

# WASTE & ENVIRONMENT

## 2025 Annual Report



# TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



For many generations, the place we now call Lethbridge had another name given to it by the Siksikaitsitapi, the Blackfoot Peoples. This name, Sikóóhkotok, is a reference to the black rocks found in the area.



The City of Lethbridge acknowledges that we are gathered on the lands of the Blackfoot people of the Canadian Plains and pays respect to the Blackfoot people past, present and future while recognizing and respecting their cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship to the land. The City of Lethbridge offers respect to the Metis and all who have lived on this land and made Lethbridge their home.

***Sikóóhkotok***

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# KPI TRACKING

## Waste and Environment 2025 KPI

These Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) measure the Waste & Environment Department's progress toward strategic goals, operational efficiency, environmental stewardship, and service excellence.

### Corporate Greenhouse Gas emission reduction target of 20% Reduction based on the 2018 baseline by 2030

The amount of GHG emitted by the Corporation as calculated using the PCP Protocol.

The current (revised) target is 20%.



### Total Lethbridge Waste per capita (kg/capita) - Target 610 kg/capita by 2030

Total per capita waste generated (residential, ICI, and C&D).

Tracks annual decline to measure progress in waste reduction and management.

Baseline (2013): 1,190 kg per capita.



### Customer service satisfaction survey rating of 85% or higher

A customer satisfaction survey score of 85% or higher on the Waste & Environment Services.



### Total Water Conservation - Consumption Reduction per capita (L/pp/day) from the 2023 baseline

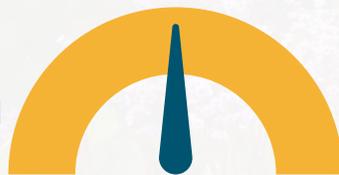
Water Conservation targets for the community based on the 2023 baseline are 10% reduction for 2024-2025, 15% reduction for 2026 - 2027 and a 20% reduction for 2028-2030.



### Annual department cost recovery of 100%

Annual cost recovery, the department should not run a deficit.

Measured by the annual operating budget variance.



# WASTE & ENVIRONMENT

## 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

During 2025, the Waste & Environment department advanced numerous projects and initiatives moving the community closer to our waste management and sustainability goals. Some notable achievements include:

- Adoption & Implementation of Provincial Extended Producer Responsibilities
- Pilot of curbside battery collection, and mattress diversion for responsible recycling of materials
- Approved the expansion of Waste & Recycling Centre scale house to allow for increased traffic flow
- Creation of 360 tours of the Material Recovery Facility and the Organics Facilities for use during in-class presentations and for public viewing
- Implementation of Environmental Rebate to encourage sustainable water usage

All of this work will help to reduce waste in the community and reach the waste diversion targets set out in the City Council Waste Diversion Policy. This work would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of both our Waste & Environment administration team, Collection Operations team, and the staff and contractors who operate the Waste and Recycling Centre.

### VISION

**We will be an educated, accountable community, whereby residents and businesses expect and participate in sustainable waste management and reduce waste disposal.**

### MISSION

**The purpose of the City of Lethbridge Waste & Environment department is to provide the community with an integrated and sustainable waste management system so as to maintain a clean, healthy urban environment.**

# SERVICE AREAS

## Infrastructure Services

## Waste & Environment

### Waste Collection

- Residential Garbage
- Residential Recycling
- Residential Organics
- Multifamily Recycling & Organics
- Commercial Garbage
- Large Item Service
- Corporate Waste Collection
- Yard Waste Sites
- Recycling Stations
- Demo Bin Rentals
- Clean Community
- Fall Leaf Collection
- Christmas Tree Collection

### Environment

- Greenhouse Gas Reduction
- Contaminated Sites Management and Support
- Sustainability and Energy Conservation Planning, Projects, and Initiatives
- Climate Adaptation
- Water Conservation

### Education & Outreach

- 360 VR Tours
- Classroom Presentations
- Landfill tours
- Outreach Events
- Education Activities
- Program Announcements and Advertising
- Website, Schedule and Loop App Updates
- Waste Wizard Updates
- Customer Service

### Waste Processing

- Landfill Services
- Organics Processing Facility
- Material Recovery Facility
- Public Drop Off
- Commercial Drop Off
- Compost Pad
- Scale Services
- Hydro-vac Facility
- Household Hazardous Waste
- Special Waste Disposal
- Landfill Gas Plant
- Business Waste Diversion Programs

# OUR SERVICE PROGRAMS

## RESIDENTIAL GARBAGE

- Bi-weekly garbage collection
- Two cart size choices - 240 L + 360L
- Includes two large item service pick ups/year and up to 250 kg/load free on Saturdays at the landfill
- Multi-family serviced through common collection

## RESIDENTIAL RECYCLING

- Bi-weekly recycling collection
- Two cart size choices - 240L + 360L
- Multi-family serviced through common collection

## RESIDENTIAL ORGANICS

- Weekly (Summer), bi-weekly (Winter) organics collection
- One cart size - 240 L
- Multi-family serviced through common collection

## RECYCLING STATIONS & YARD WASTE SITES

- Three recycling stations North, South, and West locations for residential use only
- Includes yard waste sites drop-off available from April until November
- Includes fall leaf and Christmas tree collection

## DIVERSION PROGRAMS & EDUCATION PROGRAMMING

- Classroom Presentations and 360 Facility Tours
- Waste Wizard and Loop collection reminders
- Blue Sky Centre and Waste & Recycling Centre tours
- Community surveys and What We Heard reports
- Outreach events and communication

## LANDFILL & HYDROVAC WASTE FACILITY

- The landfill receives mixed solid waste and industrial soil and waste.
- The Hydrovac Waste Facility receives hydrovac waste from businesses.

## MATERIAL RECOVERY FACILITY

- Opened in 2019, the MRF receives mixed recycling from residential and commercial sectors

## ORGANICS PROCESSING FACILITY

- Opened in 2023, the OPF receives residential source separated organics and commercial organics included packaged organics.

## PUBLIC & CONSTRUCTION DROP-OFF

- PDO for residents includes household hazardous, electronics, tires, paint and more
- CDO for businesses includes wood, concrete, shingles, drywall and more

## BUSINESS RECYCLING & PROGRAMMING

- Industrial, commercial and institutional and construction and demolition waste diversion support.
- Mandatory recycling and organics program for businesses

## ENVIRONMENT

- Environment includes the City's Sustainability work that includes focus areas of land, air, water, energy and waste. This team is supported by data tracked and provided by City Engineers

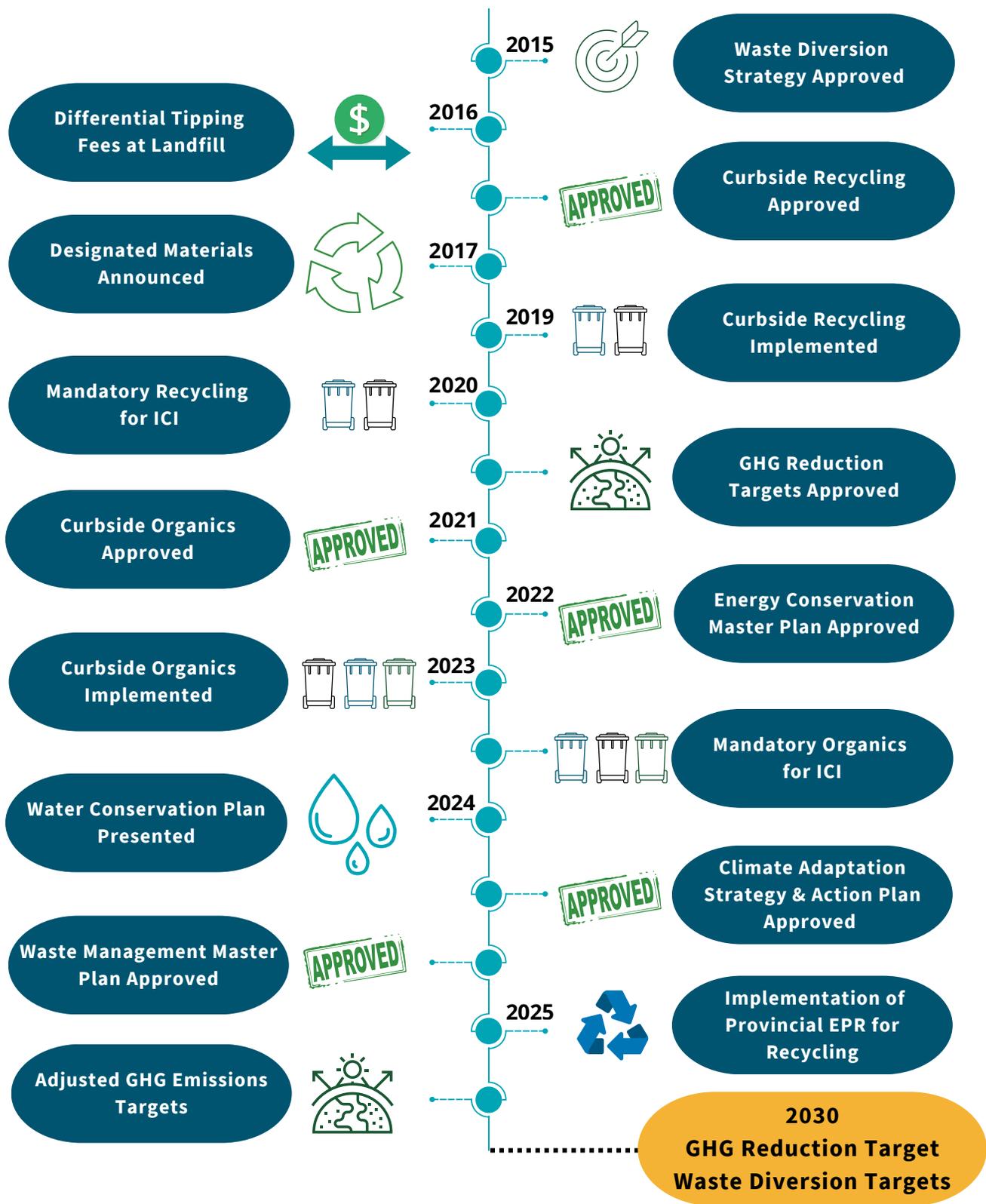


# LETHBRIDGE WASTE GENERATION

	2013 Baseline	2021 Target	2025 Actuals	2030 Target
<b>Residential kg/capita</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>140</b>
Residential Waste Diversion %	20%	50%	40%	65%
Residential Waste Reduction %	0%	30%	35%	45%
<b>Industrial, Commercial &amp; Institutional (ICI) + Construction &amp; Demolition (C&amp;D) kg/capita</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>571</b>	<b>470</b>
ICI + C&D Waste Reduction %	0	25%	34%	45%
<b>Total Lethbridge kg/capita</b>	<b>1,190</b>	<b>820</b>	<b>784</b>	<b>610</b>
Total Lethbridge Waste Reduction Since Baseline	0%	30%	34%	50%

