

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRESS REPORT 2015



Growing a clean, green and healthy Leduc

PARTNERING with *nature* 

CITY OF
Leduc 



Leduc residents are, increasingly, incorporating the support and protection of our living environment into their daily lives.

The evolution of these sound environmental habits has resulted in very positive, tangible outcomes for our healthy surroundings — with an enhanced quality of life for our residents.

The City of Leduc's established program of environmental initiatives is part of the city's larger, comprehensive civic strategic plan, ensuring appropriate integration into the work plans of all civic departments and appropriate levels of funding to ensure they can be sustained.

Support for these initiatives extends throughout our community. Families participate in events. Residents and business owners are sorting their materials and making more trips to the Eco Station than ever before. The dedication of the Leduc Environmental Advisory Board (LEAB) deserves special mention. LEAB activities are contributing significantly to Leduc's environment and quality of life.

In 2015, additional resources allocated to environmental initiatives allowed an even more robust program of policy development, program development and project implementation while continuing support for established initiatives.

CITY STEWARDSHIP

...the strategic framework for environmental initiatives

The 2014 - 2018 Leduc Strategic Plan outlines all the city's programs and initiatives that, collectively, best answer the needs and wishes of our residents and businesses while remaining financially viable.

As the strategic plan shows, the responsibility for sustaining and enhancing our healthy environment is shared by most city departments. The following overview of environmental initiatives within the plan shows the significant priority the city places on a healthy environment within Leduc.



*We are what
we repeatedly do.
Excellence, then,
is not an act,
but a habit.*

— Aristotle, Greek philosopher

LEDUC STRATEGIC PLAN *environmental initiatives*

	LEAD DEPARTMENT	KEY ACTIONS & RESULTS
Goal 1 Community Character		
1.2 Successfully host the 2016 Summer Games	Community and Protective Services	SUMMER GAMES SUSTAINABILITY GOALS (BOARD APPROVED): 1. Achieve 80% waste diversion at the LRC. 2. Utilise 100% clean energy to power the LRC. 3. Host a disposable water bottle free event. 4. Educate 5,000 visitors and residents about sustainability initiatives.
1.3 Plan and construct Phase 1 of the North Telford Park development by 2017	Community Development and Culture	This development helps preserve a key natural area while increasing residents' enjoyment of the area.
1.4 Refine and implement elements of the Phase 2 of Leduc's Downtown Master Plan	Planning and Development	The downtown master plan includes Dark Skies-compliant street lights, bicycle racks to promote alternative transportation and new receptacles that encourage recycling and organics collection.
Goal 2 Community Wellness		
2.1 Increase residential waste diversion rate to 65% by 2021	Environmental Services	KEY RESULTS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2015 curbside waste diversion rate was 52%. Residents and businesses made 5,000 more trips to the Eco Station in 2015 than in 2014. Participation at the Toxic and E-Waste Roundup increased 19% in 2015 over 2014. <i>Check out Pages 6 and 7 for more results.</i>
Goal 3 Transportation		
3.2 Evaluate and enhance Leduc's transit system and service	Public Transportation	Increased use of public transit supports good air quality by keeping more private vehicles off the roads.
Goal 4 Economic Development		
4.2 Leverage joint economic development opportunities with regional partners	Economic Development	Economic Development strategy, in partnership with regional stakeholders, promotes sustainable agri- and eco-tourism assets.
Goal 5 Regional Partnerships and Governance		
5.1 Strengthen relationship with stakeholders	All departments	Regional partners and stakeholders, including several municipalities, share best practices and resources to help achieve environmental objectives.
5.2 Review and assess regional collaboration studies		Implemented joint funding agreement with Leduc County for the Eco Station.
Goal 6 Fiscal Sustainability		
6.4 Regular review of select services for efficiency / effectiveness	All departments	Staff maximize resources to ensure both immediate and long-term program efficiencies. For example, the city's new Contaminated Sites Policy identifies potential future fiscal liabilities.



SETTING THE GROUNDWORK



Engaging Leduc's multi-family sector and business sectors was a major focus in 2015 as the Environmental Services Department gathered data required to help determine the most efficient ways to increase waste diversion in these two sectors. Data analysis and work on developing service options for the two sectors continued into 2016.

The city also completed work on several regulatory items, including prioritizing its environmental actions in the Environmental Regulatory and Responsibilities Report. This work will assist in ensuring all governing legislation and/or regulatory controls are met and due diligence is applied in its operations.

As well, the city developed a Contaminated Sites Policy and an inventory of sites potentially impacted by contamination in response to a Public Sector Accounting Board directive to all Canadian municipalities. The city confirmed Leduc has no environmental liabilities under this directive.

Communication & community outreach

Earth Hour: The city added this promotion in 2015, highlighting the importance of energy efficiency during this one-hour event.

Communities in Bloom: Leduc was awarded a rating of five Silver Blooms in 2015. The city was also given special mention for its Multiway and the Walk of Generations.

Festive initiatives: A bird tree promoting the Christmas Bird Count and giveaway paper games promoting festive environmental tips were featured at the Festival of Trees. The library's festive display included a special wreath promoting seasonal green tips.

Large item pickup: Residents disposed of 16 tonnes of large items during this annual clean-up event, held each year in May.

Committee involvement: The Capital Region is working together on a range of sustainability subjects such as waste diversion, sharing ideas and collaborating on potential solutions.

Reporting environmental progress: About 250 copies of the Environmental Progress Report 2014 were distributed to residents, environmental partners and stakeholders.



WASTE DIVERSION

We SORT SMARTer!

Program support for single-family waste diversion continued in 2015 – and work began on a comprehensive waste diversion strategy focusing on the multi-family and business sectors.

Enhancements to the Eco Station reflect its increasingly important role in Leduc waste diversion.



Policy development

Business and multi-family waste diversion:

Because the multi-family and business sectors, both serviced by the commercial hauling industry, generate almost twice as much waste as single-family residents, the city engaged business reps and owners of multi-family units to better understand the barriers they face in increasing their waste diversion and to explore options leading to greater waste diversion.

Key findings:

- A majority of multi-family unit owners and business reps surveyed agree waste reduction is the right thing to do and supported exploring additional education and services to increase waste diversion.
- Over 70% of both sectors recycle blue bag materials through the Eco Station or a commercial hauler.
- Over 30% of Leduc businesses use the Eco Station.

Eco Station: The city and Leduc County signed a shared services agreement in 2015 so both municipalities share the costs of operating the Eco Station. The agreement facilitates the expansion of the Eco Station and sets the groundwork for greater regional diversion of key products.

In the spring of 2015, Eco Station services were expanded to include free organics drop-off and longer hours of operation.

Waste audits were conducted in city facilities and outdoor downtown areas to help determine how best to reduce waste in these areas. The downtown audit resulted in a recommendation, accepted in early 2016, for having bins for three streams: waste, recycling and organics.



WHAT WE ACHIEVED

With Leduc's significant recent growth, let's celebrate the contribution of the individual household in diverting material from the landfill.

The curbside organics program, introduced in fall 2012, has resulted in diverting more than 7,200 tonnes of organic material from the landfill. This is impressive. The need for continued diligence in sorting is apparent, however, since the amount of organics and blue bag recyclables collected per household in 2015 declined. However, the amount of waste collected also decreased in 2015 – sending less waste to the landfill.

RESULTS: % RESIDENTIAL CURBSIDE DIVERSION



Curbside ORGANICS*

* INCLUDES CHRISTMAS TREES PICKED UP BY SPECIAL COLLECTION
* CURBSIDE SERVICE STARTED IN SEPTEMBER 2012



	2012	2013	2014	2015
MATERIAL COLLECTED (TONNES)	278	2,138	2,415	2,375
PER HOUSEHOLD (KG)	40	294	318	294
% DIFFERENCE / HOUSEHOLD (KG) FROM 2012				+635%

Curbside BLUE BAG RECYCLING



	2012	2013	2014	2015
MATERIAL COLLECTED (TONNES)	1,075	1,360	1,439	1,328
PER HOUSEHOLD (KG)	157	187	189	165
% DIFFERENCE / HOUSEHOLD (KG) FROM 2012				+5%

Curbside WASTE COLLECTION



	2012	2013	2014	2015
MATERIAL COLLECTED (TONNES)	4,423	3,148	3,327	3,395
PER HOUSEHOLD (KG)	644	433	437	421
% DIFFERENCE / HOUSEHOLD (KG) FROM 2012				-35%

Composting

- The Yard Waste Transfer Station continues to be useful to residents dropping off yard waste that won't fit in their organics carts, and branches.
- Residents bought 35 composters at the second annual 'Green Gold' event and picked up more than five yards of free compost.

	YARD WASTE TRANSFER STATION TONNES
2013	1,041
2014	585
2015	437



ECO STATION



	VISITS	BLUE BAG RECYCLABLES TONNES	CARDBOARD (COMPACTED ONLY) TONNES	ELECTRONIC WASTE [‡]		HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE [‡] LITRES
				UNITS	TONNES	
2013	21,651	263	N/A*	2,959	56.1	60,094
2014	20,119	344	15.39	3,316	59.5	54,608
	▲	▼	▲	▲	▲	▲
2015	25,786	271	29.65	3,944	68.6	92,865

* THE COMBINED WEIGHT OF ALL CARDBOARD (FROM COMPACTOR AND BINS) IS 89.63 TONNES
[‡] INCLUDING MATERIALS COLLECTED AT THE OCTOBER 2015 TOXIC & E-WASTE ROUNDUP

Thanks for visiting!

With its enhanced services and extended hours, visits to the Eco Station increased **26%** in 2015 over 2014.



Toxic & E-Waste Roundup

- At the 2015 Roundup, 429 vehicles entered the gate to drop off materials.
- Collected electronic (e-waste) filled a five-ton truck in just four hours.
- Household hazardous waste filled 10 bins with paint, four bins with mixed toxic material and one cage with propane.

	ELECTRONIC WASTE		HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE
	UNITS	TONNES	LITRES
2013	150	2.3	14,370
2014	104	2.1	8,010
	▲	▲	▲
2015	240	4.4	11,410



Program development & implementation

A major focus in 2015 was the development and implementation of a stakeholder engagement plan focused on the **multi-family residential sector and Leduc's business sector**. The information gathered will be instrumental in developing the best solutions for maximizing waste diversion in the two sectors.

The city operated an **organics pickup pilot project** at Caledonia Park School, Willow Park School and Christ The King Junior High School from December 2014 through June 2015. The pilot was extended at all three schools through June 2016. Results from the pilot project have been evaluated and the city is considering future program options.

The second annual **'Green Gold' event**, held May 30 and again supported by RONA, offered discounted composters and rain barrels, and free compost. The event attracted about 150 residents who bought 87 rain barrels and 35 composters. Participants picked up more than five yards of compost.

A **composting workshop for beginners** was held at the Leduc Public Library during Environment Week.

Various school initiatives took place throughout the year, including a special performance in June for all Grade 4 Leduc students.



Do you own a condo or apartment block unit that you rent or live in? We want to hear from you about how you handle waste, recycling and organics collection.

Complete the survey

If you received a short survey by mail and are the primary owner of one or more multi-family units in Leduc, you can:

- complete it online at leduc.ca, or
- call the Eco-smart Hotline at 780-980-7107 and complete it over the phone.

If you **did not** receive a survey by mail and are the primary owner of one or more multi-family units in Leduc, you can:

- complete it online at leduc.ca, or
- call the Eco-smart Hotline at 780-980-7107 and complete it over the phone.

Please complete the survey **no later than Friday, Sep. 25.**

Did you know? About 45% of the current multi-family waste stream could be diverted from the landfill.

Want project updates?

Primary owners of multi-family units in Leduc can keep up to date on plans to increase waste diversion in Leduc's multi-family sector.

Email ecosmart@leduc.ca or call the Eco-smart Hotline during business hours at 780-980-7107 to be added to the project's newsletter list.

Eco-smart Hotline: 780-980-7107 ecosmart@leduc.ca

Partnering with **nature**

15%	recyclable
30%	compostable
55%	waste

Communication & community outreach

- Multi-family residents were mailed a **special sorting tips card** encouraging greater use of the Eco Station.
- As part of the **multi-family engagement plan**, owners of one or more multi-family units in Leduc were invited to complete a survey about current waste management practices and future potential for increased waste diversion.
- As part of the business sector engagement plan, the city worked with business stakeholders including the Leduc Chamber of Commerce and the Leduc Downtown Business Association to raise awareness of the **waste diversion business survey**. The plan also involved a range of one-on-one interviews as well as an online survey targeting Leduc business reps.
- A **Sort Smarter public education campaign**, launched in September, encouraged residents to fine-tune their material sorting practices.
- A **Sort Smarter trivia challenge board** proved popular at several events including the Toxic Roundup and as part of a library Waste Reduction Week display.
- **Toxic Roundup promotion** included a new Facebook ad campaign that reached over 23,000 people.

Do you own or run a business in the City of Leduc? We want to hear from you about how you handle waste, recycling and organics collection.

Online survey . . . available at leduc.ca

The 10- to 12-minute survey asks business reps about:

- their current practices for recycling and diverting organics or other material from the waste stream,
- the volume of waste their business produces,
- the type of collection system used, and
- where they drop off recyclable and other material.

The survey also asks business reps what could be done to encourage more recycling and composting, and to divert other materials currently

Who can complete the survey?

One business rep from each business located within the City of Leduc is encouraged to complete the survey.

Business reps do not have to own the property at which their business is located to participate in the survey.

Enter to win

Business reps completing the survey may enter a random draw to win one of five \$100 gift cards from Leduc Staples.

Did you know?

Paper and cardboard — which could be recycled — **15%** of Leduc's

Thanks to the Chamber and the Downtown Business Association

The City of Leduc gratefully acknowledges the Leduc Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Business Association for distributing the survey link to their mailing lists.

Did you receive the email from the Leduc Regional Chamber of Commerce or the DBA? You can either follow the email link or go to leduc.ca to complete the same survey. Responses are limited to one survey per business.

Eco-smart Hotline: 780-980-7107 ecosmart@leduc.ca

Partnering with **nature**

ENHANCING *our natural areas*

The city continues its work to protect our natural areas while encouraging residents to enjoy them year round.

Program development & implementation

The city is reviewing its *Integrated Pest Management Plan* to develop Leduc-specific policies and procedures that promote healthy vegetation and guide environmentally sensitive pest control activities on public land. The review was initiated in 2015 and continues in 2016.



WHAT WE ACHIEVED:



Good looking!

Participants in the spring bird count spotted **16 new species of birds** not seen during past Leduc bird counts.

SPRING BIRD COUNT

	Birds	Bird Species
2013:	1,645	97
2014:	3,179	109
2015:	1,022	101

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

	Birds	Bird Species
2013:	357	25
2014:	690	31
2015:	677	30

TREES PLANTED

2013:	900	600 during Arbour Day and 300 during TD Tree days, all at Deer Valley Ravine
2014:	960	600 during Arbour Day and 360 during TD Tree Days, all at Aileen Faller Park
2015:	600	Barclay Dog Park (no TD Tree days in 2015)

TREE PLANTING VOLUNTEERS

2012/13:	2014:	2015:
235	215	70





MANAGING *our precious water resources*

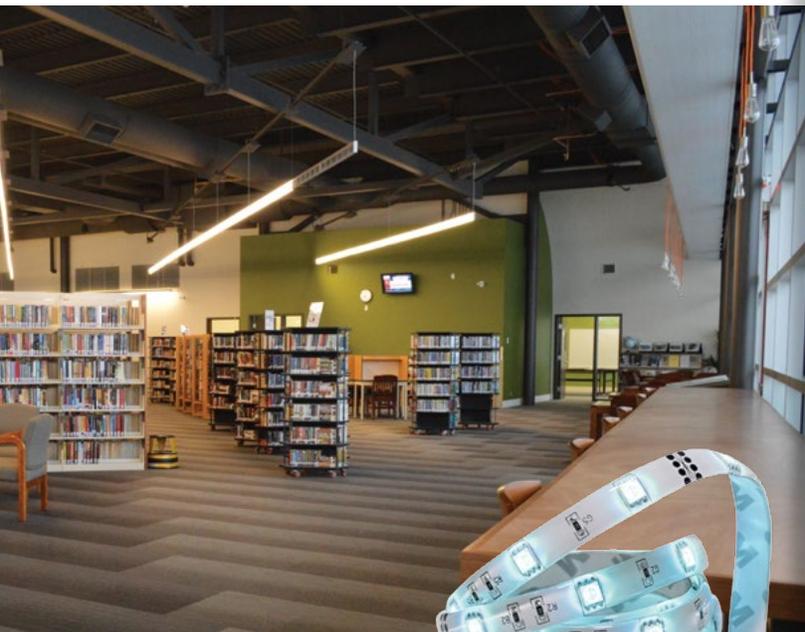
Policy development

The city is participating in a cooperative municipal initiative, the Blackmud / Whitemud Watershed Drainage Plan Project, prompted by Alberta Environment and Parks and facilitated by the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance. The project, started in 2015 and continuing through 2016, ensures cumulative effects on the watershed as a result of future development are understood and mitigation strategies identified.

Program development & implementation

- Leduc's Weather and Climate Readiness Plan, approved in 2014, was presented at a province-wide climate readiness event hosted by Alberta Environment and the Municipal Climate Change Action Centre (MCCAC) and held in Leduc.
- Leduc Mayor Greg Krischke presented on climate readiness at the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) conference in Calgary.
- To prepare for the hot, dry summer, the city implemented a water conservation public education campaign that encouraged residents to reduce water use where possible, particularly for lawn watering.





ENERGY CONSERVATION

– *reducing our
carbon footprint*

Program development & implementation

- LED strip lighting was installed in the new energy-efficient library, opened in 2015. This durable lighting system, new to the market and to Leduc, minimizes electricity use.
- In 2015, 840 tonnes of wood chips made from branches dropped off at the Yard Waste Transfer Station were turned into renewable energy at the Dapp Power Biofuels Recycling Centre.

SUSTAINABILITY

*at the 2016
Alberta Summer Games*

Games organizers are building sustainability into the fabric of the games, scheduled for July 14-17, 2016 in Leduc.

More than 3,000 athletes, coaches and officials – and thousands of spectators – will be encouraged to support Leduc's healthy environment in areas from waste diversion to renewable power, from eliminating single-use plastic water bottles to fun – and free – public education.

Sustainability goals:

- 1 Achieve 80% waste diversion at the Leduc Recreation Centre (LRC).
- 2 Power the LRC with 100% clean energy.
- 3 Host a disposable water bottle free event.
- 4 Educate 5,000 visitors and residents about sustainability at the games.



TRANSIT ENHANCEMENTS

result in record ridership

Leduc Transit enjoyed a record year in 2015 as it continued to enhance rider convenience.

Two heated bus shelters – the first ever in Leduc – were installed in the City of Leduc and Leduc County, offering riders a significant upgrade in comfort. The heated shelters are located at stop #100 (50th Street and 47th Avenue) in Leduc and at stop #300 (Leduc County Centre) in Leduc County.

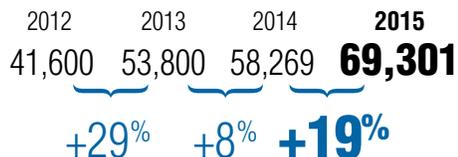
Leduc Transit is an inter-municipal transit partnership between the City of Leduc and Leduc County, funded in part by the Government of Alberta's Green Transit Incentives Program (Green TRIP). Leduc Transit provides service between Leduc and Edmonton, and three local routes connecting Leduc, the Leduc Business Park, Nisku and the Edmonton International Airport (EIA).



WHAT WE ACHIEVED:



Increasing transit ridership reduces use of private vehicles, making a positive impact on air quality.



City staff — at work for the environment

City staff participating in a national Commuter Challenge in June were encouraged to leave their personal vehicles at home and use a more environmentally sustainable means of transportation.



WHAT WE ACHIEVED:



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

City of Leduc Civic Centre #1 Alexandra Park Leduc AB T9E 4C4

Eco-smart Hotline: 780-980-7107 E-mail: ecosmart@Leduc.ca