



ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRESS REPORT 2014



Growing a clean, green and healthy Leduc

PARTNERING with *nature* 

CITY OF
Leduc 



The City of Leduc Environmental Plan - Phase 1, approved by Leduc City Council in early 2012, identifies priority actions to help our community meet ambitious 10-year targets set out in the report.

Leduc residents, the City of Leduc and its many stakeholders have enthusiastically embraced both the concept of enhanced environmental practices in our community and the steps we all need to take to help us achieve the goal.

Our accomplishments to date are impressive and our collective commitment to a greener, cleaner community appears to be gaining momentum. Community-wide, residents are participating in a range of environmental initiatives designed to move us toward a more sustainable future.

This 2014 Environmental Progress Report builds on the considerable achievements reported in the 2012/2013 progress report, again illustrating solid progress toward a number of our environmental targets.

We must continue to strive toward a more environmentally friendly community. At the same time, let's celebrate our accomplishments!



CITY OF LEDUC *Mission Statement*

Our mission is to protect and enhance the quality of life in our community and the unique environment of our area through effective, innovative, responsible leadership and consultation.



CITY STEWARDSHIP

...celebrating and protecting our unique environment

City council continues to offer leadership and direction that guide our community toward achieving our environmental targets. The city's stakeholders such as the Leduc Environmental Advisory Board (LEAB) also play a pivotal role in advising and supporting civic and community initiatives so the resources committed to environmental programs achieve maximum results.

In 2014, the city focused its environmental efforts on waste diversion, building on the successes in 2012 and 2013 when curbside organics collection was introduced and services at the Eco Station were expanded.

Work also moved forward in other areas of environmental importance — water conservation, enhancing our natural areas and more — that help our community maintain a well-rounded perspective on the importance of a healthy and sustainable environment.

City operations — walking the talk

The City of Leduc encourages resident participation in many initiatives that enhance our environment. The municipality also is implementing initiatives that improve the environmental footprint of its own operations.

Examples:

- The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department reuses plastic food barrels from bulk pasta as waste bins in several parks.

- 46 Street was reconstructed using recycled foam asphalt. During the process, an on-site pulverizer ground up about 22,800 square metres of existing road material that otherwise would have been landfilled. As well, all the concrete curbs, gutters and sidewalks were recycled. The construction method used for this project used significantly less gravel than traditional road reconstruction projects.

- Public Services began a program in the mechanics bays to recycle oily rags.

- City staff participated in Earth Hour, which encouraged participants to turn off all non-essential lights for an hour, and a national Commuter Challenge, encouraging staff to use more environmentally sustainable means of transportation than driving alone.





Communication & community outreach

- Leduc shared its environmental successes by distributing the 2012/2013 Environmental Progress Report to residents, stakeholder groups, the media, regional municipalities and other interested individuals and organizations. In total, the report was distributed to about 250 individuals and organizations including the mayors of capital region municipalities and other interested municipalities.
- Environmental successes and initiatives were featured in every issue of the popular Leduc eNews electronic newsletter.

- The city helped establish pickup programs in Leduc so gently used items no longer needed by residents could be reused by someone else.
 - » The Habitat for Humanity Restore started picking up donated items from homes or businesses the last Tuesday of each month, making 27 pickups in 2014.
 - » A Big Brothers Big Sisters bin to accept gently used donated clothing was set up at the Eco Station.
- The City of Leduc continued several established initiatives to raise awareness of our environment:
 - » Environment Week activities including a proclamation by Mayor Greg Krischke, Arbour Day tree planting, a spring bird count, a new 'Green Gold' event and the spring Large Item Pickup when residents disposed of 26 tonnes of items,
 - » participation in farmers' markets and other community events including the Black Gold Rodeo, the Business Expo and Canada Day,
 - » school initiatives throughout the year,
 - » the International Communities in Bloom program, and
 - » participation in the Festival of Trees where both the city and the LEAB displayed trees that promoted green and healthy ways to enjoy the festive season.





WASTE DIVERSION

- we're smart sorters!

Diverting our waste from the regional landfill again took centre stage in 2014 as the city fine-tuned its range of initiatives. Evaluation results show citizens understand and embrace the waste diversion program. Diversion rates continue to increase, illustrating community participation.



Policy development

- Plans were put in place to enhance services and extend hours of operation at the Eco Station. The new services and hours took effect in the spring of 2015.
- Planning began for waste diversion initiatives for small business and multi-family sectors.
- The City of Leduc launched an organics pickup pilot project at three schools. The pilot program ends with the end of the school term in June 2015 and will then be evaluated.