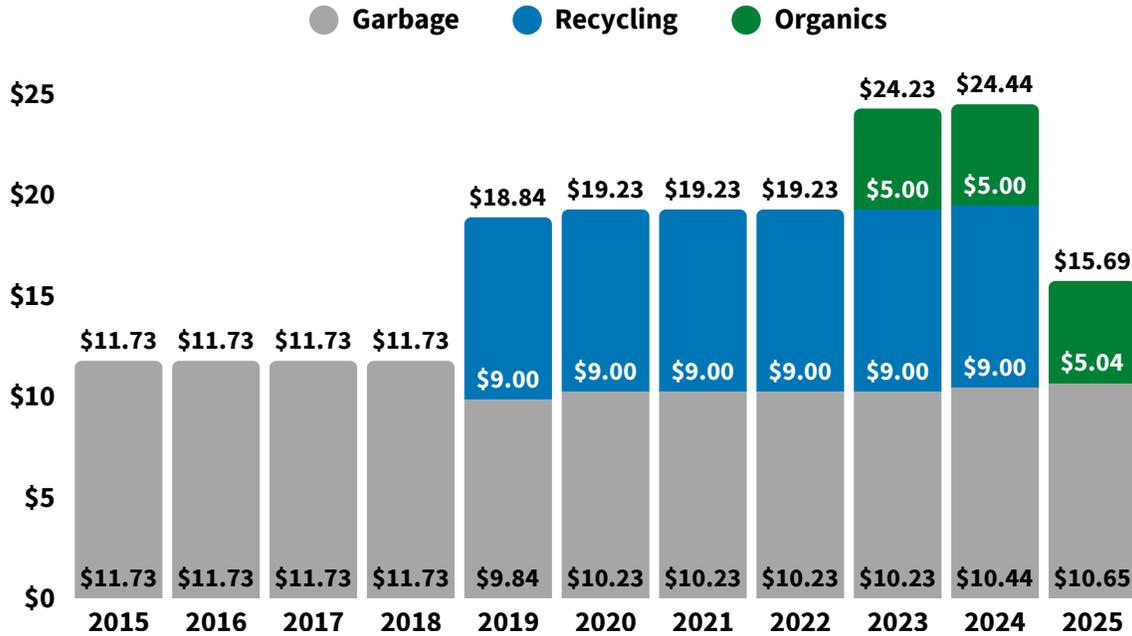
**2030 Waste Disposal and Waste Reduction % targets  
based on Waste Diversion Policy CC54**

# WASTE & ENVIRONMENT TIMELINE



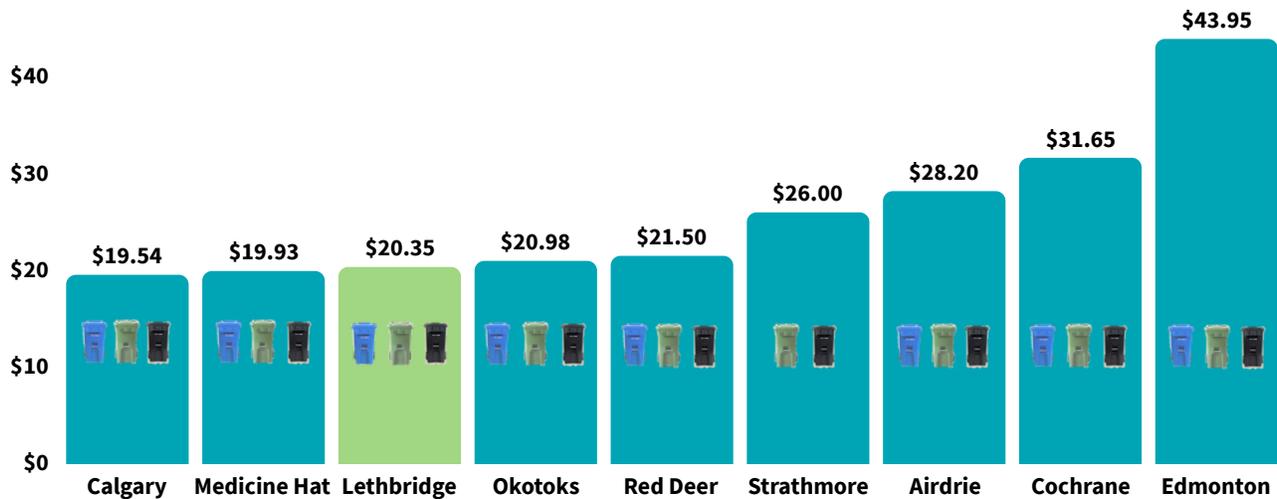
# UTILITY RATES

## Cart Collection Rates History in Lethbridge



1. Rates includes only waste collection fees for 30 days using a 240L (90 gallon) carts.
2. Blue cart fees were removed in April 2025 due to new Extended Producer Responsibility regulations.

## 2025 Alberta Waste Utility Rates Comparison



1. Rates comparison based off waste & organics collection fees for 30 days using 240L (90 gallon) carts.
2. Blue cart fees were removed in April 2025 due to new Extended Producer Responsibility regulations.
3. All rates are as they were in April 2025. All sourced from respective municipal websites & bylaws.

# UTILITY RATES BREAKDOWN

## 2025 Monthly (30 Days) Residential Rate for all Services

### GARBAGE COLLECTION

**\$10.65 (240L) / \$12.42(360L)**

Fee covers costs of collecting and disposing of residential garbage on a bi-weekly basis. Fee also includes Free Saturday Disposal, Large Item Service and the Clean Community Initiative



### RECYCLING COLLECTION

**\$0.00 (240L + 360L)**

Recycling services are covered under a contract with Circular Materials due to new Extended Producer Responsibility regulations.



### ORGANICS COLLECTION

**\$5.04 (240L)**

Fee covers costs of collecting and disposing of residential organics on a weekly (summer) and biweekly (winter) basis.



### WASTE REDUCTION FEE

**\$3.66**

Fee covers costs of Yard Waste Sites, Fall Leaf Collection, Christmas Tree Recycling, and the collection of Household Hazardous Waste & eWaste.



### LANDFILL FEE

**\$1.00**

Fee covers the payment of landfill services and ownership of the landfill.



# WASTE & ENVIRONMENT FACTS 2025



Waste Operations  
picked up over

**1.89 MILLION**

Recycling, Organics, and Garbage  
carts from Lethbridge households



The MRF has shipped over

**57,739**

tonnes of Recyclables to  
market since opening



**24%**

of waste delivered to the  
Waste & Recycling Centre was  
diverted from the landfill



Corporate Greenhouse Gas  
emissions were reduced

**12%**

from 2018 baseline levels



**1090**

Christmas Tree  
Pickups



**32,887**

**WASTE WIZARD**

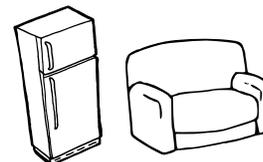
Searches



The Waste & Recycling Centre  
processed

**154,666**

tonnes of waste



**4,072**

Large Item Service  
Pickups

# Waste & Environment

## 2025 Accomplishments

### Implementation of EPR

In 2022, the Government of Alberta approved a new regulation that changes how recycling is funded and managed in our province. Under this regulation, producers of Printed Paper and Packaging (PPP) are responsible for the full lifecycle of their materials. This program is called Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). It shifts the financial responsibility for recycling away from local ratepayers and onto the companies that create these materials.

The Alberta Recycling Management Authority (ARMA) oversees the EPR program in Alberta. Circular Materials (CM) is the Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) responsible for delivering the recycling system on behalf of producers. EPR officially came into effect on April 1, 2025.

On April 1, 2025, the City of Lethbridge Waste & Environment Department began providing contracted recycling services under Phase 1 of EPR. These services include curbside blue cart collection, depot services, promotion and education, and processing at the Material Recovery Facility. This marked an important transition in how recycling services are delivered in our community.

City staff worked diligently to ensure that residents experienced no disruption in service. Service levels remained consistent, and the transition occurred smoothly. Most residents did not notice any change in their day-to-day recycling service.

Because EPR is funded by producers, the City was able to reduce the monthly residential recycling utility fee from \$9/\$7 per month to zero. This resulted in savings of up to \$108 per household each year. This change reflects a major benefit of the new program, providing financial relief to residents while maintaining high service standards.

Phase 2 of EPR will be implemented on October 1, 2026. The City is currently reviewing its role in this next phase and assessing how to continue delivering reliable services with minimal impact to residents. As of April 1, 2025, the City's role is that of a contractor delivering services under the provincial framework. Program decisions are now made by the Producer Responsibility Organization in alignment with provincial regulations.

The City remains committed to supporting a smooth transition into Phase 2 and to continuing to provide efficient and dependable recycling services to the community.



# WASTE COLLECTION

## 2025



**17,091**

Tonnes of  
Curbside Garbage Collected



**1.89 MILLION**

Recycling, Organics, and Garbage Carts  
Collected from Lethbridge Households



**3,325**

Tonnes of  
Curbside Recycling collected



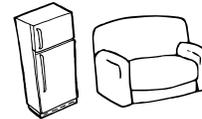
**888**

New Carts Delivered



**7,030**

Tonnes of  
Curbside Organics collected



**4,072**

Large Item Service  
Pickups



**6,566**

Leaf Bags Collected



**10,024**

Residential Collection Service Requests



**256**

Demolition Bin Service Requests



**32,250**

# of Yard Waste Visits

**694**

Tonnes of recycling hauled to the  
Recycling Stations

**1020**

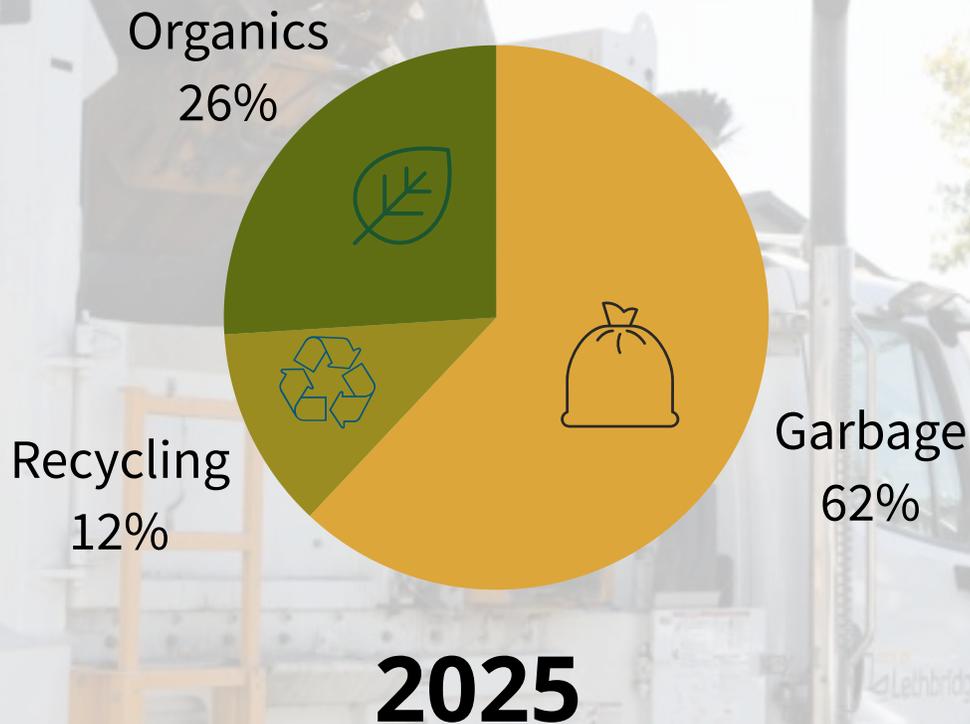
Tonnes of yard waste hauled to the Yard  
Waste Sites

# WASTE COLLECTION

## Services & Programs

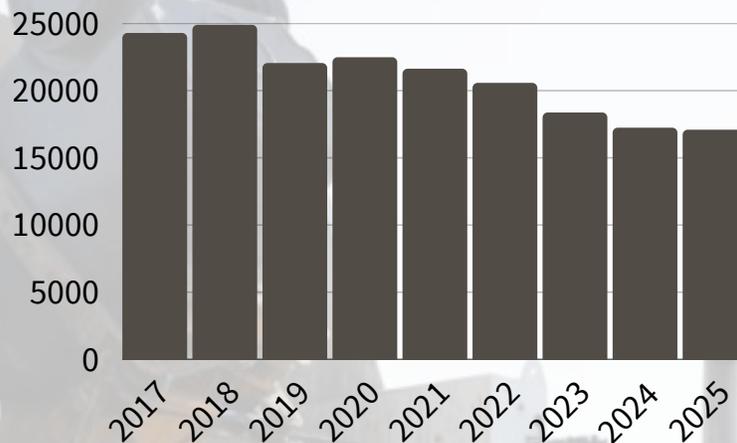
- Residential bi-weekly garbage collection
- Residential bi-weekly recycling collection
- Residential organics collection
- Multi-family recycling collection
- Corporate waste diversion program
- Commercial garbage collection
- Recycling Stations
- Seasonal fall leaf collection
- Seasonal yard waste sites
- Large item service
- Clean community program
- Christmas tree recycling
- Assisted collection program
- Curbside battery collection pilot

