



## AGENDA ITEM

### 2021 Environmental Action Plan Update

January 31, 2022

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#### BACKGROUND

At the December 10, 2020 Council meeting the 2021 Environmental Action Plan (EAP) was approved. The EAP is updated annually to identify projects or practice changes that will help the County to meet our goals/targets in our priority areas in the Environmental Management Plan. The EAP includes input from County Councilors and staff.

#### ANALYSIS

The following is an update on projects identified in the 2021 Environmental Action Plan:

Project Name	Project Summary	Status
Crooker Wetland Planting	Planting of native shrub and tree species to create upland habitat	Completed in May
Lacombe County Solar System	Install a solar PV system on the roof of the Shop building	Completed in June
Eliminate Single-Use Water Bottles	Stop purchasing single-use water bottles in County facilities	Completed in December
Energy Efficiency Education	Educate staff on ways to reduce energy use within County buildings and at home	Earth Day bingo County Connection articles Environmental trivia
Sustainable Purchasing Guide	Create a sustainable purchasing guide for all County departments to ensure the County is balancing cost and quality with the environment when making purchases	Completed in November
Idle Reduction Program	Promote awareness reducing idling during the winter and summer	Completed in December
Electric Vehicles	Explore the potential addition of electric/hybrid vehicles into the County fleet	Waiting on the dealership to procure a vehicle



Staff Engagement Activities	Engage staff monthly or bi-monthly on different environmental topics	Earth Day bingo Environmental trivia County Connection articles EAP survey
Biobed	Installation of a system that utilizes soil to breakdown unused/leftover herbicides	Completed in June
Climate Trends Education	Create an educational video about past and future climate trends within the County for Council, staff, Council and ratepayers	Currently being completed
Climate Trends Policy	Draft Climate Trends Policy for County activities and operations	Currently being drafted
Wetland Education Program	Education program for grade four students on the importance of wetland ecosystems	Unable to completed in 2021 due to COVID
Environmental Stewardship Award	An award for a Lacombe County resident who practices environmental conservation and sustainability on their property	Completed in September
Resident Environmental Sustainability Program	Supply and cost-share (50/50) rain barrels with interested County residents	Supplied 95 rain barrels to residents and received +30 requests after we sold out
Wetland Assessments	Complete wetland assessments and approvals for 2022 road construction projects with the assistance of a consultant.	Completed in December
Salt Management Plan	Revise and update the current salt management plan	To be moved to 2022 Action Plan
Wetland Replacement Program	Identify potential sites to utilize the Province's Wetland Replacement Program	No areas have been identified to utilize the Province's Wetland Replacement Program



**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

There are no budget implications for this agenda item. Funding for these EAP projects will be provided for in the year in which the projects are completed.

**LEGISLATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES**

Section 3 of the Municipal Government Act (MGA) states the purposes of a municipality are:

- a) to provide good government,
- b) to provide services, facilities or other things that, in the opinion of council, are necessary or desirable for all or part of the municipality, and
- c) to develop and maintain safe and viable communities

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council pass the following resolution:

That the 2021 Lacombe County Environmental Action Plan Update be received for information.

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**PREPARED BY: Jennifer Berry, Environmental Coordinator**

**REVIEWED BY: Dion Burlock, Director of Community Services**

**REVIEWED BY: Tim Timmons, County Manager**

