

32nd Annual

Emerald

Awards



*Showcasing, inspiring, and
empowering Alberta's
environmental achievements*



**Alberta
Emerald
Foundation**

emeraldfoundation.ca

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[#EmeraldAwards2023](https://twitter.com/EmeraldAwards2023)



Alberta Emerald Foundation

Mission

To showcase, inspire, and empower Alberta's environmental achievements.

Vision

Through our actions, we contribute to a more sustainable future for all.

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.



Program

The 32nd Annual Emerald Awards

June 7th, 2023

Zeidler Hall, Citadel Theatre - Edmonton

4:00 PM

Teaching by Elder Okimaskwiw Ekti Margaret Cardinal

Opening remarks

Award Presentations

Project Categories

- Air presented by Emissions Reduction Alberta
- Energy
- Infrastructure presented by Alberta Real Estate Foundation
- Land
- Public Engagement & Outreach
- Waste Management presented by Alberta Recycling Management Authority
- Water presented by the Government of Alberta
- Wildlife & Biodiversity presented by the City of Edmonton
- Shared Footprints Award presented by the City of Calgary

Musical Performance by Chubby Cree

Legacy Categories

- Business
- Community Group or Nonprofit presented by Syncrude Canada Ltd. operated by Suncor
- Education presented by ABCRC
- Government
- Youth presented by Capital Power
- Lifetime Achievement Award

6:30 PM

Catered reception in Shoctor Lobby



32nd

Emerald

Awards

For over 30 years, the Emerald Awards have been showcasing and celebrating Albertans who are raising the bar in addressing environmental and climate change issues. In doing so, a standard of excellence is set that inspires others in their own practices. Since their inception, the Emerald Awards have showcased the environmental achievements of nearly 400 recipients and 900 finalists. To date, the Emerald Awards remain the only award program in Canada that recognizes environmental excellence across all sectors.

What began in 1992 as an initiative developed by then Minister for the Environment, Ralph Klein, McLennan Ross LLP, and Deloitte and Touche, has evolved into year-round programming that aims to tell Alberta's environmental good-news stories to uplift, educate, and inspire our province toward meeting environmental and climate action goals

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.

The nomination process

Nominations for the 32nd Annual Emerald Awards opened on November 1, 2022 and closed on February 14, 2023. This year, we received an incredible response from across the province, with 51 nominations representing urban, rural and specialized municipalities.

Each year The AEF tasks a third-party panel of volunteer judges to review all nominations, select the shortlist and determine who will be the finalists and recipients at the Emerald Awards ceremony. Our judges bring expertise from various sectors across Alberta, making sure that a diverse and informed perspective is brought to each nomination.

Nominations are judged on the following criteria:

- Degree of environmental benefits and impact
- Degree of community impact
- Alignment with The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
- Alignment with the Seventh Generation Principle

What do Emerald Award recipients receive?

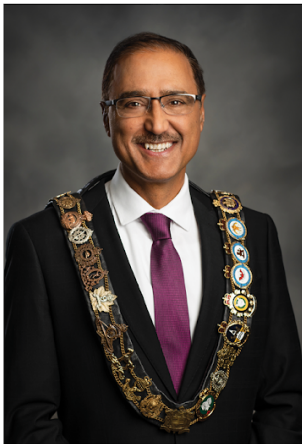
In addition to an award certificate and digital logo, Emerald Award recipients receive a \$2,000 grant and a profile of their work through our [Sharing Stories program](#), which includes the [Emerald Documentary Series](#), [What On EARTH Can We Do? podcast](#), and [Environmental Speakers Series](#). We're grateful to our sponsors whose generous support make these grants and programs possible.

When do nominations for the next Emerald Awards open?

Nominations for the 33rd Annual Emerald Awards will open November 1, 2023. You can [sign up for our monthly newsletter, Elevate](#), and follow us on social media to get notified when nominations open and stay up to date on Alberta's environmental good news stories.



Message from His Worship Mayor Amarjeet Sohi



On behalf of City Council and the people of Edmonton, it's my pleasure to welcome you to the 32nd Annual Emerald Awards.

We know the climate is changing and responding to climate change is a key city building initiative for Edmonton. The decisions we make today will set the course for our future climate resilience.

We are pushing our boundaries as a sustainable and resilient city. Change for Climate is a call to all Edmontonians to reduce our city's greenhouse gas emissions by 35 per cent relative to 2005 levels by 2035 and to produce net-zero GHG emissions by 2050.

This will take the efforts of our entire community and we are grateful for the efforts of the organizations and individuals that are being recognized through these awards.

Many thanks to all who are working to protect our outdoor spaces that make our city such a beautiful place.

And thank you to the Alberta Emerald Foundation for uplifting, educating and inspiring our province toward environmental sustainability and climate action goals.

A. Sohi

Amarjeet Sohi

MAYOR, CITY OF EDMONTON



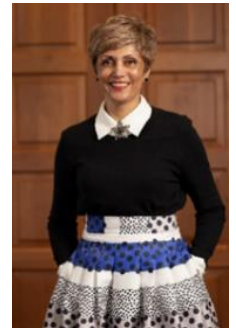


Calgary

Mayor Jyoti Gondek

A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR GONDEK

On behalf of my City Council colleagues, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 32nd Annual Emerald Awards! The Emerald Awards have brought the community together for more than three decades, showcasing exciting initiatives and sharing ideas for a more sustainable future.



Reviewing the finalists for this year's awards, I am encouraged by the excellent work that is being undertaken across the province in our collective efforts to reduce our environmental footprint and move towards the important goal of NetZero. Calgary City Council recognizes that cities must play an active role in climate innovation which is why we've included climate resilience as a strategic priority for the City of Calgary and are proud sponsors of today's event.

Thank you to everyone who is working towards this important goal and bringing all your most creative ideas, passion, and resources to the critical challenge at hand. To all those nominated – congratulations. You will inspire even more Albertans to take positive environmental action.

A big thanks also goes to the Alberta Emerald foundation for being our environmental good-news storyteller. In a world of negative news stories and big challenges, it is important to showcase, inspire and empower Alberta's environmental achievements. Thank you for your contributions and for hosting this year's awards.

Sincerely,

Jyoti Gondek
Mayor of Calgary

Town of Canmore

902 7 Avenue

Canmore, Alberta T1W 3K1

Phone: 403.678.1500 | Fax: 403.678.1534

www.canmore.ca



On behalf of Town of Canmore Council, I would like to extend my congratulations to all the nominees and recipients of the 32nd Annual Emerald Awards.

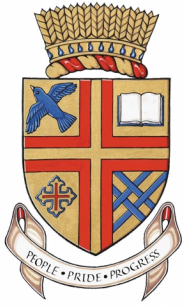
Canmore is committed to protecting and preserving our natural environment, while living sustainably. We continue to work to combat climate change and prepare for climate adaptation through our programs and initiatives, especially through transitioning to clean energy, advocating for net zero building standards, and supporting alternate modes of transportation in and around the community.