WHAT WE ACHIEVED

RESULTS:

%

RESIDENTIAL CURBSIDE DIVERSION



Curbside organics

(INCLUDES SPECIAL CURBSIDE YARD WASTE COLLECTION)



2013
2,138

2014
2,421
(TONNES)

Curbside blue bag recycling

2013
1,360

2014
1,439
(TONNES)



Curbside waste collection

2013
3,148

2014
3,327
(TONNES)

Eco Station



ECO STATION MATERIALS

	BLUE BAG RECYCLABLES		ELECTRONIC WASTE*		HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE*
	(TONNES)	(UNITS)	(TONNES)	(LITRES)	(LITRES)
2013	263	2,959	56.1	60,094	
2014	344	3,316	59.5	54,608	

*INCLUDING MATERIALS COLLECTED AT THE OCTOBER 2014 TOXIC & E-WASTE ROUNDUP



Composting

- Residents continued to drop off extra yard waste that wouldn't fit in their organics carts at the Yard Waste Transfer Station.
- The city continued to offer two weeks of special curbside yard waste collection in late October.
- Residents were invited to purchase discounted backyard composters and shovel up free compost at the 'Green Gold' event. In total, almost 50 composters were sold.

COMPOSTING MATERIALS

YARD WASTE TRANSFER STATION (TONNES)

2013	1,041 tonnes
2014	585 tonnes



Toxic & E-Waste Roundup

- At the 2014 Roundup, 360 vehicles entered the gate to drop off materials.
- Collected electronic waste (e-waste) filled a five-ton truck and part of a commercial container.
- Household hazardous waste filled 10 commercial bins.

TOXIC & E-WASTE ROUNDUP MATERIALS

		ELECTRONIC WASTE		HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE
	(UNITS)	(TONNES)	(LITRES)	(LITRES)
2013	150	2.3	14,370	
2014	104	2.1	8,010	



Program development & implementation

The first annual **'Green Gold' event**, held May 24 at RONA, offered discounted composters and rain barrels, and free compost.

- About 200 residents bought 140 rain barrels and almost 50 composters and picked up more than four tonnes of compost,
- RONA supported the event, with Peavey Mart and Canadian Tire also offering discounted pricing on rain barrels and composters after the event.

A **composting workshop for beginners** was held during Environment Week.

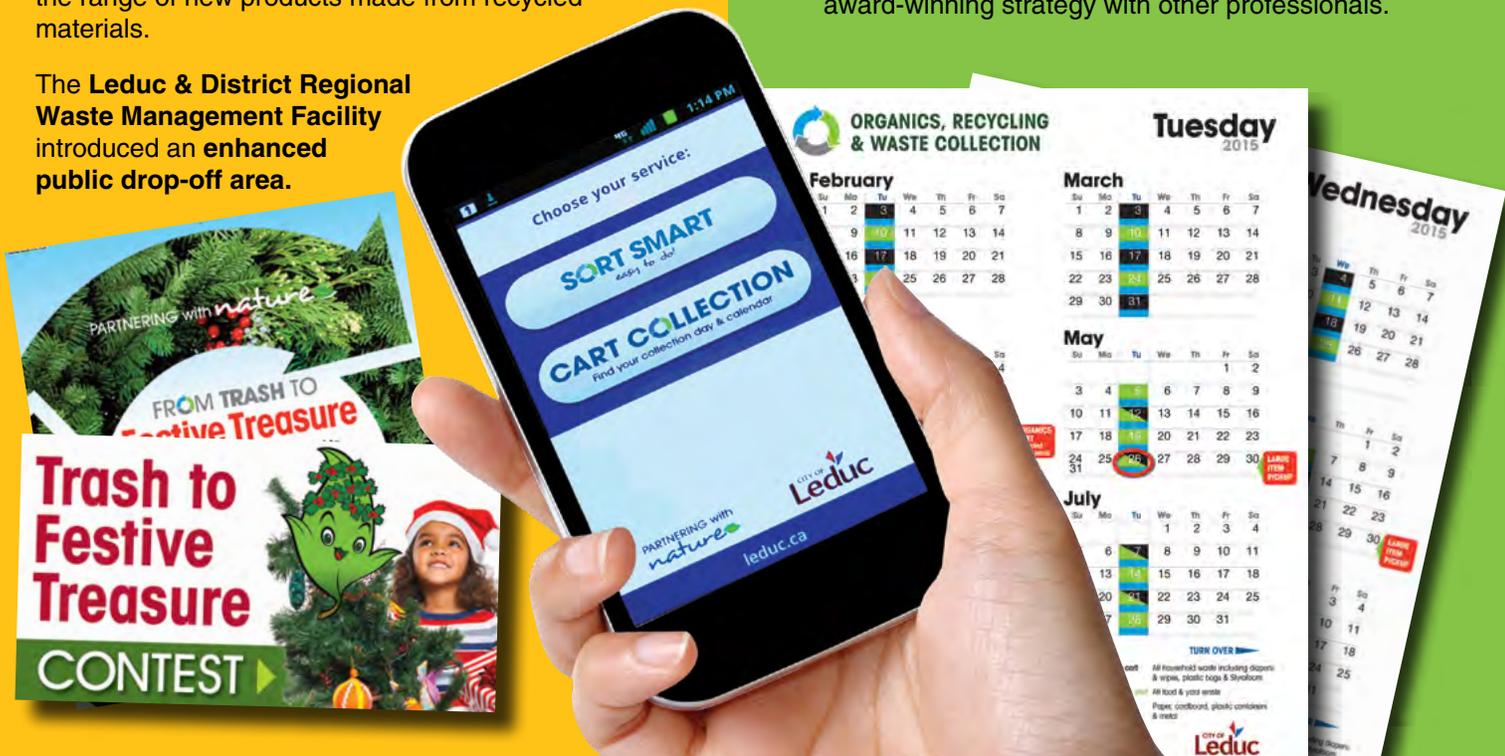
The City of Leduc received a grant from the Alberta Beverage Container Recycling Corporation to purchase and install **12 new dual compartment waste/recycling bins** in public areas.