### Waste Collection Material Tonnage Breakdown



# Residential Biweekly Garbage Collection

## ANNUAL CURBSIDE GARBAGE COLLECTION TONNES



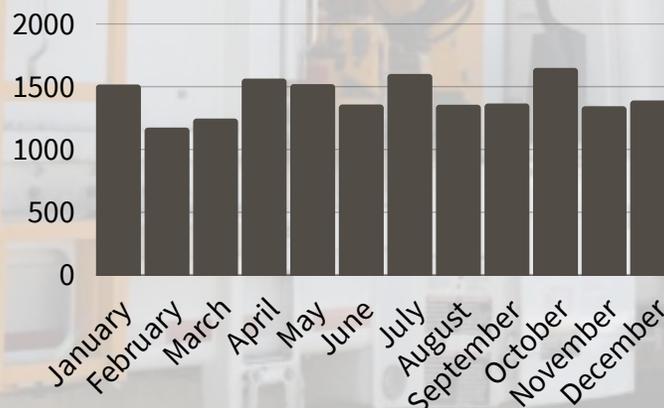
## 2025 Black cart waste audit results

	<b>Garbage</b>	<b>44%</b>
	<b>Organics</b>	<b>33%</b>
	<b>Recycling</b>	<b>21%</b>
	<b>Product Stewardship</b>	<b>2%</b>

In 2025, there was 18% less total organics found in black carts than from before green cart collection (51% in 2019-2022)

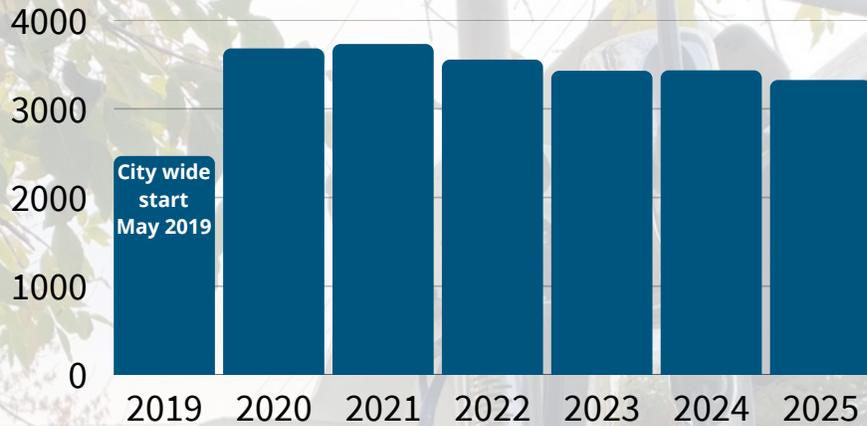
 **18%**

## 2025 MONTHLY CURBSIDE GARBAGE COLLECTION TONNES



# Residential Biweekly Recycling Collection

## ANNUAL CURBSIDE RECYCLING COLLECTION TONNES



## 2025 Blue cart waste audit results\*

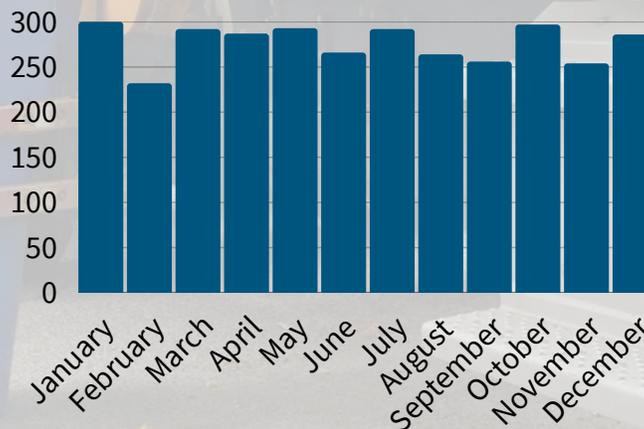
	<b>Recycling</b>	<b>88%</b>
	<b>Garbage</b>	<b>7%</b>
	<b>Organics</b>	<b>4%</b>
	<b>Product Stewardship</b>	<b>1%</b>

# 88%

of materials in the  
blue carts is  
recyclable material

\*2025 results based on single audit operated before adoption of provincial EPR, where authority of blue cart materials shifted to Circular Materials and the Province of Alberta.

## 2025 MONTHLY CURBSIDE RECYCLING COLLECTION TONNES



# Residential Weekly (Summer) + Biweekly (Winter) Organics Collection

ANNUAL CURBSIDE ORGANICS COLLECTION TONNES



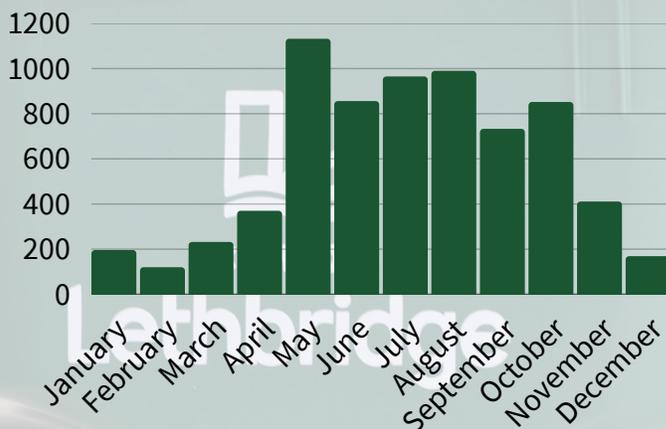
## 2025 Green cart waste audit results

	<b>Organics</b>	<b>96%</b>
	<b>Recycling</b>	<b>3%</b>
	<b>Garbage</b>	<b>1%</b>
	<b>Product Stewardship</b>	<b>0%</b>

# 96%

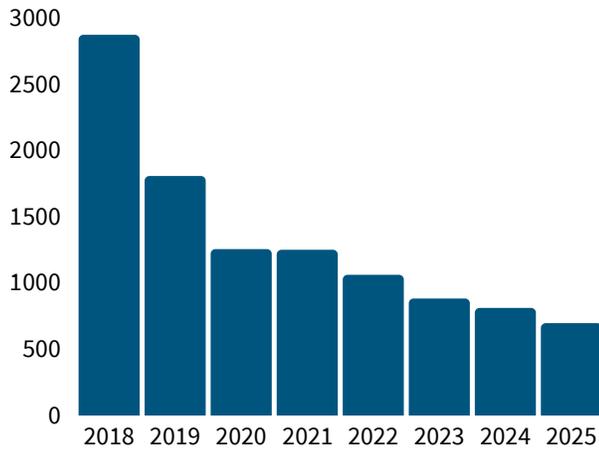
of materials in the  
green carts is  
compostable material

2025 MONTHLY CURBSIDE  
ORGANICS COLLECTION TONNES

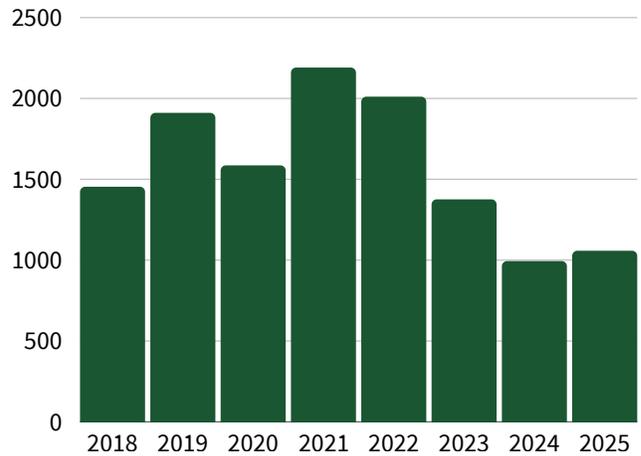


# Recycling Station & Yard Waste Drop-Off

RECYCLING STATION TONNAGE



YARD WASTE SITES TONNAGE



**245**

Yard Waste Site compactors hauled to the Organics Processing Facility in 2025



**1254**

Recycling Station bins hauled to the Materials Recovery Facility in 2025

# Waste Collection 2025 Highlights

## First Electric Body with Conventional Chassis:

After first testing and piloting in 2024, the City completed a competitive bid process and procured its first electric body/conventional fuel chassis sideload collection truck in 2025. The unit has performed well in varied weather conditions with minimal equipment issues to date and continues to operate reliably through full 10-hour collection shifts.



## Introduction of Ultrasonic Bin Sensors:

The operations team has installed over 60 sensors in various corporate containers to test the viability of low-cost ultrasonic bin sensors for determining container fullness without needing to visit the container. So far these sensors have proven to be weather-resilient and reliable in providing fullness information to supervisors, allowing for containers to only be visited and serviced when required. This has allowed the department to avoid needless equipment and labor hours, further optimizing day-to-day operations.



## Completion of Multifamily Organics Rollout

The Collections team successfully completed the rollout of organics collection to over 175 properties, containing over 7500 dwelling units. This rollout required extensive collaboration with tenants and property managers to ensure all stakeholders understood the purpose of the program as well as best practices that would lead to success.

# Waste Collection

## 2025 Highlights

### **Mattress Diversion Program Phase 1:**

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Starting in May 2025 the Collections team began diverting mattresses from the landfill through the existing large item service program. To date this program has diverted more than 610 mattresses from disposal while recovering an estimated 74% of mattress material for recycling.



### **Battery Diversion Program (EPR Pilot)**

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The City partnered with Call2Recycle to pilot a curbside battery collection program that ran in November. The collection ran for two weeks, coinciding with the bi-weekly green cart collection. Batteries were collected in sealable bags that were mailed to residents and were available for pickup from City Hall, both library locations, the HSNC, and all arenas. Over 2000 kg of batteries were collected and sent away for recycling, and all operational expenses were covered by Call2Recycle.



# WASTE PROCESSING

## 2025



Waste & Recycling Centre received



ratings on Google



**35**

wind closures (>70km/h)



The Waste & Recycling Centre  
processed

**154,666**

tonnes of waste

**668,046**

litres of leachate  
managed



**118,026**

total tonnes of  
garbage



**35,125**

Free Saturday hauls



**19,480**

total tonnes of  
recycling



The Materials Recovery Facility  
processed

**11,005**

tonnes of recyclables



**17,160**

total tonnes of  
organics



The Organics Processing Facility  
processed

**10,377**

tonnes of food and yard waste

# WASTE PROCESSING

## Services & Programs

### Waste Processing

- Mixed solid waste landfill disposal
- Industrial soil landfill disposal
- Hydro-vac waste disposal
- Organics Processing Facility
- Materials Recovery Facility
- Construction material diversion
- Landfill gas plant

### Hazardous & Special Product Recycling and Safe Disposal

- Electronic waste
- Tires
- Used & cooking oil
- Household hazardous waste
- Paint

### Special Disposal Programs

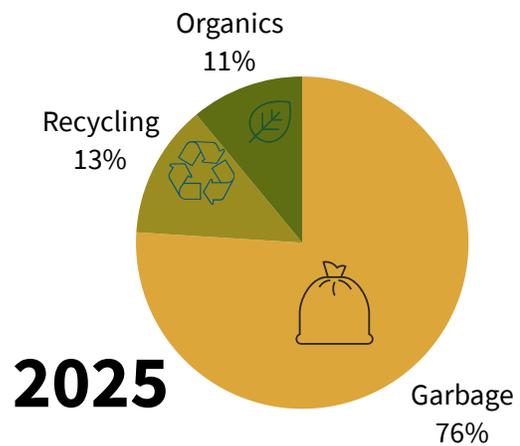
- Free Saturday Subsidy Program
- Coaldale Landfill Subsidy Program
- Lethbridge County Neighbours Disposal Program



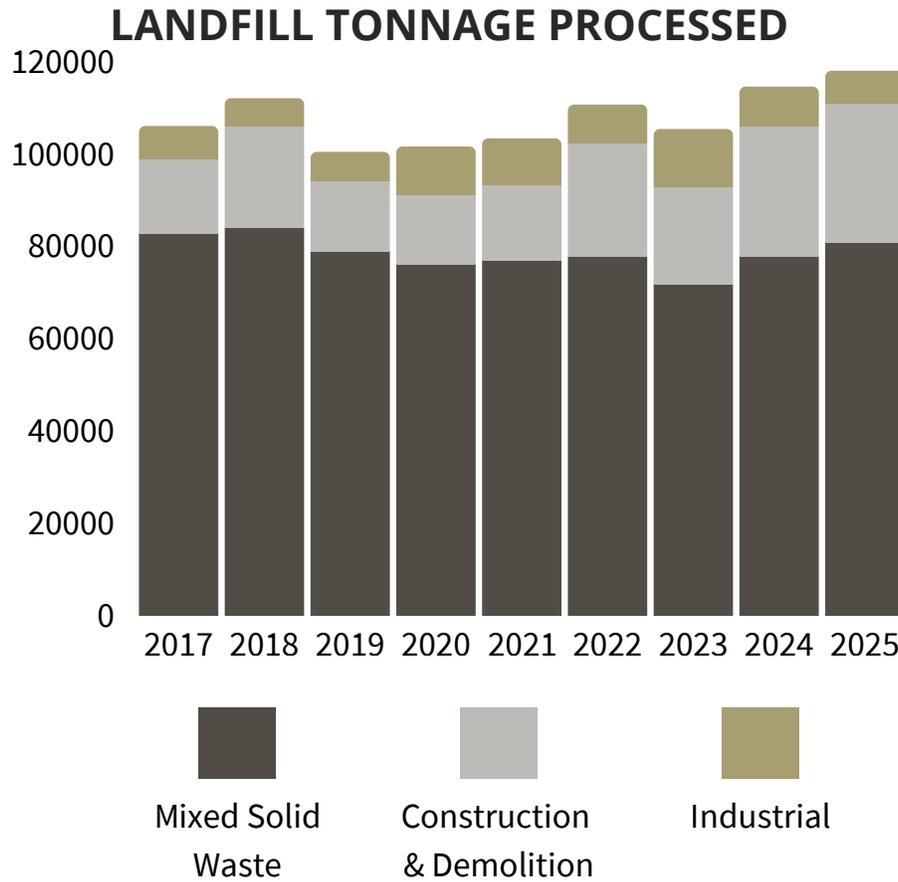
**111,873**

total hauls to and from the  
Waste & Recycling Centre in 2025

### Waste Processing Breakdown



# Waste & Recycling Centre Landfill





**118,026**  
tonnes of garbage in 2025

=

the weight of  
**89,144**  
passenger vehicles



assumes each vehicle is 1,324 kgs



# Waste & Recycling Centre Diversion

## CONSTRUCTION & PUBLIC DROP-OFF - 2025

Material	Tonnes	Material	Tonnes
Recyclable shingles	2,255	Metal	332
Lumber & pallets	2,905	Glass	139
Concrete	2,843	Electronic waste	63
Drywall	815	Tires	147
Asphalt pavement	1094	Mixed recyclables	86
Brick & block	73	Used oil	77
Sand & gravel	313	Household hazardous waste	81
Porcelain & stone	11	Paint	23

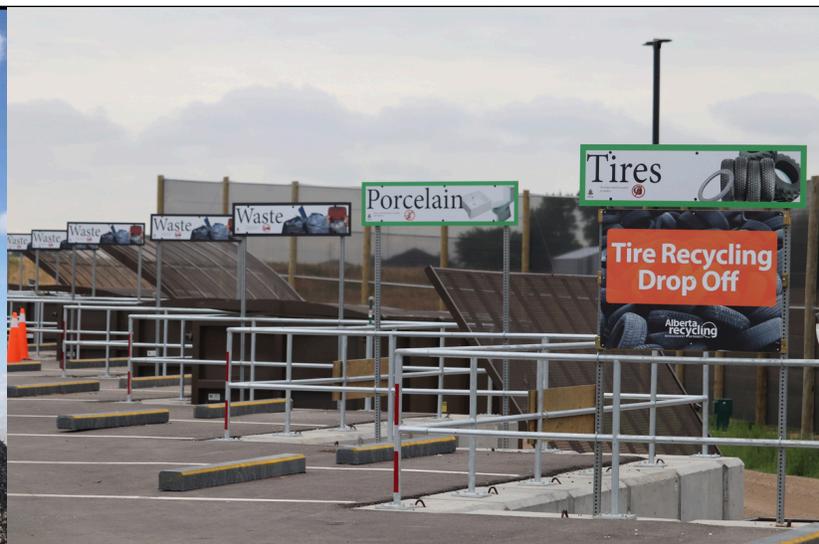
**14,367**

**Total loads at the  
Construction Drop-Off (CDO)**



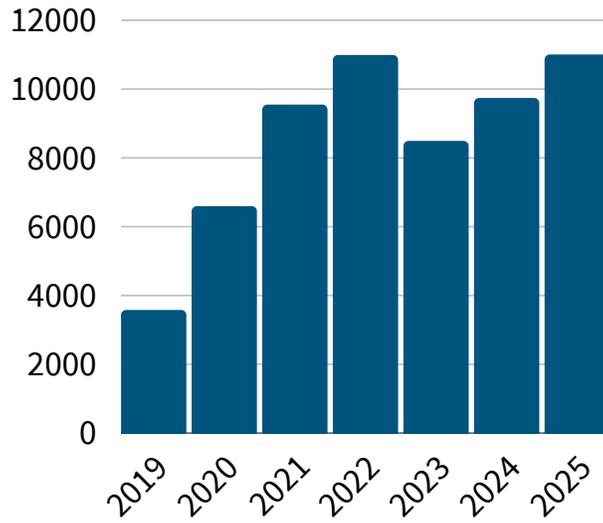
**4708**

**Total loads at the  
Public Drop-Off (PDO)**

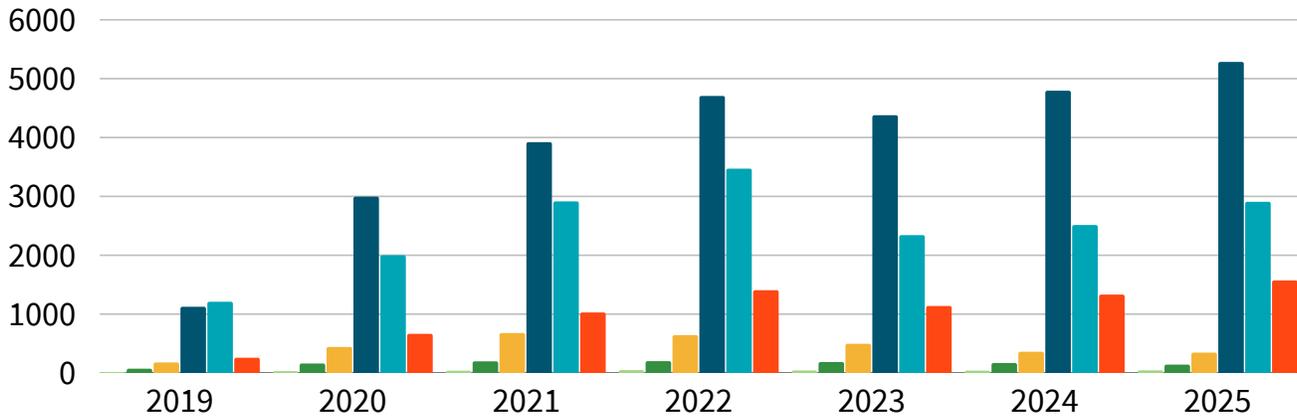


# Materials Recovery Facility (MRF)

## ANNUAL MRF RECYCLING PROCESSING TONNES

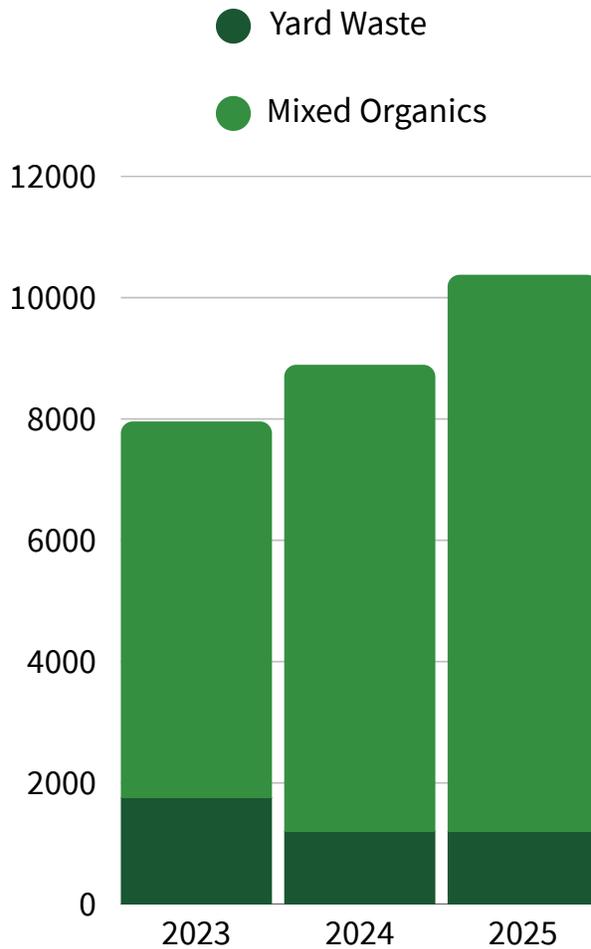


## ANNUAL MRF OUTBOUND MATERIAL TONNES



# Organics Processing Facility (OPF)

## ANNUAL OPF PROCESSING TONNES



## COMPOST SOLD

Since beginning operations, the OPF has sold over 10,100 tonnes of compost. Over 75 tonnes of compost has been given away to residents for free at community events.



# Waste Processing 2025 Highlights

## Expanded Scale House Enhances Efficiency

The City of Lethbridge expanded the landfill scale house to address growing customer volumes and improve traffic flow. The upgraded facility now features two inbound and two outbound lanes and scales, doubling previous capacity and helping reduce wait times during peak periods. The project also enhances customer experience with the addition of an onsite washroom. This project was approved and funded through the City of Lethbridge Capital Improvement Program.



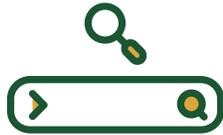
## White Wood Processing

In 2025 the team processed approximately 10,000 tonnes of white wood collected at the landfill including pallets and other untreated wood materials. Large stockpiles were ground down on site to reduce volume and prepare the material for reuse. Nails and other debris were removed during processing to ensure a clean final product. The shredded material was then repurposed into animal bedding used by agricultural operations throughout the region. This initiative diverts material from landfill, reduces disposal volumes and supports local reuse opportunities.



# EDUCATION & OUTREACH

## 2025



**32,887**

**WASTE WIZARD**  
Searches



**12,414**

Reminders Sent



**210,700**

Total website visits



**1090**

Christmas tree pick-ups



**105**

Calls responded to



**4552**

Participants during public outreach sessions,  
engagements, events, etc.



**579**

Participants of school tours  
and in-class presentations



**1847**

Social Media Interactions

### Services & Programs:

- Waste prevention programs
- WRC tours
- In-class Utilities presentations
- K-12 curriculum education & support
- Virtual Reality tours
- Outreach events
- Community surveys
- Waste Wizard & ReCollect Schedules
- Fall leaf collection communication
- Customer service

# Education & Outreach

## 2025 Highlights

### Launch of 360 Virtual Facility Tours

In 2025 the Education and Outreach team created a full suite of 360 virtual tours for key City facilities including the Materials Recovery Facility, Organics Processing Facility, Water Treatment Plant, Wastewater Treatment Plant, Electric Substation and Transit Park n Ride. All tours were built fully in house using equipment and editing software purchased specifically for this project.



This was a highly custom project. More than 500 hours were spent capturing footage, building scenes, and creating interactive learning elements. The team designed every visual aspect and developed the user experience details from the ground up. Multiple versions of some tours were created to make them more kid friendly for use in classrooms.

By completing the work internally, the team saved an estimated \$50,000 compared to outsourcing production. These tours give residents, teachers and students an inside look at complex infrastructure that is not always accessible to the public and, support ongoing community education in a modern interactive format.

