

# How to Reduce Ground Level Ozone

## MUNICIPALITIES

Municipalities can play a major leadership role in helping to reduce ground level ozone through the development of municipal plans, policies and program initiatives. The City of Red Deer has demonstrated ways to do this in these areas.

### Plans:



General Municipal Plans (GMPs) provide municipalities with overarching direction for subdivision planning, area structure planning and local neighbourhood plans. The GMP can be a major tool to guide development in ways that minimize damage to the environment and air quality. Red Deer used their GMP this way, with a number of **guiding principles** that help develop:

- A city with less emphasis on automobile transportation and more on the development of alternative transportation modes (transit, bikes, pedestrian trails)
- Smart infrastructure and wired neighbourhoods that contribute to safe, sustainable and reliable utility systems
- Energy efficiency, water conservation and reduction of solid waste and other environmental initiatives
- A green approach to pesticide management and city building construction and renovation, as well as ways to improve air quality
- Higher density residential and business areas

In addition, Red Deer developed an **Environmental Master Plan** and will use it to define its environmental priorities and goals. It also provides strategies for how to reach those goals in the future.

### Policies

Red Deer developed an anti-idling policy for its fleet vehicles starting January 2009. In this policy:

- City vehicles are not to be left idling when the operator is absent from the vehicle
- City vehicles are not allowed to idle for more than three to five minutes unless exempted
- City vehicles are not allowed to idle near building intakes, school grounds or groups of people
- Block heaters will be installed with timers as an alternative to vehicles that are not garaged in heated buildings

***DID YOU KNOW?**  
The City of Red Deer  
Environmental Master Plan  
will include a 25-year vision  
with short, medium and  
long term  
recommendations to  
address municipal  
environmental priorities.*

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### Program Initiatives:

Some of the initiatives Red Deer undertook to reduce its corporate environmental footprint include the following:

1. Development of a corporate Green Team
2. Organic dandelion control
3. Organic turf management at City Hall Park
4. Integrated Pest Management
5. Installing motion sensor lights at Emergency Services facilities
6. Installing solar photovoltaic cells through the Alberta Solar Showcase
7. Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Certification at the new Civic Yards
8. Bulb Eater fluorescent light bulb crusher
9. Clean diesel buses
10. Replace traffic lights with Light Emitting Diode (L.E.D) lights
11. Green Power at City-run facilities

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
Fluorescent light bulbs (CFL's) and fluorescent tubes contain mercury. The City of Red Deer's Waste Management Facility accepts intact fluorescent light bulbs for that its Bulb Eater then removes the mercury.

For more details on these initiatives, go to the City of Red Deer website:

<http://www.reddeer.ca>

Other municipal initiatives that can be taken are employee awareness programs, compressed work weeks, car pools or alternative transportation programs, public transit subsidies for employees, and teleworking and teleconferencing.

The first step for municipalities is an assessment of their planning, policies and operations to see what actions they can take now and in the long term to help reduce overall emissions within their jurisdiction.

