



Waste Reduction Roadmap



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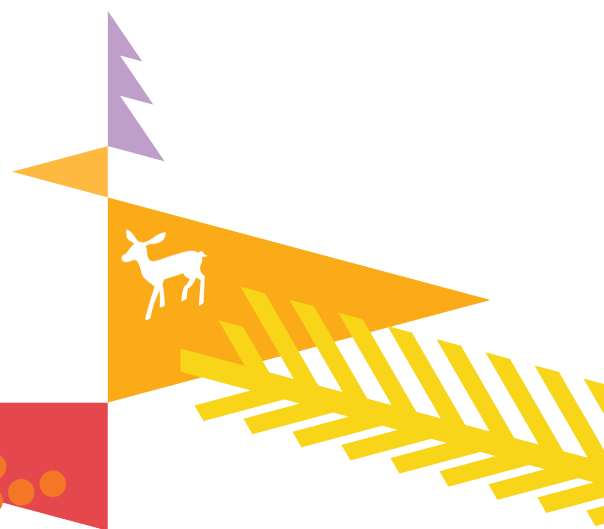
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Land Acknowledgment

The City of Edmonton acknowledges the traditional land on which we reside is in Treaty Six Territory. We would like to thank the diverse Indigenous Peoples whose ancestors' footsteps have marked this territory for centuries, such as Nêhiyaw (Cree), Dené, Anishinaabe (Saulteaux), Nakota Isga (Nakota Sioux), and Niitsitapi (Blackfoot) peoples.

We also acknowledge this as the Métis' homeland and the home of one of the largest communities of Inuit south of the 60th parallel. It is a welcoming place for all peoples who come from around the world to share Edmonton as a home. Together we call upon all of our collective, honoured traditions and spirits to work in building a great city for today and future generations.



Together, Edmonton is creating a future with less waste.

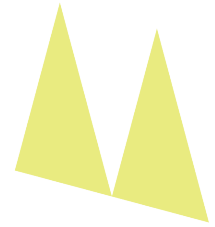
Guided by the 25-year Waste Strategy, Edmonton is on a path to change how residents, businesses and institutions think about the material they use before it becomes waste.

Waste Reduction Roadmaps are multi-year, action-oriented plans that outline various paths to reducing waste. The City's first Waste Reduction Roadmap, also known as Roadmap '24, took place from 2021 through 2024.

Roadmap '30, which runs from 2026 to 2030, is dedicated to achieving further waste reduction and supporting waste diversion initiatives in Edmonton. The actions include a range of programs and services dedicated to helping meet the goals set by the City of Edmonton's 25-year Waste Strategy. Roadmap '30 aligns with City goals and strategies in:

- The City Plan: Directions 1.4.1.4 and 5.3.1.6
- Edmonton's Climate Strategies:
 - Community Energy Transition Strategy and Action Plan: Pathway 1, Pathway 3, and Pathway 5.
 - Climate Resilient Edmonton Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan: Goal 11
 - Climate Resilience Policy: C627A
- FRESH: Food and Urban Agriculture Strategy: Direction 5.7
- Edmonton's Indigenous Framework: Commitment #5





