



**Alberta
Emerald
Foundation**



STUDY GUIDE

Emerald Youth Grants



Edmonton Convention Centre

29th Annual Emerald Award Recipient



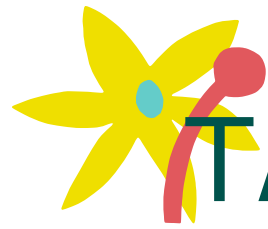


TABLE OF CONTENTS

04 - Overview

06 - Key Terms

08 - Conversation Questions

09 - Continuing Work

10 - Resources

11 - Notes



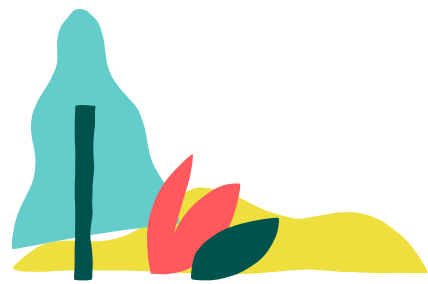
THE AEF

Who We Are.

The Alberta Emerald Foundation (AEF) has been the good-news environmental storytellers since 1991. We are a nonprofit organization that showcases and inspires our province's environmental achievements through the annual Emerald Awards. Through our Sharing Stories Communications Strategy, the incredible work of Emerald recipients is highlighted and celebrated year-round. What began as the Emerald Awards has evolved into an ongoing conversation.

The AEF empowers the next generation by providing grants to youth-led and youth-targeted environmental initiatives in our province. The Emerald Educational Engagement Grants Program funds up to 30 groups a year for their dream environmental project inspired by the Emerald Documentary Series, What On EARTH Can We Do? Podcast, and Emerald Speakers Series. After finding inspiration from this content featuring Emerald recipients, submit your pitch to us online. If it's accepted, you will receive \$750, thanks to our sponsor Syncrude Canada Ltd., to make your project a reality.

We encourage you to use this study guide as a resource to help you along in your project's journey. For more information, please visit emerald.foundation.ca.



OVERVIEW

What they're all about.

Mission: to work in collaboration with local partners to create a more sustainable events industry and leave a positive impact on the world.

The Edmonton Convention Centre (ECC) is built into the banks of the North Saskatchewan River Valley. The centre is a place to hold meetings, performances, or conventions with environmentalism in mind. As a business that is committed to positive practices towards creating a **sustainable industry**, they have many programs in place to make a positive impact. The sustainability program has multiple layers to it, including a **Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan**, **Responsible Meetings Program**, **Environmentally Preferred Purchasing**, the installation of **solar panels**, and implementation of **plant-based** menus. The ECC has increased its **waste diversion** by 28% and held Edmonton's first ever **carbon neutral** convention. Even the building itself is built right beside



the river to act as a natural **heat sink**, making heating and cooling more efficient.

Their approach towards sustainability is unique as they not only focus on changing their own actions, but also provide educational opportunities to their clients so they can also decrease the environmental impact of their own events. The ECC believes that sustainability is everyone's responsibility, and provides information and feedback towards **carbon offsetting**.

Something special about this program is that they offer **quantitative information** and can relate everything directly to how it impacts the environment. By providing post-event carbon footprint reports, clients can use this information for future improvements. Already, 60% of their **consumables** are **green certified**, 60% of their food suppliers are local, 2,304 kg of food has been donated, and 78% of waste has been diverted from the landfill in 2019.

Every year, a report card is shared with everyone so they can see their own successes and areas of improvement. Standing behind the truth and science, the ECC continuously strives to be a leader in sustainability.



KEY TERMS

Know your lingo.

Sustainable industry:

industries that tend to be more efficient and use less resources in order to ensure that future generations will also have their needs met.

Greenhouse Gas:

any gas in the air that absorbs heat into the earth but does not let it out. It traps this heat on the earth and leads to global warming.

Environmentally Preferred Purchasing:

purchasing goods and services whose environmental impacts are less harmful.

