

## **Priorities Committee Meeting\_Apr16\_2024**

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### **STRATEGIC INITIATIVE AND UPDATE**

#### **Environmental Framework 2023 Progress Update**

##### **Report Purpose**

To provide Priorities Committee with an update on the Environmental Framework (January to December 2023).

##### **Our Strategic Goals**

Goal 3 - Responsible Development

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Goal 4 - Municipal Excellence

Goal 3 Priority - Environmental stewardship that addresses climate change and demonstrates responsible use of land and natural resources

Goal 3 Priority - Investment in our infrastructure that supports development and complete communities

Goal 4 Priority - Relationships with all levels of government and key stakeholders that are strategic, purposeful, and productive

##### **Report**

The Environmental Framework supports a coordinated approach between administrative departments and external stakeholders, by enabling them to work together, leveraging people and financial resources, and responding to community needs in context of our air, water, land, biological diversity, waste, and energy. Each topic area has a clear outcome and specific objectives identified that prioritize healthy ecosystems and set a foundation for healthy citizens. In order to tell our story, the six outcomes and 35 objectives were quantified by documenting:

- **Innovative practices** – processes and programs we have been doing since 2009.
- **Supportive tools** – plans, policies, bylaws, and standards that we have put in place since 2009.
- **Strategic initiatives** – new plans, processes, programs, policies, bylaws, or standards that focus on change, spur discussion and garner commitment. They are opportunities that may require an investment of resources.

##### **Environmental Framework Integration Team (EFIT)**

To assist Planning and Development Services in the implementation of the Framework, an EFIT consists of those department representatives that have already identified strategic initiatives documented within the Framework and those that are actively working within the topic areas.

The purpose of EFIT is to facilitate implementation of the Framework. The Terms of Reference defines roles and responsibilities of the department representatives including:

- ensure up-to-date documentation of programs, plans, policies, and strategic initiatives
- ensure coordination of programs, plans, policies, and strategic initiatives between departments and external stakeholders
- assist with research and identification of grants and funding opportunities

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- support the annual Environmental Framework reporting
- provide strategic initiative recommendations to Executive Team and Council

Members of EFIT have met quarterly to report on existing programs, plans, and policies and to review new opportunities and strategic initiatives. We have recognized subject matter experts within our existing administration. Rather than sustaining the Environmental Framework from the side of our desks, active dedication is required by all.

### **Strategic initiatives – January to December 2023**

The EFIT prioritized several strategic initiatives for 2023. A summary of those initiated, continued and/or completed in 2023 is below:

- **Air** – Zero Emission Hydrogen Transit Bus, Clean Air Award recipient, Airshed partnerships, annual tree planting program
- **Water** – Wetland Replacement Program – Uncas and Busenius projects, stormwater management facility water-quality monitoring program, naturalization, community engagement
- **Land** – Green Cities Award recipient, Contaminated Site Management Program, Responsible Livestock Ownership Bylaw, Agriculture & Food Sector Development Strategy
- **Biodiversity** – Bird Friendly Community, Community Bird Campaign, Human Wildlife Coexistence Program, Strategy developed with Beaver Hills Biosphere, Strategic Invasive Plant Management, invasive species programs, biodiversity assessments.
- **Waste** – Sort and Save Program, Love Food Hate Waste, HodgePodge Lodge, community engagement
- **Energy** – Clean Energy Improvement Program (CEIP) launch, Climate Resilience Plan initiated, Edmonton Metropolitan Region Climate “From Risk to Resilience”, EV chargers in Community Centre

### **Council and Committee History**

March 7, 2023	Priorities Committee was presented with an update on the Environmental Framework for 2022
November 22, 2022	Priorities Committee was presented with an update and recommendations on County infrastructure capacity to support electric and hydrogen vehicles
October 4, 2022	Council approved Bylaw 53-2022 Responsible Livestock Ownership Bylaw
July 5, 2022	Council approved Bylaw 34-2022 Clean Energy Improvement Program Bylaw
June 21, 2022	Priorities Committee heard an update from Alberta Capital Airshed and Fort Airshed Partnership
June 21, 2022	Priorities Committee was presented with a report on Pay as You Throw Initiative related to the Waste Management Roadmap
June 14, 2022	Council approved the Astotin Creek Resiliency Action Plan

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June 7, 2022	Priorities Committee was presented with an update on the Clean Energy Improvement Program
June 7, 2022	Priorities Committee was presented with an update on the Waste Management Roadmap for 2022
March 8, 2022	Priorities Committee was presented with an update on the Environmental Framework for 2021
June 29, 2021	Council approved the Environmental Framework
April 20, 2021	Priorities Committee received an update on the draft Environmental Framework

**Other Impacts****Policy:** n/a**Financial/Budget:** n/a**Legislative/Legal:** n/a**Interdepartmental:** All**Master Plan/Framework:** Environmental Framework**Communication Plan**

A communications strategy has been developed to support the Environmental Framework. A StoryMap is a tool being used to reinforce the story telling within the Environmental Framework. ArcGIS StoryMaps allow us to use custom maps and project-specific photos that inform and inspire. Our collective story telling can have a sense of place and be more interactive.

**Enclosure**

1 Environmental Framework 2023 Year in Review presentation