



KEEP IT
GREEN
BEAUMONT

save THE ENVIRONMENT, save MONEY



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WHAT IS THIS PLAN ABOUT?



WHAT IS THIS PLAN ABOUT?

The **Keep it Green Beaumont** Plan is about providing goals and strategies to support the Town of Beaumont, its residents, and its businesses to work towards environmental, financial, and social sustainability.

The Town of Beaumont is committed to developing and maintaining an environment that enhances human health and fosters a transition toward sustainability. While that may sound like a hard thing to achieve, each small step and action towards sustainability will help to get Beaumont that much farther towards its goals. Keep it Green Beaumont will provide guidance and support in leading Beaumont to a future that is environmentally and financially responsible. Its aim is to provide direction and support to all the players that have a role and/or a stake in Beaumont's future, including residents, community groups, businesses, outside agencies, levels of government, and the Town of Beaumont administration and Council.

HOW DID IT GET DEVELOPED?



HOW DID IT GET DEVELOPED?

This plan was developed using information about what Beaumont is doing today in key environmental areas and by talking to residents and stakeholders. The following summarizes the information used to develop Keep it Green Beaumont:

FIGURING OUT WHAT BEAUMONT IS DOING TODAY

The first information needed to develop Keep it Green Beaumont was to find out where Beaumont stood in 2012 with environmental action. To do this, the Town developed an Environmental Baseline study. Beaumont's Environmental Baseline is a study that reviews how Beaumont functions in key areas linked to the environment. It reviewed all existing information about Beaumont from a policy and a scientific perspective and compiled the information under the following seven key topics of environmental sustainability:

- Waste Management
- Water and Wastewater Stewardship
- Energy Use
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Land Use
- Air Quality
- Sense of Community

The following provides a brief summary of the information for each key area:

WASTE MANAGEMENT

In 2012, Beaumont residents generated 6,074 tonnes of waste, and had a 26% diversion rate (2012) – results in \$232,800 in tipping fees. The new organics program was intended to increase the diversion rate, which will help save money in the long term.

WATER/WASTEWATER

In 2012, Beaumont’s existing water system has capacity to allow for future growth, water quality is good, and systems are in place for managing wastewater. Beaumont currently didn’t have any specific initiatives for water use reduction

ENERGY USE

In 2012, Beaumont residents consumed 35.4M Kwh of electricity and 666,000GJ of natural gas. Most of that energy was used in single family houses. The Town had no formal policies to manage energy use, but did monitor the Town’s operational use to review cost of service and investigate anomalies. The Town also offset 20% of its annual energy use through the purchase of renewable energy credits.

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

The Town’s 2012 greenhouse gas profile was 1.69 M GJ or 138,000 tonnes of GHGs, mostly due to transportation and housing. This was forecasted to increase by about 4%/year. The Town’s corporate profile is 42,000 GJ (4600 tonnes GHGs) and the biggest generator is the Ken Nichol Regional Recreation Centre.

LAND USE

Beaumont was one of fastest growing municipalities in Canada in 2012 and is within a Capital Region Plan priority growth area. It was 10.2km², its largest land use was low density residential housing, and it was nearly at the edge of its municipal boundary.

AIR QUALITY

In 2012, the closest air quality monitoring station was 17km north of Beaumont. Air quality levels from 2006-2011 were good or better 98% of the time, but there have been limited times when the local air quality was reduced.

SENSE OF COMMUNITY

There were over 100 community groups in Beaumont, and most of those groups were focused on family activities and sports. The Town did provide some information on how to employ environmental initiatives and practices for homeowners on the Town website.

The Environmental Baseline data helped to identify areas of strength and weakness in Beaumont’s current path to sustainability. It also provided a starting point that the Town of Beaumont can use to help identify how far they’ve come after the direction of the Keep it Green Beaumont is implemented, both now and over time.

TALKING TO PEOPLE ABOUT BEAUMONT AND THE ENVIRONMENT

It is pretty tough to know what people in Beaumont care about if you don't ask them, so the next thing that needed to happen to develop Keep it Green Beaumont was to ask people what they thought.

There were five ways that people's feedback and ideas were provided. The first was a survey in utility bills in November 2012 that over one hundred people responded to. Following that, youth-specific activities were organized for the Beaumont Community Youth Centre, which included discussions and activities with a group of 5-12 year olds and a group of teenagers. A specialized survey was also distributed to targeted businesses that operate in the community. An administration working group with Town Staff was also held to seek ideas and opportunities within the functioning of the administration. Finally, a focus group was held with residents who had identified they would be interested in finding out more following the utility survey.

There were several common themes that were heard from all of these groups:

- People care about the environment in Beaumont
- People want Beaumont to have lots of trees and clean water
- People want lots of outdoor spaces and parks geared to families
- Beaumont needs to strike the right balance between environment and economics

"I BELIEVE FOR THE
PLAN TO BE UTILIZED,
RESIDENTS NEED
TO SEE HOW THEIR
CHANGES ARE MAKING
A DIFFERENCE"

(RESIDENT SURVEY RESPONSE)

WHAT IS IT SUPPOSED TO DO FOR BEAUMONT?



WHAT IS KEEP IT GREEN BEAUMONT SUPPOSED TO DO?

Keep it Green Beaumont was developed to provide guidance and direction to help anybody and everybody in Beaumont to work towards the environmental and financial sustainability for the Town of Beaumont, both now and in the future.

Keep it Green Beaumont will achieve this goal by supporting decision-making throughout Beaumont in the following ways:

R FOR RESIDENTS:

The Keep it Green Beaumont plan will provide residents with ways they can learn about and get involved in environmental stewardship of their community, including creating programs, education resources, and opportunities for direct community involvement

B FOR BUSINESSES:

The Keep it Green Beaumont Plan will provide resources to provide businesses ways to improve their environmental performance and efficiency, and ways the Town can recognize Beaumont's great business community for the positive actions they are taking towards sustainability.

C FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS AND AGENCIES:

The Keep it Green Beaumont plan will identify ways they can get involved in supporting Beaumont's leaner, greener future.






BA FOR TOWN OF BEAUMONT ADMINISTRATION:

The Keep it Green Beaumont plan will help provide direction to improve operations, life cycle decision-making, and provide direction to help the Town prioritize investments. It will also provide the tools to provide information to the public about the positive steps being taken towards Beaumont's goals.

BC FOR TOWN OF BEAUMONT COUNCIL:

The Keep it Green Beaumont plan will provide Council with a guide to help them make decisions in keeping with a leaner, greener future for Beaumont. It will also support Council in providing information to the public about progress taken, identify ways to support community-led initiatives, and recognize Beaumont residents and businesses that are leading the way in guiding Beaumont to a sustainable future.

Watch for the symbols next to the group that best represents you. They will be used throughout the next sections to help you identify the information that impacts you most directly.

-  **R** RESIDENTS
-  **B** BUSINESSES
-  **C** COMMUNITY GROUPS
-  **BA** BEAUMONT TOWN ADMINISTRATION
-  **BC** BEAUMONT TOWN COUNCIL

WHY SHOULD I CARE?

WHY WOULD I USE THIS PLAN?



WHY SHOULD I CARE? WHY WOULD I USE THIS PLAN?

People in Beaumont are busy. Maybe you have some of these things going on in your day:

- A commute back and forth to Edmonton, Nisku, or Leduc for work
- Running kids to daycare/dayhomes, school, and/or evening sports and programs
- Doing some renovations to your home
- Getting out with the family to access some of Beaumont's great facilities

All these things probably take priority in your life over doing something like reading this plan. So, why is it worth it for you to carve out some time in your busy life to consider this plan?

YOU WANT TO SAVE MONEY, BOTH AT HOME AND ON YOUR TAXES

- This plan identifies ways that residents, businesses, and the Town itself can save money, both now and over the long term
- This plan will also provide ways that you can protect yourself and your community from expenses in the future, including rising energy prices

YOU WANT TO ENSURE YOUR CHILDREN HAVE A BRIGHT FUTURE

- This plan will help to set the framework to ensure that the Beaumont you pass on to your children is an even better place to live than what it is today.

YOU WANT TO DO YOUR PART FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

- This plan will help you to make better choices for the environment, which is good for you and for the community
- This plan will help you model responsible choices for future generations

YOU WANT TO MAINTAIN THE THINGS YOU LIKE ABOUT BEAUMONT'S ENVIRONMENT

- This plan will help Beaumont stay green and full of parks and outdoor areas for families
- This plan will help Beaumont use natural systems wisely

**WHAT CAN THIS
PLAN HELP US DO?**



HOW CAN KEEP IT GREEN BEAUMONT HELP?

The following sections will help Beaumont achieve a sustainable future by encouraging anybody and everybody in Beaumont to:

BE SOMETHING

Keep it Green Beaumont identifies goals and targets that will help guide Beaumont and its residents step-by-step towards a bright future.

LEARN SOMETHING

Keep it Green Beaumont will help identify initiatives and programs that will help inform about environmental initiatives in Beaumont, and will provide some resources for you to learn more about environmental topics of interest to you and your family.

DO SOMETHING

Keep it Green Beaumont will define the actions that need to be taken to support all that 'being something' and 'learning something' that you have already started. It will also include some tools to help you make decisions about environmental initiatives.

Each of these sections will cover the following topics:

- Waste
- Water and Wastewater
- Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Land Use
- Air Quality
- Sense of Community

The following is a summary on why each of the topics contributes towards Beaumont's overall sustainability.

“CREATING AN ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY COMMUNITY ON ALL FACETS WILL DEFINITELY CONTRIBUTE TO THE COMMUNITY IN A POSITIVE WAY. MORE PEOPLE, BUSIER BUSINESS, AND A TRUE SENSE OF COMMUNITY”

(RESIDENT SURVEY RESPONSE)



WASTE

How we dispose of solid waste is an important measure of environmental sustainability. Reducing the amount of solid waste disposed of has many benefits to the environment and the Town of Beaumont. These benefits include:

- Raising awareness about wasteful packaging and inspiring citizens to employ purchasing practices that reduce the demand for resources in packaging;
- Saving money on the cost of waste collection and infrastructure required for hauling waste to the landfill;
- Decreasing the amount of leachate from the garbage in the landfill, which, helps to protect surrounding ecosystems and minimizing mitigation costs;
- Reducing the land area designated for waste disposal that might otherwise serve as agricultural land or as natural areas.

As the regional landfill nears the end of its useful life, it is particularly imperative that residents understand that filling up land with waste comes at a high cost

IN 2012, BEAUMONT RESIDENTS GENERATED APPROXIMATELY 6,074 TONNES OF WASTE, WHICH IS EQUIVALENT TO THE AVERAGE BODY WEIGHT OF OVER 32,500 PEOPLE THROWN AWAY EACH YEAR.

to the environment and the municipal government. Currently, 335 kg of waste per person is disposed of annually, well above the provincial average of 290 kg/person/year. The goal set for solid waste disposal in Beaumont is to work towards achieving provincial goals for municipal waste diversion. Beaumont's current per capita rate is nearly double provincial goals. Striving to reach the provincial goal is an ambitious but achievable goal that will require residents to decrease their waste stream by about half. Currently in Alberta, at least 80% of material currently sent to municipal landfills can be recovered.¹ This indicates that there are likely simple initiatives that could have the potential to help reduce waste by half in Beaumont.

WATER AND WASTEWATER

Beaumont's water supply comes from an intake on the North Saskatchewan River located in Edmonton. The North Saskatchewan Watershed is part of the larger Saskatchewan River Basin, which extends through South-Central Alberta to Central Manitoba. Beaumont's drinking water is provided through the Capital Region Southwest Water Services Commission (CRSWSC) and wastewater service is provided through the Alberta Capital Region Wastewater Commission (ACRWC). Drinking water and wastewater discharge are of high quality and meet or exceed guidelines. In 2009, there was 103,864 cubic meters of water distributed to the Town of Beaumont that the town reservoir services. This required the reservoir to be filled 145.5 times².

¹ Too Good To Waste Strategy, Government of Alberta. Accessed from <http://environment.gov.ab.ca/info/library/7822.pdf>

² Town of Beaumont. Accessed from <http://www.beaumont.ab.ca/pages.php?pg1=1005&pg2=2006&pg3=3002&pg4=4006&pg5=5003#q8v>

The benefits of water conservation and stewardship include:

- Energy savings from filling the reservoir;
- Less water diversion from the river, and a more natural watershed;
- Cost savings related to treating water to drinking standards;
- Cost savings from treating sewer effluent.

Beaumont residents currently pay for drinking water, based in part, on the amount they consume, so any initiatives to increase water conservation can result in cost savings for residents.

“We as a COMMUNITY need to use our water supply wisely. We waste a LOT of water cleaning vehicles, washing driveways, and watering our green grasses during the spring, summer and fall months”

(resident survey response)

ENERGY AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Energy security and energy sustainability are becoming critical issues both locally and globally. Recent trends indicate that energy costs will continue to increase and, it is probable that the Town of Beaumont and our community members will expend a greater portion of their respective budgets on energy in the future. If energy costs do in fact continue to increase the Town and the local economy of Beaumont could be impacted.

Additionally, human activities, such as driving vehicles and heating our homes, are resulting in increased concentrations of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. In 2007, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), representing the most respected climate experts worldwide, issued a report with evidence that these activities are causing the Earth’s climate to change and that its effects will worsen if no action is taken.³

Like all communities, our community faces the risks of steadily rising, volatile energy prices and the risks of global climate change. Ensuring that a community has access to a stable, reliable and affordable energy supply is critical to supporting the economic vibrancy and the social fabric of community.

Our community can play an important role in managing greenhouse gas emissions. The Town can influence the decisions that individuals, groups and organizations make through the infrastructure the Town provides, the programs and services delivered and the relationships the Town facilitates.

³ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2007. Climate Change 2007, Synthesis Report. Available at http://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/ar4/syr/en/contents.html

While energy security, sustainability and greenhouse gas emissions management are important issues, proactively working to become an “energy wise” community can lead to a number of additional benefits which include:

1. Reducing energy costs associated with delivering services to the community;
2. Enabling residents and local businesses to reduce their energy utility bills;
3. Exploring community-based energy development opportunities to generate new revenue streams for the Town and private sector; and,
4. Demonstrating leadership in energy sustainability to leverage available resources and enhance community pride.

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT BEAUMONT'S RESIDENTIAL HOUSING STOCK HAS AN ANNUAL GHG EMISSIONS PROFILE OF APPROXIMATELY 65,000 TONNES. THIS IS EQUIVALENT TO THE ANNUAL GHG EMISSIONS OF APPROXIMATELY 12,700 PASSENGER VEHICLES

LAND USE

A community's land base is a vital resource. Using land wisely and finding an appropriate land is important for maximizing economic development, providing social cohesion, and allowing room for key environmental processes. Land is required to support vital processes including:

- Homes for people;
- Commercial and industrial economic activity;
- Recreation;
- Natural space for key ecological processes such as pollination, photosynthesis, and wildlife habitat;
- Food growth and community gardens;
- Stormwater infiltration; and
- Transportation corridors for moving of people and goods.

Balancing land use to meet all these objectives is critical to the sustainability of a community. Beaumont first developed as a French community centred on small farming community. Its very presence in its current location today is based on its use of the land resources around it to feed its people and provide goods and services to sell. While Beaumont is no longer the farm-based community it once was, it is still critical that its land resources are carefully protected.

Many people who now live in Beaumont have chosen to live here because of its small town feel and strong quality of life and high quality developments. Ensuring that can be maintained over the long term through careful use of land resources will be critical to Beaumont's long term appeal to existing and new residents.

Using land wisely also has financial benefits. Compact development patterns that are carefully planned to minimize land impact also maximize investment. For the municipality, compact development can be planned to make more effective use of existing or planned infrastructure, which will save the Town money both for long term maintenance and also for the ultimate replacement of infrastructure when it reaches the end of its useful life.

Beaumont has been one of the fastest growing municipalities in Canada in the recent past. The associated pace of development and its land related growth pressures need to be carefully monitored and managed to ensure that land use decisions provide the most benefit for Beaumont – both now and over time.



Source: Youth Consultation Session

AIR

Air quality is an increasingly important topic among scientists, policy-makers, and the public as new knowledge emerges about air pollution and its impacts on human health and the environment.

From a human health and environmental quality standpoint, the primary air pollutants of concern are: sulphur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), ground-level ozone, and fine particulate matter. Above certain thresholds these substances can negatively impact human health and environmental quality.

The Town of Beaumont is located within the Alberta Capital Airshed. There are a diversity of air pollutant sources within the airshed; most of which can be attributed to transportation vehicles, air traffic, railways, industrial activities, agricultural activities, and commercial and residential buildings.

From 2006 to 2011, the Alberta Air Quality Health Index has been rated “good” or better more than 98% of the time, based on the air quality monitoring in Edmonton South. For the same time period, the Alberta Air Quality Health Index has been rated “very good” approximately 64% of the time.

SENSE OF COMMUNITY

In some ways, sense of community is what ties everything together. Feeling accountable for your community on many scales is part of what leads residents to care for nurturing that community, whether fiscally, culturally, socially or environmentally. This portion of the plan focuses on initiatives that will build on Beaumont's already strong sense of community and draw residents together to maintain and enhance community spirit. Community spirit ultimately encourages citizens to be accountable to their community and each other, and ultimately responsible stewards and caretakers for the natural environment.

“SENSE OF COMMUNITY BRINGS DIFFERENT MEANINGS TO DIFFERENT PEOPLE. THIS TOWN IS MAJORITY YOUNG FAMILIES. BEAUMONT CAN BE PROUD FOR SUPPORTING CHILD CARE AND ADVOCATING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.”

(RESIDENT SURVEY RESPONSE)



Source: Youth Consultation Session

BE SOMETHING

Have you ever wondered what Beaumont could be like in the future? Wonder no more – here is what Beaumont and its residents want to be as they strive towards sustainability:

WASTE

BEAUMONT WANTS TO REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF WASTE REACHING LANDFILL

Beaumont wants to reduce waste to meet provincial goals, which based on current numbers, would result in a 50% reduction in waste from the current average of 335 kg / person/ year. A reduction of this type would result in significant tipping cost savings at the landfill.

In order to achieve this goal, residents, businesses, the Town, and the provincial government need to work together to reduce, reuse, and recycle. The Town of Beaumont and the Leduc and District Regional Waste Management Authority must work together to ensure that residents have many opportunities and programs to help them reduce their waste profile.

BEAUMONT WANTS TO ENCOURAGE RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES TO USE THE RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING SYSTEMS TO THEIR FULL ADVANTAGE

Related to reducing waste overall, Beaumont also wants to ensure that existing waste programs are being used as much as possible, and that businesses have access to information that can help them make decisions to reduce waste also. This will be accomplished through greater emphasis on educating the community on the programs and services offered,

monitoring their use, and making changes to make the system easier to use. It will also require working with the business community to ensure they have the information and resources they need.

WATER

BEAUMONT WANTS TO DECREASE ITS WATER USE TO BE THE SAME AS THE CANADIAN NATIONAL AVERAGE

The Town's goal is to ensure that water consumption is at the Canadian average for water consumption, which is 329 litres per person per day. This will involve measuring the current water per capita water consumption and then implementing awareness and conservation incentives.

BEAUMONT WANTS TO REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF WASTEWATER IT CREATES

Beaumont's goal is to reduce water use overall, which will have a corresponding impact of decreasing wastewater going back into the system. This will save the Town money in fees for wastewater treatment, which will also save resident money on their water bills. It also reduces the amount of effluent that needs to be treated in regional facilities.



ENERGY AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

BEAUMONT WANTS TO REDUCE MUNICIPAL ENERGY COSTS

Beaumont wants to become an "energy wise" community. This means finding opportunities to reduce energy costs, use energy more efficiently and pursuing innovative energy solutions. Reaching this goal would result in significant annual cost savings.

BEAUMONT WANTS TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Beaumont wants to reduce negative impacts energy use has on human health, such as increased concentrations of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. It also wants to ensure it has access to a stable, reliable, and affordable energy supply. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the community will help Beaumont to continue to address these challenges.

LAND

BEAUMONT WANTS TO USE ITS LAND RESOURCES WISELY

Beaumont wants to ensure that it effectively manages and directs growth in ways that will benefit the Town over the long term. This includes ensuring that new developments are diverse and provide long term community benefits, that land uses are compatible, and that the natural environment is preserved and maintained in the context of urban development.

BEAUMONT WANTS TO EFFECTIVELY MANAGE ITS INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS

Beaumont intends to ensure that its infrastructure provides the community maximum benefit for minimum long term cost. This includes ensuring that existing infrastructure is well-used and is proactively maintained to ensure it lasts for as long as it can. It also means ensuring that planned infrastructure is cost-effective and used effectively to reduce long term maintenance and replacement costs.

BEAUMONT WANTS TO ENSURE INFRASTRUCTURE IS INTEGRATED AND MULTI-USE

Beaumont intends to ensure that infrastructure investments serve multiple uses and objectives to get the most out of their investments. This includes considering how transportation infrastructure can serve motor vehicles, cyclists, pedestrians, and other modes. It also includes considering Low Impact Development, which can provide natural treatment and storage, habitat, and public amenity space as well as more conventional functions.

AIR

BEAUMONT WANTS TO SUPPORT AND MAINTAIN LOCAL AND REGIONAL AIR QUALITY

The issue of maintaining good air quality is complex and it requires on-going monitoring and in-depth understanding of meteorology and the sources of emissions. Therefore, the Town of Beaumont will work with local and regional stakeholders to continually support and maintain local and regional air quality conditions. As well, the residents of the Town of Beaumont will be knowledgeable about how the airshed is impacted by key activities. By becoming engaged in regional air quality management efforts, it is expected that the Town of Beaumont will have the opportunity to present the concerns of local residents regarding air quality issues and collaboratively develop solutions.






SENSE OF COMMUNITY

BEAUMONT WANTS TO BE A PLACE WITH A GREAT COMMUNITY FEELING

There is already a strong sense of community in Beaumont. Many of you chose to live in Beaumont because of its community feel – it feels like the kind of place you want to come home to and raise your family in.








-  RESIDENTS
-  BUSINESSES
-  COMMUNITY GROUPS
-  BEAUMONT TOWN ADMINISTRATION
-  BEAUMONT TOWN COUNCIL

DO SOMETHING

Now we know what Beaumont wants to be, but how would we get there? Well, we will have to do something to take us to that future goal. Here are the things Beaumont and its residents have to do to reach its goals:


WASTE

There are a few key things that Beaumont can do to help change the way waste is disposed in positive ways. Many of the things Beaumont could do are low cost initiatives that are aimed at helping change and adapt wasteful habits. Here are the things Beaumont should do about waste:

-  • Encourage residents to do **composting** in their own backyards by developing a program to sell backyard composters to residents. Several Capital Region municipalities currently run similar programs.
-   • Review **hazardous waste management** in the Town to determine where improvements can be made, and implement a formal hazardous waste program


The Town of Beaumont currently offers information on toxic and E-waste disposal here, which is a good first step:


<http://www.town.beaumont.ab.ca/pages.php?pg1=1005&pg2=2006&pg3=3002&pg4=4003&pg5=5007>

-  • Encourage **community champions** to develop neighbourhood based waste management solutions. One idea would be to have residents participate in a zero-waste challenge where they document how much waste they generate under normal conditions,


and then report how they reduce their waste to near zero. The Town can support this by offering seed funding and/or prizes.

-  • **Waste Reduction Week** is an excellent opportunity for neighbourhood or town volunteers to take action and raise awareness about waste reduction. You can find more information and resources, including waste reduction action plan spreadsheets, waste audit information and public waste reduction event ideas, here: http://www.wrwcanda.com/uploads/File/WRW2012/Municipal_Resource_Kit.pdf


-  • Work with **local construction companies** to find practical ways to divert construction waste. As one of Alberta's fastest growing communities, there is a lot of construction waste generated in the community. There are likely opportunities to divert some of this waste from local/regional landfills.


-  • Work with area businesses to consider creating a **recycling station for commercial** businesses. This could help them reduce their private waste contracts and save money, as well as helping reduce waste in the community overall.

-  • Encourage the **business community** to re-use materials. In some communities, non-profit organizations, such as Habitat for Humanity pick-up quality used construction materials and resell them to make money for their operations. In other communities, businesses work together to determine if one business's waste can be used in another business's operations.

-  • Sponsor a **Trash is Treasure** day. Many communities are facilitating re-use/materials days where community members and businesses can put unwanted but usable items on the curbside

for pick up by other community members. This is similar to what is being undertaken in the Town of Stony Plain, where residents can put unwanted goods in front of their houses for others to pick-up and use in their own homes.


-  • Consider **e-billing** for municipal services. Many municipalities are moving to electronic billing/payment systems for key services and property taxes. This could prove to be an effective way to reducing paper consumption and reducing mailing/administrative costs. It also provides an email list the Town could use to promote its other initiatives.

-  • Keep going **paperless** at the Town. A paperless initiative can be an effective way to help reduce paper consumption and support the adoption of innovative technologies. The Town of Devon has gone paperless, and residents are able to easily sign up online for an email utility bill instead of a paper copy:


<http://www.town.devon.ab.ca/OnlineServices/HelpUsGoPaperless/tabid/142/Default.aspx>

WATER


Programs and incentives can help Beaumont residents conserve water, which has benefits for the environment and the regional watershed. In order to promote water conservation and reduce water use, Beaumont should do the following things:

-  • Continue to offer the **low flush toilet rebate**. This can significantly reduce water use, reduce energy costs for water heating, and water utility rates. Current information on the low flush toilet rebate can be found at:


<http://www.beaumont.ab.ca/pages.php?pg1=1005&pg2=2006&pg3=3002&pg4=4001&pg5=5004>

-  • Continue to encourage residents to water lawns and gardens every other day and consider making **odd/even day watering** mandatory. Watering regulations can be found on the Town website here:


<http://www.beaumont.ab.ca/pages.php?pg1=1005&pg2=2006&pg3=3002&pg4=4001&pg5=5004>

-  • Continue to offer **rebates on rain barrels**. Rain barrels offer an effective way to reduce the demand for potable water and reduce the impacts of significant storm/rain fall events on municipal/regional infrastructure. Rain barrels are available every second year. Contact information for the next rain barrel sale can be found here:


<http://www.beaumont.ab.ca/pages.php?pg1=1007&ref=37>


-  • Consider developing a program giving homeowners **water conservation kits** to help them reduce water use at home. The kits could include faucet aerators, low flow showerheads, toilet tank bags, drip gauge, toilet flow diverter, shower gauge bag, and/or rain/lawn watering gauge. These kits could be sold to residents at cost. Residents can find out what kinds of items are included in an audit and retrofit kit by checking out this information on the kits EPCOR provides:

<http://www.epcor.com/efficiency-conservation/tools-audits/pages/conservation-kits.aspx>

-  • Consider **Low Impact Development** in new developments/ retrofit. Low Impact Development and other best management practices offer an effective way to increase stormwater retention and help beautify the community. The Town's engineering standards could be amended to incorporate low impact development techniques. The Alberta Low Impact Development Partnership (ALIDP) has resources about what Low Impact Development is and how it can be implemented here:

<http://alidp.org/>

-  • Encourage the business community to consider buying more **efficient commercial appliances**, such as commercial washing machines and dishwashers of reduced water consumption costs. While there may be an initial up front cost, they will result in reduced energy costs overall.


-  • Encourage the wide use of **water smart plant material**. It is possible to reduce the demand for potable water by promoting the use of native plants to the region. Educational programs for community members can help residents choose water smart plants. Additionally, the Town could adopt a water smart/native planting policy for public spaces. The Land Stewardship Center offers practical examples of xeriscaping and low water use landscaping in Alberta:

<http://www.landstewardship.org/xeriscaping/>

ENERGY AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Beaumont has many opportunities to pursue actions that are cost-effective, efficient and lead to tangible results in enhancing energy sustainability and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. These are the things Beaumont should do:

-  • Continue partnering with the **Municipal Climate Change Action Centre** to conduct energy audits on key municipal facilities to identify and pursue key energy saving opportunities.
-  • Assess Beaumont’s **corporate fleet** to support fuel savings and improve the longevity of the existing fleet vehicles.
-  • Establish a Town of Beaumont “**energy wise team**” to support office energy efficiency (turning appliances and electronics off, idling corporate vehicles, telecommuting support, etc).
-  • Evolve **procurement practices** to give preference to energy efficient appliances and equipment.
-  • Mayor and Council will explore the feasibility of developing a **revolving energy financing fund** to support energy wise practices,
-  • Develop a program to support municipal **light retrofits** that improve lighting aesthetics and reduce energy costs.
-  • Ensure that all new municipal buildings are designed/developed to model energy efficient and meet a **LEED Standard** (or equivalent).
-  • Develop a **community energy and emissions plan** to outline a long-term strategy for enabling local business and residents to improve their energy management practices.

-  • Offer **energy retrofit kits** at cost to provide local residents and businesses information and resources to help residents reduce energy costs.
-  • Develop a **clothesline initiative** to reduce energy demand from residential clothes dryers, which are typically the most energy intensive appliance in people’s households
-  • Recognize **green builders** and explore incentives to encourage energy wise practices within local construction industry. For example, more expedient approval processes for projects meeting a set of pre-defined criteria.
-  • Consider a **community home retrofit program** to encourage residents to improve their existing home’s energy performance
-  • Encourage **efficient building practices** and energy smart neighborhoods
 -  • Consider the relationship between energy use and zoning in key planning documents
 -  • Offer an info kit for prospective home buyers in the Town of Beaumont on things to look for and/or ask for in a new home that would reduce its energy use

In addition to the items listed above, the following plans may be helpful in guiding Beaumont’s energy and greenhouse gas emission decision-making in future:

- Develop a corporate energy and greenhouse gas emissions plan. This plan will include the development of specific corporate energy and emission reduction targets and outline a strategy to guide the Town’s investments and actions in respect to energy
- Use the corporate energy and greenhouse gas emissions plan to identify opportunities to link

energy management priorities into the Town's asset management/capital planning initiatives. This will leverage cost saving and funding opportunities that may otherwise be overlooked.


- Undertake a renewable energy opportunities assessment study. This kind of study will identify strategic energy projects that could offer new revenue streams and support community energy sustainability


LAND

Beaumont wants to use its land resources wisely by ensuring it focuses on redevelopment and efficient use of any future development land. This is good for the community because it reduces the amount of infrastructure the Town has to maintain over time, uses a limited resource efficiently, and will encourage re-investment in older neighbourhoods. In order to do this, Beaumont will:

-  • Continue promoting **development density** to use land more efficiently. This means considering reasonable density in areas that can support it to better use existing or planned infrastructure.
-  • **Update municipal planning documents** to align with the principles of Keep it Green Beaumont. This will ensure that new developments have policies and guidelines available to help them make good land-related choices.
-  • Beaumont will **protect and enhance existing natural areas**, both in existing areas and in new developments. Natural areas contribute to communities by providing many environmental benefits and also acting as a community amenity.

-  • Beaumont will continue to promote and encourage the use of **community gardens**. This is a great way for residents to learn about land stewardship, meet each other, and grow their own local food. It also relates back to Beaumont's history as a farming community.

-  • Beaumont will consider **naturalizing designated park spaces** to connect residents with natural environments, and provide alternative play opportunities for kids, and preserve natural areas and corridors within the Town.






-  • Beaumont will continue to **extend multi-use trails**, and will also consider the development of bike pathways, sharrows, and/or dedicated bike lanes to allow for multi-modal transportation options.

-  • Beaumont will consider the incorporation of **Low Impact Development** techniques as a part of its design standards

In addition to the items listed above, the following plans may be helpful in guiding Beaumont's land related decision-making:

- Beaumont will develop an Asset Management Plan to ensure all infrastructure and its condition is known and that plans are in place for long term maintenance and replacement
- Beaumont will consider a brownfield strategy to ensure that contaminated areas are redeveloped. Beaumont should also consider incentive programs to help existing owners to redevelop their brownfield sites.
- Beaumont will consider a pesticides report that will consider ways to minimize the contamination of land and water resources associated with pesticide use

AIR

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 • Beaumont will consider the **Alberta Capital Airshed Alliance**; a multi-stakeholder group that provides a forum for local stakeholders to design solutions to local air quality issues.
- 
 • Beaumont will participate in the current **multi-stakeholder decision-making processes** facilitated by the Alberta Capital Airshed Alliance and participate in the Alliance's initiatives that influence air quality in the Town and region.
- 
 • Beaumont will continue to work with senior government and industry, and **advocate for improvements** to regulations, incentives, and other mechanisms that will support improvements in air quality within the Alberta Capital Airshed.
- 
 • The Town of Beaumont will enforce the **anti-idling bylaw** that was approved by Council in 2008 and launch a community education and outreach campaign.
- 
 • The Town of Beaumont will develop an **education and outreach** program that highlights the air quality and other environmental and community benefits associated with:
 - Walking, biking and taking public transit when possible;
 - Avoiding idling – it improves fuel performance saving money and reducing emissions;
 - Retrofitting or replacing old wood burning fireplaces and wood stoves;
 - Properly maintaining landscaping equipment as two-stroke engines tend to be significant emitters of air quality pollutants.



Source: Youth Consultation Session

SENSE OF COMMUNITY

Beaumont already has a healthy sense of community. However, this has not extended to the community working together on environmental matters and initiatives. The following things are actions Beaumont will do to encourage the community to work together on sustainability:

BA • Consider the development of a **'Sense of Community' Baseline**. Building on the 2011 Citizen Satisfaction Survey, this Baseline could help clarify existing conditions around residents' and businesses attachment to place. It could also provide a jumping off point for enhancement of what's already working to connect residents to care of the environment.

