



Low-Cost, Big Savings

Despite a very limited budget allocation, the Town of Edson's energy manager implemented a range of cost-free measures that got the town over half-way to its emissions reduction target and saved nearly \$6,300 a year.

THE CHALLENGE

Despite these pressing infrastructure needs, it has been a challenge for Edson to secure funding for capital projects—a situation exacerbated by COVID-19. The year that Edson signed on to the Municipal Energy Manager program, the town council was unable to allocate a budget for energy conservation projects.

THE SOLUTION

The newly hired Municipal Energy Coordinator identified and planned a series of no-cost projects that could quickly make an impact on the bottom line. By collaborating with staff to change how facilities are operated, the Town of Edson was able to reduce emissions and energy costs without any capital investment.

Implementing no-cost energy conservation measures saved 46 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions and achieved 56% of the town's emissions reduction target. This result demonstrated the value of energy management and opened up a \$20,000 budget allocation to energy projects which further reduced annual emissions by over 40 tonnes.

TOWN OF EDSON

Edson is a community of 8,500 with a long history in forestry, coal mining, oil and gas exploration and construction. It is a railway depot for CN Rail and a major service centre between Edmonton and Jasper. As an older town, Edson is in the process of replacing aging infrastructure while managing the boom-and-bust cycles of its resource-based economy.



GOAL	ACTION	SUCCESS		
3.6% ↓	39 🔧	86 t ↓	3.8% ↓	\$11,168 ↓
greenhouse gas emissions (below 2019 levels)	energy conservation measures completed out of 145 identified	greenhouse gas emissions savings in first year	greenhouse gas emissions (below 2019 levels)	energy cost annual utility cost savings

MEET THE MUNICIPAL ENERGY MANAGER



Brendan Riome, Municipal Energy Coordinator

Brendan Riome is a young engineer with a passion for energy conservation. His approach to energy conservation focuses on simple and efficient facility operations and effective allocation of capital resources. Brendan joined the Town of Edson in 2020 to oversee and implement energy conservation projects, manage capital improvements in town-owned buildings, and foster the growth of a culture of sustainability. Brendan also hosts a [webinar series discussing sustainability issues](#) relevant to Edson residents.



LESSONS LEARNED

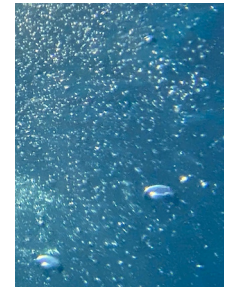
Prioritizing **no-cost and low-cost** projects helped Brendan gain the confidence of his facilities teams and the town management. The approach allowed him to begin collaborating with operations staff on long-term changes that will lead to greater climate resilience. That way, once grant funding is secured, there is a strong foundation to tackle more ambitious energy efficiency projects.

With 145 different measures to implement and a very limited budget, success relied on strong project management.

Creating an **energy management master plan** gave structure around project scheduling and resource planning. At the same time, providing Town Council with a **detailed business case**—including cost-benefit analysis, emissions reduction projects—gave the initiative strong political support.

KEY ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED

- 🔑 Installing programmable thermostats: building managers can save on energy costs at night and other times that facilities are closed.
- 🔑 Reducing flood water temperature: resurfacing the ice with 60°C water instead of 71°C saves on heating.
- 🔑 Sealing window frames: keeping the cold air outside in winter and inside in summer saves on HVAC costs.
- 🔑 Cleaning furnaces and air conditioning units: eliminating accumulated dust makes HVAC more efficient to run.
- 🔑 Insulating hot water pipes: reducing heat lost in transit allows the boiler to operate at a lower temperature.



THE MUNICIPAL ENERGY MANAGER PROGRAM

The Municipal Energy Manager Program provides funding for Alberta municipalities to hire an energy manager. Participating municipalities receive up to \$80,000 in salary to hire a professional to develop energy management plans, improve building performance, and produce noticeable energy savings.

The program was designed and delivered by the Municipal Climate Change Action Centre, a partnership of:

