

**08**  
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# Urban Municipal Action on Climate Change Environmental Scan

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## Protocol of Cooperation

- Background
  - Alberta Environment (AENV) and the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) share many common concerns and areas of interest.
  - AENV and AUMA can benefit from a more coordinated approach in overcoming common challenges and exploring future opportunities.

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## Protocol of Cooperation

- Areas of Cooperation
  - AENV and AUMA work cooperatively in a number of areas including:
    - Water issues
    - Contaminated sites
    - Land use planning
    - Contributing to staff capability and organization growth through secondments, employee exchanges, and project experiences.
    - Climate Change

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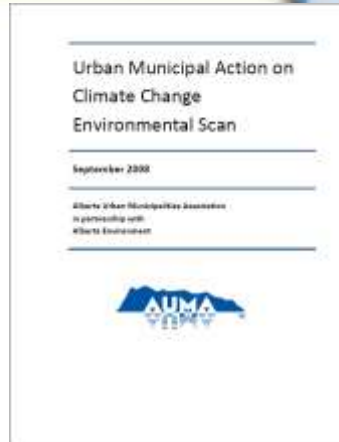
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## Environmental Scan

### Background: Municipal Actions Towards Climate Change

- Environmental scan (e-scan) developed as precursor to formal Municipal Climate Change Action Plan.



## Environmental Scan

### Background: Municipal Actions Towards Climate Change

- 53 municipalities were interviewed.
  - 12 villages, 27 towns, 11 cities, 1 county, and 3 municipal districts.
- Identifies:
  - Sources of GHG emissions from municipalities.
  - Examples of activities
  - Barriers
  - Opportunities
  - Desired support
- Recommendations developed to aid municipalities make GHG reductions.

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### Municipal Role

- Municipalities have direct and indirect control over 50% of the national GHG inventory.
- Municipalities have indirect control over general emissions through their regulatory and planning roles in the community.

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## Environmental Scan

### Municipal Role: Direct

- E-scan identifies sources of GHG emissions that are under direct control of municipal operations.
- Actions that municipalities have taken in each area:
  - Municipal fleet
  - Land use
  - Outdoor lighting
  - Buildings
  - Renewable energy and conservation
  - Waste
  - Water and wastewater treatment

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## Environmental Scan

### Municipal Role: Indirect

- E-scan identifies sources of GHG emissions that are under indirect control of municipal operations.
- Actions that municipalities have taken in each area:
  - Private transportation
  - Residential

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## Environmental Scan

### Support

- Desired support for action - towns and cities

Response	Frequency
Assistance from AUMA	17
Current AUMA initiatives	10
Financial assistance	9
Inventory of best practices	5
Information	5
Public awareness campaigns	4
Technical assistance	4
Assistance from AENV	4
Policy Changes	4

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## Environmental Scan

### Support

- Desired support for action – small communities

Response	Frequency
Information resources	12
Additional funding	8
AENV support	6
Human resources	4
Cooperation/advocacy	5
Leadership	1

## Environmental Scan

### Recommendations

#### 1. Municipal Climate Change Action Plan

- AUMA in partnership with AENV
  - Vision
  - Goals
  - Principles
  - Roles and responsibilities
  - Categories and examples of actions
  - Indicators of success
  - Time frame
  - Resources

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### Recommendations

#### 2. Information Portal

- Action plan be developed in conjunction with website known as Municipal Climate Change Action Centre.
- Will include:
  - Effective actions municipalities can take to reduce emissions.
  - Adaptation
  - Funding and knowledge resources to support municipal efforts.
- Info will be easy to access and understand:
  - Care will be taken to ensure info on website is strategic and appropriate.

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### Recommendations

#### 3. Team of Experts

- Team of Experts or SWAT team to be formed immediately to provide municipalities with expertise.
- Need to immediately address elements of the Team of Experts:
  - Where team will be housed
  - Deployment of team
  - Funding

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## Environmental Scan

### Recommendations

#### 4. Comprehensive Funding Program

- Non matching grants, loans, and incentives.
- Program will help cover upfront costs of GHG reductions.
  - These costs were identified as a common barrier for many municipalities.

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### Recommendations

#### 5. Short Term Actions

- Toolkit on increasing walkability
  - Many resources available
  - Provide info on walkability using current municipal examples.
- Organize workshops and seminars
  - Opportunities include Annual Convention and regional sessions.
    - Provide info on actions that municipalities can take to reduce emissions.

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### Recommendations

#### 5. Short term actions

- Partner with organizations such as Climate Change Central
  - Increase public awareness of existing climate change programs.
- Partner with AENV Alberta Conservation Team (ACT)
  - Identify opportunities to increase public awareness about the need to reduce emissions.

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### Recommendations

#### 5. Short term actions

- Provide detailed information on renewable energy and energy conservation programs available
  - Via AMSC and other organizations
- AUMA research streetlight standards as well as ability of municipalities to negotiate lighting
  - With utility firms

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## Environmental Scan

### Next Steps

- Creating the Action Plan
- Assembling the Team of Experts

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## Environmental Scan

*The environmental scan is now available at  
[www.auma.ca](http://www.auma.ca) under reports*

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