Context and Purpose

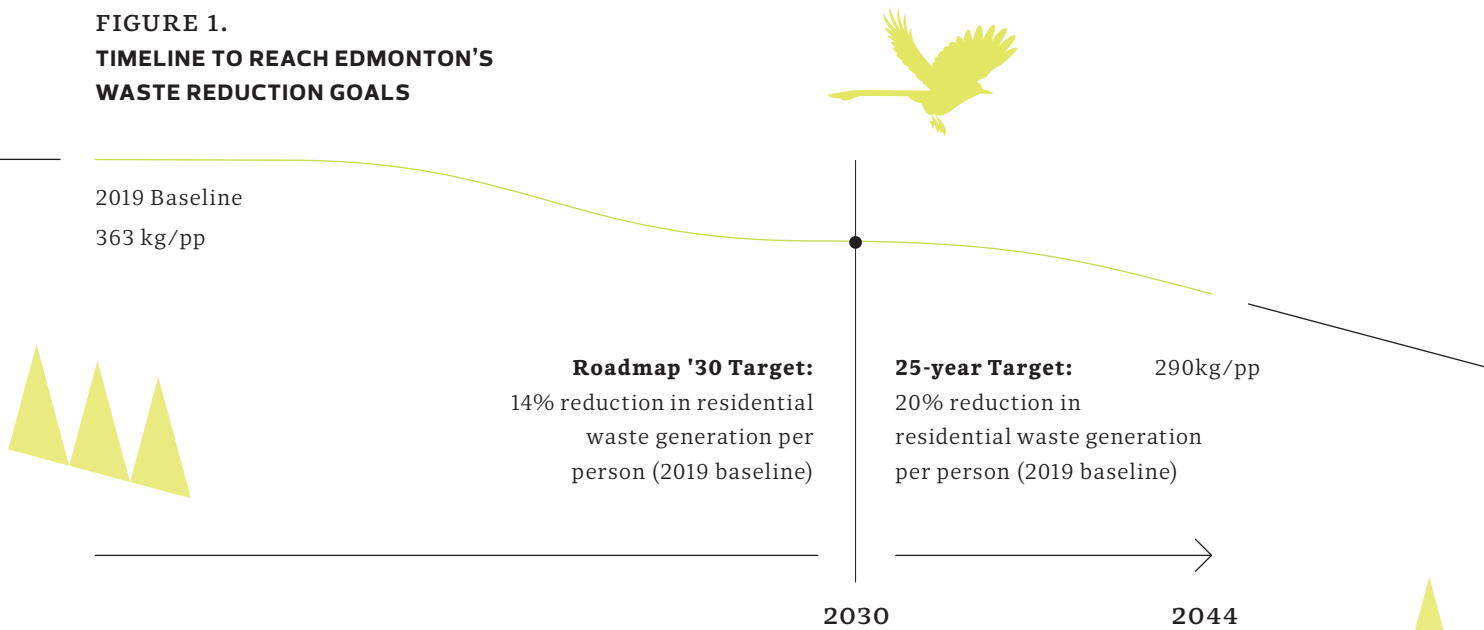
Roadmap '24 set two ambitious goals to reduce residential waste generation:

1. Zero per cent growth in residential waste generated per person from 2021 to 2024.
2. 20 per cent reduction in residential waste generated per person from 2019 levels by 2044.

By 2024, the City surpassed its Roadmap '24 zero per cent growth target, as waste generation per person was reduced by 11.7 per cent from its 2019 baseline. This places the City well on its way to reach the 2044 goal. The reduction partially resulted from Roadmap '24 actions, and was influenced by environmental, economic and social factors outside of the City's control. Roadmap '30 sets a short-term goal to reduce residential waste generated per person by 14 per cent below 2019 levels.

The actions in Roadmap '30 build upon past successes and support Edmonton's journey toward a zero waste future. Together, Edmonton can meet its 20 per cent waste reduction goal.

FIGURE 1.
TIMELINE TO REACH EDMONTON'S WASTE REDUCTION GOALS



To help Edmonton reach its waste reduction goals, the Waste Reduction Roadmaps have established three desired outcomes. These outcomes are met through the actions within the Roadmaps. Achieving these outcomes requires collaboration between the City, residents, corporate partners and interest groups.

1. Edmonton residents make behavioural changes to reduce waste
2. Barriers to zero-waste innovation and circular economy developments are reduced
3. Awareness of and participation in waste reduction programs increases

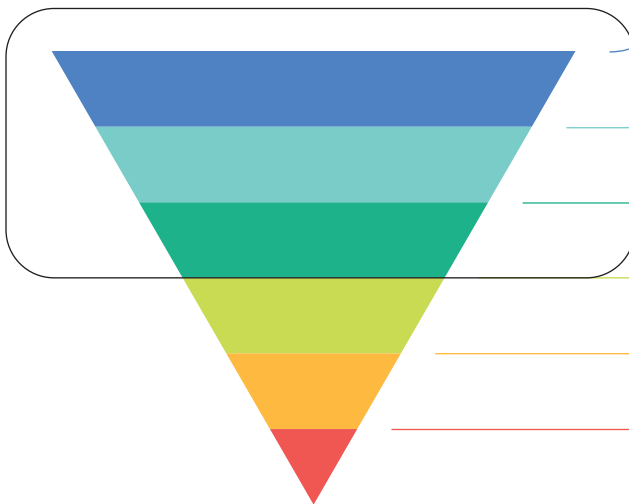


Scope of Waste Reduction

The Zero Waste Framework is the City’s waste management hierarchy. This framework sets best practices for managing waste from most to least preferred. The Waste Reduction Roadmaps prioritize actions that prevent materials from becoming waste.

These priorities help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from manufacturing, transportation, processing and residual management of materials. The solutions support keeping materials in circulation and the development of a circular economy.

FIGURE 2.
ZERO WASTE FRAMEWORK WITH THE SCOPE OF WASTE REDUCTION HIGHLIGHTED



RETHINKING AND REDESIGNING happens when policies and processes are altered to design waste out of the system and use resources to their greatest potential. It supports a circular economy.

REDUCING includes buying less, choosing more durable products or goods made with less materials and disposing less.

REUSING extends the life of products and materials and keeps them in circulation as long as possible. Examples of reuse include sharing, repairing, repurposing and participating in second-hand markets.

RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING

RECOVERING

MANAGING RESIDUALS

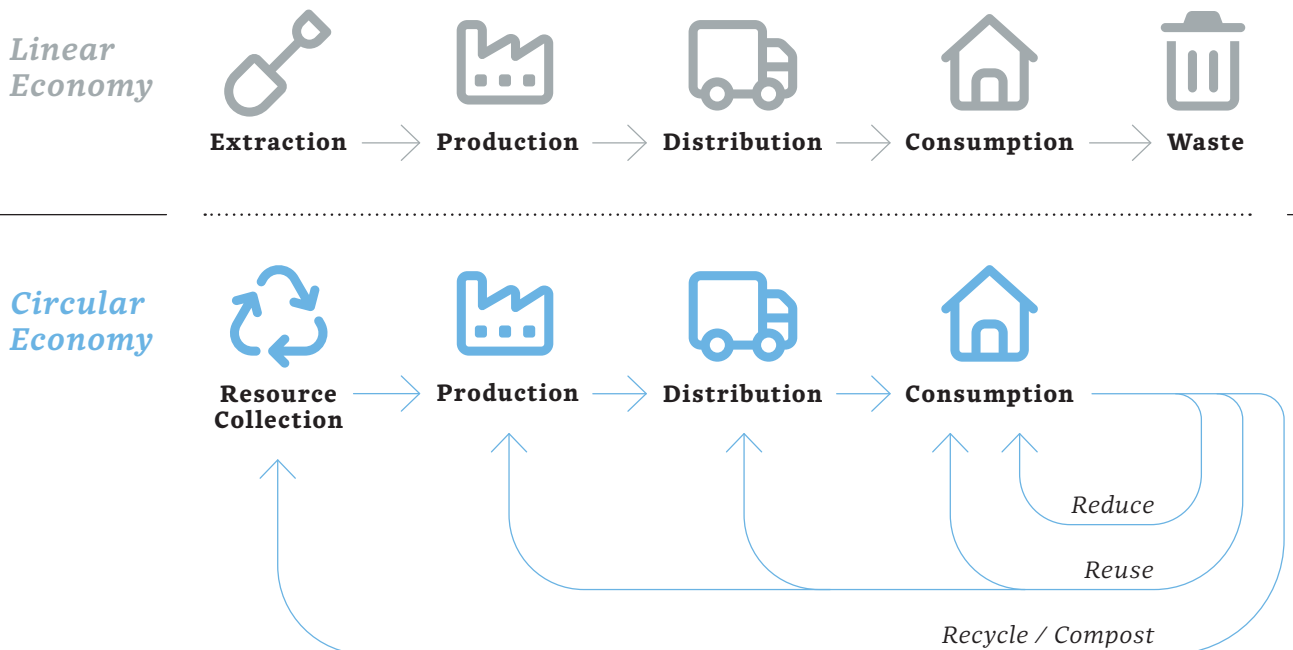
Global, National and Provincial Context

The majority of the world operates within the confines of the linear economy. In the linear economy, production depends on extracting finite natural resources. At their end-of-life, most products become waste and are thrown into landfills. This puts pressure on natural systems and creates pollution at every stage of a product's lifecycle.

There is a growing movement to transition away from the linear economy. Governments, industries and interest groups are collaborating to rethink and redesign existing systems so they reduce waste and pollution. These new standards change what products are available and how things are made, distributed, reused, recycled and composted¹. This fosters a circular economy.

The circular economy² is a system where resources never become waste. Products and materials are kept in circulation through reuse, recycling and composting. It reduces extraction of raw resources, minimizes pollution and protects ecosystems. This is complemented by the transition to renewable energy systems. The innovative solutions that foster the circular economy create jobs, reduce emissions and connect communities.

FIGURE 3.
THE LINEAR AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY



¹ When waste is turned into a new product that can be used again through mechanical, chemical or biological processes.

² The [Ellen MacArthur Foundation](#) is widely regarded as the thought leader of the Circular Economy.

Canada has been actively supporting global efforts to reduce waste.

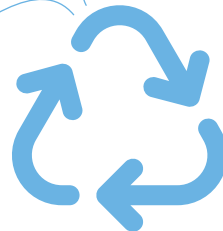
These efforts support all sectors and provinces in Canada to introduce reuse systems and act to reduce waste.

In 2025, the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) and American National Standards Institute collaborated with PR3, an international standards organization, to initiate bi-national standards for reusable packaging. CSA also began setting standards for measuring food loss and waste.

In 2024, Canada hosted international plastic treaty discussions. It continued its work to address textile waste and introduced right-to-repair laws to make it easier to fix products.

In 2023, the Single-use Plastics Prohibition Regulations banned materials from import and manufacturing.

In 2018, Canada released the national Strategy on Zero Plastic Waste.



Alberta's EPR regulation was passed in 2022 and came into force in 2025.

Alberta launched The Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regulation to foster a circular economy.

This provincial regulation shifts the costs of managing recyclable materials and household hazardous waste from municipalities to companies that make, sell or distribute products (called producers).

By making producers pay, the regulation encourages them to create less of these materials. EPR in Alberta officially began on April 1, 2025. EPR does not include waste disposed by the Industrial, Commercial and Institutional sector.

Current System Status

The waste system in Edmonton has changed since Roadmap '24. The changes impact how Edmonton residents and businesses manage their waste. Below is a brief overview of the current status of residential waste in Edmonton, the City's waste management system and what is coming next.

How Much Residential Waste Do We Generate?

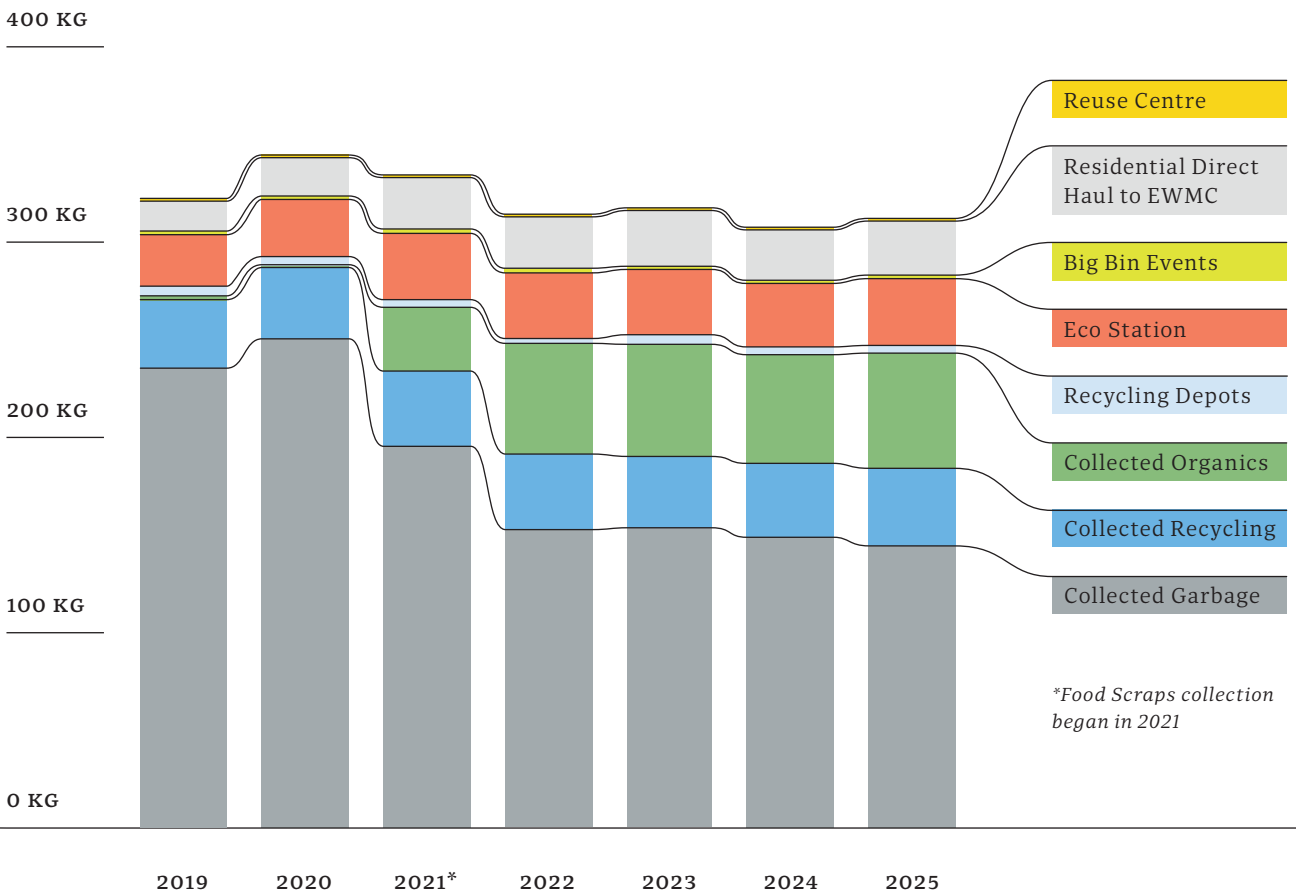
Residential waste is the waste we generate at home. As larger populations make more waste collectively, we need to examine how much waste each person generates.

To understand waste generated by Edmonton residents, the City weighs how much households throw away. This waste data is gathered from collection services (i.e. garbage, recycling, food scraps and yard waste). The City also tracks the

weight of items brought to drop-off events (e.g., Big Bin Events) and locations (e.g., Eco Stations).

From 2021 to 2025, waste generated per person fell from the 2019 baseline of 363 kg to 326 kg. This 37 kg reduction per person represents a 10 per cent decrease from 2019 levels. This reduction partially resulted from waste reduction actions in Roadmap '24, as well as environmental, economic conditions and consumer trends.

FIGURE 4.
ANNUAL PER PERSON RESIDENTIAL WASTE GENERATION, BY COLLECTION AND DROP-OFF METHOD



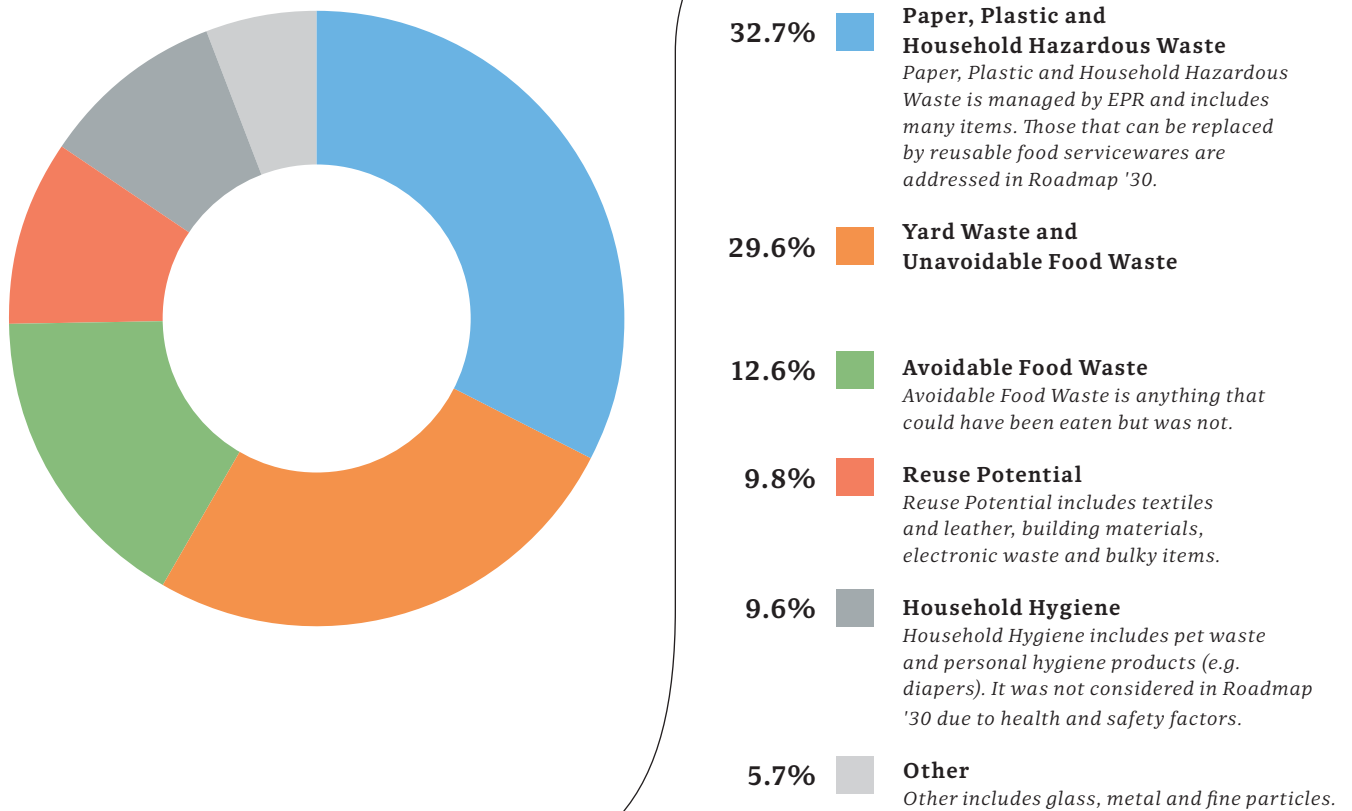
A Closer Look into Edmonton's Residential Waste