A **'Trash to Treasure' contest** was offered in the spring and at the Festival of Trees to show residents the range of new products made from recycled materials.

The **Leduc & District Regional Waste Management Facility** introduced an **enhanced public drop-off area**.

Communication & community outreach

- An enhanced phone app offers residents 24/7 access to the Sort Smart materials sorting tool and to their collection day and calendar.
- The popular online Toss & Sort game was converted to an Apple app.
- The city continued to offer collection calendars in several different formats. The online electronic format reaches most residents, and saves paper and distribution costs.
- The communication program for Leduc's waste diversion initiatives earned a prestigious Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) industry award. The silver excellence award, given to the City of Leduc and communication consultants The DAGNY Partnership, was the fourth international award earned by the communication program.
- City staff hosted a SWANA webinar to share the award-winning strategy with other professionals.



ENHANCING *our natural areas*

Leduc's natural areas give residents opportunities throughout the year to enjoy the outdoors first-hand, appreciate nature and its benefits, and learn how to care for our natural surroundings so they continue to thrive for generations to come.



Program development & implementation

The City is implementing its plan to preserve more than 66 acres of land on the northwest shore of Telford Lake, part of the North Telford Recreational Lands. The parcel was purchased in 2013 and completes a band of environmental reserve around the lake, making it possible for the City to develop a multiway all around the lake over the next several years. Work has begun to develop and upgrade trails.

The City of Leduc piloted a natural mosquito control spray at Lede Park using liquid garlic spray. The garlic spray is safe for humans, pets and plants as well as for birds, bees and ladybugs that help the natural ecosystem thrive.

The pilot program worked well and attracted attention from across Canada. The use of garlic spray will continue in 2015 with additional testing to better understand the effectiveness of this product.



WHAT WE ACHIEVED:

TREES PLANTED

2013:
900 Deer Valley Ravine

2014:
960 (600 during Arbour Day and 360 during TD Tree Days, all at Aileen Faller Park)



That's participation!

Leduc Brownies and Girl Guides participated in the 2014 Arbour Day tree planting, helping to plant 600 trees within two hours.

TREE PLANTING VOLUNTEERS

2012/13: **235** 2014: **215**



SPRING BIRD COUNT

	Birds	Bird species
2013:	1,645	97
2014:	3,179	109

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	Birds	Bird species
2013:	357	25
2014:	690	31



ENERGY CONSERVATION

— reducing our carbon footprint

Program development & implementation

- The City of Leduc has established a policy that all new street lighting installed in Leduc will be LED, which are 50% to 70% more efficient than standard High-intensity discharge (HID) lights and can save 50% to 75% on maintenance costs due to their long life span.
- The city continues to send wood chips made from branches dropped off at the Yard Waste Transfer Station to the Dapp Power Biofuels Recycling Centre. In 2014, 420 tonnes of wood chips from Leduc were turned into renewable energy.
- Two original boilers were replaced at the Civic Centre. The gain in efficiency was so great that the city still only required two boilers to heat the existing Civic Centre and the new library.



