

City of Edmonton entrenches Convention on Biological Diversity in its environmental strategic plan

The City of Edmonton, Alberta is pleased to announce that it has incorporated the tenets of the Convention on Biological Diversity into its long-term environmental planning process.

The Way We Green, the City of Edmonton's environmental strategic plan was approved by City Council July 20, 2011. The plan sets out goals and objectives the City and its citizens must achieve over the next 30 years to make Edmonton more environmentally sustainable and resilient city into the future. *The Way We Green* is one of six high level strategic plans that will guide direct long-term planning in Edmonton.

The Way We Green integrates the Convention on Biological Diversity firmly into the environmental strategic plan through objective 3.1 which states: *The City of Edmonton understands the ecosystems and ecosystem services upon which Edmonton depends, valuing and protecting them as Edmonton grows.* Strategic Action 3.1.9 further expands on this by undertaking that Edmonton: *Adopts a leadership position in partnership with the Government of Canada, the Government of Alberta, and other local authorities to implement the Plan of Action on Sub-national Governments, Cities, and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (Section X/22 Convention on Biological Diversity).*

Edmonton's strategic plan is anchored by 12 long-term goals, many of which are viewed through the lens of achieving healthy ecosystems. The first three goals, which focus on Land, Air and Water, specifically discuss the role of biodiversity in ensuring the health of these ecosystems and the vital role that protecting biodiversity plays in environmental sustainability and resilience.

The City of Edmonton was pleased to participate in the development of the Cities Biodiversity Index as well as to support the Convention on Biological Diversity. The City has used the Index in Edmonton and is pleased to now integrate the goals of the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity into its long-term environmental strategic plan and its decision-making processes. For more information on *The Way We Green*, please visit www.edmonton.ca/TheWayWeGreen. For more information on Edmonton's work on biodiversity please visit www.edmonton.ca/biodiversity.

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