The City of Edmonton regularly conducts citywide waste characterization studies to understand what residents are disposing of at home. By repeating the study every few years, the City can track changes in waste composition and resident sorting behaviour over time.

Four-season waste characterization studies were conducted from 2022 to 2023 to examine the composition of materials from garbage, recycling, food scraps and yard waste collected from homes. These studies do not include waste brought to drop-off events or locations. The results create a picture of the waste collected from Edmonton residents

and helped identify actions for Roadmap '30. Once completed, an ongoing 2025-26 study and a planned study before 2030 will help assess Edmonton's waste patterns and inform policy adjustments.

FIGURE 5.
RESIDENTIAL COLLECTION
MATERIAL COMPOSITION 2022-23



This graph represents garbage, recycling, food scraps, and yard waste collected from residential buildings.

Changes in Residential Waste Collection Programs

In 2021, the City provided the 260,000 homes that receive curbside collection with carts to sort their food scraps and garbage. In October 2023, a similar program began for apartments and condos. In addition to their existing garbage bins, these buildings receive food scraps and recycling containers.

By the end of 2027, all apartments and condos will receive their containers and every Edmonton resident will be able to sort food scraps, recycling and garbage at home. Both programs require residents to sort their waste and introduce garbage volume limits, which encourages waste reduction.



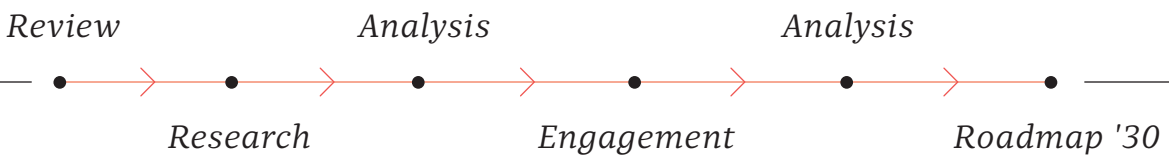
Industrial, Commercial and Institutional Waste Roadmap (ICI Roadmap)

While Waste Reduction Roadmap '24 included actions for both residents and businesses, Roadmap '30 focuses on reducing residential waste and waste generated at public events. Meanwhile, a roadmap for Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) waste is under development for 2027-30. If approved by City Council, this ICI roadmap will improve waste reduction and diversion from the non-residential sector. The Waste Reduction Roadmap '30 and the ICI Roadmap will be designed to complement each other.

Roadmap Development Process

Roadmap '30 was developed between late 2024 and early 2026, and is based on extensive research and engagement. A literature review and jurisdictional research introduced ideas for possible actions, which were analysed to ensure they met City standards and goals, while benefiting our community and environment.

These ideas were brought to the public, whose feedback was considered throughout the Roadmap's development. Figure 6 shows the process Roadmap '30 took. More information about the process and findings is included in the Roadmap '30 What We Heard report.



Focus Areas, Actions and Implementation

Roadmap '30 is designed to make reducing waste easier for residents. To achieve its goals and outcomes, the City, with the help of those it engaged, identified five focus areas and 14 actions to implement over the next five years. These focus areas support the long-term outcomes and goals of Roadmap '30.

