

THE UPDATED ACTION PLAN (2027-2030) WILL BUILD OFF OF THE EXISTING STRATEGIES, POLICIES AND PRACTICES THAT ARE DETAILED IN THIS DOCUMENT.

EDMONTON'S COMMITMENT TO CLIMATE ACTION

Edmonton's climate is changing and the City of Edmonton is taking action. City Council declared a climate emergency in 2019, signalling the need to take urgent action to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and build a more sustainable future. Since then, climate resilience has been ingrained in the City's policies and plans. It is one of four strategic goals in [ConnectEdmonton](#), Edmonton's Strategic Plan for 2019-2028. ConnectEdmonton sets the direction for our future and outlines where change is needed today to realize the vision for Edmonton in 2050.

Climate resilience is also a key component in [The City Plan](#), Edmonton's combined Municipal Development Plan and Transportation Master Plan, which provides strategic direction in environmental planning, social planning and economic development. The City Plan outlines five Big City Moves - bold, transformative priorities with targets that support tangible change. Greener As We Grow is a Big City Move aimed at protecting and enhancing climate resilience and sustainability as the city grows, and commits to achieving net-zero per-person GHG emissions.

In the years since 2019, the City has also updated [Edmonton's Community Energy Transition Strategy and Action Plan](#) (Energy Transition Strategy) and adopted the [Climate Resilient Edmonton: Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan](#) (Adaptation Strategy). These strategies chart Edmonton's path to reduce GHG emissions and adapt to climate change risks and impacts.

Community Energy Transition Strategy and Action Plan

The Community Energy Transition Strategy and Action Plan, approved by Council in 2021, sets ambitious targets for reducing GHG emissions and outlines key pathways for the City's energy transition.

The Energy Transition Strategy sets out a clear goal to achieve net-zero per-person GHG emissions by **2050**, supported by interim targets, and aims for the City organization to reach carbon neutrality by **2040**.

The Energy Transition Strategy lays out **four pathways**, supported by goals, strategies, and actions, to guide Edmonton's climate resilience goal of a low carbon city:

- **Renewable and Resilient Energy Transition:** Actions that support the transition to renewable energy through innovation, investment, and the development of local renewable energy systems.
- **Emission Neutral Buildings:** Actions that support energy efficient and emission neutral development and retrofits.
- **Low Carbon City and Transportation:** Actions that support the work outlined in the City Plan to transform city building efforts to build complete and compact communities supported by comprehensive and accessible active transportation and public transportation networks.
- **Nature Based Solutions and Carbon Capture:** Actions that support carbon sequestration through preservation of natural areas and investment in carbon capture technology.

Climate Resilient Edmonton: Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan

The Climate Resilient Edmonton: Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan, approved by Council in 2020, outlines actions to enable the City and its residents to respond to the impacts of climate change - protecting the community, infrastructure and services. The Adaptation Strategy lays out pathways, goals, and actions to address climate impacts facing Edmonton today and into the future.

The Adaptation Strategy outlines **five paths** to climate resilience; the paths connect science-based decision making with the primary climate change impacts identified for Edmonton:

- **Science and Evidence Based Decisions:** Actions that support science and evidence based decision making.
- **Preparing for Changing Temperatures:** Actions that support adapting to increasing temperatures and preparing for more frequent drought conditions.
- **Preparing for Changing Precipitation:** Actions that support adapting to potential changes to Edmonton's water supply and to flooding impacts that changing precipitation may bring.
- **Preparing for Changing Weather Extremes:** Actions that increase the resilience of Edmonton's electricity and fuel systems and support Edmontonians to prepare for, respond to and recover from changing weather extremes.
- **Preparing for Changing Ecosystems:** Actions that support the protection of natural ecosystems, and to improve the resilience of food systems and urban infrastructure.

Climate Resilience Policy (C627)

To support implementation of the two strategies, City Council adopted an integrated Climate Resilience Policy, which states the City of Edmonton commits to immediately and urgently:

1. **Act to reduce emissions** by 35% by 2025, 50% by 2030 and be a carbon neutral community by 2050 through Energy Transition to help limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius;
2. **Act to adapt, prepare for and respond** to a changing climate; and
3. **Lead climate solutions** in service delivery and corporate management. This includes designing and constructing emission neutral, climate ready City buildings.