BA
B
C
R • Consider the creation of financial micro-grants for **community-based environmental initiatives**. These could be funded through local businesses to support residents who are interested in bringing fellow Beaumont residents together to support a healthier environment and building community. These grants could be awarded annually through an application process and require reporting to build success stories. Here are a few example initiatives from other municipalities:

<http://city.charlottetown.pe.ca/microgrant.php>

<http://www.carmelgreenteen.org/project-ideas/>

<http://www.gpsoup.com/>

BA
C
R • Continue to encourage **block-party planning and hosting**. Block parties encourage neighbours to meet each other, build relationships, and perhaps even reflect on future community-initiatives they could undertake. Here are examples of block party resources from other municipalities:

<http://www.stalbert.ca/block-party-information>

http://www.edmonton.ca/for_residents/programs/block-parties.aspx

<http://www.cityofgp.com/index.aspx?page=886>





Source: Youth Consultation Session

- R** RESIDENTS
- B** BUSINESSES
- C** COMMUNITY GROUPS
- BA** BEAUMONT TOWN ADMINISTRATION
- BC** BEAUMONT TOWN COUNCIL

LEARN SOMETHING

Now we know what Beaumont wants to be AND what we need to do to get there, but is that all there is? Nope, there's one more thing: we will need to keep learning in order to ensure we have all the tools to succeed. Here are the things Beaumont and its residents can learn to help support long term environmental progress:

WASTE

In order to reduce waste, it is necessary for everyone to have a comprehensive understanding of waste reduction techniques and programs. Learning about how much waste we dispose of and what kind of waste goes into the garbage is critical to developing programs to reduce waste. Some of the actions that would be helpful for this comprehensive understanding of waste in Beaumont include:

- BA** • The Town should **continue to monitor** to the amount of waste generated per person. Each year, the Town should determine how much waste is generated by the community and relate that on a per capita basis.
- BA** • The Town could work with its regional partners to undertake a **waste composition study** to determine the proportion of each type of waste (i.e. food waste, paper, metals, etc.) to determine how much more could be diverted easily. This study would offer the Town a comprehensive overview of the existing solid waste streams, by indicating how much of each waste type (organics, paper, metals) is being disposed of to provide the basis for diversion programs.
- BA**
B
R • Continue programs to **educate residents and businesses**, particularly those engaged in construction, on the value of composting and recycling and how to do both of these.

There are some helpful resources on the web on waste education, waste audits and general waste reduction strategies that will be helpful for the residents and municipal government of Beaumont:

- Saving the World Begins at Home: A Personal Guide to Managing Household Waste offers information on waste management for households in Alberta. What to recycle where, composting, hazardous waste and waste reduction tips are covered in this guide: <http://environment.gov.ab.ca/info/library/6270.pdf>
- Waste Reduction Week Canada, sponsored by “recycle my cell” provides resources for waste reduction public events and action. Their website contains information for schools, business, government, and individuals and non-profits. Individuals can access waste reduction tips, promotional materials for hosting a Waste Reduction Week event, a database of events across Canada and the ability to register a new event. For municipal government participants in Waste Reduction Week, there are sample proclamations, waste audit information and a waste audit worksheet: <http://www.wrwcanda.com/>
- The Environment and Sustainable Resource Development Ministry of Alberta has an excellent waste action resource list on their Waste Reduction Week website: <http://environment.alberta.ca/03178.html>
- The One Simple Act Program encourages green initiatives of all kinds, including waste reduction, composting and other waste diversion activities. This website offers tips for green initiatives at home, at school, in the workplace, in the community, and for youth: <http://www.onesimpleact.alberta.ca/get-involved/>
- Alberta CARE (Coordinated Action for Recycling Enterprises) operates many recycling programs and promotes recycling and waste management. They have useful and readable publications on backyard composting, worm composting, a reuse/recycle directory, and a list of safer alternatives to common household hazardous wastes. <http://www.albertacare.org/>
- The Too Good to Waste program of the Alberta government offers comprehensive waste facts about waste generation and diversion. These facts are organized by sector and would be helpful to increase the knowledge of waste generation for municipalities: <http://environment.gov.ab.ca/info/library/7823.pdf>
- The Alberta Recycling Hotline can answer any questions related to recycling services in Alberta: <http://environment.alberta.ca/01962.html>
- The Waste Exchange of Canada is an international organization that promotes waste diversion by matching waste generators and recyclers. The Canadian Waste exchange is organized by provinces and allows people to post materials to exchange, buy or sell: <http://www.recyclexchange.net/>

WATER

In order to get to where it wants to be, Beaumont needs to understand the usage patterns and amount of resident's water use. Knowing how water is consumed can inform the Town on how to best implement strategies for water conservation. In order to move forward with water conservation the Town of Beaumont should:

- BA** • Consider undertaking a **monitoring program** that records per capita water use.
- BA**
B
R • Continue programs to **educate** residents on water conservation initiatives such as water restrictions and incentive programs.







There are some helpful resources online for municipal governments implementing water conservation and stewardship programs, and well as education resources for residents of Beaumont:

- Water for Life, an Alberta government research and education program that offers resources on water planning in Alberta, education on water systems such as drinking water, aquatic ecosystems, and water supply. There are also knowledge sections on this website for students and teachers and for the public.
<http://www.waterforlife.alberta.ca/index.html>
- Water Conversation, an Alberta government public engagement program focused on water gives Alberta residents the opportunity to have input into regional water planning, and resource management systems. Water conversation offers a report that outlines key issues of Alberta's water supply, a blog that highlights these issues, and information on public meetings, contact information and videos:
www.waterconversation.alberta.ca
- The North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance studies the North Saskatchewan River, and offers research and context on watershed planning. They also provide education components for municipalities, watershed stewardship groups and households.
<http://www.nswa.ab.ca/>
- Environment Canada has information on the fresh water supply in Canada and the merits of water conservation, along with an outline of municipal actions to assist in water savings. There is also information for individuals highlighting water saving in the home, community and at work.
<http://www.ec.gc.ca/eau-water/default.asp?lang=En&n=F25C70EC-1>

- Canada Water Week, championed by the Living Lakes Network Canada and the Canadian Freshwater Alliance, is a week-long celebration that is held in March to coincide with World Water Day. Its aim is to raise the profile and understanding of water in Canada. There are many toolkits and event planning resources for participants and municipalities on the website: <http://canadawaterweek.com/>
- The Council of the Federation holds annual water stewardship awards in every province and territory in Canada for organizations, partnerships, businesses, institutions and community groups who have taken a leadership role in water conservation in Canada: http://www.councilofthefederation.ca/keyinitiatives/water_awards.html
- The Canadian Water and Wastewater Association represents municipal water interests to higher levels of governments. They provide a database of municipalities that have had success in water conservation through programs such as rebates, restrictions, metering, education and infrastructure improvements/ maintenance: http://www.cwwa.ca/WEED/Results_e.asp

ENERGY AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Learning about how much energy is used within the Town’s operations and our community as a whole, is an important step in supporting the development of programs and strategies that reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. The following actions have been identified as important steps in enhancing the Town’s capacity to realize the community, economic and environmental benefits associated with being an “energy wise” community:

-  • Strive to develop and maintain a comprehensive corporate and community **inventory of energy use** (electricity, natural gas and other fuels), costs, and associated greenhouse gas emissions.
-  • **Report** the Town’s energy use and greenhouse gas emissions on the Town of Beaumont’s website when information is available.
-  • Host an “**ideas session**” to brainstorm ways to reduce corporate energy use and pursue cost saving opportunities.
-  • Develop an **education and outreach program** that helps community members identify low cost-high impact energy saving opportunities, such as clotheslines, programmable thermostats, and energy efficient lighting.
-  • Provide residents **information and resources** to explore the use of innovative energy technologies such as solar photovoltaic and thermal energy systems, and other small renewable energy systems.

LAND

The wise and effective use of land resources is important to long term community sustainability and resiliency. Understanding its current land use patterns and how they impact current and future growth can help Beaumont better plan for the future. In order to do this, Beaumont should:

- BA** • **Review its current asset management data** to understand where more information is needed.
- BA** • Maintain **statistics on land use patterns** to ensure land use decisions are aligned with Beaumont's Strategic Plan and the Capital Region Board's planning initiatives. Statistics that could be measured include overall density, neighbourhood densities, growth per year in area and/or population, among other data. It is recommended that this information also be reported to the public regularly.
- BA** • Undertake a **review of strategic planning documents**, including the Municipal Development Plan, Land Use Bylaw, and Central Area Redevelopment Plan to ensure the documents are being implemented effectively and provide the policy direction required.

Here are some additional resources you can use to learn more about land use:

- A Kid's Guide to Great Communities, provided by the Canadian Institute of Planners, provides information on land use patterns and planning that you can use to teach your family about how land use impacts you.
http://www.cip-icu.ca/web/la/en/fi/03bf4704cf634c3a949e1fb0f72eca24/get_file.asp
- The Capital Region Board website provides information about how the region can work together to ensure that land use patterns and infrastructure is coordinated and beneficial.
<http://capitalregionboard.ab.ca/priorities/land-use>

AIR

- BA**
R • The Town of Beaumont will help residents find out more about their local airshed by linking local and regional air quality conditions based on the Alberta Air Quality Health Index on the Town's Home Page. It will also provide resources to local residents on the actions they can take to reduce air pollutants from their lawn care activities, wood heating and automobile maintenance.



SENSE OF COMMUNITY

Providing more information about a topic often will contribute to a new outlook and sometimes even new behaviours. These initiatives could encourage citizens to learn about different topics together, enhancing their sense of community.

- BA** • **Community speakers' series.** There are many residents in Beaumont who are passionate about the environment. Providing a venue for them to present or host an expert presentation and discussion about environmental issues and behaviours will support their passion and perhaps encourage other residents to learn more. The series could be held at the library and include some childcare to ensure accessibility for families.

Speaker series examples from other municipalities:

<http://www.cochrane-environment.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/2013-Speaker-Poster.png>

http://www.edmonton.ca/city_government/city_vision_and_strategic_plan/the-way-we-green-speakers-series.aspx



- Start your own **environmentally-focused group** to learn more about an issue. Simply inviting fellow residents to sit down together to talk about Beaumont's environment is an important step in learning and building community. All it takes is for people with an interest to find each other and set aside some time. Here are a few guides related to starting your own group:

<http://www.ecoearth.com/eco-zine/green-issues/741-eco-action-how-to-start-your-own-local-environmental-group.html>

<http://www.meetup.com/about/>

<http://www.walkbc.ca/how-start-walking-program>



HOW DO WE KNOW WHAT WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED?

We now know what we want Beaumont to be, and what we need to do and learn more about to help get us to our goals for Beaumont's waste, water, energy and greenhouse gasses, land, air, and sense of community. The next step will be measuring and reporting on our progress to help us know where we are at in achieving those goals.

In order to do that measuring and reporting, the following tasks will be undertaken:

- BA** • The Town of Beaumont will prepare an **annual Keep it Green Report Card** that will highlight all of the steps taken that year in moving towards what Beaumont wants to be. The Keep it Green Report Card will highlight a different topic area each year to summarize steps taken on the current year's environmental priority area
- C**
R
B
BA • **Residents, businesses, and community groups** are also encouraged to report steps they are taking towards Beaumont's environmental goals. To help to do that, it is recommended that Beaumont include a place on the Town's website where people can submit their own activities that contribute to getting Beaumont to where it wants to be

- BA** • Beaumont will consider recognizing **residents, businesses, and community groups** that are going above and beyond for their community in the area of environment
- BA**
BC • Town of Beaumont administration will **use the Keep it Green Beaumont Plan** when advising Council on environmental issues to show Council how projects, ideas, and expenditures relate to the goals of the Keep it Green Plan
- BA** • The Keep it Green Beaumont Plan should be comprehensively **reviewed every 5 years** to ensure that it still meets the environmental goals Beaumont has for itself.

The Keep it Green Beaumont Plan is intended to support anyone and everyone in helping move Beaumont towards greater environmental, financial, and social sustainability, both now and in the future. The support and direction provided in this document will encourage residents, businesses, community groups, Town administration, and Council to each do their part and work together towards ensuring Beaumont continues on its path to sustainability.

