

## The state of our environment

The City of Edmonton has released its *2012/2013 Report on the Environment*, which highlights key accomplishments on the state of the environment within city boundaries and the City's corporate environmental performance. It also shows how citizens can contribute to making Edmonton more sustainable.



"Understanding the condition of our environment helps all of us make choices to lessen our impact and implement systems and programs to mitigate adverse effects," says Simon Farbrother, City Manager. "Monitoring the overall environmental condition of Edmonton is crucial to becoming a sustainable community."

The Report on the Environment highlights City-wide and external agency measures that track the overall condition of the environment. The measures relate to City operations and community initiatives.

Highlights of the report include:

- By 2012, the City of Edmonton had secured a cumulative total of 410 hectares of land to preserve as natural areas (outside of the river valley). This is compared to just three hectares in 1977. Natural areas provide habitat that assists in maintaining the urban biodiversity as well as ecosystem services, such as clean air and water, for our community.
- Edmonton's Watershed Contaminant Reduction Index has shown significant improvement between 1999 and 2013 rising from 4.4 to 6.6. The index is a measure of the overall contaminants discharged to the North Saskatchewan River. A higher number means less contaminants are being discharged, with a value of 10 signifying zero contaminant discharge.
- A number of green building rating systems are used in Edmonton including LEED, BuiltGreen Canada and EnerGuide, among others. In 2011, there were 575 BuiltGreen Canada homes, and in 2013, there were 1,151. Green building rating systems provide consumers and building professionals with a means to evaluate the environmental benefits and impacts of a building.
- In 2013, the City purchased renewable energy certificates, resulting in approximately 15 per cent of its electricity coming from green sources. Among other initiatives, such as the LED street lighting replacement program, the annual purchase of green power will help the City of Edmonton achieve its 2020 greenhouse gas emission reduction target of 50 per cent below 2008 levels.

To learn about ways to live greener, check the City of Edmonton website, including the Green Home Guide, ways to reduce your household waste and more. A dynamic online version of the report is available by following the link to the City's dashboard report at [edmonton.ca/GreenAnnualReport](http://edmonton.ca/GreenAnnualReport).

### For more information:

Visit [edmonton.ca/GreenAnnualReport](http://edmonton.ca/GreenAnnualReport)

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