1

**MAKE SHARING
AND DONATING
EASIER**

2

**ENCOURAGE RESIDENTS
AND BUSINESSES TO CHOOSE
REUSABLE FOODWARE**

3

**SUPPORT PUBLIC
EVENTS TO
REDUCE WASTE**

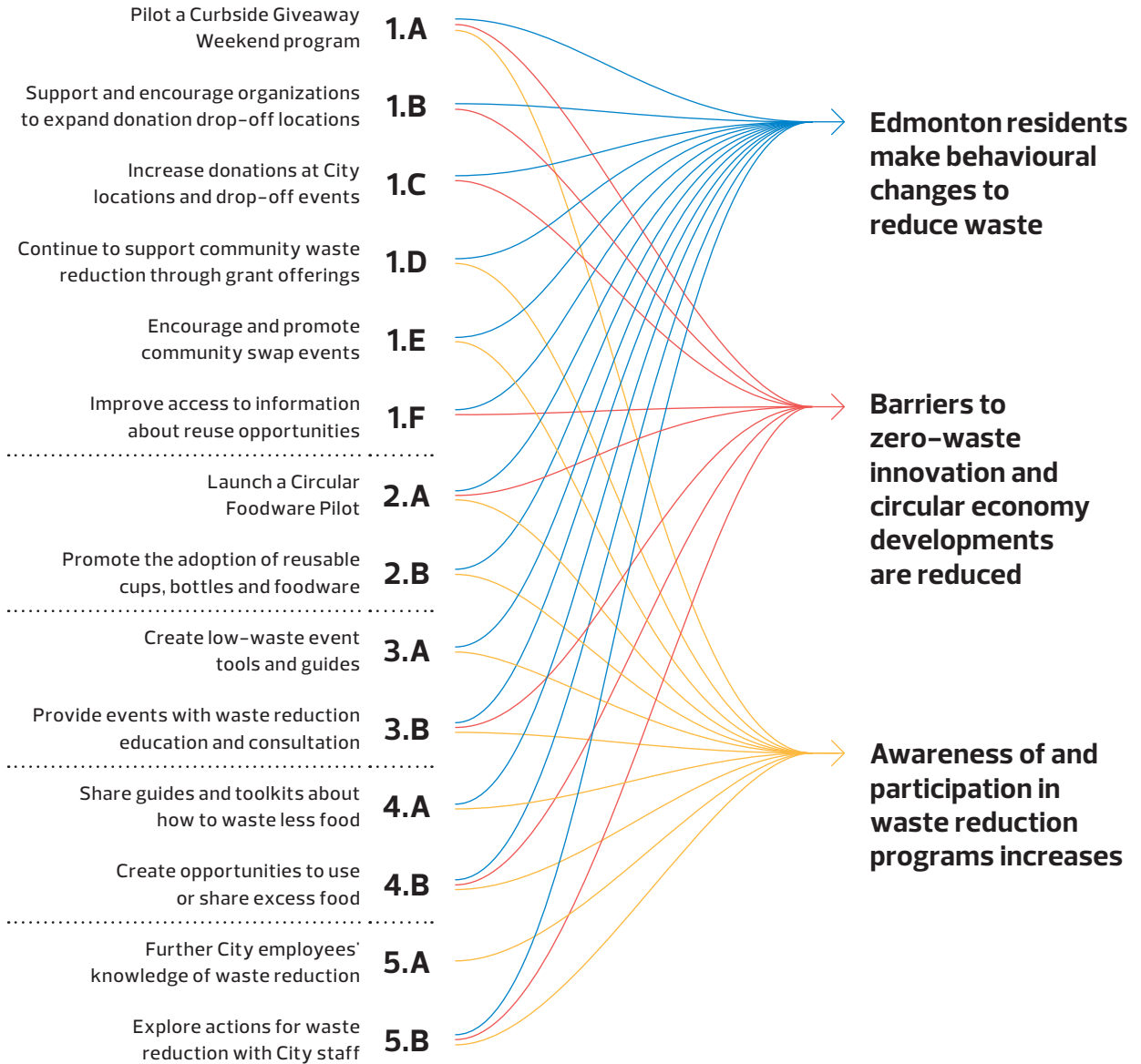
4

**PREVENT FOOD
WASTE AT HOME**

5

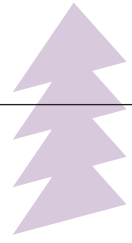
**REDUCE WASTE FROM
CITY FACILITIES
AND OPERATIONS**

FIGURE 7.
HOW ROADMAP '30 ACTIONS SUPPORT ACHIEVING DESIRED OUTCOMES



By making these actions easier, more people will be inspired to make them a habit. Habits help to establish cultural norms—something everyone just does. A culture that values waste reduction provides opportunities to connect, build relationships and create community.