The purpose of this policy is to provide clear and consistent governance and accountabilities for achieving a climate resilient community, and to demonstrate to Edmonton's citizens, businesses, and community and industry partners the City of Edmonton's commitment to climate solution leadership in all aspects of city planning, development and business decisions.

FOUNDATIONS OF CLIMATE ACTION AT THE CITY

We have already successfully integrated climate action practices into many City programs, services, and projects, resulting in well-established processes. These processes are now considered our foundational actions and will continue to mature and strengthen over time. The continued implementation of these foundational actions will be detailed in future work and includes, but is not limited to, the following examples:

- **Governance:** Includes policies, procedures, standards, and strategies that integrate climate-informed practices, such as the Carbon Budget, the Clean Energy Improvement Program (CEIP) Tax Bylaw, the 25-year Waste Strategy, the Zoning Bylaw, the River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan, Breathe: Green Network Strategy, Sustainable Procurement Policy, and Climate Resilience Building Procedures for City of Edmonton buildings.
- **Programs and Services:** Includes capital and operational projects that drive transition and adaptation, such as the LRT Expansion, the Active Transportation Network, and the Blatchford Development.
- **Measurement and Monitoring:** Includes the variety of metrics and targets that take into account corporate reporting on activities as well as indicators of progress at the community level. This includes reporting embedded within City Plan, budget and Council reports, greenhouse gas inventories for the corporation and the community, and climate risk reporting. Data analysis and reporting informs corrective actions to advance work and supports informed decision-making.

- **Community Engagement:** Includes Change for Climate resources such as the [Change Homes for Climate Guide](#), [Climate Resilient Homes](#) and [Business Tools](#), and the [Neighbouring for Climate](#) program that brings neighbours together to take climate action.

The Climate Action Plan Update (2027–2030) will explicitly reference these ongoing foundational practices within Administration to signal their importance and ensure continuity.

CHARTER LEGISLATION REQUIREMENTS

The City of Edmonton is required to adopt and maintain these strategies and action plans through the City of Edmonton Charter (the “City Charter”). The City Charter is a Provincial regulation that provides Edmonton with additional authorities and flexibility to address the unique challenges, complexities and opportunities that face one of Alberta’s largest urban centres. The City Charter regulations modify or replace specific provisions in the Municipal Government Act, and other provincial acts and regulations, so they apply differently to Edmonton as compared with other municipalities.

Included in the City Charter is a requirement that Edmonton have both a climate change mitigation plan and an adaptation plan. The City Charter also requires that these plans be reviewed at least once every five years.

JURISDICTION

While climate action requires action from all levels of government, municipalities are key for localized solutions. Given that a significant portion of energy-related carbon dioxide emissions occurs in cities, and their high susceptibility to climate impacts, urban areas play an important role in tackling climate change.

The City’s actions, and authority to perform specific climate work, are governed by the authority delegated to municipalities by statute and regulation. The Municipal Government Act, RSA 2000, c M-26 (MGA) and, in the case of Edmonton, the City of Edmonton Charter, delegate authority to municipalities to govern and direct key areas such as land use planning, public transportation, infrastructure, and emergency management, all of which play a vital role in supporting climate resilience and the energy transition.

Federal and provincial legislation influences the City’s realm of control and the City’s climate strategies and actions must reflect that in order to be effective. When it comes to climate action, there are important limitations to municipal powers that influence what Edmonton can do. Some examples of limitations include:

- Edmonton cannot introduce any requirements for construction to adopt a standard for energy efficiency higher than the Alberta edition of the National Building Code.
- Edmonton cannot introduce any requirements that contradict regulations laid out in the Safety Codes Act. This includes regulations that may contradict the Alberta edition of the National Building

Code, the Alberta edition of the National Fire Code, and the provincially adopted National Energy Code of Canada.

- Edmonton does not regulate the supply of electricity, water, and natural gas services. A majority of utility related infrastructure is owned and/or operated by private utility companies. The development and modification of utility infrastructure requires approval from the Alberta Utilities Commission.
- Edmonton cannot regulate greenhouse gas emissions from the operation of private facilities.
- Edmonton cannot regulate vehicle emissions standards or require the transition to electric vehicles.

As the Climate Action Plan Update (2027-2030) is being developed, it is important to keep these limitations in mind to ensure that the new actions are achievable for the City. The City does have the power to work with partners to advocate to higher levels of government for change, and advocacy can be an important lever for change.