



30th Annual

Emerald

Awards

Showcasing and inspiring Alberta's
environmental achievements.



Alberta
Emerald
Foundation

emeraldfoundation.ca



Alberta Emerald Foundation

Mission

To recognize and celebrate environmental excellence.

Vision

To inspire environmental excellence and improvement.

We Value

- Promoting environmental leadership
- Communicating and collaborating with others
- Ensuring the integrity and credibility of the Foundation
- Engaging the next generation

The Alberta Emerald Foundation acknowledges and honours that we operate on Treaty 6, Treaty 7, and Treaty 8 territories, of which we have been beneficiaries since their signing. We extend our hands in peace and friendship to all Indigenous peoples who have made these places their homes since time immemorial.

We are grateful for the journey we are on as treaty people, with the responsibility and opportunity to carry forward and renew the spirit and intent of those agreements. To learn, to grow, to celebrate this journey of discovery, and to share our stories as long as the sun shines, the grass grows, and the rivers flow.

We call forward the spirit of tatawaw which in nehiyawewin means “Welcome, there is room” to guide us as we do our part to make Alberta a more welcoming and sustainable place to live for all.

We acknowledge and honour the fundamental value and dignity of all individuals. We believe in embracing diversity, equity, and inclusion within our organization and welcome those from all walks of life, regardless of race, colour, gender identity, sex, ancestry, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation or expression, age, marital status, or disability.



The 30th Annual Emerald Awards

June 1st, 2021

4:00 pm

3:30 PM Smudging Ceremony with Naheyawin

4:00 PM Awards Ceremony

- Business presented by Edmonton Community Foundation
- Community Group or Nonprofit presented by Syncrude Canada Ltd.
- Education presented by Alberta Beverage Container Recycling Corporation
- Youth presented by City of Edmonton
- Water presented by Jamieson Laurin + Co.
- Air presented by City of Calgary
- Land presented by Alberta Real Estate Foundation

Edmonton Symphony Orchestra Performance

- Energy presented by Yellowbike Solutions Inc. & Bioenergy Solutions Inc.
- Waste Management presented by Alberta Recycling Management Authority &

Beverage Container Management Board

- Infrastructure
- Public Engagement & Outreach
- Shared Footprints Award presented by Government of Alberta.
- Lifetime Achievement presented by Capital Power

Spoken word poem by Nisha Patel

6:00 PM Online Networking

30th
Annual
Emerald
Awards





30th Annual Emerald Awards

Alberta is home to leaders and innovators, each demonstrating a unique approach to environmental stewardship. For the past 30 years, the Emerald Awards have showcased those who raise the bar in addressing local, regional, and global environmental & climate issues. In doing so, a standard of excellence is set that inspires others in their own practices. Since their inception, the Emeralds have celebrated the achievements of nearly 350 recipients and 850 finalists. To date, they remain the only award in Canada that recognizes environmental excellence across all sectors.

What began in 1992 as an initiative developed by my then Minister for the Environment, Ralph Klein, McLennan Ross LLP, and Deloitte and Touche, has evolved into a robust communications strategy and year-round programming. Through the Alberta Emerald Foundation's (AEF) actions of showcasing, inspiring, and empowering environmental achievements, role models are established, best practices are shared, connections are made, and a sense of hope is fostered. The result is an increase in public awareness, engagement, and commitment to environmental stewardship, as well as the mitigation and adaptation to climate change, leading to a more sustainable future for all.

In honour of the Emerald Awards' 30th anniversary, the AEF engaged in a community consultation to refresh the categories and nomination form. The outcome is a more robust and inclusive slate of categories that both celebrates organizations that have established a legacy of environmental stewardship, and projects that have achieved excellence in addressing and mitigating the effects of local, regional and global environmental issues.

This year, the AEF received nominations from all corners of the province. The Foundation tasked a third-party panel of knowledgeable judges to review all nominations in order to select the shortlist and recipients.

Nominations were judged on the following criteria:

- Environmental benefits and outcomes.
- Leadership.
- Seventh Generation Principle.
- Alignment with the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals.

In addition to an award certificate and digital logo designed by Studio Hazel, our recipients will receive profile in our Sharing Stories content and a \$2,000 grant to support the continuation of their work, or to donate to an environmental cause of their choice. We thank our sponsors whose generous support has made this possible.

Nominations for the 31st Annual Emerald Awards will open November 1, 2021. Stay updated through our social media, website, and signing up for our monthly newsletter, Elevate.




30/30 VISION

THANK YOU FOR **30 YEARS** OF RECOGNIZING
HOME-GROWN LEADERS WHO KEEP RAISING THE BAR IN
DEFINING ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE.

IN 2022 ARMA ALSO CELEBRATES ITS **30TH ANNIVERSARY**
AND WE'RE HONoured TO BE ALONGSIDE THE
ALBERTA EMERALD FOUNDATION AS WE CONGRATULATE
ALL NOMINEES, FINALISTS AND WINNERS.

TOGETHER, OUR VISION IS STRENGTHENED AS WE
COLLECTIVELY **INSPIRE A FUTURE WITHOUT WASTE.**



 ELECTRONICS
  PAINT
  TIRES
  USED OIL





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MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER OF ALBERTA

On behalf of the Government of Alberta, it is my pleasure to send greetings to the 30th Annual Emerald Awards as you celebrate three decades of showcasing environmental stewardship in our province.

Alberta is home to an unshakeable entrepreneurial spirit and world-class innovators. As we continue with our province's commitment to responsible energy development and a common-sense approach to conservation, it is exciting to see the creativity and initiative demonstrated by this year's nominees. You have contributed to a new standard of excellence in addressing environmental and climate issues, and I commend you for your efforts to help protect our air, land and water.

Thank you to the Alberta Emerald Foundation and the sponsors who have made these awards possible and fostered environmental leadership for 30 years. I appreciate your efforts to keep this vision alive, even in challenging times.

Congratulations to the 2021 recipients, and best wishes for a memorable event.

A blue ink signature of Jason Kenney, written over a horizontal line.

Hon Jason Kenney, Premier of Alberta





Message from His Worship Mayor Don Iveson



On behalf of City Council and the people of Edmonton, welcome to the 30th annual Emerald Awards.

While the past 15 months have presented us with an immense amount of challenges, I applaud the Alberta Emerald Foundation for finding creative ways to bring us together digitally. This provides us the opportunity to safely celebrate excellence, and outstanding environmental achievements.

Every year, the Emerald Awards bring together the finest individuals and groups who are raising the bar and creating real change in local, regional, and global environmental and climate issues. We are at a crucial moment in our history where we need to take decisive action toward a more sustainable and environmentally focused future. This showcase not only draws our attention to those who are already invested in creative environmental stewardship, it inspires others in their own practices.

Congratulations to all the nominees and best wishes for an enjoyable evening!

Yours truly,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Don Iveson.

Don Iveson
Mayor



Naheed K. Nenshi, Mayor

May 2021



A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR NENSHI

On behalf of my City Council colleagues and the citizens of Calgary, I would like to welcome you all to the 30th Annual Emerald Awards. Ingenuity and adaptability are hallmarks of Alberta, and I applaud the Emerald Foundation for continuing to recognize outstanding environmental achievements across our province.

The City of Calgary recognizes climate change has implications for our city both now and in the future. We know Calgarians are concerned about climate change, and we're committed to building a climate-resilient community. Our Climate Resilience Strategy outlines how we're working toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions to help limit global climate change, and adapting to a changing climate by taking actions to reduce the impact of extreme weather events and climatic changes.

By showcasing environmental achievements and stewardship efforts of individuals and organizations across the province, the Emerald Awards builds awareness, encourages others to participate and helps move us towards a healthier and more sustainable future.

I thank the Alberta Emerald foundation for your efforts in organizing these awards each year. To all those nominated – your creativity, passion, and contributions are valuable to our province, and will inspire Albertans to take positive environmental action.

Sincerely,

Naheed K. Nenshi
MAYOR



British
Consulate-General
Calgary

On behalf of the UK Government, President and host of the COP26 UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow in November 2021, it is my pleasure to send greetings to the 30th Emerald Awards. The Alberta Emerald Foundation did a great job with last year's virtual celebration and I have no doubt that this year's 30th anniversary event will be even more bold and imaginative. COVID-19 has brought us many challenges but it has also inspired fantastic creativity and innovation.

The UK prides itself on being a climate change leader. We were the first country in the world, in 2008, to legislate a 2050 emissions reduction target. The UK was at the centre of the coal-fired industrial revolution 200 years ago and now we are at the centre of a cross-economy green industrial revolution. We are aiming to cut emissions by 68% by 2030 and be net zero by 2050.

Addressing the climate change emergency needs action by everyone, everywhere. The Emerald Award finalists that we are celebrating have shown tremendous determination, passion and creativity in doing their part to increase awareness, reduce emissions and protect the environment. With Canada now ambitiously committing to reduce emissions by 40-45% by 2030, action in the province of Alberta is even more important.

I congratulate the Alberta Emerald Award Foundation for their vision over 30 years in helping to tell the stories of those who are stepping up and making a difference, who can inspire and motivate others. Congratulations to the Emerald Award winners of 2021 and let us recognise the award winners from the previous 29 years. What an amazing legacy.

Caroline Saunders, British Consul-General, Calgary.

CONGRATULATIONS to the Vermilion River Watershed Alliance



On behalf of the Vermilion Town Council, we are honored to join with our partners of the Vermilion River Watershed Alliance as they celebrate the work on the restoration and enhancement project resulting in a prestigious nomination for the Emerald award. The work of the many volunteers working side by side in the watershed is the innovation and power that brings the Vermilion River Watershed to life. These members represent local towns and counties, federal and provincial governments, conservation groups and the public. It is together with these volunteers and partners that we celebrate this nomination of the Emerald award in the category of Shared Footprints.

In 2005 the Vermilion River Watershed was assessed and rated as “poor”, which spurred projects to improve how the watershed land was used. Since 2019 these projects resulted in the restoration and enhancement of riparian areas along with approximately 20 km of river and creeks and over 150 hectares of wetland. Restoring these critical riparian and wetland areas brings the benefits of improved water quality, mitigating floods and droughts, improving biodiversity, providing aesthetically pleasing areas for recreation and adding economic value to all our communities.

Thank you to the committee for recognizing this critical work and we are honored to be included among these other amazing projects. Today we all celebrate a better Alberta for our future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Caroline McAuley".

Caroline McAuley, Mayor
Town of Vermilion

A Message from Mayor Ralph Leriger



Resilience, innovation, and hard work are the heart of Albertans. The Alberta Emerald Foundation shines a spotlight on impactful achievements and initiatives within our province.

The Emerald Awards recognizes those individuals and organizations across the province making a difference today by planning for our tomorrow. From large scale projects to community-focused initiatives, real change happens when we set our sights on achievable goals and discover what we can do today.

On behalf of the Town of Westlock, I offer a heartfelt congratulations to the finalists. We thank you for combining your creativity and awareness with action to achieve a more sustainable future for us all.

Sincerely,



Ralph Leriger, Mayor
Town of Westlock



1606 14 St

Didsbury, AB T0M 0W0

<https://www.didsbury.ca/>



On behalf of Town of Didsbury Council, it is my pleasure to bring Greetings and Congratulations to all nominees and recipients of the 30th Annual Emerald Awards.

I extend an extra special congratulations to Happiness by the Acre, a Didsbury area farm for your nomination in the Shared Footprints category. I wish you and all environmental stewards, leaders, and innovators continued success as you move forward with all you do for our province and world.

Thank you to the Alberta Emerald Foundation for being Alberta's good-news story tellers in showcasing environmental leaders in our province. We are thankful and appreciative that you showcase, inspire, empower, and recognize Albertans who bring awareness to environmental and climate issues and who achieve and display best practice as our environmental stewards.

Sincerely,

Rhonda Hunter

Town of Didsbury Mayor



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

June, 2021

Welcome to the 30th Annual Emerald Awards. I'm proud to support this prestigious recognition program that showcases Alberta leaders and innovators in environmental stewardship.

The Awards set an impressive standard of excellence and showcase creativity, innovation and move to inspire others in their own endeavours.