MANAGING our precious water resources

Successful management of our water resources can take many different forms — learning to use less water now and also looking to the future to ensure the quality and quantity of our water can be maintained.

In 2014, Leduc City Council approved the City of Leduc 2015-2025 Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity Plan (CEP) and a plan to help our community withstand the harmful effects of severe weather.

The 2015-2025 CEP:

- underlines the importance of conserving water as part of an overall strategy to have long-term, reliable access to safe water,
- sets water conservation goals,
- includes an implementation plan to help achieve the goals, and
- supports the Government of Alberta's provincial water management strategy, *Water for Life: Alberta's Strategy for Sustainability*, released in 2003.

Leduc City Council also approved the Weather and Climate Readiness Plan to make our community more resilient in managing the harmful effects of ice and snow storms and extreme precipitation — the severe weather most likely to occur in Leduc.

The City of Leduc became a member of the Alliance for Water Efficiency, the North American advocate for water-efficient products and programs and a source for water conservation information.

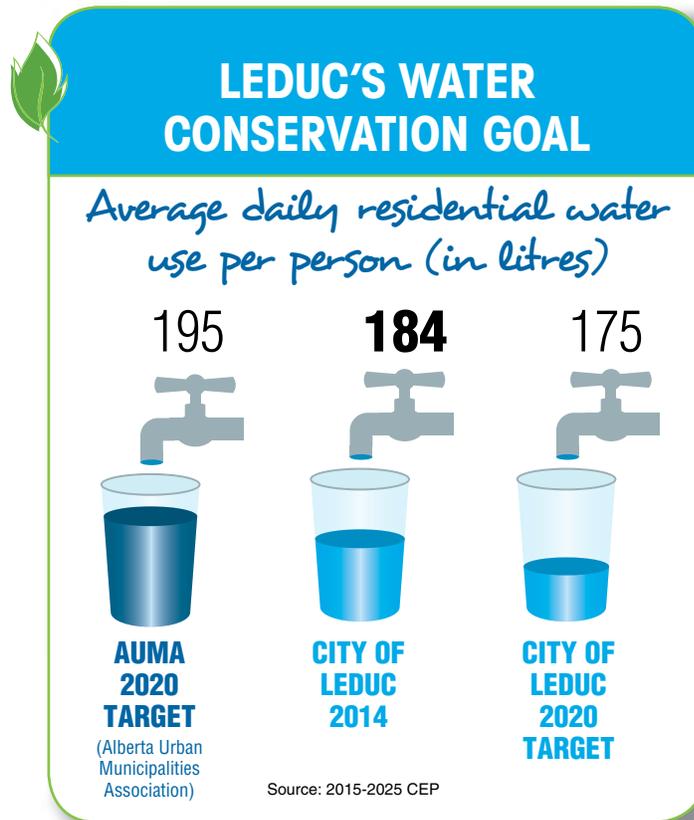
Program development & implementation

City strategies aimed at using water resources more effectively include:

- the water bylaw, which highlights water demand management measures,
- the voluntary lawn watering program, which helps manage resources during dry periods,
- universal metering, which effectively tells residents how much water they use and allows the city to track leaks,



- implementing a volume-based rate structure so water bills reflect residents' actual use,
- increasing public education focusing on the efficient use of water, and
- selecting a spray park design that uses a recirculating system to recycle treated water.



City strategies designed to help manage the effects of severe weather include:

- an updated and tested municipal emergency plan and emergency preparedness guide,
- water conservation plans and programs, and
- strategic planning activities that support climate resiliency and sustainability of Leduc's natural systems.



TRANSIT RIDERSHIP

supports good air quality

Leduc Transit significantly expanded its service in September 2014 with the addition of nine buses (four 39-passenger buses and five 21-passenger buses). The expanded service offers three local routes with stops at the Edmonton International Airport, Leduc Business Park and Nisku Industrial Business Park.

In addition, the inter-municipal service that operates between Leduc, the Century Park Transit Centre in south Edmonton and Nisku has been expanded.

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 (GreenTRIP).



WHAT WE ACHIEVED:

INCREASING Transit ridership
reduces use of private vehicles

2013
53,800

2014
58,269



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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