

Climate Budget Series: City of Edmonton

February 25, 2026

[Webinar Recording](#)

The Climate Budget webinar series features municipalities that are advancing or have adopted climate budgets, focusing on how these budgets are tracked, managed, and drive decision-making. In this session, the City of Edmonton share their approach to a municipal climate budget, including critical steps from the planning and development phase.

Presenters

- Alberto Altamirano | Carbon Budget Manager | City of Edmonton

Presentation Overview

- Following a 2019 climate emergency declaration, the city established adaptation and energy transition strategies, leading to the first carbon budget in 2022.
- Carbon budget staff work within the Budget Office in the Finance Department, and they are responsible for the delivery of the capital, operating, and the carbon budget for the City. Having the carbon budget be managed by the Finance Department formalizes climate considerations within the city's core budgetary processes.
- The carbon budget team works closely with the City's Environment and Climate Resilience teams, and the operational teams across the city.
- Carbon Budget Framework & Scope
 - A carbon budget outlines the total allowable emissions from the current date until the target date for carbon neutrality
 - Community: Includes households and industry, totaling 16.1 million tons of in 2022.
 - Corporate: Emissions from city operations (transit, waste, offices), totaling 247,000 tons of (approx. 2% of community total
 - Every capital and operating budget request is assessed for its impact on the carbon budget. A quantitative approach is used when specific energy or fuel data is available.
 - Where there is insufficient data, a qualitative assessment evaluates GHG emissions impacts associated with each budget request, and identifies if there's an increase, decrease, or if there's no impact on emissions when compared to the current state of emissions.
 - This approach was selected due it's potential for integration within the organization, because it's considered easy to understand and can be done quickly.
- When the budget is presented to Council, both the capital and operating budgets are formally approved. The carbon budget is presented alongside them as information to support Council's decision-making, but it is not formally approved.
- Formalizing the carbon budget as part of the City's overall budget process was an important step and required significant buy-in and support from senior leadership across the organization.
- Integrating the carbon budget into the broader budget process also created strong alignment with the operating, capital, and utility budgets. As departments develop budget proposals,

they are asked to provide information on how their initiatives impact emissions (whether they help advance the City's climate goals, and if not, what considerations were taken into account and why the initiative is still being proposed).

- The 2023–2026 carbon budget focused primarily on the energy transition. For the upcoming 2027–2030 budget, the plan is to expand this into a more comprehensive climate budget. This will provide greater clarity on City investments that support both climate mitigation (reducing emissions) and climate adaptation, by helping make the city more resilient to the impacts of a changing climate.

Resources

- [City of Edmonton 2023-2026](#)
- [City of Edmonton Budget 2023-2026 Carbon Budget Highlights](#)
- [City of Edmonton Staff Report” Fall 2025 Carbon Budget Update](#)

Contact Information

Please reach out to us at any time with questions, input, or for additional information.

Desi Stefanova, Program Manager: dstefanova@climateactionpartnership.ca