



Litter audit shows citizens care about a clean city

Still room for improvement, particularly with litter from smokers

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Thanks to the ongoing efforts of volunteers and supportive partners, the City of Edmonton's litter management plan has decreased the amount of large litter on city streets. This is one of the findings of the City's 2016 litter audit which examined litter type and size at 123 preselected locations across Edmonton.

The results show the average amount of large litter, such as food wrappers and cigarette packages, decreased from 11.6 items per site in 2015 to 11 items in 2016. The overall total number of large litter items has decreased by almost five per cent since 2015. In addition, the number of sites without any large litter increased to 22 from 15. Since 2009, large litter on City streets has decreased by almost 60 per cent.



Small litter, such as cigarette butts and coffee stir sticks, remains a concern for the City. The audit showed an increase of 5.35 per cent in overall small litter items — from 1,102 items in 2015 to 1,161 items in 2016. Although cigarette butts remain the most commonly found small litter, the overall prevalence of cigarette litter was down more than 17 per cent from last year.

"We're thrilled to see litter trending downward in Edmonton thanks in large part to the thousands of volunteers, many community groups and local businesses that continue to step up and get involved" said Don Belanger, Capital City Clean Up Program Manager. "Without their ongoing support, the litter picture in Edmonton would look very different."

Capital City Clean Up's (CCCU) 2017 litter management program will begin in the spring. It will promote a unified approach to keeping Edmonton clean by engaging volunteers, schools, community groups and local businesses. This year — in celebration of Canada's 150th anniversary of Confederation — CCCU is planning a number of events for citizens to get involved at all levels. Details will be posted on edmonton.ca/capitalcitycleanup.

Results of litter audits since 2009 are available on the City of Edmonton's [Open Data](#) site. The 2017 audit was conducted by AET Group Inc, an environmental consultancy firm.

For more information:

edmonton.ca/litter

edmonton.ca/capitalcitycleanup

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