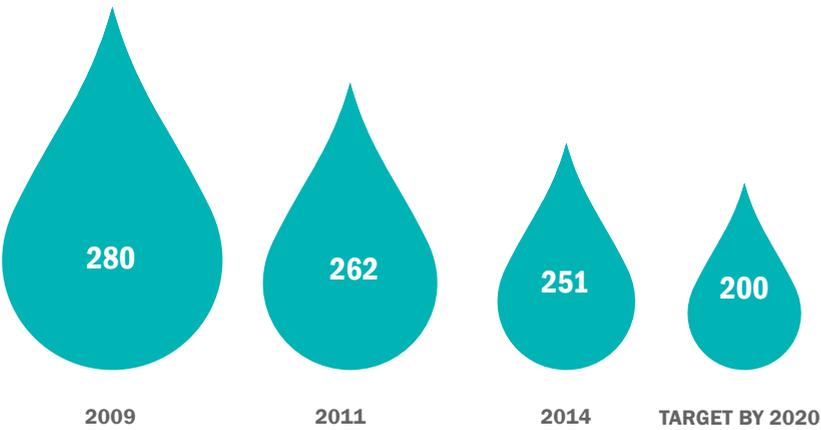
At the 2014 Public Works Day, residents were given the opportunity to bring home a bat house to put in their yard. This is a pilot program to attract bat populations as a natural way of reducing mosquitoes.





REDUCE WATER CONSUMPTION

**Water Used/Person/Day
Litres**



Per capita water consumption continues to decrease



St. Albert residents have purchased over 3,900 rain barrels since the program started in 2006.

In 2014, Fire Services received funding to purchase a mobile fire testing and training unit which will significantly reduce the City’s water consumption. The self contained unit recycles water to complete testing of fleet fire pumps and train pump operators.





RAIN BARREL SALE
May 2
L.B.H Building Centre
stalbert.ca/rain-barrel-program

REEP/CLEAN & GREEN RIVERFEST
May 9
stalbert.ca/river-edge-enhancement-project

YELLOW FISH ROAD PROGRAM
June-September
stalbert.ca/yellow-fish-road

WATER QUALITY AWARENESS DAY
June 5
alms.ca

PEOPLE



FOSTER COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP:

Education and community engagement is central to St. Albert's ability to successfully meet its environmental goals and targets.

Participation in Clean and Green RiverFest, Arbor Day and Naturalization projects



Environmental Initiatives Grant Program: City Council allocated funding for curbside organics collection in all of St. Albert's elementary schools. The program started in September 2014.

Environmental Initiatives Grant Program Number of Resident-Led Projects Funded



For details on the program, visit stalbert.ca and search 'Environmental Grants'.



Clean and Green RiverFest: Together, we collected 0.87 tonnes of garbage and planted 290 trees along the river's edge.



The City's Environment Branch facilitated an interdepartmental partnership with Health and Safety to provide a Clean Air Day and Employee Safety appreciation celebration.



HAVE YOUR SAY!

PROPOSED WATER CONSERVATION BYLAW

Residents will have the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed Water Conservation Bylaw.

The goal of the bylaw is to ensure efficient use of water and reduce water waste.

Watch the website for upcoming opportunities! To learn more about the proposed bylaw, visit: stalbert.ca and search 'Water Conservation Bylaw'.