# Education & Outreach

## 2025 Highlights

### Supporting Teachers and Students

The education team made a conscious effort to meet teachers where they are by bringing our programs straight into their classrooms. We heard from schools that busy schedules and limited resources can make field trips difficult, so we focused on making waste education easier to access.



This year we visited more than 25 classrooms and connected with hundreds of students. From grade school science lessons to hands on recycling activities, every visit gave students a chance to learn about waste diversion and City infrastructure in a way that fit their day and felt meaningful.

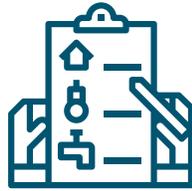
### Waste Wizard PSA Series

The education and outreach team launched a new PSA series featuring the Waste Wizard, a character created to make waste diversion topics more fun and approachable. The goal was to help residents learn what goes where and reduce common confusion around recycling, organics and waste sorting. The campaign has already accumulated over 35,000 views across digital and in-person channels and early feedback has been positive.



# BUSINESS WASTE DIVERSION

## 2025



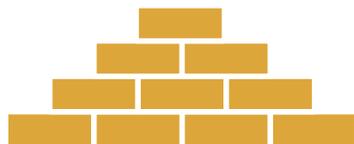
**4535**

loads inspected at the  
Waste & Recycling Centre



**351**

1:1 waste diversion interactions with  
stakeholders



**6620**

tonnes of  
construction and demolition material  
diverted from the landfill



**486**

tonnes of asphalt shingles repurposed  
for a pilot gravel road dust suppression  
application



**24%**

decrease of ICI kilograms per capita from  
the 2013 baseline level



**52%**

decrease of C&D kilograms per capita  
from the 2013 baseline level

### Services & Programs:

- Industrial, commercial and institutional (ICI) and construction & demolition (C&D) diversion programs focused on diverting waste from the landfill
- Provide education and outreach to support the business community
- Mandatory recycling and organics programs
- Designated material and inspection program design and monitoring

# BUSINESS WASTE DIVERSION

## 2025 Highlights

Waste and Environmental Services (W&E) took significant steps to engage the non-residential community, ensuring businesses were well-informed about the regulations and had the necessary support for compliance. Throughout the summer, assistants visited 350 businesses and organizations, gathering insights on their waste diversion practices and educating them on the City's mandatory recycling and organics programs.

The third year of the self-compliance annual reporting requirement for the non-residential sector is scheduled for submission by January 31, 2026. To support businesses in meeting their obligations under the mandatory organics and recycling programs, the city implemented a comprehensive communications and engagement strategy beginning in November. This initiative included public service announcements, targeted social media outreach, internal and external email communications, and a city-wide direct mail campaign. As part of the mail campaign, postcards were distributed to approximately 3,600 businesses. The outreach efforts were effective, resulting in the completion of 750 self-compliance reports by members of the industrial, commercial, and institutional (ICI) sector.

City of Lethbridge

**Mandatory business waste reports due January 31**

Help reduce commercial waste and build a more sustainable Lethbridge

Online reporting is free, simple and only takes five minutes to complete.

**What do you need to report?**

- What kinds of waste your business generates (including everyday materials generated by staff and visitors)
- If it gets sorted for recycling or composting
- How it gets collected

Reporting Portal, Sign Maker, Find a Waste Hauler, Staff Training Resources and FAQs are all included on the website!

Submit yours today at: [lethbridge.ca/businesswaste](https://lethbridge.ca/businesswaste)

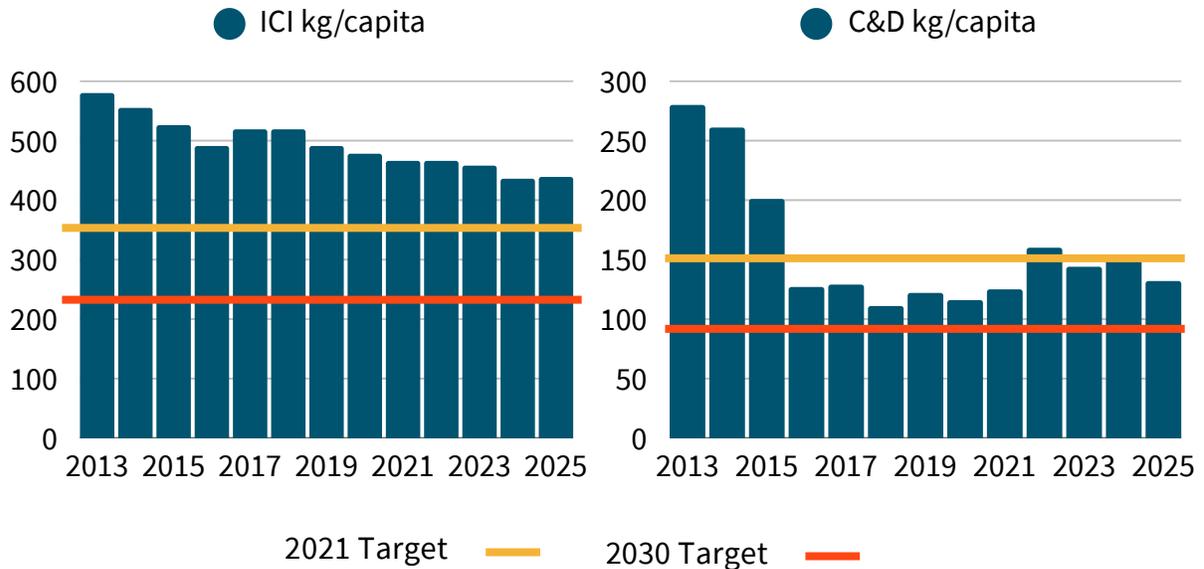
The WRC also continued to accept clean, unpainted drywall as a divertible material, which was shipped to a local farm. The drywall is repurposed as cattle bedding material, which is then composted with manure and used as a nutrient-rich fertilizer.

In 2025, 6,400 tonnes of concrete was crushed. The processed material will be used in the road construction at the WRC. The remaining crushed material will be used as a base for future projects around the Waste and Recycling Centre.

The ongoing asphalt shingle diversion efforts continue to generate measurable benefits for road maintenance and dust control in Lethbridge. In total, 486 tonnes of clean crushed asphalt shingles were applied to gravel roads this year. Of this material, 361 tonnes were specifically applied to the road leading to the west Lethbridge solar farm, where it is effectively reducing dust, improving driving conditions, and supporting consistent site access.

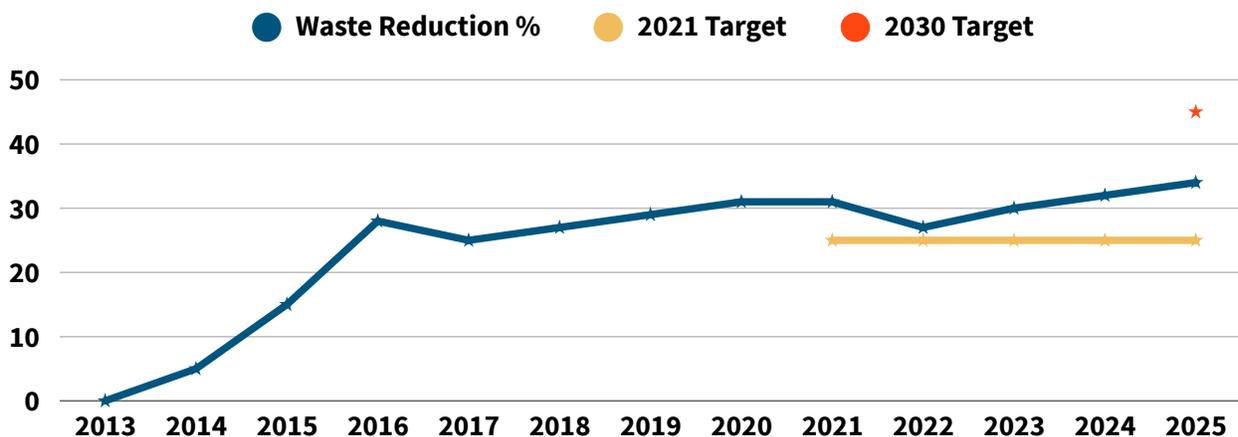
# Business Sector Waste Generation

Overall, 49,845 tonnes and 14,979 tonnes of garbage were received at the landfill during 2025 from Lethbridge ICI and C&D sources, respectively. In 2025, ICI Waste was 439 kg/capita, while C&D was 132 kg/capita.



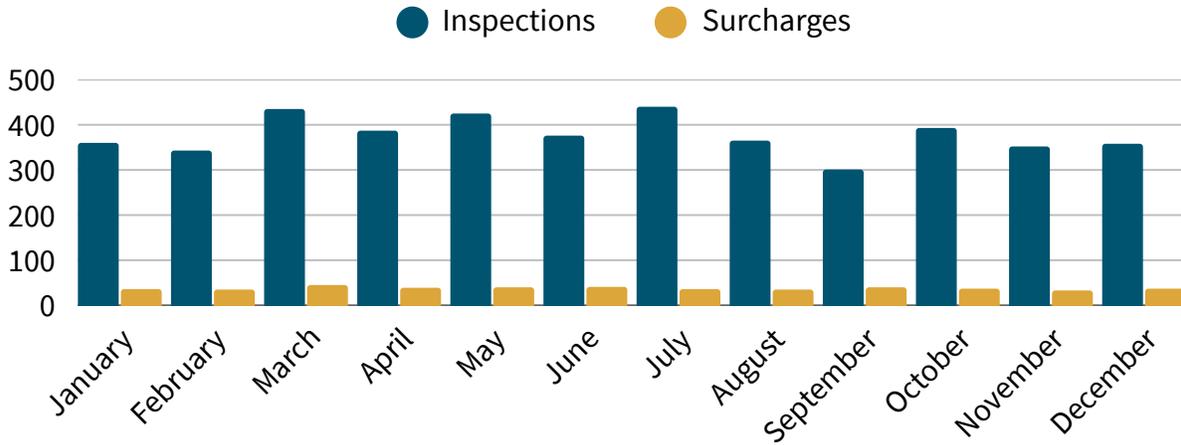
Waste from the C&D and ICI sectors combined is 30% below the 2013 baseline.

More than 8,987 tonnes of recyclables and 6,428 tonnes of organics were received in 2025, which is similar to business diversion in previous years. This demonstrates an endurance of the businesses' behavior change throughout the last years. It should be noted that this is only a portion of the potential diversion found in the community as there are several outlets for diversion that are not received at the WRC. The Waste Bylaw requiring all businesses to provide access for their staff and visitors to recycling and organics containers should continue contribute to further reduction of garbage and increased diversion from businesses in the coming years.



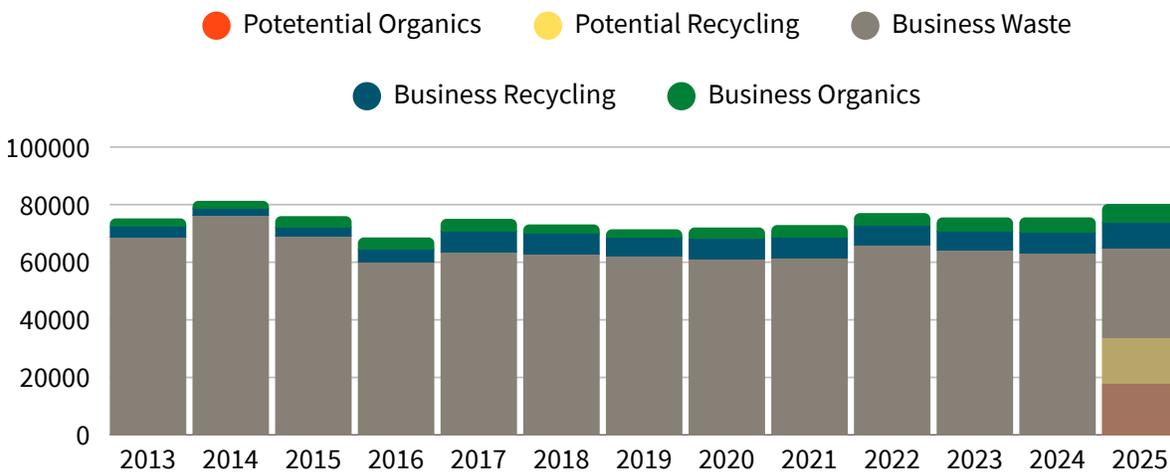
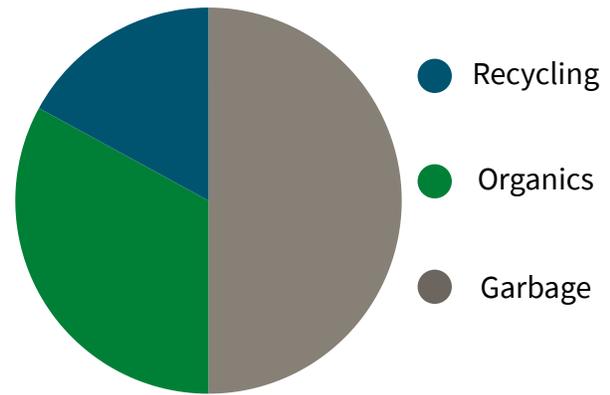
# Business Waste Generation

A total of 4,535 loads were inspected for designated materials at the WRC in 2025 for an average of 378 inspections per month. The number of loads over the acceptable tolerance (25% designated materials present in the load) was 365 for a rate of 8% surcharged per month.