Congratulations to all the finalists, including those from Cochrane, for their hard work in raising the bar to address environmental and climate issues. Your efforts create a hopeful picture of the future and empower others to have a positive impact on the community.



The event this year is virtual like so many things in our lives these days. But this platform provides an opportunity for the awards to reach out to an even wider audience than ever before. I am glad we aren't allowing Covid to get in the way of celebrating such important work!

Jeff Genung
Mayor



AEF Board Chair, Mark Brostrom



On behalf of the Alberta Emerald Foundation's (AEF) Board of Directors, welcome to the 30th Annual Emerald Awards. What began three decades ago as a gala and then transformed into a theatrical production has become the online experience we're participating in today. We're happy to be able to gather safely and sustainably with our community to celebrate our Foundation's 30th anniversary and the achievements of the shortlist and recipients.

The AEF has a distinguished history of honouring Alberta's environmental leaders, and today we welcome 32 organizations, collaborative projects, and individuals to the Emerald Awards alumni. Each and every one provides an inspiring story of extraordinary leadership and innovation in their approach to environmental stewardship. These are examples from all corners of our province who, in their own unique way, are advancing how we address local, regional, and global environmental and climate issues. Each deserves acknowledgement and respect for their outstanding accomplishments.

Congratulations to each of you!

I would like to thank the Emerald Awards judging panel. Each judge donates approximately 100 hours of their time, energy, and expertise to select our shortlist and recipients. Their dedication, passion, and enthusiasm to a measured and fair outcome contributes to the success of the Emerald Awards in immeasurable ways. For that, we thank you.

I would also like to thank our community members who supported us in refreshing our Emerald Awards categories and nomination form in honour of our 30th anniversary. The result is the more robust and inclusive slate of categories being recognized in today's celebration. We hope this update demonstrates our commitment to our community and our desire to remain reflective of current environmental and climate priorities.

And finally, I would like to thank our sponsors and donors, both past and present, who have supported us in achieving this landmark in the AEF's history. Thanks to their support, we have been able to showcase the work of approximately 350 recipients and 850 finalists, share best practices, form meaningful connections, and contribute positively to the conversation of climate change in our province. Although we are celebrating 30 years, in many ways it feels like our work is just beginning. We look forward to innovating our programs into the future, and to continue delivering on our mission of being Alberta's environmental good-news storytellers.

Please join me in recognizing, celebrating, and congratulating the 30th Annual Emerald Award recipients and shortlist.

Sincerely,

Mark Brostrom
AEF Board Chair

30th
Annual
Emerald
Awards



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FOR CLIMATE**

**LET'S
CHANGE
SOMETHING
BEFORE
CLIMATE
CHANGES
EVERYTHING**

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Edmonton



Judges



Amelia Atmiks

Beekeeper, founder of The Hive Community Agriculture and student at Grant MacEwan University

Amelia is a student at Grant MacEwan university, pursuing a BA in Philosophy. This spring will mark her 5th season as a beekeeper. She is a volunteer with MacEwan's Office of Sustainability's honey bee hive project, often doing outreach and managing the hives. In 2019 she started a project called The Hive Urban Community Agriculture which is a beehive management social enterprise intended to educate and offer opportunities for urban environmental stewardship. During the summer of 2020 she started a hive at the Alberta Avenue Community League. This project was in collaboration with funding from the city of Edmonton and is the first honey bee hive in a community leagues garden in Edmonton.



Bradley Peter

Professional Biologist and Executive Director of the Alberta Lake Management Society

Bradley received his BSc in Ecology in 2010 from the University of Alberta. For the past 10 years, he has worked to design, coordinate, and deliver participatory science programs to support the understanding and management of Alberta's lakes and watersheds. In 2015, Bradley and the Alberta Lake Management Society team received the Emerald Challenge Award: Water for the LakeWatch program.



Judges



Monique Dietrich

Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program
Coordinator, Alberta Environment and Parks

Monique has been working with Alberta's watershed stewards for the past 15 years during her career with Alberta Environment and Parks. She has supported efforts all over the province with watershed planning, and currently by coordinating the Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program. In the 1990s she moved from the Maritimes to attend the University of Calgary where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Geography and a Master's of Science in Resources and Environment, specializing in water management. She fell in love with the beauty of Alberta and feels fortunate to love her work too. She especially likes working with the dedicated and hardworking Albertans who develop and implement plans to restore and conserve Alberta's natural areas.



Kathryn Wagner

Program Director, Inside Education

Inside Education is an Alberta-based non-profit education society dedicated to supporting teachers, inspiring students and creating a province of informed stewards of natural resources and the environment. Kathryn discovered Inside Education in 2006 while completing her after-degree in education and upon learning about the wide range of student and teacher programs knew it was the perfect fit to build a career as a self-proclaimed 'cool aunt of teaching'.



Judges



Ryan Smith

Senior Environmental Planner, Shell Canada Limited

Ryan began his career in environmental consulting in 2006 working on a wide variety of environmental planning and regulatory approval projects spanning numerous sectors. In 2012, Ryan joined Shell's Environment & Regulatory Group working with multi-disciplinary teams to steer projects through the environmental regulatory hurdles as well as improve project environmental performance. Ryan represents Shell on the Foothills Stream Crossing Program (FSCP) which promotes the best management practices and proactive measures to construct and maintain watercourse crossings. In late 2016, Ryan joined the Board of Directors of the Miistakis Institute. In 2017, he joined the Advisory Board for the NAIT Boreal Research Institute. Ryan is a Professional Agrologist and soil scientist with a passion for citizen science, and science education and literacy. He has a M.Sc. degree in Geography and B.Sc. degrees in both Earth Science and Archaeology from the University of Calgary.



Katie Kohlenberg

Project Manager, EcoAmmo Sustainable Consulting

Katie Kohlenberg (she/her) started in the sustainability industry in 2006 and is currently a project manager for EcoAmmo Sustainable Consulting where she manages sustainable building certifications and facilitates IPD projects. She has been interested in environmentalism since taking a class on the topic at University, this one class helped to shape her career in sustainability. Sustainability not just Katie's career choice, it is also a personal passion.