Solar Panels:

technology that converts sunlight into a form of renewable energy to generate electricity.

Plant-based:

a food diet that does not include any animal products. Plant-based diets require less water to produce and generate less greenhouse gas emissions.

Waste diversion:

the process of directing waste away from the landfills by recycling, composting, or any other means.

Carbon neutral:

a state where the carbon emissions caused by them balances out to the carbon emissions they were able to remove. In a sense, having a net zero carbon footprint.

Heat sink:

something that is able to absorb the heat from something else without a dramatic temperature change, for example, the ocean.



Carbon offsetting:

the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by one party in order to “cancel out” the emissions that were made somewhere else.

Quantitative information:

information that is backed up with hard evidence and data.

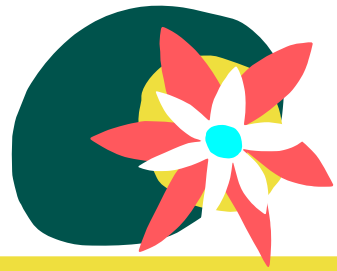
Consumables:

products that are used often that either get used up or get discarded after, such as post-it notes or coffee cups.

Green Certified:

a rating that states something has met a certain level of environmental standards.





CONVERSATION QUESTIONS

Let's talk about it.

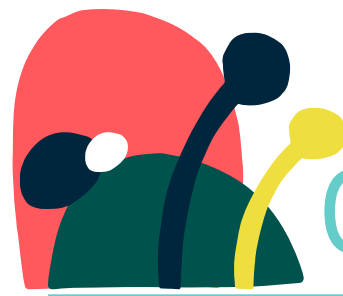
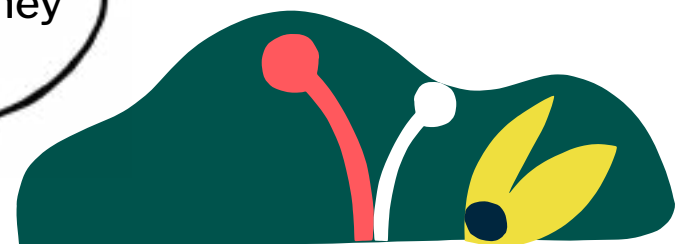
Make a list of the food you eat regularly. Discuss the entire process of the food, from being on a farm to being on your plate.

Why do you think it is important that the ECC uses quantitative data to show its environmental impact?

What consumables do you use in your life and how can you decrease the amount of waste created from them?

What is the ECC doing to make their building and their actions more sustainable? Is there anything like this that you can do in your life?

What are natural heat sinks? Why are they important?



CONTINUING WORK

Inspiration for your EEEG project.

Create a plant-based meal plan for your family and follow it for a week.

Run a food drive at your school or community and donate the collected goods to your local food bank.

Do some research about the things you buy and try to implement environmentally preferred purchasing.

Taking inspiration from the ECC, try implementing a few changes, big or small, to make your own household or school more environmentally friendly.

Find a way to track your own environmental impact and create a presentation for the data you collected. Present this to your class and discuss how you can improve.





RESOURCES

Click to discover.

[Sustainability at the Edmonton Convention Centre](#)

[How Eating More Plants Can Save Lives and The Planet](#)

[28-day Plant-based Diet Meal Plan](#)

[29 Tips to Save Energy in Your Home](#)

[5 Steps to Organize a Food Drive](#)

[13 Apps to Track Your Carbon Footprint](#)

[The Journey of Food From Field to Table](#)

[Green Certification in Canada](#)



NOTES

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Emerald Youth Grants

The Alberta Emerald Foundation would like to thank Syncrude Canada Ltd. for their sponsorship of the Emerald Youth Grants Program. As well, we'd like to thank video production agency Hoopla Media and graphic designer Studio Hazel for making our content look so good.

This study guide was written and designed by AEF summer student Leslie Guo.

Apply for an Emerald Youth Grant

Let's get social:

