

Environmental Framework 2024 year in review

Priorities Committee
April 8, 2025



2024

Environmental Framework Year-in-Review

THE ECOSYSTEM MODEL

Ecosystems are the complex of relationships between living organisms and their physical environment. The Environmental Framework is based on the ecosystem model, and emphasizes outcomes related to living organisms (biodiversity) and their physical environment (air, water and land) as well as energy and waste management reduction strategies. The ecosystem model also helps define relationships across County departments, external agencies and our citizens, working together for a healthy community.



Our focus, reframed

Approved by Council in June of 2021, the Environmental Framework is the foundation for working together towards a future where healthy ecosystems support healthy communities in Strathcona County.

Telling our story

- 180 innovative practices in action
- 130 supportive tools in action
- 250+ strategic initiatives to consider



Environmental Framework Integration Team (EFIT)

Over 30 participants from 10 departments are represented on the EFIT and participate in quarterly meetings to share knowledge, report on progress, and discuss EF implementation challenges and opportunities.



Zero Emission Hydrogen Bus

- In active service

In partnership with Alberta Capital Airshed (ACA) & Heartland Air Monitoring Partnership (HAMP)

- Hosted ACA's Clean Air Forum
- ACA Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) 92.6% low risk
- HAMP Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) 91.4% low risk

Annual Tree Planting Program

- 887 trees, 3128 shrubs, 891 plugs = 1524 equivalent trees planted in new developments
- 560 tree seedlings planted on public utility lots
- 120 trees planted in boulevards and parks
- 70 trees and shrubs planted by Rotary Club of Sherwood Park
- 1000 trees planted by SITE Resource Group
- 40 trees planted by Salisbury Composite High School students



Community Engagement

- 3 Pond Party events
- World Water Day film and panel event

Wetland Replacement Program

- Strathcona County Regional Park proposal submitted
- Year 2 monitoring Uncas Elementary and Busenius Estates

Stormwater Management Facility Water Quality Monitoring

- Spring and fall sampling and analysis completed for 28 SWMFs

Drought Management Plan (new)



Bird Friendly Community

- Recertification obtained

Human Wildlife Coexistence Program

- 735 County Connect cases
- 949 dam breaches
- Wildlife mortality investigation

Urban Coyote Monitoring Program

- 5 cameras deployed
- Wildlife education refresh
- Hazing tools expanded

Strategic Invasive Species Program

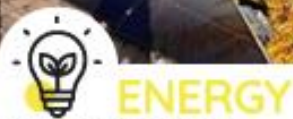
- 129 clubroot inspections, 18 pathotype locations collected
- 549 ha roadside broadcast sprayed
- 69 ha roadside spot sprayed
- 1785 kg prohibited noxious weeds manually removed
- 962 weed inspections on private property
- 341 weed notices issued, 76 friendly reminders issued, 91% voluntary compliance
- 479 weed inspections on County-owned properties
- 376 ha chemical control on 129 County-owned properties
- Biological Control pilot projects (1 site - Canada thistle rust fungus inoculation, 2 sites - leafy spurge releases, 2 sites - yellow toadflax weevil releases, 1 site - intensive grazing using sheep)

BIODIVERSITY



Wild Boar Monitoring Program

- Support Government of Alberta and Elk Island National Park
- 32 wildlife cameras deployed on public and private land
- Over 95,000 photos assessed to date
- 15 mammal and 3 bird species



Clean Energy Improvement Program

- Year 1 financing allocated
- Over \$1.1 million in upgrades committed to 38 properties, 24 completed
- Year 2 applications in progress

Climate Resilience Plan

- 4 themes, 13 objectives, 23 actions and 66 supporting actions

Lighting

- 20 additional lights retrofitted/replaced with LED dark sky friendly lighting



Agriculture Master Plan transition to Agricultural Framework

- Agricultural & Food Sector Development Strategy
- Agriculture e-newsletter (From Soil to Supper)

Drainage Charter (new)

Weed Control Charter (new)

Wildland Urban Interface park inspections

- 107 of 190 complete

FireSmart

- 108 inspections, 1400 individual engagements

Public Tree Management Directive SER-009-045D (new)



Community Engagement

- 2 Trashfest events
- Poop-a-Palooza event
- 88 classroom presentations and school tours
- 22 HodgePodge Lodge and Broadview Enviro Service tours

Award-winning HodgePodge Lodge

- Over 1.29 million pounds of materials have circulated through since opening

Catch the Cow Campaign

- Commercial Organics Waste pilot project (13 local participating businesses)

Waste Infrastructure

- Recycling receptacles in parks
- Community Gardens organic bins
- 81 Pitch-in bags brought in by participants

WASTE





OBJECTIVE A1:

Monitor air quality

OBJECTIVE A2:

Manage air quality

OBJECTIVE A3:

Educate and engage with citizens to encourage stewardship behaviours

OBJECTIVE A4:

Reduce emissions, including greenhouse gases, by reducing energy use, committing to energy efficiency, developing and using renewable energy sources

OUTCOME: Airshed sustains healthy ecosystems and healthy citizens

Strategic Initiatives (completed)

- Hosted Clean Air Forum November 13, 2024
- Alberta Capital Airshed event participation
- Alberta Zero Emission Hydrogen Transit Bus in active service
- Tree Replacement Program (year 1)

ACA AQHI 2024 = 92.6% low, 6.6% moderate, 0.6% high, 0.2% very high

HAMP AQHI 2024 = 91.4% low risk on average



OBJECTIVE W1:

Monitor water quality

OBJECTIVE W2:

Manage water quality

OBJECTIVE W3:

Monitor water quantity

OBJECTIVE W4:

Manage water quantity

OBJECTIVE W5:

Educate and engage with citizens to encourage stewardship behaviours that support water conservation

OBJECTIVE W6:

Ensure water supply meets future planning needs

OBJECTIVE W7:

Ensure the North Saskatchewan River and its tributaries are protected from pollution

OUTCOME: Watershed sustains healthy ecosystems and healthy citizens

Strategic Initiatives (completed)

- Pond Parties
- Wetland Replacement Program projects: Strathcona County Regional Park
- Stormwater Management Facility monitoring and naturalization
- Drought Management Plan
- Outdoor Watering Survey
- Premier sportsfields auto-watering

OBJECTIVE L1:
Land use planning focuses on environmental (smart growth/complete) community design

OBJECTIVE L2:
Land use development focuses on wise use and development of land and buildings

OBJECTIVE L3:
Land management builds on ecosystem resilience and includes conservation and restoration

OBJECTIVE L4:
North Saskatchewan River valley planning, use and management builds on ecosystem resilience and includes conservation and restoration

OBJECTIVE L5:
Agricultural land planning, use and management builds on ecosystem resilience and conservation

OBJECTIVE L6:
Remediate and reclaim degraded public lands

OBJECTIVE L7:
Prevent pollution and reduce the use of harmful substances on public and private land

OBJECTIVE L8:
Prevent light pollution and reduce the use of artificial light on public and private land

OBJECTIVE L9:
Educate and engage with citizens to encourage stewardship behaviours that support appropriate planning, use, and management of public and private land



OUTCOME: Land planning, use, and management sustains healthy ecosystems and healthy citizens

Strategic Initiatives (completed)

- Agriculture Master Plan
- Agriculture & Food Sector Development Strategy
- Agriculture extension revitalization
- Land Use Bylaw refresh
- Drainage Charter – culvert replacements
- Weed Control Charter – mapping complete, operations confirmed
- Wildland Urban Interface park inspections (107 of 190)
- FireSmart inspections (108)



Biodiversity



OBJECTIVE B1:

Plan for a healthy connected ecological network

OBJECTIVE B2:

Protect a healthy connected ecological network

OBJECTIVE B3:

Manage a healthy connected ecological network

OBJECTIVE B4:

Restore degraded habitats

OBJECTIVE B5:

Educate and engage with citizens to encourage stewardship behaviours that support biodiversity conservation on public and private land

OUTCOME: Biodiversity sustains healthy ecosystems and healthy citizens

Strategic Initiatives (completed)

- Bird Friendly Community recertification
- Human-Wildlife Coexistence Program
- Urban Coyote Monitoring Program
- Wildlife education refresh
- Biodiversity Monitoring Program
- Wild Boar Monitoring Program
- Biocontrol pilot projects (sheep and insects)
- Community Garden Program - ladybugs



Waste



OBJECTIVE WM1:

Monitor waste collection to ensure healthy ecosystems and healthy citizens

OBJECTIVE WM2:

Manage waste collection to ensure healthy ecosystems and healthy citizens

OBJECTIVE WM3:

Reduce waste to ensure healthy ecosystems and healthy citizens

OBJECTIVE WM4:

Educate and engage with citizens to encourage consumption behaviours that reduce waste

OUTCOME: Waste management protects healthy ecosystems and healthy citizens

Strategic Initiatives (completed)

- TrashFest, Poop-a-Palooza, classroom presentations, tours
- HodgePodge Lodge (too many awards to mention)
- Commercial Food Rescue and Waste Diversion Pilot & Catch the Cow Campaign
- Recycling receptacles on park infrastructure
- Community Gardens organic bins



Energy



OBJECTIVE E1:

Reduce energy use within municipal buildings

OBJECTIVE E2:

Reduce energy use within municipal operations

OBJECTIVE E3:

Increase energy efficiency via land use and transportation planning decisions

OBJECTIVE E4:

Increase renewable and alternative energy sources (solar, wind, geothermal)

OBJECTIVE E5:

Evaluate procurement of goods and services to increase energy efficiency and increase renewable/alternative energy sources

OBJECTIVE E6:

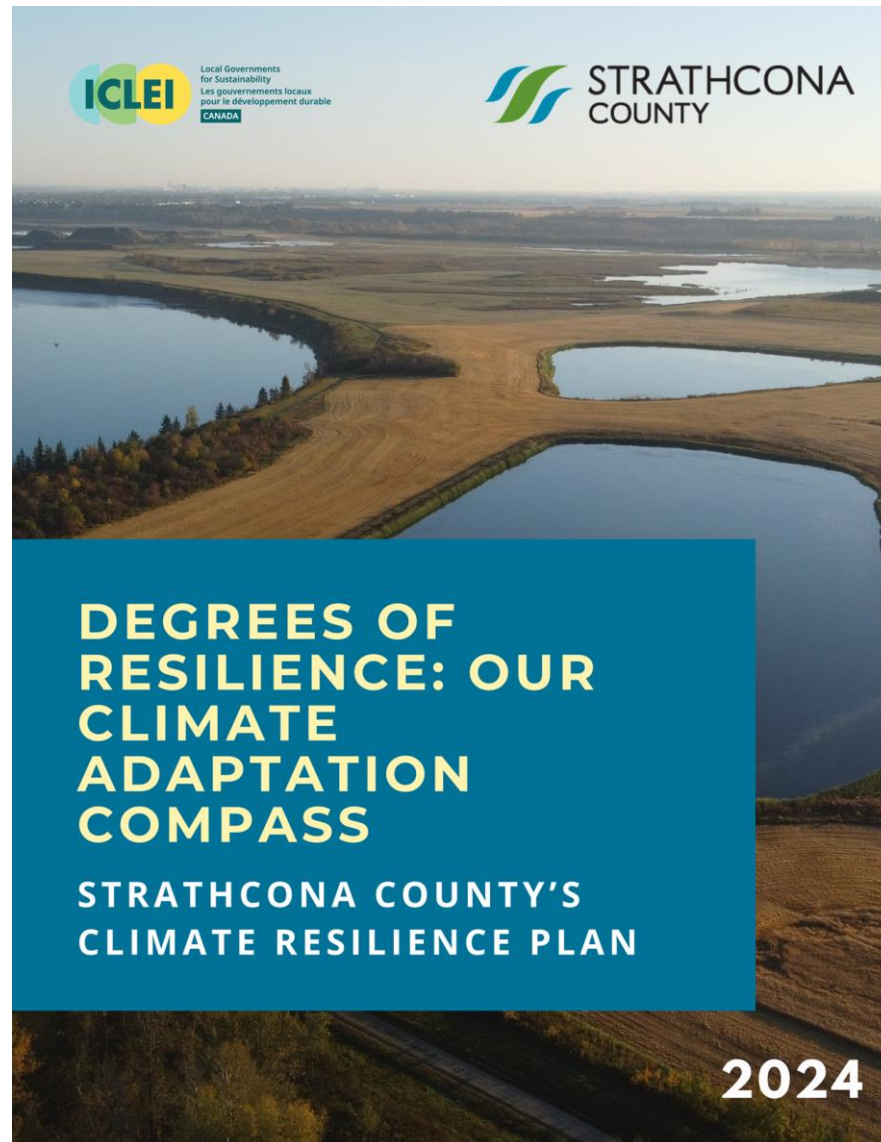
Educate and engage with citizens to encourage behaviours that support energy efficiency and the transition to renewable/alternative energy

OUTCOME: Reducing energy use, committing to energy efficiency, and embracing renewable energy sources protects healthy ecosystems and healthy citizens

Strategic Initiatives (completed)

- Clean Energy Improvement Program Year 1 financing allocated, processing Year 2 applications; over \$1.1 million in upgrades committed to 38 properties in Strathcona County, with 24 completions so far
- Climate Resilience Plan approved
- Solar grant for 17th Street pumphouse reservoir

Climate Resilience Plan



- Four themes
 - Built environment
 - People, health and the economy
 - Natural environment and agriculture
 - Resilient Governance
- Implementation to date
 - Formation of internal community of practice
 - Establishing central tracking and communication of current practice, future opportunities

Telling our Story – 2024 StoryMap

Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better.

Maya Angelou

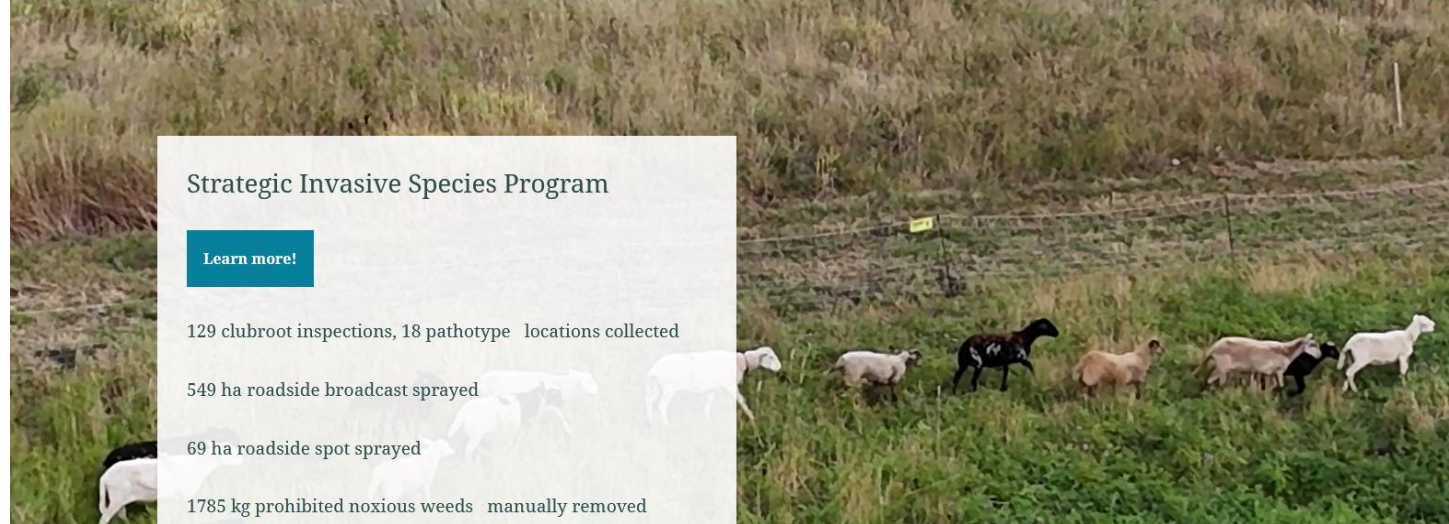
Our focus, reframed

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Telling our story



Air Water Land Biodiversity Waste Energy Renewing Our Future

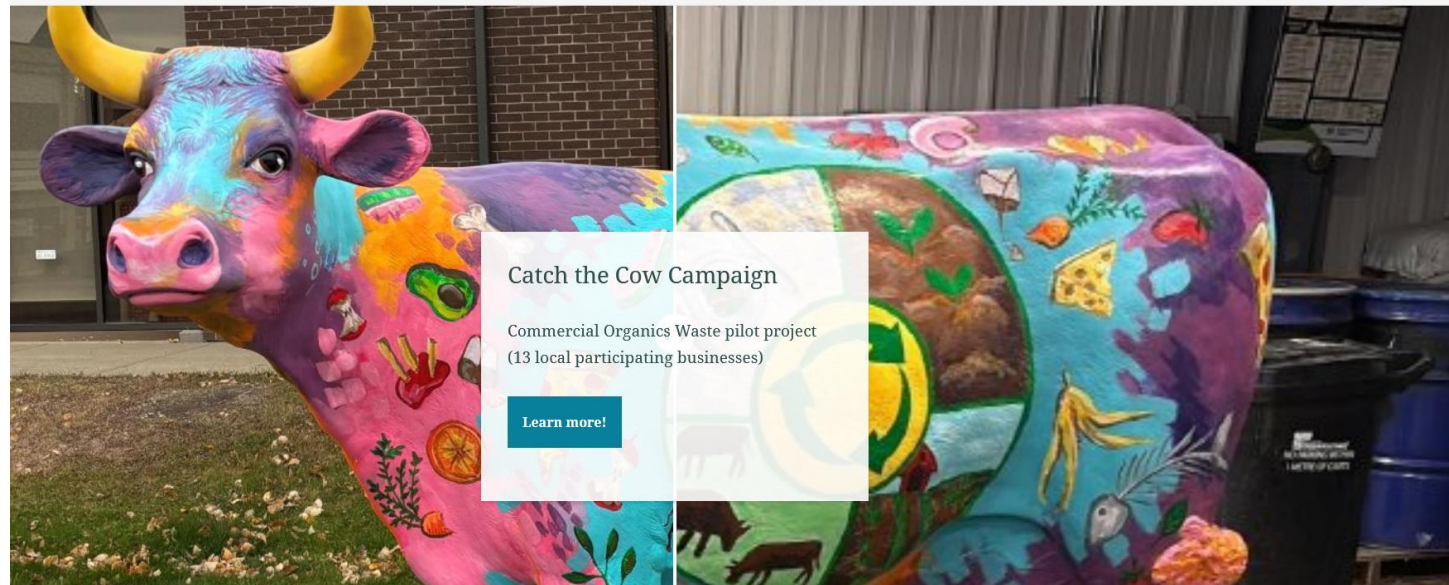


Strategic Invasive Species Program

[Learn more!](#)

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Air Water Land Biodiversity Waste Energy Renewing Our Future



Catch the Cow Campaign

Commercial Organics Waste pilot project
(13 local participating businesses)

[Learn more!](#)



2024 Air Quality Results

- ACA Air Quality Health Index (AQHI)
92.6% low risk (+4.8% from 2023)
- HAMP Air Quality Health Index (AQHI)
91.4% low risk (+7.9% from 2023)

[ACA 2023-24 Community Report](#)

[HAMP Data Reports](#)

EDMONTON EAST

AIR MONITORING STATION

AIR QUALITY HEALTH INDEX (AQHI)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 100

Low risk Moderate risk High risk Very high risk

Visit capitalairshed.ca or airquality.alberta.ca/map to learn more

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 Shannyn Morphy
FCS Catalina Humble
RPC Leslee Laing
 Kat Villeneuve
FFM Kiley Marchuk
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Thank you!
Questions?