Judges



Sarah Levine

Environmental Lawyer

Sarah strives to service clients' needs in an effective and efficient manner. Her practice focuses on environmental law, insurance and commercial litigation which gives her the tools to meaningfully work with each client towards the resolution of their unique issues. Maintaining communication with her clients throughout the litigation process as to most effectively advocate on their behalf is one of her top priorities. Sarah has successfully represented her clients before the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta, the Provincial Court of Alberta as well as in alternative dispute resolution, such as pre-trial mediation.



Sarah Fulton

Senior Advisor, Environmental and Social Risk Management, Export Development Canada (EDC)

Sarah has been providing advice to the corporate world on environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues since 2006, first as an external consultant and most recently as an in house expert. Based in Calgary, Sarah's experience has focused on the Canadian energy sector. Sarah holds a Master's degree from Dalhousie University, where her thesis examined greenhouse gas emissions in the supply chain of a UK seafood company. Sarah was formerly on the Board of the Bow River Basin Council, and started their Young Professionals Committee.



Judges



Melissa Radu

Sustainability Manager, Edmonton Economic Development Corporation

As sustainability manager at the Explore Edmonton Melissa manages the long-term sustainability strategies for Explore Edmonton including both the Edmonton Convention Centre and Edmonton EXPO Centre. Stressing the importance of data and measurement in sustainability, Melissa works closely with these teams to set the benchmarks for year-after-year improvement and works to empower event professionals to collaborate outside of industry boundaries to drive positive change for future generations. Melissa holds a masters in Sustainable Regional Development and Tourism and brings international experience to the Explore Edmonton sustainability program. Melissa's main motivation in this work is to help all of us to be more courageous and optimistic about protecting our earth's natural systems.



John Parkins

Professor and Chair of the Department of Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology, University of Alberta

After a 10 year stint at the Canadian Forest Service, John joined the University in 2007 with teaching and research interests in rural development, impact assessment, forestry, agriculture, renewable energy, and environmental politics.



Judges



Christine Rice Hornung
Visual Artist

Christine is a Calgary-based visual artist with a MSc in wetland ecology. After years of working as a biologist on projects such as provincial dragonfly & damselfly species-at-risk assessments, or collaborating with Ducks Unlimited to investigate dragonflies as bioindicators, Christine switched careers and pursued her first love of drawing and painting. After attending NSCAD under a full scholarship for her BFA, Christine returned to Alberta only to move her family to France for a year. When not painting Christine is raising 3 humans and dreaming of returning to live in France. To check out her work visit SomeArtyGirl.com



Sithara Fernando
Environmental Instructor, NorQuest College

Sithara Fernando is an Environmental Instructor teaching at NorQuest College and in Indigenous Communities. Prior to entering education Sithara worked as a Wildlife Biologist in Northern Alberta and has a vast amount of experience in the Oil and Gas industry. Sithara is an avid photographer, and enjoys travelling.

arts, culture & heritage social & wellness
community service social enterprise
endowment charitable grants scholarships
impact community engaged unique
in perpetuity timeless personal gift priorities
causes arts, culture & health & wellness
social & community leisure environment



Zafira, Danisha, Hamida Bhaloo & Choco.

Pay it *forward.*

We were recipients of many nonprofits in our life.

They were charities supported by grants from Edmonton Community Foundation (ECF), and the generous donors who give through ECF.

***This is our chance to give back to our community,
for generations to come.***

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www.ecfoundation.org





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April Moon, Director, Asset Performance Liquids Pipelines – Enbridge

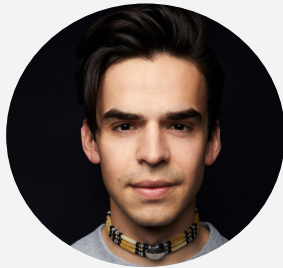
Debbie Rheinstein, Teacher for Calgary Board of Education

Katherine Rogers, M.Sc. Student – Department of Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology, University of Alberta

Theresa Wynnyk, Company of Women on the Screen Inc.



Special Guests



Hunter Cardinal

Co-founder & Director of Story at Naheyawin

Hunter is an actor as well as co-founder & director of story at Naheyawin. In 2019, he was recognized as Edmonton's Best Actor and awarded a place in Edmonton's esteemed Top 40 Under 40 class of 2018. When he isn't welcoming people into ancient worldviews, he can be found baking or adapting his favourite songs to the mandolin.



Nisha Patel

City of Edmonton Poet Laureate

Nisha Patel is an award-winning queer poet & artist. She is the City of Edmonton's Poet Laureate, and the 2019 Canadian Individual Slam Champion. She currently works as the 2021 Regional Writer in Residence. She is a recipient of the Edmonton Artists' Trust Fund Award and the University of Alberta Alumni Award of Excellence. Her debut collection COCONUT is available now at Glass Bookshop. You can find her at nishapatel.ca.



Edmonton Symphony Orchestra

In its 69th year, the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra (ESO) has taken its place as one of Canada's foremost orchestral ensembles. Its current roster includes 56 musicians from Canada and around the world performing a wide-ranging repertoire from the great classical masterworks to pops and family concerts. The orchestra is the resident artistic ensemble, the "home team," of the Winspear Centre, among the best acoustic concert halls in North America. The ESO has also performed at Carnegie Hall as part of the Spring for Music festival in 2012.



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FOR INDUSTRY. FOR ALBERTA.**

FOR 30 YEARS
WE HAVE INVESTED OVER
\$23 + MILLION
INTO
650 PROJECTS
ACROSS THE PROVINCE.



**REAL ESTATE
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LAND



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We are pleased to introduce the
**30TH ANNIVERSARY
LEGACY GRANTS PROGRAM**

This special major grant program distinctive and high-impact projects which will drive transformational long-term change to advance the real estate industry and real estate across Alberta this program is an addition to our regular funding programs.

Learn more at www.aref.ab.ca



A stylized, abstract landscape illustration. The background is a light blue sky. In the upper left, there is a bright yellow sun partially obscured by a white, cloud-like shape. A large, vibrant orange flame-like shape rises from the center, with a dark green vertical stem. To the right of the flame is another white, cloud-like shape. The foreground consists of rolling hills in shades of dark purple, olive green, and a strip of orange at the very bottom. A horizontal orange banner is positioned across the middle of the image, containing the text "Award Categories".

Award Categories

Business



Integrated Sustainability

Calgary

Integrated Sustainability is a specialized international project integrator for water, waste, and renewable energy infrastructure, servicing all sectors including energy, mining, and municipal.

Over the last decade, they have helped industry tackle their most pressing needs from a sustainability lens that has been integral to the way they conduct business. As an employee-owned company, their entrepreneurial spirit enables them to drive to the root of some of the world's more challenging problems by coupling solutions with cutting-edge design and technology. This drive has contributed to their history of innovation that has brought about change to industry norms.



YYC Growers and Distributors

Calgary

YYC Growers is a social enterprise working to distribute wealth in the area of food production and distribution. They are dedicated to pioneering new ways of working and organizing to create healthy, local food systems.

YYC Growers as a farmer-owned cooperative provides Calgarians with a weekly subscription to a box of locally grown vegetables, either for pick-up at a nearby location or delivered right to their door. They were founded on the assumption that what is good for the earth will be good for us. They envision a vibrant, resonant, more transparent food system.



Future Ancestors Services Inc.

Calgary

Future Ancestors Services is an Indigenous and Black-owned, youth-led professional services social enterprise that advances climate justice and systemic barrier removal with lenses of anti-racism and ancestral accountability. Through an intergenerational team of professionals and advisors, this Alberta-based enterprise provides speaking, training, research, consulting, and social media services internationally. While centering decolonized and Indigenized practices, they support their clients and community in addressing systemic issues that disadvantage groups of people, our connections to land and others, and the well-being of Earth.

Celebrating family.

Our road to starting a family was long and difficult so we wanted to do something to help others who are faced with a similar journey.

Our fund is a way to celebrate children and families, and an opportunity to teach our kids the importance of giving back.

Edmonton Community Foundation has given us a platform to do that.

Mai Anh, Noah, Callie & Ted Kouri



Give. Grow. Transform.

Call 780-426-0015 or visit our website www.ecfoundation.org

**EDMONTON
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

Community Group or Nonprofit



Solar Alberta

Edmonton

Solar Alberta has been providing public education about renewable energy and energy efficiency for 30 years. Over that time, they have transitioned from a largely Edmonton-based club of solar enthusiasts installing their own solar modules, to a province-wide hub connecting the general public to solar installation professionals. They are a trusted authority on solar education and policy. In the last five years, Solar Alberta has shifted quite dramatically from an organization that primarily focused on educating the general public to one that also serves over 150 industry members.



Water Movement

Calgary

Based in Calgary, Water Movement fills a void in an often-fragmented industry and bridges the connection between Indigenous water treatment operators whose work is vital to the health and well-being of countless communities. Through the joint efforts of industry professionals and university students, it provides a collaborative online space where operators can connect, share lessons learned and access training videos that act as educational tools. In addition to providing resources and an interactive collaboration zone for those in the industry, Water Movement seeks to raise awareness among the next generation of water leaders.

Community Group or Nonprofit



Pioneer Trail North Foundation

Westlock County

Richard DeSmet grew up close to the land that is now home to the Pioneer Trail North Foundation. The pristine native forest, grasslands and wetland habitat north of Edmonton was his backyard, his outdoor classroom. Later, with his wife Vera, they continued to live close to the land where they serve as caretakers for Pioneer Trail North Foundation which helps young people connect with nature. As hosts for the Outdoor Classroom program, they have welcomed classes from K-12. In the school term prior to the arrival of COVID-19, Pioneer Trail North Foundation welcomed over 2000 visitors to the Outdoor Classroom. These students, along with teachers and parent volunteers, enjoy activities ranging from educational nature walks to responsible outdoor recreation and survival skills.



Emerald Speakers Series

Our version of TEDTalks, this series provides Emerald recipients with a platform to share their award-winning work and an inspiring environmental message with an audience.




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CLIMATE**

Edmonton

Catch up on the series at emerald.foundation.ca



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Meet Warren.

He's on a mission to help reclaim Syncrude's tailings areas faster and more effectively. His water filtration system uses petroleum coke from Syncrude's upgrader to treat tailings water so that it can support aquatic life.

It's an industry first made possible by incredible collaboration across Syncrude teams and the expertise and support of a local Indigenous business.

**Learn more at
syncrude.ca**

Syncrude



Education



Vincent Massey Jr. High School's "Building a Community"

Calgary

For the past four years, Vincent Massey Junior High has partnered with Morley Community School to do outreach projects to bring together the two communities. Students have taken part in recognition of land ceremonies and youth leadership opportunities in the hopes of fostering a future together that can truly be meaningful, powerful and relevant to their future.

Through working hand in hand on the land in Morley Community and Calgary, both school communities are able become better advocates and pro-environment supporters. public to one that also serves over 150 industry members.



Lacombe Composite High School's "EcoVision"

Lacombe

EcoVision grows student leaders through student-led projects. Everything they attempt needs to enhance the environment, education, and their community. Over the years, they have accomplished numerous projects such as the installation of a 6.0 kW solar system in 2010 and a two-acre outdoor garden with drip irrigation.



Evergreen Theatre Society

Calgary

The Evergreen Theatre Society aims to create, facilitate and empower youth by fostering meaningful curriculum-based theatrical programming that explores and inspires; innovation, stewardship and sustainability through the intersection of education, art, science and community.

Since its inception in 1991, the Evergreen Theatre Society has grown and expanded in diverse ways, without ever losing sight of its commitment to young audiences and the fine art of science. While touring shows and residency programs remain flagship endeavors, programming now includes the Big Green Puppet Bus, home school programs, and Drama Camp.



abcrc 

CONGRATULATES

THE 2021

EMERALD AWARD

WINNERS

AND NOMINEES

ABCRC is a proud community partner of the Emerald Awards and sponsor of the School & Classroom grant. We believe strongly in educating Alberta's youth to become the next generation of environmentally minded leaders!



