



Calgary Environment Strategy

An environmentally sustainable and resilient city where people and nature thrive.

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Report #UCS2021-0841
Attachment #5
ISC: Unrestricted

Recommendations

That the Standing Policy Committee on Utilities and Corporate Services recommends that Council:

1. Approve the *Calgary Environment Strategy* (Attachment 2).
2. Accept the Background Study - *Calgary Today: Environment Background Study* (Attachment 3) for the Corporate Record.

Notice of Motion

Need for a unifying long-term Environmental Strategy and Action Plan to support:

- decision-making
- communication
- environmental leadership
- environmental risks and supporting the economy





Environmental Challenges

Biodiversity + Ecosystems



↓ **4%**

decrease in parkland available per 100,000 people from 2013 to 2019

approximately

642 ha

added to the parks system between 2013 and 2019

34%

was maintained or manicured parkland



66%

was natural parkland



in 2019, the city had an

8%

tree canopy coverage



in 1998, the city's coverage was **7%**

by 2016, the city's impervious surfaces have increased to

44%

in 1998, impervious surfaces were at **33%**



17,405

animals killed on Calgary roadways between 2015-2019 including:



1 Bear



1 Cougar



398 Coyotes



1631 Deer



18 Moose

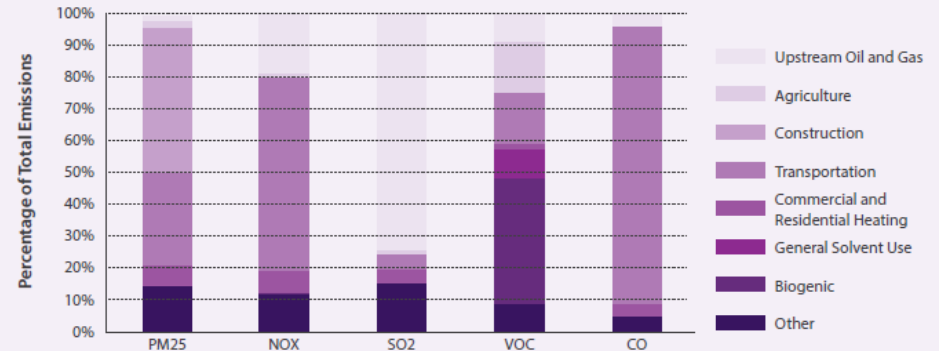
\$45,376,600

estimated financial cost of collisions

Air



EMISSION SOURCES IN THE CRAZ REGION (2008)



370+ die prematurely from impacts of air pollution

Reduce ambient air pollution **saves lives & money**

Estimated \$2.94 billion in economic losses and healthcare costs

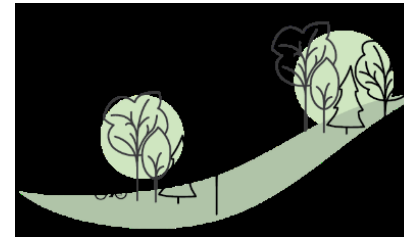
Approximately

9% of Canadians suffer from respiratory diseases, and experience an average of 9 symptom days/year from air pollution

9 symptom days costs the healthcare system **\$21.7 million/year** approximately

The average Calgarian experiences 3 restricted activity days per year from air pollution, resulting in **\$28.3 million/year** in economic losses

Best Practices and Key Concepts



Addressing Environmental Needs

1. **Refrain:** Avoid negative impacts on nature.
2. **Reduce:** Minimize the harm caused by any unavoidable impacts.
3. **Restore:** Act to quickly counteract any harm caused to nature.
4. **Renew:** Work to improve damaged ecosystems.

- Living within the limits of the environment
- Natural systems and services
- Environmental adaptation
- Nature and natural systems in cities
- Economic opportunities
- Livable, inclusive communities



How was the Strategy Created?



*This represents a sampling of key environmental plans and programs and is not a complete list.





The Environment Strategy

Council Priority: A healthy and green city

Mission: An environmentally sustainable and resilient city where people and nature thrive

Core Values: Sustainability, Resilience and Livability

Goals

Protect, restore and enhance natural areas, parks and trees, and provide access to nature

Protect our water supply, use water wisely, protect the health of our rivers and build resilience to flooding

Protect and improve air quality

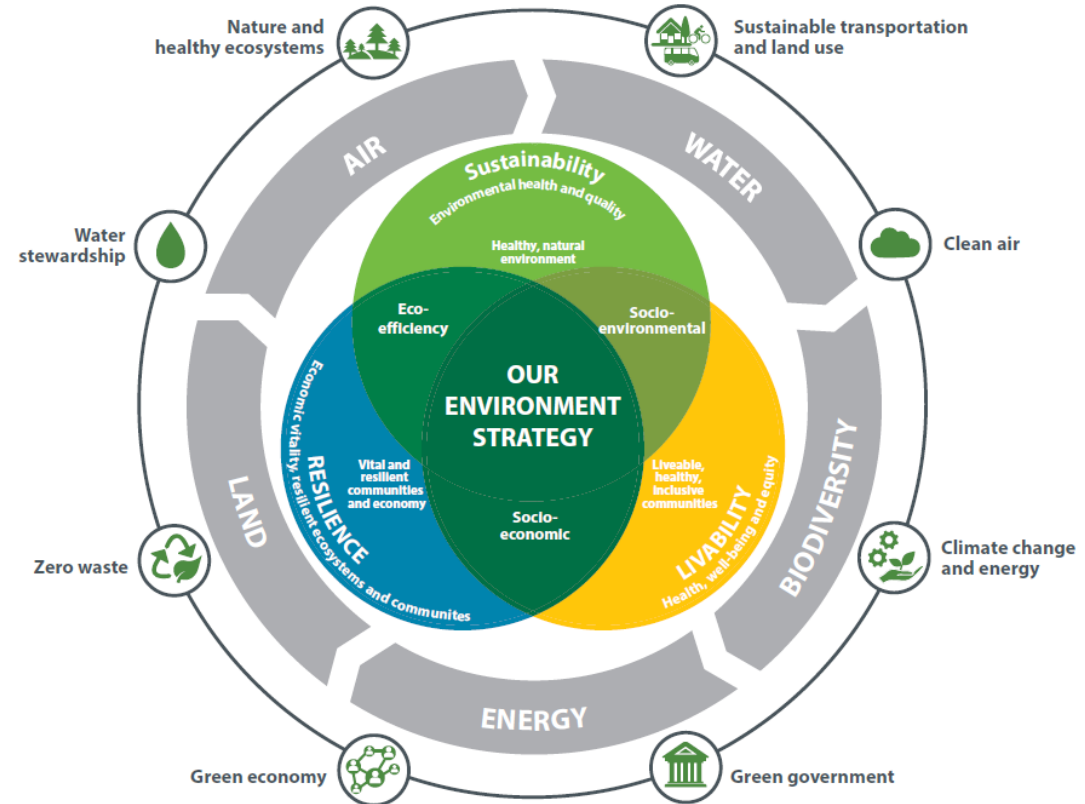
Waste less and conserve more resources

Plan for a compact city and complete communities

Prepare for and adapt to climate change, improve energy management and reduce greenhouse gas emissions

Lead by example and reduce our corporate impact on the environment

Advance the green economy



Roadmap

Pathways to a unified story:

- Where we're at today (Background Study).
- Where we want to get to and why that matters (Strategy).
- How we can get there (Action Plan).

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