The graph below illustrates the tonnes of waste received at the WRC in 2025 as garbage, recycling and organics. As we can easily note, landfilled waste represented the majority of the volume received. On the other hand, audits completed in 2025 on commercial routes (graph to the right) indicated that 15% of what is sent to be landfilled by the non-residential sector as garbage could be diverted to recycling and 29% is organics. This indicates that from the 64,824 tonnes of commercial waste landfilled in 2025, more than 32,000 tonnes could be potentially diverted. Those numbers heavily contribute to the need for the continuation of the City's efforts in promoting non-residential waste diversion programs.

2025 ICI Diversion Potential



# ENVIRONMENT

## 2025



### SUSTAINABILITY

Projects and programs within this focus area address multiple environmental sustainability aspects and thus are not specific to one focus area.



### ENERGY

Energy projects and programs focus on energy conservation, fuel efficiency, and alternative energy technologies.

**Goal: Reduce corporate fuel and energy consumption and increase renewable energy generation.**



### AIR

Projects and programs within this focus area cover air quality and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

**Goal: Reduce corporate greenhouse gas emissions by 20% from 2018 baseline levels.**



### LAND

Projects and programs within this area cover biodiversity, land stewardship, and contaminated sites.

**Goal: Increase biodiversity and environmental stewardship while sustaining, restoring, and enhancing the natural ecosystem.**



### WATER

Water projects focus on how the City uses its water resources efficiently and protects the local watershed.

**Goal: Reduce water consumption by 20% from the 2023 baseline and protect the local watershed.**



### WASTE

Waste projects and programs focus on corporate waste diversion and the City's adherence to its own Business Waste Diversion Strategy.

**Goal: Reduce waste generation and increase waste diversion.**

#### Services & Programs:

- Environment reports database
- Environmental property searches
- Corporate organics & recycling
- Partners for Climate Protection
- Compliance/due diligence monitoring
- Energy acquisition
- Implementation of environmental master plans and policies
- Environmental incentive programs
- EV chargers
- Geotechnical slope stability reviews
- Broadband program

# Lethbridge Climate Projections

Climate data indicates that Lethbridge is experiencing an increase in mean annual temperature, fewer very cold days, and more very hot days per annum than in the past. These trends will continue into the future; for example, the number of days hotter than 30°C is estimated to increase by 16 days by 2050.<sup>3</sup> The following extreme weather and climate events occurred in 2025:



## December

Prevailing high wind speeds create travel and structure hazards.



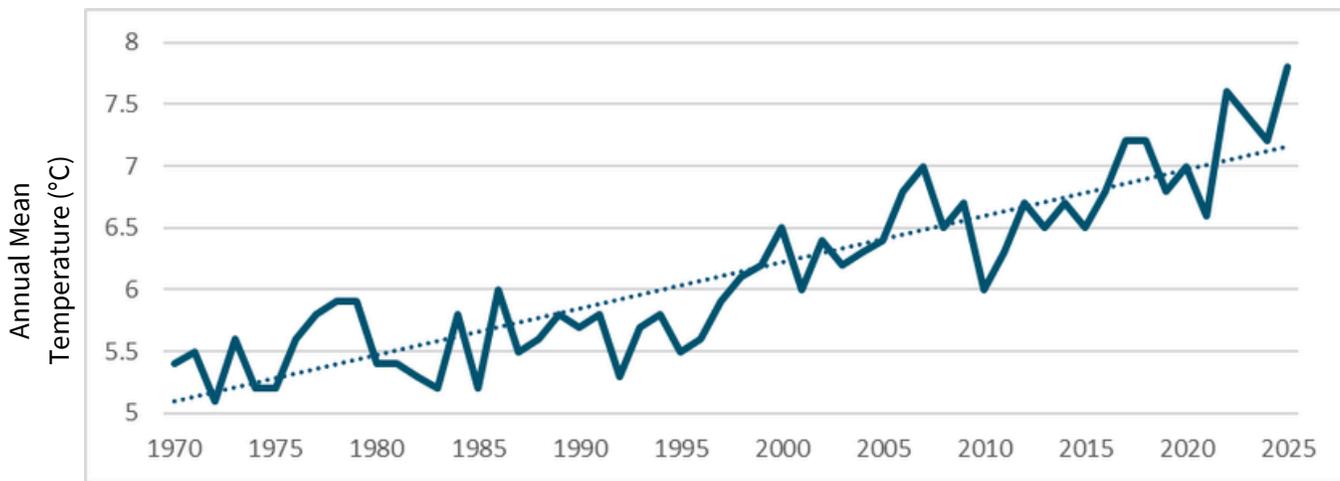
## May - September

Several temperature maximum records were broken in 2025. Notably in May and September.

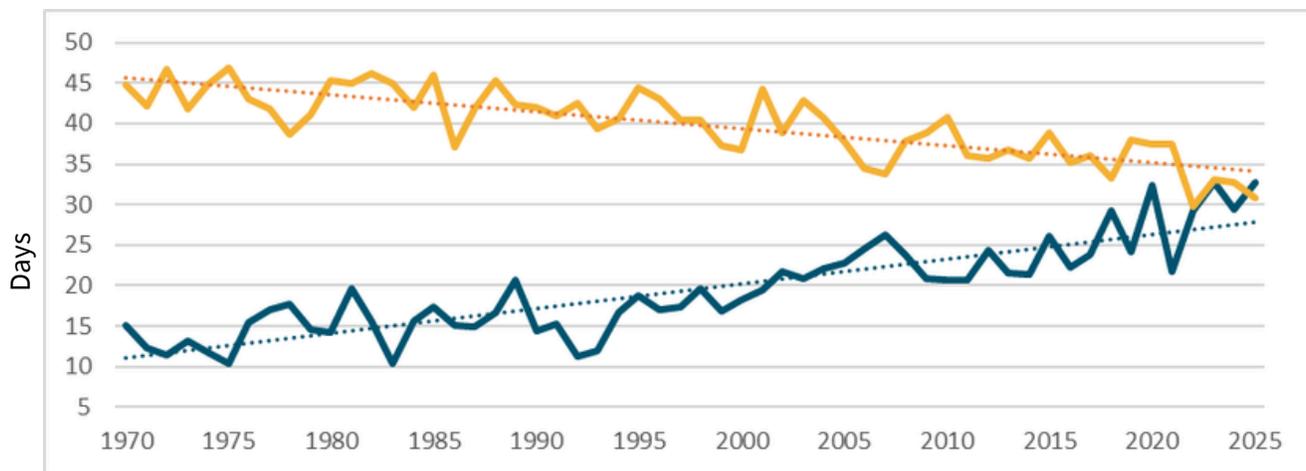


## July

Pincher Creek declared municipal agricultural disaster due to drought.



**Annual Mean Temperature in Lethbridge (°C)<sup>1,3</sup>**



**Very Hot Days and Winter Days in Lethbridge<sup>3</sup>**

— Very Hot Days (+30°C)

— Winter Days (-15°C)

<sup>1</sup> <https://albertaclimaterecords.com/#>

<sup>2</sup> City of Lethbridge Climate Change Vulnerability and Risk Assessment

<sup>3</sup> <https://climateatlas.ca/>



# Sustainability

The impacts of climate change are becoming increasingly evident in our community. Climate change is a risk multiplier, so it increases the intensity of extreme weather events including precipitation, high winds, and very hot days. These extreme weather events can increase fire risks, increase property and infrastructure damage, and intensify public health challenges. The Waste & Environment group has a focus on climate mitigation, climate adaptation, and climate resilience, as illustrated below:

## MITIGATION

Address and minimize the cause of climate change

## ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE

Respond to and prepare for climate impacts

**Electrification**      **Waste Reduction**

**Renewable Energy**

**Green Infrastructure**

**Water and Energy Conservation**

**Disaster Preparedness**      **Extreme Weather Readiness**

**Natural Area Preservation and Restoration**

## Helen Schuler Nature Centre Highlight



**148**

City staff participated in 9 City Tours designed to increase understanding of programs and services that relate to sustainability and our local environment.



**84**

Front yards were registered with Best Front Forward, which focused on beautification and biodiversity enhancements to front-yard or street front spaces.



**19,711**

Visitors took part in Water Ways, learning about the local watershed features, such as rivers and reservoirs; water supply; and water usage.



**1000+**

Residents participated in Verdant Quest, an umbrella project that includes coulee clean ups, invasive weed pulls, and more!

**“Connection with the Best Front Forward program left me feeling empowered and inspired! I have a newfound enthusiasm for more improvements to my front yard space, and I am already planning those for next year.”**

**Comment from Best Front Forward participant**



**\$216,000**  
**environmental grants awarded**

Competitive grant funding from federal and provincial governments and other sources supports an assortment of corporate projects and programs. A number of different City departments - Waste & Environment, Parks & Cemeteries, and the Helen Schuler Nature Centre - were awarded competitive grants in 2025 to further environmental initiatives throughout the organization and the community.



## CLIMATE ADAPTATION STRATEGY



On July 9, 2024 City Council adopted the City of Lethbridge Climate Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan (CASAP). The CASAP identifies ways we can better weatherproof our assets, services, and environment for extreme weather and climate change by outlining priority actions for the City of Lethbridge to consider implementing over the next 10 years (2024-2034). A progress update is provided below.



**14**

actions not started



**14**

actions in progress



**2**

actions ongoing



**3**

actions complete

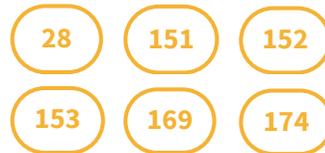
### Eight Themes

- 1  Enabling Initiatives
- 2  City Emergency Preparedness Planning
- 3  Healthy, Safe, and Prepared Communities
- 4  Protecting Critical Infrastructure
- 5  Resilient Design
- 6  Water Stewardship
- 7  Transitioning Landscapes
- 8  Protecting and Enhancing Nature



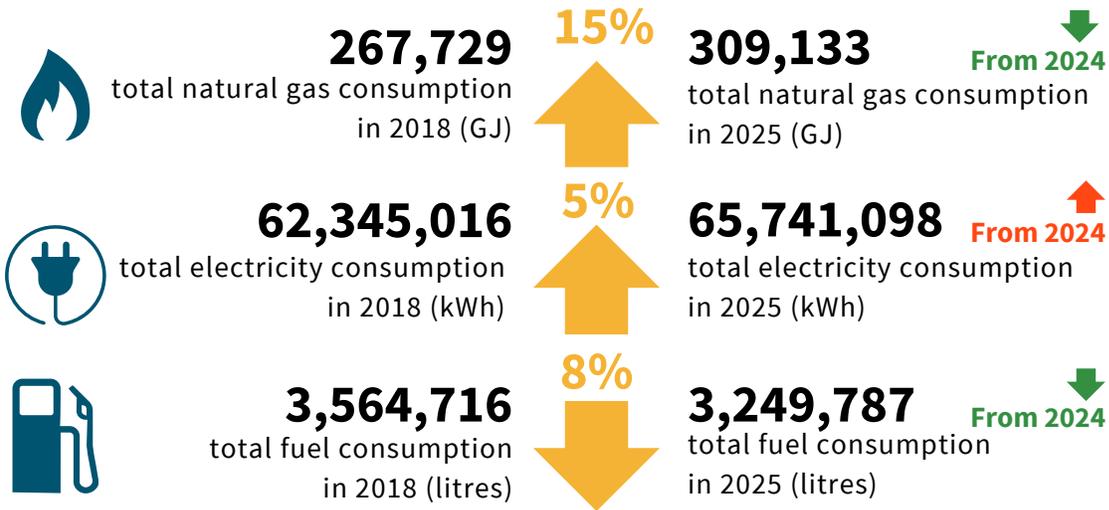
### Climate Adaptation Project Highlight

Action 6-5 of the Climate Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan was completed in 2024 and 2025 with the development of an educational communications campaign - Water Wednesday. Water Wednesday provides short-form educational releases to the public via communications. Topics include DIY retrofitting, water consciousness, xeriscaping, and regular reservoir updates from the Old Man River and other supporting sources. Drought is one of the top climate risks to Lethbridge, this educational initiative effectively informs and supports residents in being more mindful of both personal and community water use.



# Energy

For corporate facilities and assets only.



### Change since 2018

Compared to the 2018 baseline, there has been a consistent increase in corporate facility energy consumption. These increases can be attributed to many factors including the addition of City-owned facilities since 2018. For example, the baseline values do not include facilities such as the Material Recovery Facility, the Airport, Fire Hall #5, etc. Energy efficiency and renewable energy projects such as the solar carport in Civic Commons help reduce corporate electricity usage, but there was a marked increase in corporate electricity usage from 2024 to 2025. Natural gas usage has increased by 15% since the baseline year but saw a decrease from 2024 to 2025. Fuel consumption decreased between 2024 and 2025.

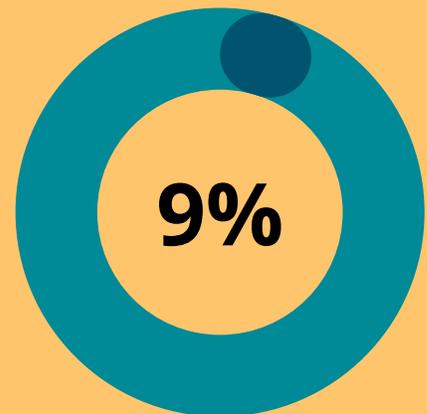
## Energy Efficiency Projects

Several energy efficiency projects have been completed since 2020 based on energy audit recommendations, and as part of regular life cycle planning. Notable accomplishments in 2025 are as follows:

-  EV charger installations at Helen Schuler Nature Centre
-  Source Exhaust Capture implementation at the Organics Processing Facility
-  Early phase of the Water Treatment Plant’s ultraviolet (UV) disinfection system retrofitting

## 17 Audited Facilities

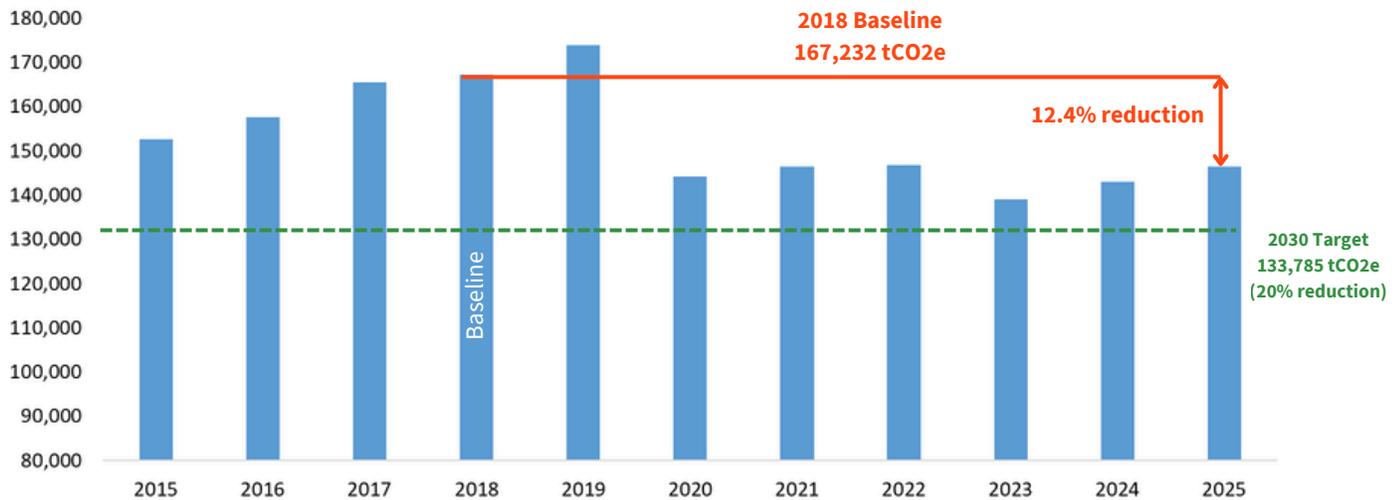
From 2024  
↓



Energy Reduction  
Since 2018 (ekWh/m<sup>2</sup>)



# Air



## Corporate Greenhouse Gas Emissions (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)

Using the Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) methodology

There has been a 12.4% reduction in corporate greenhouse gas emissions compared to the 2018 baseline. The emissions increase from 2024 to 2025 is primarily driven by a 4.4% rise in total direct emissions from solid waste. Natural gas emissions have increased by a marginal 0.4% from 2024, and all other emissions have seen a decrease since 2024. Over the past 5 years, the City of Lethbridge has maintained a reduction of around 12%-16% compared to the baseline year with no significant decrease in emissions since 2020.

Alberta fully phased out coal-fired electricity generation in June 2024, which has a positive impact on provincial and local greenhouse gas emissions. Increased residential and business waste diversion (recycling and organics), the landfill gas capture and flaring system at the Waste & Recycling Centre, and energy efficiency improvements at City facilities have contributed to the City’s emission reductions.

### Alternative Transportation



**127,774**

kilometers of micro-mobility usage in 2025, over

**45,579**

trips taken using this type of alternate transportation

### Corporate Fleet Emissions



**8,381**

tCO<sub>2</sub>e vehicle emissions from corporate fleet



**17%**

decrease from 2018 (baseline) vehicle emissions



# Land



**275**

hectares of parkland grazed by goats.



**~ 6400**

hectares of natural areas classified through a City Scholars Project.



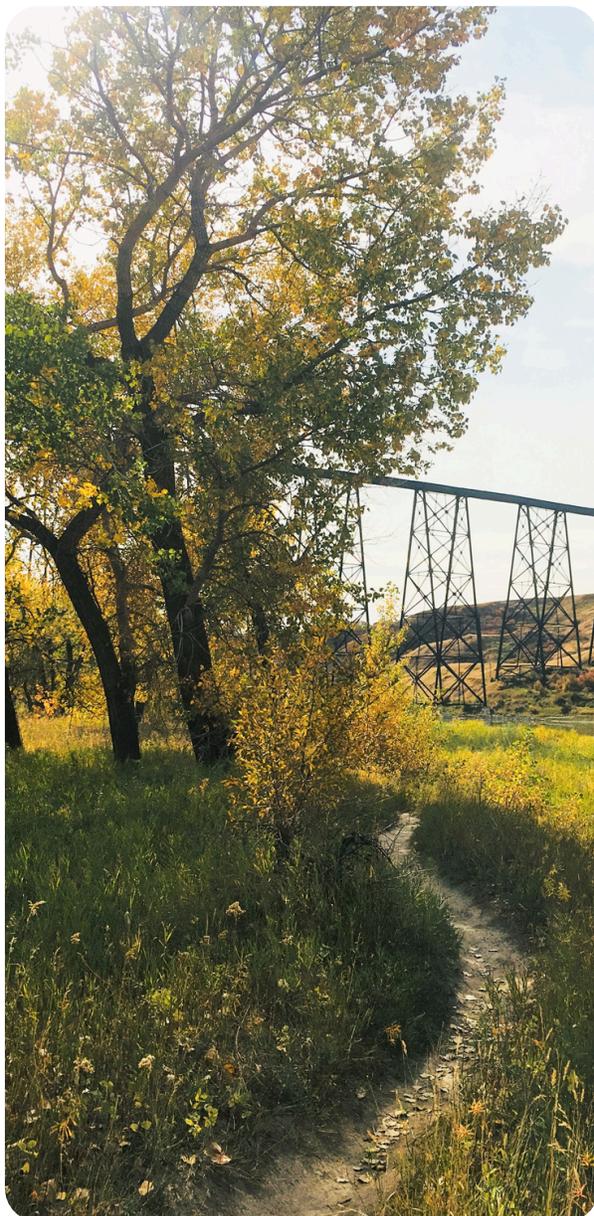
**47**

hectares of tree canopy added between 2019 and 2023.



**1031**

trees inventoried in the river valley.



## Parks Tree Inventory

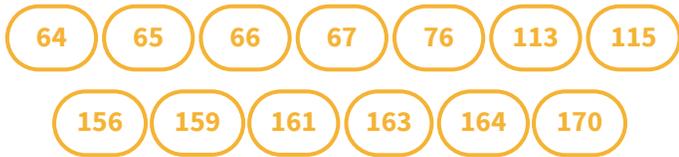
In 2025, the Lethbridge Olive Watch Application, created by the Parks Infrastructure Coordinator, was adjusted to include all typical tree species within the Lethbridge city limits.

This app can be used by anyone with permission and allows students and informed citizens to directly contribute to the familiarity we have with our natural ecosystem!

This will inform distribution statistics, locations of problematic Russian Olive trees, and areas of special concern as we continue to manage our amazing river valley.



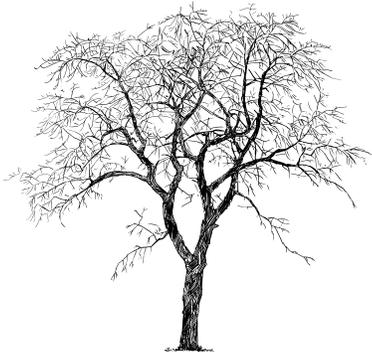
Photos provided by Helen Schuler Nature Centre



# Land

**86**  
**boulevard trees**  
**planted in 2025**

As shown below, the city is making significant strides in the strategic diversification of our urban forest—and the results are becoming increasingly evident. By intentionally expanding the variety of species within our public inventory, we are moving away from the vulnerabilities of a monoculture toward a more robust and adaptable ecosystem.



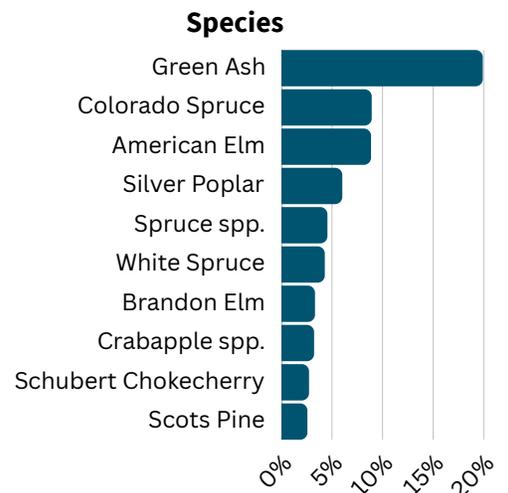
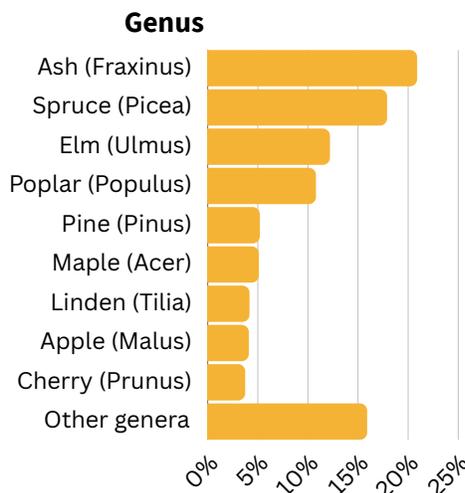
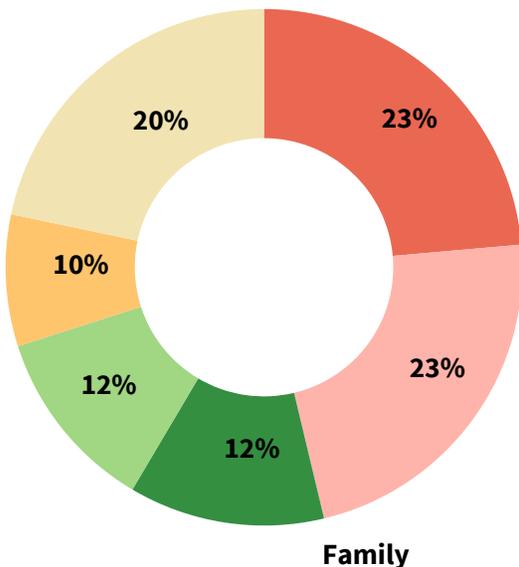
In 2025, the city’s Urban Forestry team conducted a comprehensive monitoring program to protect the municipal tree canopy from invasive threats. A total of 5,703 Dutch Elm Disease (DED) inspections were performed on public trees throughout the community.

**0** public trees with Dutch Elm Disease

## Santamour’s Rule: Tree Diversity

- Pinaceae (Pine Family)
- Oleaceae (Olive Family)
- Ulmaceae (Elm Family)
- Salicaceae (Willow Family)
- Rosaceae (Rose Family)
- Other Families

Santamour’s Rule is often referred to as the 10-20-30 rule or the 10% rule in the urban forestry vernacular. It is a guideline to diversify the urban tree population to reduce the risk of substantial tree loss due to disease or pests. Namely, the tree population should include no more than 10% of any one species, 20% of any one genus, or 30% of any family. The tree composition ratios for 2025 are illustrated. Since 2018, there have been positive steps toward urban forest diversity.

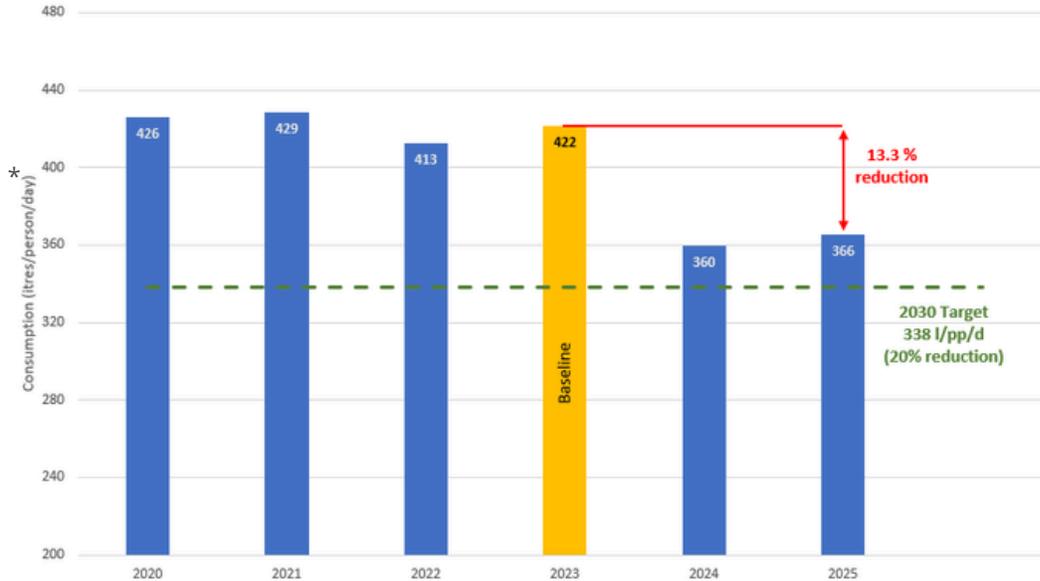




# Water

## 2025 Water Consumption

Total Annual City Water Use Per Capita



Total annual water used per person per day in the City of Lethbridge (includes residential, industrial, commercial, and institutional use).



**20,064 ML**  
total water consumed  
in 2025



**198**  
litres/person/day  
average residential  
water use



**13%**  
reduction  
from  
2023



**229**  
parks with central  
controllers



**35**  
parks utilizing  
non-potable water

### Water Conservation Targets

The Water Conservation Plan and Strategy sets reduction targets for residential and business water consumption. Reporting on water consumption will continue annually as part of the Waste & Environment annual report.

#### City of Lethbridge water conservation actions:

install water efficient fixtures, optimize irrigation, leak investigation and fixes, equipment upgrades, and education and outreach

#### The city offers many programs, initiatives, and events that encourage actions for water conservation:

Adopt-A-StormDrain, Yellow Fish Road, Hydration Stations, blueW, Environmental Incentive Programs

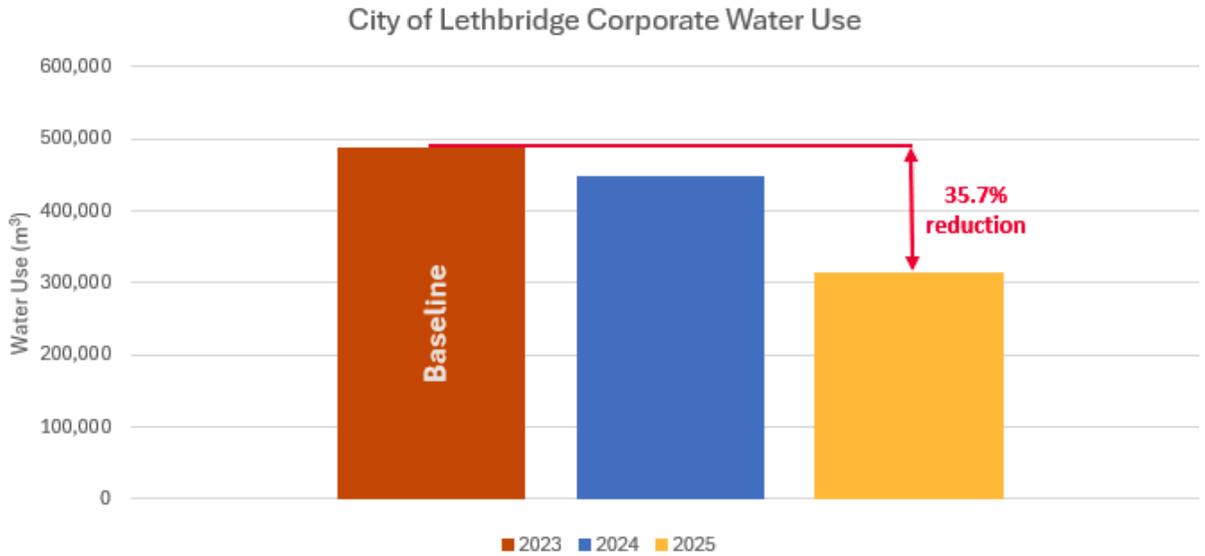
\*Population is based on Alberta Government 2025 Population estimate for Lethbridge.



# Water

## Water Conservation

**35.7%**  
reduction in corporate water usage from 2023 to 2025



## Environmental Incentive Program

In 2025, the Waste & Environment Department secured funding to implement an Environmental Incentive Program aimed at supporting sustainable practices within the community. Through this initiative, households were eligible to apply for up to two low-flow toilet rebates and two rain barrel rebates. Each rebate covered 50% of the purchase cost, to a maximum of \$100 per item.

The program's debut was a success, met with high engagement and positive feedback from the community. This strong uptake not only shows a clear appetite for water conservation in Lethbridge but also highlights a growing commitment to building a more climate-resilient city. By investing in these small-scale changes, the city is helping to secure our long-term water future and reduce the strain on municipal utility systems.



**157**

low-flow toilets approved in 2025



**~2M\***

litres of water saved annually by the 157 new low-flow toilets



**361**

rain barrels approved in 2025



**393**

approved applications to the incentive program in 2025

\* Assuming all 157 converted from 13 L/flush to 6L/flush toilets, flushed 5x per day



# Waste

MDP Policies

150

168

167

172

## Household Hazardous Waste & Electronics Recycling Roundups



**~31,490**

kg of household hazardous waste collected



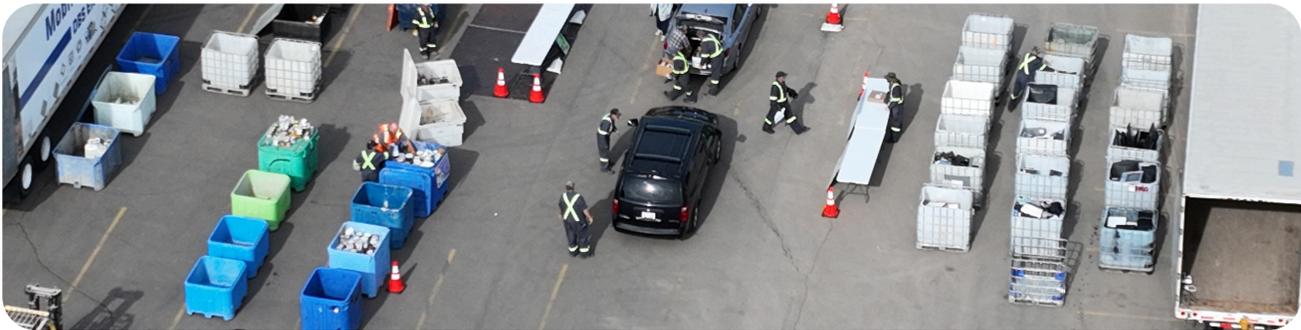
**~19,300**

kg of e-waste collected



**~2,324**

vehicles served at the two roundup events



## City of Lethbridge Waste Reduction



**9921**

metric tonnes of wood at the Waste & Recycling Centre recycled for use in landscaping and agriculture.



Paint totes and pails are now recycled by the Traffic Operations department, previously, paint barrels were not recyclable.



Fleet services have implemented hydraulic oil testing that significantly reduces the amount of oil used throughout the fleet.



**3**

ambulance boxes remounted onto new chassis by Lethbridge Fire and Emergency Services.



All LEDs and metal from streetlight and traffic signal poles are recycled by the Transportation department.

# Environment Project & Program Summary

Activity	Description
<b>2025 Projects and Programs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Incentive Program - Rain Barrels</li> <li>• Environmental Incentive Program - Low Flow Toilets</li> <li>• Ongoing Water Conservation</li> <li>• CASAP Initiative 6-5: Educational Programming on Severe Drought &amp; Water Conservation</li> <li>• Natural Assets Inventory</li> <li>• Geotechnical Safe Setback Line Adjustments in Parcel Locator</li> <li>• Environment Week</li> <li>• Energy Conservation Masterplan &amp; Strategy implementation</li> <li>• Net Zero Community Accelerator Program</li> <li>• Solar Carport Operation and Maintenance Manual</li> <li>• EV Charger at the Helen Schuler Nature Centre</li> <li>• Review and Update of the Green Fleet Policy</li> <li>• Partners for Climate Protection Corporate Milestone 3 - Implementation Plan</li> <li>• Source Exhaust Capture at the Organics Processing Facility</li> </ul>



# FOR MORE INFORMATION

## **Waste & Environment:**

- Please visit [our website](#)
- Read our [Waste Bylaw](#)
- [Waste & Recycling Centre webpage](#)

## **Curbside Collection:**

- [Composting and Green Carts](#)
- [Recycling and Blue Carts](#)
- [Garbage and Black Carts](#)
- Ask the [Waste Wizard](#) what's In and Out and check your collection schedule
- Download the [Lethbridge Loop App](#) for collection reminders
- [Report a problem](#) like missed collection or mess in lane

**Phone: 311** or **403-320-3111** (if outside Lethbridge)

