



What Municipalities Can Do to Reduce Ground Level Ozone

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 all of these areas.

Plans: The General Municipal Plans (GMP) 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 our environment and our air quality. The City of Red Deer has used their GMP for such purposes, with a number of guiding principles that speak to developing:

- a city that has 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

Policies: The City of Red Deer has developed an anti-idling policy for its city fleet vehicles which has been in place since 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 3-5 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.

Program Initiatives: Some of the ongoing initiatives Red Deer has undertaken 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. LEED Certification at the new Civic Yards
8. Bulb Eater_fluorescent light bulb crusher
9. Spill Response Procedure and staff training video
10. Source Control Program
11. Clean diesel buses
12. Replace traffic lights with LEDs
13. Green Power at City-run facilities

For more detail on these initiatives go to the City of Red Deer website: <http://www.reddeer.ca>. Other initiatives municipalities can provide are employee awareness programs, compressed work weeks, car pools or alternative transportation programs, public transit subsidies for employees, teleworking and teleconferencing to name a few. The first step for municipalities is to do 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.