Youth



PlantForever

Edmonton

PlantForever was founded in 2017 by environmentalist Marmik Patel, who was 15 at the time. When Marmik noticed a potential for urban forest development on private property, he decided to take action. A year after planting his first tree, he incorporated PlantForever as a nonprofit. Over the next year, Marmik established a system for tree planting, where homeowners register, and volunteers plant at their home. It was at this time, when he organized a team of high-school students to join PlantForever in designated positions like Operations, Communications, and Marketing. Since 2017, PlantForever has hosted over 25 events, planting several hundred trees across Edmonton .



Lives With Less Plastic – Jade Janzen

Cochrane

In Grade seven, Jade completed a Social Studies project on plastic that helped her realize the amount of single-use plastic used by Canadians and prompted her to do something about it. She began talking to businesses, councillors and the mayor of Cochrane, and gave a presentation to Town Council asking them to ban single use plastic bags and straws. She then started getting others involved and started Lives With Less Plastic with hopes to educate people about their environmental footprints and help them reduce their environmental footprints for the betterment of the environment and to live a life with less plastic!

LET'S CHANGE FOR CLIMATE

The City of Edmonton knows great things are meant to last, and our valuable climate and long standing partnership with the Emerald Awards are among them.

Congratulations to everyone nominated and celebrated. You inspire us to believe we can achieve our goals for sustainability.

Research shows **7 out of 10 Edmontonians are concerned about climate change** and agree on the need to act now. The City of Edmonton has integrated programs to enable residents, communities, corporations, industry and building owners/operators, to work together and reduce our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

We are taking real action through our **Climate Resilience Edmonton: Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan** and recently updated **Community Energy Transition Strategy** with an accelerated action plan to meet targets set by the Paris Agreement. Along with the **City Plan**, Edmonton is well-positioned to transition to a low carbon future, adapt to climate change and ensure clean air and water.

For more information on these and other city environmental programs, visit changeforclimate.ca.

**CHANGE
FOR CLIMATE**



**Tell
Your
Story**



Over the last 30 years, we've established ourselves as Alberta's environmental good-news storytellers.

Now we're sharing our advice, experience, and connections to help strengthen our province's environmental voice.

- Tutorials
- Webinars
- Partnerships

Learn more at
emeraldfoundation.ca/tys



Water



Pigeon Lake Watershed Management Plan – Caring for the Lake Together

Pigeon Lake

In 2006 and subsequent years, Pigeon Lake experienced blue green algae blooms, fish kills and public health advisories—leaving local residents and politicians, looking for answers. It was quickly acknowledged that collaboration, across all 12 municipalities, was essential to executing effective watershed management. The development of the Plan progressed over several years with foundational work to diagnose the issues and build consensus. The resulting 2018 Plan was built on extensive consultation and driven by volunteers, the Plan recommends action-oriented watershed policies and beneficial practices targeted for implementation by regional stakeholders.



The Bioengineering Demonstration and Education Project

Calgary

The City of Calgary and The Government of Alberta have partnered to create a project that demonstrates how bioengineering can be used to improve fish habitat and stabilize erodible river banks. Their goal is to increase awareness and understanding of how soil bioengineering structures are built, what benefits they can bring to our watershed, and how they might be used to mitigate the impacts of future flood events.



The WaterSHED North Saskatchewan River Monitoring Program

Edmonton

In this project, AEP, EPCOR, the NSWA and CoE partnered to implement a modern and enhanced river monitoring program for the NSR called WaterSHED (Water: Saskatchewan Headwaters Edmonton and Downstream). By combining consensus-based, multi-stakeholder priorities with sound science, a comprehensive network of 19 monitoring stations has been established or enhanced across the watershed. Each site combines continuous flow and water quality measurements as well as regular water quality grab samples throughout the year. This network complements and enhances AEP's existing monitoring sites on the NSR as well as contributes to AEP's ambient monitoring network across Alberta.



Air



We Care About the Air You Breathe - Calgary Region Airshed Zone

Calgary

Air quality monitoring has only been available to large cities with a population of over 30,000 people. However, the cost of the stations are over \$250,000 for set-up and another \$72,000/year for operating costs. In the Calgary region, only 4 stations have been able to operate. Now with the Portable Air Monitoring Laboratory (PAML) program (2018-2022) and the Purple Air Program, CRAZ is able to offer air monitoring bringing the PAML to the Bow Valley corridor, High River/Okotoks corridor, Canmore, and Chestermere/Rocky View corridor. Starting in 2021, CRAZ will install 28 Purple Air Sensors covering the region. The data from these air monitoring stations is available in real-time and can help residents make decisions about their health from poor air quality.



Community-Based Air Quality Monitoring - Alberta Capital Airshed

Edmonton

Alberta Capital Airshed (ACA) empowers local residents and organizations to be citizen scientists by hosting ACA air quality monitors. The data captured tells a story of neighbourhood air quality which can be compared with other locales, contribute to our regional air data analyses, and connect with our school education and community outreach programs. This network within Metro Edmonton is currently at 36 locations and quickly growing!

Calgary



Climate change impacts all of us.

It's a complex challenge that can seem overwhelming, but the solutions don't have to be.

Collectively, Calgarians are making a difference.
Learn more at **calgary.ca/ClimateProgram**





Land



Glenbow Ranch Park Foundation; 10 Years of Grassland Education

Cochrane

In 2011, Glenbow Ranch Park Foundation and Alberta Parks officially opened Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park to the public. Glenbow Ranch protects 3200 acres of native fescue grasslands and is an active cattle ranch. The Park is home to creatures big and small from moose to bumblebees, and spans 10 kms of the Bow River.

For 10 years, they have worked tirelessly to educate visitors, young and old, about grassland ecosystems. From their electric golf cart tours, which offer those with mobility issues a guided educational tour of the Park, to their Explore Grasslands Programming for children and interpretive signage, they strive to teach all about their fascinating and fragile grassland ecosystem.



WE ARE WITH YOU ALBERTA

The extraordinary and evolving circumstances around the COVID-19 pandemic are changing everything. But there is one thing we can ensure you is the same--AREF remains committed to supporting our grantees and partners, the real estate industry, and Alberta's communities.

Learn more about our community investment programme at www.aref.ab.ca



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FINALISTS AND RECIPIENTS OF THIS YEAR'S ALBERTA EMERALD AWARDS!

Energy



Edmonton's Change Homes for Climate Solar Rebate Program - City of Edmonton

Edmonton

Launched on July 29, 2019, the Change Homes for Climate Residential Solar Program is a rebate program that lowers the cost of solar panel installations for Edmonton homeowners. As of January 2021, the program catalyzed the installation of more than 240 rooftop systems totaling over 1.8 MW of solar capacity, bringing Edmonton's total installed solar capacity to 18.8 MW.



Virtuoso Energy

Calgary

Virtuoso Energy's (VE) primary business is to stop the ever-increasing damage to our environment by enabling society to live and work sustainably. VE does this by providing accurate information through turn key Solar Energy, Electric Vehicle Charging & Energy Efficiency installations. To date, Virtuoso Energy (VE) has completed over 500+ renewable energy projects in solar energy, EV charging, and energy efficiency solutions.

VE has also implemented corporate initiatives dedicated to its community and local environment. In 2018, VE started the #CITYCLEANUP local initiative as a way to give back to the community while also keeping the environment clean.



Charting the Path to a Sustainable Future: Fort Chipewyan Off-grid Solar Farm & Storage - ATCO

Calgary

Fort Chipewyan (Fort Chip), a remote community of 1,000 people, has traditionally relied on diesel generation for its electricity, due to not being connected to the main Alberta power grid. Every year, diesel is transported by trucks on winter roads that are only open for a six-week period. The community was outgrowing the existing diesel tank supply and a sustainable solution was needed. Rather than add more diesel tank storage, ATCO and 3NE installed the largest off-grid solar and storage microgrid project in Canada, reducing the community's reliance on diesel generation.

Thank You!

To the **Alberta Emerald Foundation**
and the winners and nominees of the
30th Emerald Award,
we **thank you!**

We'd like to acknowledge the hard work and perseverance that each and everyone of you do day in and day out in the interest of empowering environmental stewardship.

Thank you to AEF for providing a beautiful platform for environmental leaders to voice their accomplishments and inspiration all while educating and empowering the public.

From the BioEnergy-Solutions Team





Waste Management



Change Toothpaste Inc.

Edmonton

Change Toothpaste offers pre-packaged toothpaste tablets without the need for plastic packaging. Their toothpaste tablets come in compostable packages to eliminate any traces left in the environment after consumption. They also have retail stores selling Change Tablets, including locations that offer refill solutions to eliminate packaging. So far, Change Toothpaste has saved over 4100 tubes from the landfill and have donated over 1500 toothbrushes to homeless shelters and people in need.



Styro-Go Foam Recycling - Styro-Go Canada Inc.

Calgary

Styro-Go recycles polystyrene onsite for clients. There is virtually no other option for polystyrene recycling in Alberta for both residential and Industrial/Commercial producers. Styro-Go processes polystyrene waste, a generally single-use, hard to recycle plastic from residential sources as well as furniture & appliance, technology, pharmaceutical, and even forestry companies across Alberta. Styro-Go's efforts are reducing waste and extending the life of landfills across Alberta.



Fundraiser Sales - Cleanit Greenit Composting System Inc.

Edmonton

Since 2001 Cleanit Greenit Composting Systems Inc. (Cleanit Greenit) has organized an annual Compost Sale Fundraiser Event in Edmonton and surrounding areas for non-profit groups. Cleanit Greenit provides a unique opportunity for schools, community leagues and other non-profit organizations to raise funds while supporting the environment.

The program is designed as a simple and efficient fundraising program, and groups get to keep all the profit from their sales! In 2019 they helped raise over \$57,000 for schools and non-profit organizations. In 2018 they helped raise over \$63,500!

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT AND ALBERTANS.

As an essential service, Alberta's beverage container recycling depots are open and safe. With measures in place to keep customers and staff safe and healthy, successful collection rates are being maintained. Visit bcmb.ab.ca to find out more.

The Beverage Container Management Board congratulates all Emerald Award nominees and winners.



OPEN AND SAFE



Infrastructure



Net Zero Renovations - Solar Homes Inc Calgary

Solar Homes Inc. designs and implements plans for homeowners to get their homes to Net Zero, helping homeowners achieve their goals of emissions reductions, improved comfort, or reduced operating costs. This is achieved sometimes in a single dramatic renovation or phased over several years with a defined plan and achievable end goal. Solar Homes completed projects represent hundreds of tonnes of reduced annual emissions. Leveraging his and his team's 20-year Building Envelope experience Peter Darlington, retrofitted his own home in 2015. Since then Solar Homes has been taking homes that are draughty, expensive to operate and emissions-intensive and transforming them into high-performance thermal envelopes that are capable of generating all the energy the family needs.



The Confluence

Waiparous

Located in the Summer Village of Waiparous, Alberta, this unique, environmentally regenerative, 2,238 sq.ft. residence is one of the greenest homes on the planet! Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT), Woodpecker European Timber Framing, and an Alberta family have partnered to construct a one-of-a-kind home in the foothills of southern Alberta — one that produces more energy than it uses, captures water on-site, and creates a positive impact on its people and environment.



Public Engagement & Outreach



Creating Environmental Literacy Among Alberta's Future Generations - Alberta Tomorrow Foundation

Cochrane

Alberta Tomorrow's free, data-rich, online, interactive planning tool is designed for students, teachers and all Albertans interested in the future of our province. Originally created in 2005 by Matthew Carlson and Dr. Brad Stelfox of ALCES Landscape & Land-Use Ltd the simulation tool introduces students to real life decisions and tradeoffs, while building environmentally mindful citizens of the future. The program has grown quickly in scope and reach under the leadership of Jennifer Janzen, the Executive Director of Alberta Tomorrow.



WILD Outside Youth Leadership Program - Canadian Wildlife Federation

Calgary & Edmonton

WILD Outside is a free and fully inclusive national conservation-based youth leadership program designed for youth ages 15- 18. By participating in this unique and flexible program young Canadians, including Albertans, experience opportunities for personal growth while developing and encouraging their own "conservation ethic." Youth enjoy opportunities for outdoor adventure and immersive nature experiences. They also connect with other local participants in the planning and delivery of community-based conservation service projects in their own community designed to have a positive impact on their local environment.