It is my pleasure to recognize the Bow Valley Green Energy Cooperative (BVGEC) for being shortlisted. We are fortunate to have a grassroots volunteer organization in the valley committed to bringing our community renewable energy projects. Organizations like BVGEC are part of what makes me proud to call Canmore home.

Thank you to the Alberta Emerald Foundation for the work you do to shine the spotlight on environmental leaders in Alberta.

Mayor Sean Krausert
Town of Canmore





Mayor Grant Creasey

City of Lacombe
5432 56 Avenue
Lacombe, Alberta
T4L 1E9

Phone: 403-782-6666
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gcreasey@lacombe.ca
www.lacombe.ca

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

May 31, 2023

32nd Annual Emerald Awards

9910 103 Street NW, Edmonton AB, T5K 2V7

780-938-6177

www.emerald.foundation.ca

Re: Alberta Emerald Shortlisted Recipients

On behalf of Lacombe City Council, I congratulate the shortlisted recipients of the 32nd Annual Alberta Emerald Awards.

As you are aware, Alberta is home to diverse, pristine landscapes which welcome guests from all over the world. To truly cherish how lucky Albertans are to enjoy the natural beauty of our home, the onus is on us all to conserve our environment with dedication, ingenuity, and creativity.

The shortlisted recipients for the 32nd Annual Emerald Awards have all shown a willingness to make small changes for the greater environmental good. In many cases, Emerald Award Recipients have demonstrated a willingness to make short-term financial sacrifices for all Albertans' long-term health and prosperity.

I commend you for your commitment to environmental, social, and economic sustainability in Alberta.

Furthermore, it is a distinct pleasure to recognize Lacombe's Blindman Brewery for its Emerald Award win in the Air Category. Blindman is a local success story that has established our community as a premier destination for craft beer lovers across Western Canada.

This award for Blindman's CO₂ Capture and Utilization system shows that owner Hans Doef and his dedicated team understand how economic viability aligns with ecological viability. Their example serves as an outstanding model for others in the craft beer industry and throughout our province.

Congratulations to all the 32nd Annual Emerald Award Recipients. Lacombe is proud one of our own businesses stand with all of you as a champion for our environmental future.

Sincerely,



Mayor Grant Creasey



Alberta Emerald Foundation Board Chair *Lee Funke - President, Torque Communications*



On behalf of the Alberta Emerald Foundation's (AEF) Board of Directors, welcome to the 32nd Annual Emerald Awards.

The AEF has a distinguished history of honouring Alberta's environmental leaders through the Emerald Awards, recognizing nearly 400 recipients and 900 finalists since 1992. Tonight, we welcome 39 organizations, projects, and individuals from all corners of the province to the Emerald Awards legacy, 15 of which will be announced as this year's recipients. Each one of these groups provides an inspiring story of extraordinary leadership and innovation in their approach to environmental stewardship and climate action. They all merit acknowledgment and respect for their outstanding accomplishments.

Congratulations to each of you!

The Emerald Awards wouldn't be possible without the dedication and expertise of our third-party panel of volunteer judges. Each judge volunteers over 50 hours of their time, energy, and expertise each year to select our shortlist and recipients. Their commitment, passion, and enthusiasm to a measured and fair outcome contributes to the success of the Foundation and Emerald Awards in immeasurable ways. For that, we thank you.

Finally, I would like to thank our partners and donors, both past and present, whose continued support of the AEF is critical in helping us tell Alberta's environmental good-news stories. Thanks to their support, we're able to uplift, educate, and inspire our province toward meeting environmental and climate action goals.

Please join me in recognizing, celebrating, and congratulating the 32nd Annual Emerald Awards recipients and finalists.

Sincerely,

Lee Funke
AEF Board Chair



Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Chair

Lee Funke

President, Torque Communications

Treasurer & Finance Committee Chair

Rebecca Grant

FM Global Deepwater Wells, Shell

Communications & Outreach Committee Chair

Jen Silverthorn

Environmental Management Leader, City of
Calgary

Directors

Che-Wei Chung - Chief Operating Officer,
Alberta Recycling Management Authority

Patrick Jones - Regional Director,
Sustainability Fairmont Chateau Lake
Louise

Christine Hornung - SomeArtyGirl

April Moon - Vice President - Asset
Performance, Power & Emission Strategy-
Liquids Pipelines, Enbridge

Past-Chair

Mark Brostrom

Governance Committee Chair

Trina Innes

Executive Director, Sustainability Services,
Municipal Climate Change Action Centre

Resource Development Committee Chair

John Parkins

Professor, Environmental Sociology, University
of Alberta

Debbie Rheinstein - Teacher for Calgary
Board of Education

Anna Kauffman - Director of Environment,
Alberta Forest Products Association

Cam Lane - Executive Director,
Intergovernmental Relations and
Engagement Strategy and Governance
Division, Alberta Environment and
Protected Areas



A message from the AEF staff



Sabrina Huot, Communications & Engagement Specialist (left) and Marisa Orfei, Executive Director (right)

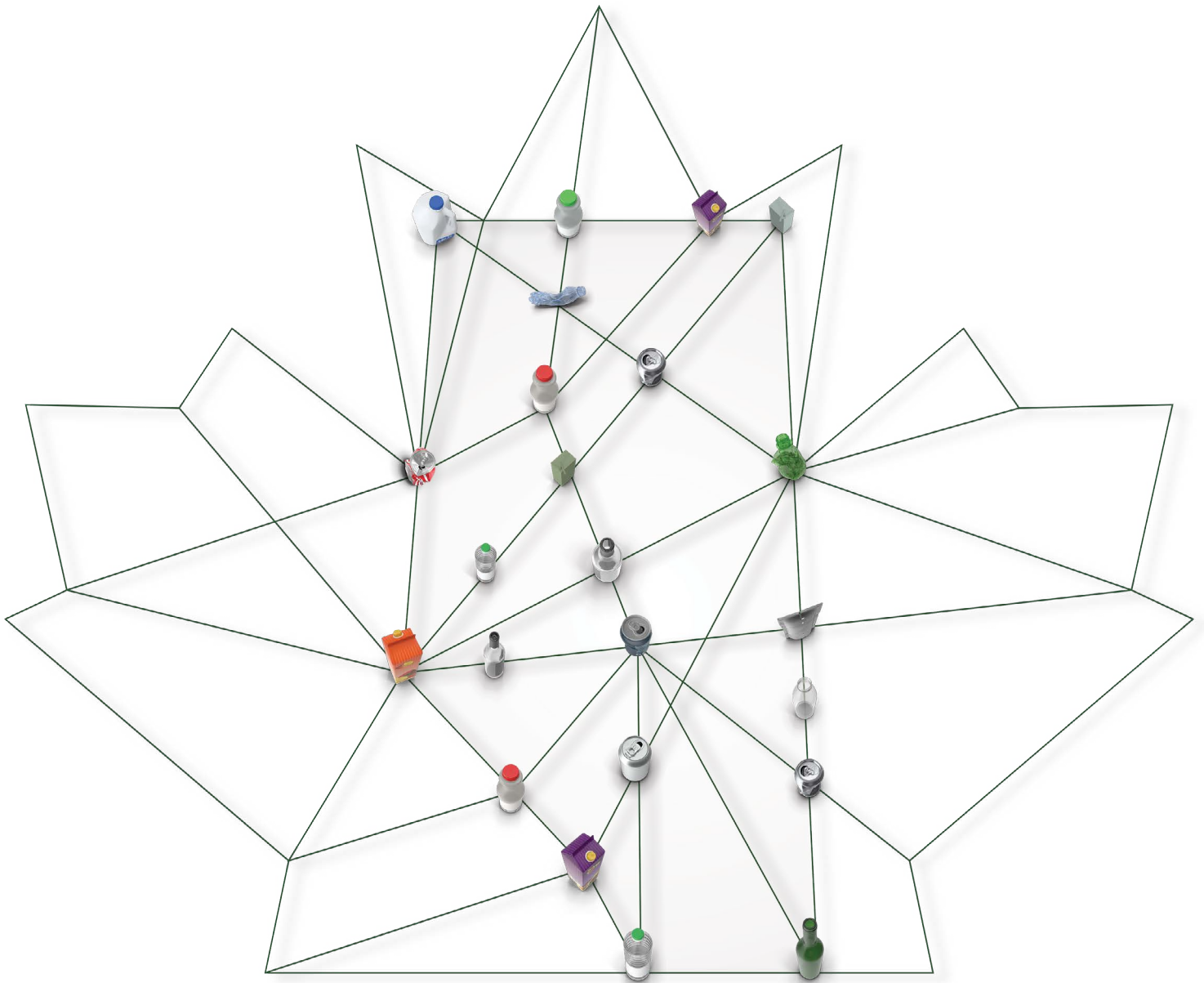
Welcome to the 32nd Annual Emerald Awards!

Tonight marks the culmination of months of hard work at the AEF and years of work from our Emerald Awards shortlist. We're grateful for the opportunity to gather as a community to recognize and celebrate environmental leaders from all corners of our beautiful province.

Thanks to the support of our partners, we're able to not only uplift Alberta's environmental leaders this evening, but throughout the year by sharing their stories through our Emerald Documentary Series, Environmental Speaker Series, and What On EARTH Can We Do? podcast. By sharing these stories, we help to educate and inspire our province to take action to help protect our environment and mitigate the effects of climate change.

We can't wait for you to learn all about these incredible leaders and innovators!

- Marisa & Sabrina



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ALBERTA BEVERAGE CONTAINER RECYCLING CORPORATION



Special Guests



Julian Faid

Emerald Awards Host

Julian Faid is a facilitator, host, and performer with over twenty two years of professional improvisational theatre experience. He has performed at festivals worldwide and has taught improv skills to c-suite executives, non-profit organisations, and high-performance teams. Julian is also a qualitative researcher, writer, and project manager who works in mobility innovations and the future of sustainable cities. He holds a BA in Sociology, a Graduate Diploma in Marketing and Communications, and an MSc in Environmental Sociology. His work includes publication in the Canadian Journal of Urban Research and reports for organizations and governments across Canada.



Chubby Cree

Musical Guest

Chubby Cree is a First Nations, Indigenous hand drum group consisting of Noah Green with his larger-than-life voice, and grandmother Carol Powder. Singing by eight months old and having his own drum months later, Noah began performing live at the age of two. Steeped in traditional Cree music and culture, Carol has taught all of her children and grandchildren and was trained at a young age by her then-99-year-old grandfather.



Special Guests



Okimaskwiw Ekti Margaret Cardinal Indigenous Knowledge Keeper

Elder Okimaskwiw Ekti Margaret Cardinal was raised in a Northern Plains Cree family which maintained, practised and taught the values of traditional Cree culture. Originally from Saddle Lake First Nations in north eastern Alberta.

Ekti is the longest serving member of the Regional Environmental Action Committee (REAC) since 1990. In 1992, REAC was incorporated as a non-profit, society with two hundred members all around the Lesser Slave Lake region. A group of concerned citizens who continue to be involved in projects to help our environment.

Ekti and her partner David live on the shores of Lesser Slave Lake, in a solar- and wind-powered house, off grid, which they started building in 1992 and continue to finish.

Powering a sustainable future for people and planet

We're creating innovative electricity solutions to electrify the world reliably and affordably while protecting the planet for future generations.

To be net zero by 2045, we're pursuing innovation in thermal generation, including carbon capture technology, and developing a robust portfolio of renewable assets.

Capital Power is proud to celebrate the future generations of environmental innovators nominated in the Alberta Emerald Awards Youth category.



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Capital Power 



Judges



Mortimer Capriles

Director of Sustainability and Innovation, Goodwill Industries of Alberta

Mortimer Capriles has been the Director of Sustainability and Innovation at Goodwill Industries of Alberta since January 2018. His responsibilities include leadership of all sustainability projects, including sustainability reporting and stakeholder engagement, he is also responsible for the Goodwill Impact Centres in Edmonton and Calgary. Capriles holds an Executive MBA, a Bachelor's degree in Geography, a Diploma in Hospitality management, and several postgraduate certificates related to sustainability, environmental planning, and leadership. He also holds the Environmental Professional Certification awarded by Eco Canada and the Global Sustainability Practitioner certification (CSR-P).



Bradley Peter

Professional Biologist and Executive Director of the Alberta Lake Management Society

Bradley Peter is a professional biologist and the 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



Tina Petrow

City Councillor for the City of Airdrie

Tina is currently serving in her second term as a City Councillor for the City of Airdrie. She has served as Vice-Chair on Airdrie's Environmental Advisory Board for the past three years and is also in her third year serving as a member of the Alberta Municipalities Sustainability and Environment Committee.

Tina believes in empowering community members to live sustainable lives through tangible and easy practices. She is a champion for initiatives that promote edible landscaping and local food sustainability, water conservation and down to earth practices, that work with nature, instead of against it.



Sarah Fulton

Sr. Manager, Climate Change at CN

Sarah is the Sr. Manager, Climate Change at CN. She's 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.



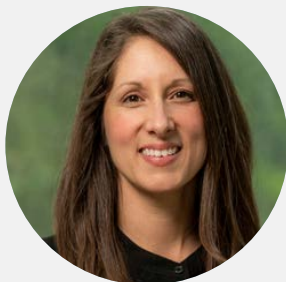
Judges



Michael Nemeth

Senior Advisor, Agricultural and Environmental Sustainability,
Nutrien

Mike is a Professional Agrologist (P.Ag.) in the practice areas of Environmental Impact Assessment and Mitigation Planning and Water Resources Planning and Management and registered as an Environmental Professional (EP) with the ECO Canada Certification Program. He provides decision and policy support for government, municipalities, and various industry sectors through collaborative processes. Mike currently serves on the Board of Directors for Inside Education and for Field to Market Canada. Mike has previously served as an Advisory Board Member for the Alliance for Water Stewardship North America, as well as the Board of Directors for the Bow River Basin Council, a member of the Alberta Chamber of Resources Responsible Development Committee, and on numerous other boards.



Katie Kohlenberg

Director of Operations, Senior IPD Coach and Senior
Sustainability Project Lead , EcoAmmo Sustainable Consulting

Katie 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



Kelsey Dokis-Jansen

PhD student, Faculty of Native Studies, University of Alberta

Kelsey is Anishinaabe and a PhD student at the University of Alberta. Her research is focused on Indigenous governance, community development, and land-based conservation and research practice. She also completed her BSc in Environmental and Conservation Sciences and MSc in Risk and Community Resilience at UAlberta. Kelsey's initial post-secondary and professional background was focused on Environmental Technology, working primarily on environmental and cultural assessments on and near First Nations lands in southern Alberta. Kelsey has always been driven by a desire to see Indigenous peoples as fully engaged partners in the management of land in their territories, bringing together the wisdom of traditional knowledge with the tools of science to understand and care for the land.



Davin Johnson

Alberta Program Advisor, Cleanfarmc Inc.

Davin Johnson is the Alberta Program Advisor of Cleanfarms Inc., a non-profit industry stewardship organization committed to environmental responsibility through properly managing agricultural plastic packaging and product waste. He has worked with Cleanfarms since 2013 as a consultant in the unwanted pesticide and animal health medication collection program and now coordinates all of Cleanfarms' stewardship programs in Alberta.



Judges



Melissa Radu

Director of Social and Environmental Sustainability, Explore Edmonton Corporation

As Director of Social and Environmental Sustainability at 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.



Ruth DeSantis

Corporate Environmental Specialist, Climate & Environment Planning & Development Services, City of Calgary

Ruth has over 15 years' experience working in the environmental field as a Researcher, Business Development Officer and currently as a Corporate Environmental Specialist. She resides in Treaty 7 territories and is grateful for all that it provides. She works on a variety of projects from flood resiliency to caribou and recreation planning and air quality management. She acts in leading and supporting roles to ensure that Albertan's voices are heard through the engagement process. She's IAP2 certified in Public Participation, holds a Master's degree from the University of Guelph in climate change adaptation and considers herself a lifelong learner.

**CHANGE
FOR CLIMATE**

**LET'S
MAKE A
CHANGE FOR
CLIMATE...
TOGETHER**

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Edmonton

Project Categories

Showcasing the Albertan environmental projects and initiatives that have addressed and mitigated the effects of local, regional, and global environmental issues by achieving excellence aligned to current environmental priorities.





Blindman Brewing

First-in-Canada CO₂ Capture and Utilization

Lacombe, Alberta

Blindman Brewing is the first in Canada to utilize carbon capture in the brewing process of craft beer, paving the way to wide-spread adoption by brewers in Canada--and around the world. Usually the CO₂ that's produced during the fermentation process of beer is vented into the atmosphere, but instead, Blindman is taking that CO₂ and capturing it. Once the CO₂ is captured, scrubbed, and compressed, it's ready to use to carbonate beer and run canning lines, helping to reduce costs and GHG emissions associated with the brewing process. So far Blindman has mitigated GHG emissions and created 10 metric tonnes of food grade CO₂, which otherwise would have been purchased at \$1300/tonne.

DELIVERING RESULTS THE WORLD NEEDS

Thank you for being part of the Alberta's incredible emissions reduction story!

Together, we are scaling up innovation that will ensure Alberta succeeds in a net zero world.





Community Based Monitoring of Alberta's Lakes

LakeKeepers

Edmonton, Alberta

Participants in this program are equipped and trained to collect water quality measurements and samples from the waterbody of their choice. In the summer, environmental samples and observations are collected from personal watercrafts, while in the winter, participants venture onto the ice for sample collection. Participants filter and preserve their samples, then submit them to the Alberta Lake Management Society for analysis. Following each season, data is uploaded to an open-source data portal. Data is then compiled into water quality reports that are made available on the ALMS website and shared through public information sessions.

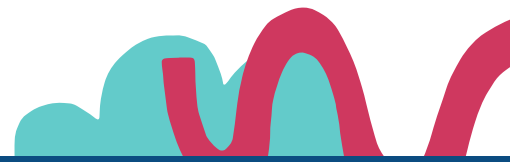


Safe water and water sustainability in Alberta

Dr. Kimura-Hara, University of Calgary

Calgary, Alberta

Pristine water supplies are being threatened by population growth, climate change, and increasing water demands by economic activities. Dr. Kimura-Hara's research helps to develop, apply, and share cutting-edge science to continue to provide safe water and address the growing concern of water sustainability for future generations. This research contributes to the future of Canadian water sustainability through the integration of chemical and toxicological analysis to evaluate new engineering processes and their efficacy to produce safe waters from wastewater-impacted sources.



Water

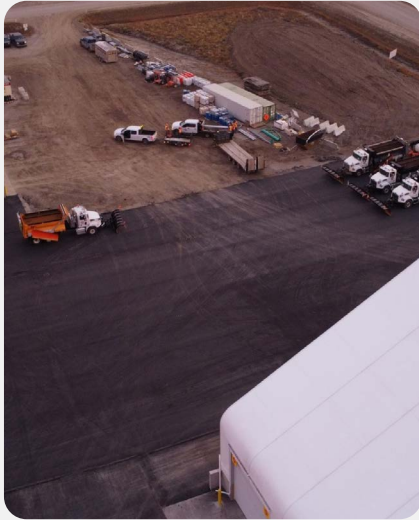


Forest industry collaboration cultivates sustainability around vital wetland ecosystems

Alberta Pacific Forest Industries Inc., Canfor, Ducks Unlimited Canada, the Forest Products Association of Canada, Tolko Industries Ltd., West Fraser, and Weyerhaeuser Company.

Alberta-wide

The Forest Management Wetland Stewardship Initiative's (FMWSI) mission is to advance wetland stewardship in the boreal forest through sustainable forest management. Working together since 2017, the initiative takes an innovative approach by leveraging the knowledge and resources of seven committed organizations to find solutions to shared challenges. Together, members have collaboratively selected wetland and waterfowl stewardship projects that are of mutual interest to all partners with the goal of developing resources that forest practitioners can use when working in and around boreal wetlands.



Highway Maintenance Yard Upgrades

Ledcor

Edmonton, Alberta

With sustainability as one of their core values, Ledcor is well aware of the associated risks when using salt and sand in their winter operations. That's why their Highway Maintenance team is working hard to reduce salt contamination and prevent the chronic increase of salt concentration. Through consultation with adjacent property owners, external engineering consultants, Ledcor subject matter experts, and Alberta Environment and Parks, Ledcor has updated their Environmental Management Plan to implement numerous preventative measures. So far, Ledcor has upgraded 2 of their 11 yards with plans to upgrade the remaining 9.



Willow Plantation for Marginal Land Improvement and Carbon Capture

The City of Calgary

Calgary, Alberta

The City's demonstration project began in 2013 with a goal to assess the potential to improve Alberta's arable land base through the beneficial reuse of biosolids recovered from leading-edge wastewater treatment processes. The City's Wastewater Treatment Operational Performance Team worked closely with project consultant SYLVIS Environmental's Biosolids Management Team and a private rural landowner to initiate two demonstration projects which involved land application of dewatered biosolids to marginal agricultural land to provide a nutrient source to foster the establishment of a 300 hectare short-rotation coppice willow plantation.

Wildlife & Biodiversity

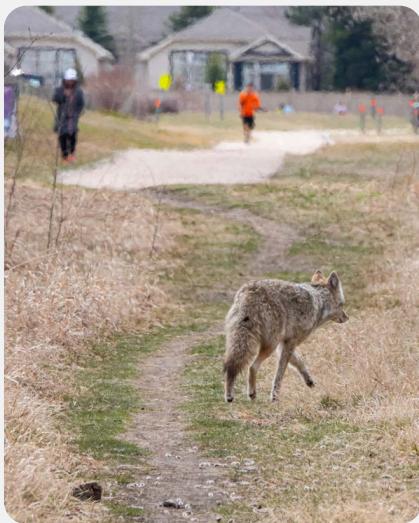


Caribou Patrol Program: 11 years of saving Alberta's caribou

Aseniwuche Winewak Nation

Grande Cache, Alberta

This program prevents caribou deaths on Highway 40 during migration seasons and provides education to raise awareness of the issue among drivers and the public. The sacred and important knowledge from their Elders guide them and their youth and inspire them to make a better future. The Caribou Patrol Program is most directly guided by the Cree principles of nehiyaw pimatisiwin, nehiyawewin, wakhôtowin, and manâcihtâwin.



The Edmonton Urban Coyote Project: Collaborative Research and Education for Coexistence with Wildlife

Dr. Colleen Cassady St. Clair, University of Alberta

Edmonton, Alberta

This project began in 2009 and is based in the lab of Dr. Colleen Cassady St. Clair at the University of Alberta. It addresses rising reports by people of conflict with coyotes that are occurring in Edmonton and other cities across North America. Colleen and her students work collaboratively with the City of Edmonton and Animal Damage Control to research both causes of and solutions for human-coyote conflict.



Wildlife & Biodiversity



Sikome Beaver Coexistence Project

Friends of Fish Creek Provincial Park Society

Calgary, Alberta

This project aims to balance beaver and human needs throughout Fish Creek Provincial Park and challenge negative perceptions about beavers through various methods, including installing coexistence devices and culvert exclusion fencing. The project acknowledges that the visitor experience in Fish Creek Provincial Park is being affected, and believes that coexistence is not only possible but critical.

LET'S CHANGE FOR CLIMATE

Responding to climate change is crucial to our future. Building a foundation of strong climate solution leaders to advance climate change actions will help us reach our goals. The Emerald Awards continue to shine light on climate leaders who work to achieve a more sustainable community for all. The City of Edmonton is proud to be a partner and celebrate their hard work.

The City is taking real action through [Climate Resilience Edmonton: Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan](#) and the 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, and we are working with community members to reduce GHG emissions, adapt to climate change and ensure clean air and water.

To the 2023 nominees and winners, congratulations! The City of Edmonton recognizes and celebrates your achievements and commitment to climate solutions. Thank you for the incredible work you do!

You can learn more about City of Edmonton climate efforts at [change4climate.ca](https://www.edmonton.ca/change4climate).

**CHANGE
FOR CLIMATE**



Waste Management



Earth Warrior

Edmonton, Alberta

Earth Warrior strives to live in harmony with the planet by repurposing textile waste into new, sustainable items. In their repurposing process, Earth Warrior takes post-consumer textiles, as well as post-manufacturing textiles, and sorts, sanitizes and recreates them into new lifestyle products. Since launching its textile program to the public in 2020, Earth Warrior has diverted 10,593 pounds of textiles from entering local landfills.



Transforming Waste Management for a Sustainable Future

[Re] Waste

Edmonton, Alberta

[Re] Waste is here to change the way companies handle their plastic waste and reduce how much plastic ends up in landfills and our environment. They do more than just recycle and reduce waste, they redirect plastic waste from landfills and create new, usable products from recycled plastic flakes! In 2022 alone, [Re] Waste diverted over 160,000 lbs of waste from landfills.



Waste Management



Microgreens Club - A Zero Waste Initiative

Micro YYC

Calgary, Alberta

Micro YYC is an urban indoor microgreens farm that provides microgreens to local markets, grocers, and restaurants. Their latest initiative: The Microgreens Club, is an entirely zero-waste service that delivers microgreens directly to customers in reusable containers. Containers are returned each week, sanitized, and reused indefinitely.

11.2 MILLION ELECTRONICS
SINCE 2004

31.5 MILLION LITRES OF PAINT
SINCE 2008

137 MILLION TIRES
SINCE 1992

1.9 BILLION LITRES OF USED OIL
SINCE 1997

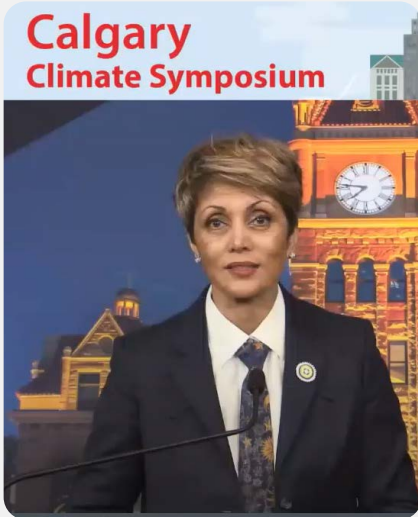
THANKS A MILLION AND A BILLION, ALBERTA!

These impressive numbers are because of the collective effort of all Albertans helping to create a cleaner, waste-free Alberta. When we work together, we grow together. Let's keep advancing the circular economy and moving towards a future without waste.

Alberta recycling
MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

albertarecycling.ca

Public Engagement & Outreach



Calgary Climate Symposium

The City of Calgary

Calgary, Alberta

This Symposium connects Albertans, local businesses, and community organizations with climate experts and city staff to share knowledge, ideas, practices in climate action, and opportunities to collaborate. The City hosted its 4th annual Climate Symposium in October 2022. It was the second symposium hosted virtually and the event gave opportunities to continue the conversation about climate change, share how it affects Calgarians, what we can do together, and why we need to talk about it.



Eco 360 program: Transitioning to a circular economy for plastic waste!

GreenLearning

Drayton Valley, Alberta

This program enables youth across Alberta and Canada to imagine a world without waste by closing the loop of a product's life cycle and creating a circular economy. The program's lessons and activities are suitable for students from grades 4 to 12. During the 2021/2022 school year, the Eco 360 challenge:

- Engaged 682 students from 17 schools
- And Diverted 700+ Kg of potential plastic waste from landfills

Public Engagement & Outreach

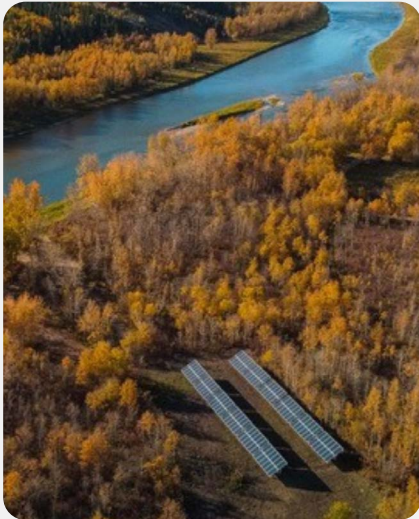


Sustainable Lifestyle and Slow Fashion Platform

My Green Closet

Edmonton, Alberta

My Green Closet is a sustainable lifestyle and fashion activism platform that has been using social media to educate, inspire, and empower citizens to reduce their impact since 2014. My Green Closet advocates for better industry practices and spreads consumer awareness regarding the environmental impact of clothing. Content is created with the primary goal of taking complex environmental and ethical manufacturing topics and breaking them down by creating easy-to-understand guides, helpful resources, and sharing accessible steps we can all take.



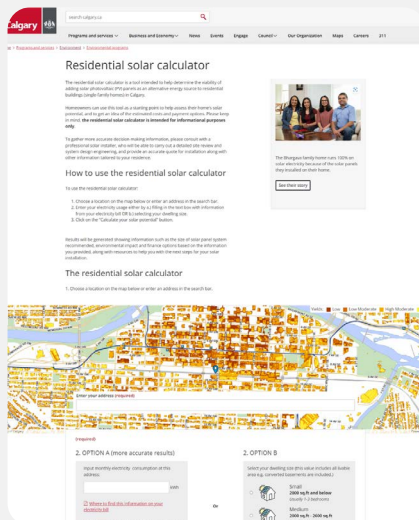
Climate Change Action Plan

Metis Nation of Alberta

Edmonton, Alberta

This Plan was developed following the Annual General Assembly in 2017. In response, it was launched and includes five core strategic goals, including:

- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions across MNA institutions and providing citizens the tools needed to reduce their household GHG emissions.
- Increasing capacity to implement climate change programs, and
- Increasing understanding of climate change and encouraging social change to take action



Calgary's Residential Solar Calculator

The City of Calgary

Calgary, Alberta

This calculator is an in-house solution to help drive solar adoption in Calgary. The Calculator is purpose-built and uses local data to provide the most accurate estimate of the value of solar for residents. The data is also unique to each individual home, considering roof area, shape, slope as well as present obstructions and shading from nearby trees or buildings.



Empowering community to transform Alberta's energy

Bow Valley Green Energy Cooperative

Canmore, Alberta

The Bow Valley Green Energy Cooperative is a grassroots, volunteer-run organization that's facilitating the creation of community-owned renewable energy generation projects in the Bow Valley and beyond. These projects, created through pooling human and financial resources, help to reduce emissions, support the local low-carbon economy, and offer social justice solutions at the community scale. To date, they've installed 138 kilowatts of solar panels and generated approximately 19.3-megawatt hours of energy offsetting 15.5 tons of carbon dioxide



Infrastructure



Transforming the AEC Industry Towards a Net Zero Built Environment

Smart Sustainable Resilient Infrastructure Association

Edmonton, Alberta

SSRIA is a non-profit association that's taking a collaborative and industry-led approach to accelerate the adoption of innovative solutions that reduce carbon in the built environment. They're actioning their mission through demonstration projects, business growth services, and sharing the latest expertise in innovative low carbon building technologies, products, and practices. To date SSRIA has supported 20 residential and commercial infrastructure projects that demonstrate low carbon design techniques, building materials, and technologies.



Solar Aquatic Systems Wastewater Treatment

Brazeau County

Cynthia, Alberta

The goal of this project is to treat wastewater to a high quality while keeping the facility footprint small and using green technology. The Solar Aquatic system uses the principles of agricultural practices to consume the pollutants and nutrients that are found in wastewater and may also prevent microplastics from entering our waterways. Some environmentally friendly processes included in this facility are: passive heating from windows, passive solar heat collection panels and no chemical usage in effluent treatment.



Infrastructure



Building Houses from Recycled Plastic Bottles

Ecoplast Solutions

Lloydminster, Alberta

Ecoplast manufactures building materials made from 100% recycled plastic bottles and uses the product to design and build high-performance dwellings. This revolutionary green building technology provides a sustainable solution that enables circular economics in the construction industry. Depending on its size, one Ecoplast dwelling upcycles between 600,000 and 2 million plastic bottles and can be assembled in as little as three days on-site.

Shared Footprints Award



Growing an alternative food community on a foundation of healthy soil

Highfield Regenerative Farm

Calgary, Alberta

Highfield Regenerative Farm is located on 15 acres in the heart of an industrial community in the city of Calgary. The farm is transforming under-utilized industrial land into a vibrant and productive urban farm through soil revitalization, food production and community programming. They strive to create a vibrant, creative and inspired urban community hub, centred around biodiverse land, regenerative local food, compost and soil health, education, and meaningful work.



Working Together to Protect the North Saskatchewan River Valley

Edmonton River Valley Conservation Coalition (ERVCC)

Edmonton, Alberta

The ERVCC supports the conservation and restoration of Edmonton's North Saskatchewan River valley and ravine system through a systems-level focus on biodiversity, the ecological integrity of the corridor, and history. This philosophy reflects the river valley bylaw, which states its first goal: "to ensure the preservation of the natural character and environment of the North Saskatchewan River Valley and its Ravine System."

Calgary



Climate change impacts all of us.

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

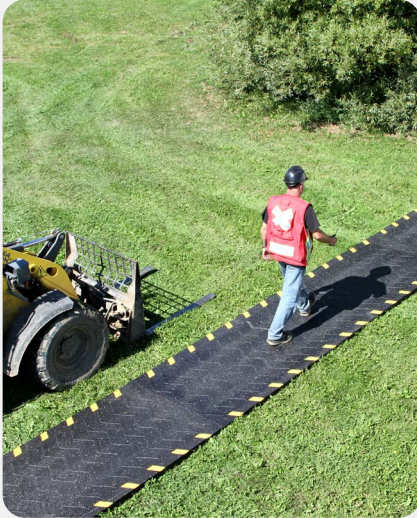
Collectively, Calgarians are making a difference. Learn more at calgary.ca/ClimateProgram



Legacy Categories

Celebrating an organization or individual's legacy of environmental excellence in addressing and mitigating the effects of local, regional, and global climate and environmental issues.

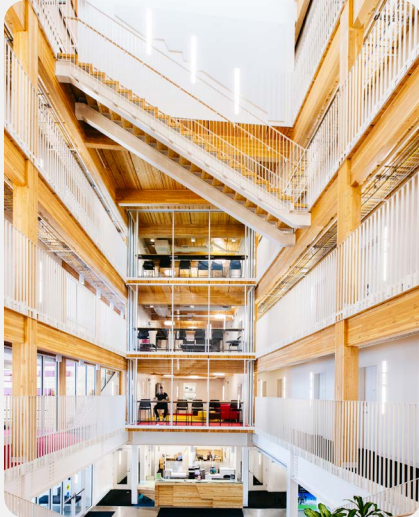




Eco-Flex Recycled Rubber Solutions

Legal, Alberta

Eco-Flex uses recycled tires and creates products that will last for decades. These products can be used around the house, in the automotive industry, oil and gas industry and for municipalities and schools looking for a more sustainable solution. Eco-Flex reduces the number of tires going to waste or laying in stockpiles and has found a way to use a scrap material in a valuable manner for the environment.



Reimagine Architects

26 Years Building Sustainable Futures

Edmonton, Alberta

For over 26 years, Reimagine Architects has been creating joyful journeys toward regenerative architecture through their mission to create healthy and beautiful spaces for people, in a way that treads lightly on the earth. Reimagine lives on the leading edge of sustainable design resulting in many green building “firsts”: including helping to found and lead the Canadian Green Building Council and pioneering the Canadian LEED® system.



Envirotech Geothermal

Alberta's smartest way to Net Zero!

Sherwood Park, Alberta

Envirotech Geothermal specializes in ground-source energy systems that use the earth's ability to store heat energy as a source for high-efficiency heating and cooling. Using advanced technology, their systems tap into that stored energy to provide comfort for your home or business year round. Each geothermal system installed in a typical home provides environmental benefits equal to planting 750 trees!



Community Group or Nonprofit



Project Forest

Rewilding Canada, One Forest at a Time

Edmonton, Alberta

Project Forest is a nonprofit working in partnership with conservation groups, Indigenous communities and like-minded businesses to capture carbon naturally by transitioning non-productive agricultural land into forever forests. They're passionate about creating positive change in our community by planting not just trees—but species-rich forests—that clean the air and water, increase wildlife habitat and provide opportunities for Canadians to enjoy these outdoor spaces. Since 2020, Project Forest has planted just over 240,000 seedlings!



Alberta Bike Swap

Supporting the circular economy before it was cool

Calgary, Alberta

Alberta Bike Swap has facilitated the safe buying, selling, and donating of thousands of bikes since 2011. They deliver community-based bicycle buy, sell, and donate events and resources in the form of software, bike racks, and processes to empower and enable Albertans and Canadians to embrace a cycling lifestyle. Alberta bike swap has over 70 strategic alliances, and helps fund the rebuilding of thousands of donated bikes to several of their community partners.



Community Group or Nonprofit



Green Economy Canada

Helping Alberta businesses are building a better Business-as-usual

Green Economy Canada (GEC) launches and grows Green Economy Hubs that bring together, support, and celebrate businesses of all sectors and sizes in setting and achieving sustainability targets. By doing this, they create stronger economies and more resilient communities across Canada. Through their network, 267 businesses have collectively reduced their GHG emissions by more than 373,000 tonnes of CO₂e and have set targets to reduce emissions by more than 235,000 tonnes of CO₂e annually.



**We're ensuring
reclaimed land
matches the
boreal landscape.**

South Bison Hills is one of the oldest reclaimed sites in the oil sands. With vegetation planted in the late 1980s, it's now home to a variety of plants and animals you would expect to see in the surrounding natural undisturbed landscape.

Learn more
about us



Syncrude
Operated by Suncor

Education



Future Energy Systems

Exploring Our Energy Future With The Community, Our Students, And More

Edmonton, Alberta

Future Energy Systems is a research program at The University of Alberta that believes in bringing university-level expertise to audiences at no cost. Their outreach and engagement program includes an educational book series for kids, classroom visits, lab tours, public talks, and more! FES staff and researchers have participated in over 700 outreach experiences in-person, online, and through video creation, reaching a total audience in excess of 100,000 individuals



Evergreen Theatre

A 32 Year Legacy of Inspiring Environmental Awareness & Action Through the Arts

Calgary, Alberta

For over 30 years, Evergreen Theatre has been providing programming for youth aimed at inspiring environmental awareness and action through the medium of theatre. As a non-profit charitable organization, they perform environmentally-inspired original musical shows in elementary schools, featuring curriculum-based scripts, exciting sets, props, and costumes combined with popular music parodies based on hits that kids and teachers love.



Education



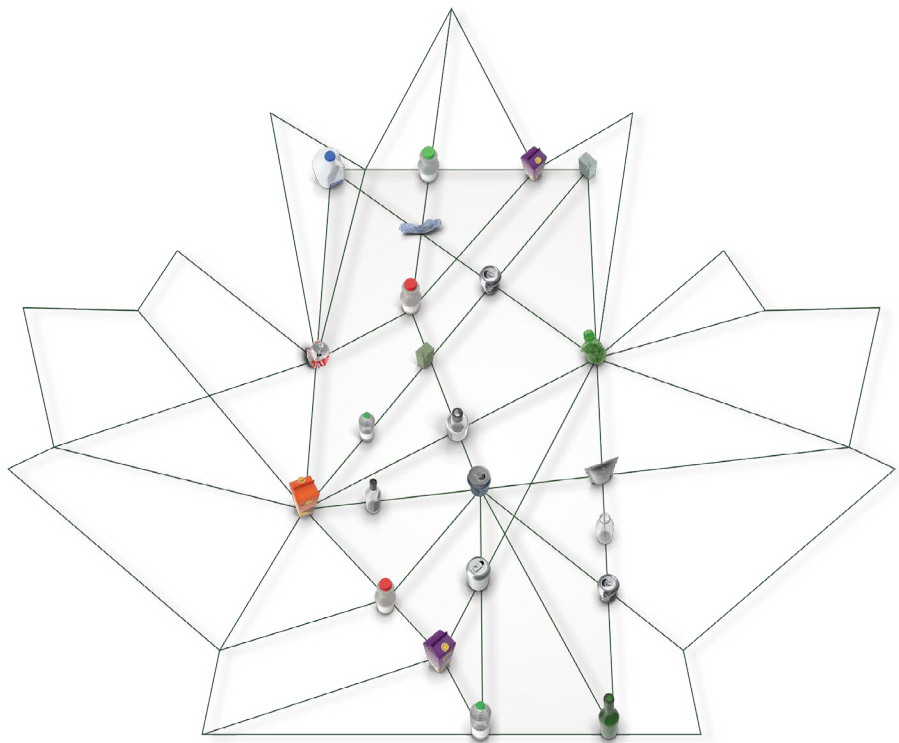
**Eagle Point-Blue Rapids Parks Council
Environmental & Outdoor Education Program**

Drayton Valley, Alberta

This Program creates and facilitates free positive outdoor learning experiences and features 27 curriculum-linked sessions to support individuals by offering nature-based adventures. They inspire adults and youth to be awakened to the beauty and wonder of our natural world, by becoming familiar with people, animals and plants that surround them. Since 2017, the program has provided 16,934 facilitated learning experiences in 10 different communities

**CANADA'S
LARGEST
BEVERAGE
CONTAINER
RECYCLING
SYSTEM IS IN
ALBERTA**

Working alongside more than 220 independent bottle depots, ABCRC operates the largest common collection system for beverage containers in Canada.



Youth



New Myrnam School

Energy & Environmental Sustainability Projects in Action
Myrnam, Alberta

Over the past 6 years, New Myrnam school has undertaken a series of challenging projects that have not only educated their students and community but have had lasting environmental impacts. The School has worked on numerous sustainability projects, including building a Sustainable Greenhouse, designing and Fabricating a Renewable Energy Vehicle, and are currently building a Net Zero Tiny Home!



Strathmore High School Community Greenhouse

Strathmore, Alberta

Designed and built by Strathmore High School students and staff beginning in the fall of 2021, this Greenhouse is a public space rich in learning opportunities around soil health, renewable energy, agriculture, and more. The Greenhouse has allowed students to become both mentors and mentees and to take ownership of a variety of projects including a school wide composting initiatives, off grid solar system, and a community co-designed permaculture landscape.



Monica Figueroa: Edmonton youth climate activist

Edmonton Youth for Climate

Edmonton, Alberta

Monica has been a leader in Edmonton Youth For Climate for over 4 years since she joined the group at age 16. Last summer, Monica led “Visions For The Future: Edmonton’s Climate Art Project”. This initiative encouraged community members to create poems, paintings, songs, and letters conveying their emotions and thoughts about the environmental crisis. Monica also led the painting of a warming stripes mural depicting global rising temperatures over the past century.



Government

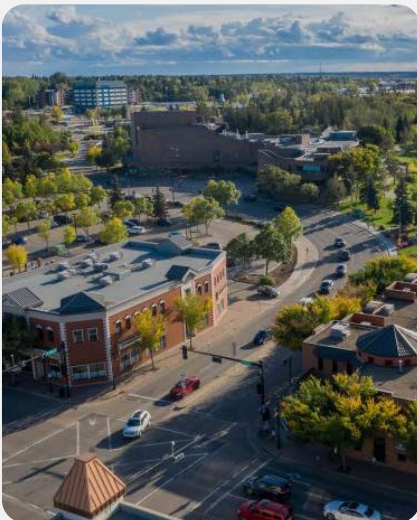


Violet Grove's Constructed Floating Wetlands System with Aeration

Brazeau County

Violet Grove, Alberta

This system uses natural wetland plants and oxygen provided by a solar powered aeration system to treat domestic wastewater from the residential units of the Hamlet of Violet Grove. As the treated wastewater is inevitably discharged into the nearby creek, this system substantially improves the wastewater quality which proceeds to make the receiving stream safer for use by humans as well as animals.



Environmental Achievements of the City of St. Albert

St. Albert, Alberta

The City of St. Albert is committed to reducing the community's carbon footprint, becoming more resilient to the effects of climate change, and becoming a more sustainable city. They're working to accomplish this in numerous ways, including committing over 5 million dollars in funding for residents through the Clean Energy Improvement Program and planning a large scale energy efficiency upgrade project at St. Albert Place.



Celebrating 25-Years of Watershed Planning, Policy and Action

Nose Creek Watershed Partnership

Airdrie, Calgary, Crossfield, Rocky View County

This Partnership was formed in 1998 to protect riparian areas and manage streamflows in the Nose Creek watershed to mitigate the impacts of flood and drought and improve water quality for water users and aquatic life. The NCWP increased understanding of streamflow, instream flow needs, water quality, and riparian condition to develop the science-based Nose Creek Watershed Water Management Plan.



Lifetime Achievement



Dirk and Nanja of The Barrelman Inc.

*25 years of protecting land and water through local action that inspires
Calgary, Alberta*

For over 25 years Dirk and Nanja Struck have been converting food-grade barrels into high-quality rain barrels designed specifically to handle the fluctuating prairie climate.

The Barrelman Inc. started when Dirk noticed food-grade plastic barrels from his work were going into the landfill. Dirk gave up his pension just 3 years before retirement and set out to make a change. He started Barrelman inc, a small family business, with his wife Nanja, and together they changed the way rainwater was captured and used in Calgary.

When Dirk and Nanja began in 1998, no one else was creating rain barrels from upcycled plastic barrels. By starting the Barrelman, Dirk and Nanja have extended the lifecycle of these barrels from single-use to 20+ years, creating high-quality, food-grade rain barrels, made of 100% recycled virgin plastic.

Each year, Dirk builds and delivers more than 3,000 barrels in Alberta, with each barrel having the potential to save an average of 3,200 litres of water annually. Additionally, with each barrel weighing 13kg, that equals to 780,000 kg of plastics diverted away from landfills.



Thank you to our partners

We're so grateful for our partners 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, inspire, and empower Alberta's environmental achievements.

Major



Annual



Emerald Awards





**Alberta
Emerald
Foundation**

Get social with us!

@albertaemerald

#EmeraldAwards2023

emeraldfoundation.ca

Want to help us showcase,
inspire, and empower
Alberta's environmental
achievements?

Let's chat!

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The Alberta Emerald Foundation is a registered nonprofit Charity CRA BN# 13380 0771 RR0001