Public Engagement & Outreach



Defend Alberta Parks - Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - Northern & Southern Alberta Chapters (CPAWS) & The Alberta Environmental Network

Provincewide

With the help of thousands of volunteers and supporters from across Alberta, Defend Alberta Parks aimed to protect 175 parks that were under threat of delisting and closing under the Government of Alberta's "Optimizing Alberta Parks" plan. Throughout 2020 the team worked to raise public awareness of the issue, address misinformation, encourage Albertans to write or call their MLA, and support other grassroots efforts. In December 2020, the Government of Alberta walked back the "Optimizing Alberta Parks" plan and confirmed all park sites would remain protected.

A promotional poster for the podcast 'What On EARTH Can We Do?'. The background is dark blue with white stars. On the left is a cartoon illustration of the Earth with a face, looking surprised or concerned, with its mouth open. To the right of the Earth, the text 'What On EARTH Can We Do?' is written in large, bold, white letters. Above this, in smaller green text, it says 'Join hosts Colleen Nuc and Gregory Caswell as they ask Emerald recipients'. Below the main title, in orange text, it says 'Catch up on past episodes wherever you get your podcasts.' At the bottom, in orange text, it says 'Season 3 coming this October, presented by'. In the bottom right corner is the 'eco-growth' logo, which consists of a green square with a white 'e' inside, followed by the text 'eco-growth' in a sans-serif font, with the tagline 'A new perspective on waste' in smaller text below it.

Join hosts Colleen Nuc and Gregory Caswell
as they ask Emerald recipients

What On EARTH Can We Do?

*Catch up on past episodes
wherever you get your podcasts.*

Season 3 coming this October, presented by

The logo for 'eco-growth' features a green square with a white stylized 'e' inside. To the right of the square, the words 'eco-growth' are written in a blue, sans-serif font. Below this, in a smaller, lighter blue font, is the tagline 'A new perspective on waste'.

Shared Footprints Award



Happiness By The Acre

Didsbury

Happiness by the Acre are first generation farmers that bring some fresh & interesting perspectives to local agriculture. Their farm work primarily draws on regenerative agriculture practices, with the focus of improving the land by promoting soil health, regrowth and rebuilding an entire ecosystem. They are working on multiple fronts to improve soil health, water health, wildlife habitat, local economics, and improve food quality and security within Alberta.



Vermilion River Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Project - Vermilion River Watershed Alliance (VRWA)

Vermilion

In the spirit of shared environmental goals and collaboration, the VRWA worked with local, agricultural landowners, municipalities, and students to enhance and restore over 20 kilometres of riparian areas along the Vermilion River, creeks, and tributaries and 157 hectares of wetlands within the Vermilion River Watershed. In partnership with the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance, and through grant funding from the Alberta Government and Environment and Climate Change Canada, participants proposed a variety of projects on their land that would protect wetlands and riparian zones. Over 30 landowners participated in the brand-new program over the course of four years (2016-2019).



Conservation today. A prosperous tomorrow.

Alberta has a strong history of environmental conservation, thanks in large part to the efforts of governments, businesses, non-profit organizations, Indigenous communities and everyday Albertans. Conserving our air, land, water and biodiversity is not only a moral obligation, but a tremendous source of provincial pride.

Congratulations to all the 2021 Emerald Award finalists and thank you for your continued commitment to environmental excellence.



Lifetime Achievement



Pat Letizia

Calgary

Pat Letizia has worked with Alberta Ecotrust Foundation for 25 of its 30 year history and led the organization as Executive Director and CEO for over 20 of those years. In the past 25 years, she has had many achievements as a leader, partnership broker and advocate for Alberta's environmental nonprofit sector including:

- Leading environmental grant programs that have disbursed over \$11M to 734 environmental projects in the issue areas of land use, water and climate change
- Brokering significant partnerships supporting environmental projects including a landmark 25-year \$1.25M agreement with corporate partner Encana in 2002 and, more recently, the \$44M Climate Innovation Fund endowment partnership with Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the City of Edmonton and the City of Calgary as part of the Low Carbon Cities Canada Network in 2020
- Championing ongoing sector needs assessment research and network mapping beginning with 2003's Maximizing Effectiveness to improve the effectiveness of grant programs, create relevant capacity building programs and advocate for needs of the sector with other funders by sharing the story of the sector through events like Picture a Province in 2012
- Co-founding and serving on the Boards of vital networks like Canadian Environmental Grantmakers Network (now Environment Funders Canada) and Calgary Chamber of Voluntary Organizations
- And so much more!

Lifetime Achievement



Honourable Mention: Dirk and Nanja Struck of the Barrelman Inc.

Calgary

The Barrelman Inc started as a pilot project 20 years ago after Dirk Struck and Nanja started seeing that hundreds of food-grade plastic barrels were going into landfills at their work due to high recycling fees at the time. Dirk and Nanja decided to repurpose these barrels into a rainwater harvesting tool, rain barrels, to reduce plastic waste and help organizations like Green Calgary to fundraise for climate education. Their decades-long partnership with Green Calgary has helped thousands of Calgarians to conserve water at their homes while keeping high-grade plastic out of the landfill! Together, The Barrelman Inc and Green Calgary have diverted over 780,000 kg of plastic from landfills.

Responsible Energy for Tomorrow

We're excited to sponsor the 2021 Emerald Awards and celebrate these tremendous individuals and their outstanding environmental efforts.

Congratulations to Pat Letizia for receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award and thank you to all the contributors supporting climate action in Alberta!



Headquartered in Edmonton, Capital Power is a power producer with operations across North America and a plan to be net carbon neutral by 2050.

capitalpower.com

Capital Power
RESPONSIBLE ENERGY
FOR TOMORROW

Thank You

Community Partners

We are grateful for our sponsors who are dedicated to creating a bright future for our province and our planet. Their support is essential to the success of our mission to showcase and inspire environmental achievements across Alberta.



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**Looking for ways to support the AEF?
Let's chat!**



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Emerald
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