When communities interact and share stories about their positive experiences engaging in waste reduction activities, it further reinforces cultural norms and helps the City to achieve its waste reduction goals.



1 MAKE SHARING AND DONATING EASIER

Focus Area

Donating, swapping and sharing items that are still in good condition saves energy and resources. People can access the goods and services they need while spending less money, creating community and reducing waste sent to landfill. While we can share any material, there is great potential to reuse clothing, furniture and other everyday things found in our homes.

Recent studies on textiles reflect this potential. Between 2022 - 2024, people in Edmonton disposed of more than 39,000 tonnes of clothing and fabric from their homes. Experts believe about 25 per cent of textile waste could be reused as-is, and 40 per cent can be reused after slight repair.³ Based on these figures, on average, residents of Edmonton could reduce 8,600 tonnes of textile waste or an estimated 16 to 25 million items every year.

ACTION

1.A Pilot a Curbside Giveaway Weekend program

1.B Support and encourage organizations to expand donation drop-off locations

1.C Increase donations at City locations and drop-off event

DESCRIPTION

During a Curbside Giveaway Weekend, people can put items on the curb with a "free" sign for others to take. The City will first test this idea to help identify and solve any issues. After the pilot, the City will determine if the program should continue, and if so, how best to expand it.

To make it easier to donate unwanted items, donation sites should be easily accessible to everyone in Edmonton. The City will find areas where donation drop-off locations are lacking. The information will be shared with organizations and businesses to encourage them to open new donation sites. The City will run education campaigns to encourage people to donate and help them find existing drop-off locations.

Some items people bring to waste drop-off events or locations are still in good condition and could be reused by someone else. The City will make it easier for people to donate items for reuse at these events and locations.

TIMELINE

2028: Pilot implementation
2029: Expand, retest or cancel

2027 - 2030

2027 - 2030

MEASURES

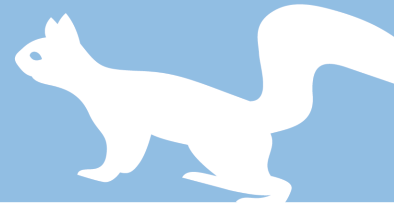
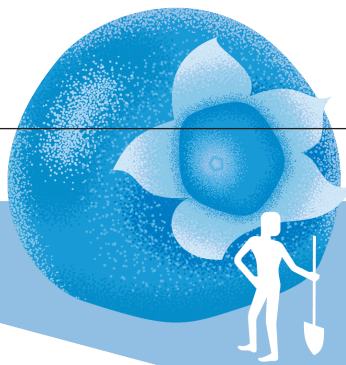
Resident satisfaction with the pilot / reported donations.
of complaints about illegal dumping or unsightly properties.

of reuse collection sites added by partner organizations or businesses.
Gap area (by size) before and after.

of community bin events with reuse opportunities.
of items or weight of materials reused at City events / locations.

³Weber, S., Weber, O., Habib, K., Dias, G. M. *Textile waste in Ontario, Canada: Opportunities for reuse and recycling*. 2023. *Resources, Conservation and Recycling*, Volume 190.





ACTION

1.D Continue to support community waste reduction through grant offerings

1.E Encourage and promote community swap events

1.F Improve access to information about reuse opportunities

DESCRIPTION

The City maintains its commitment to support waste reduction through grants. The Waste Reduction and Reuse Grant supports events and projects. The Community Clean Up Grant supports large-item drop-off events and charitable donations.

This action will promote swap events around the City, where residents can trade items with each other at no cost. A swap event focuses on a specific item, such as books, movies or toys.

The City has two digital tools that help residents reduce waste. The Reuse Directory connects people with businesses where they can borrow, consign, donate, refill, rent or repair items. The WasteWise app provides information on the good, better and best ways to dispose of items. Improving these tools can make it easier for people to borrow and donate.

TIMELINE

2026 - 2030

2026 - 2030

2026 - 2030

MEASURES

% of grant funding allocated.
of events with reuse opportunities.
Waste reduced (kg or items).

of events promoted
of participants at City events and events hosted by City partners.

of organizations included in the digital tools.
of webpage views.
Customer perception survey results.

2 ENCOURAGE RESIDENTS & BUSINESSES TO CHOOSE REUSABLE FOODWARE

Focus Area

When we choose reusable foodware items over disposable ones, a culture of reuse is encouraged, less waste is generated and we reduce our environmental footprint.

Since July 2023, restaurants in Edmonton are required to provide dine-in customers drinks in reusable cups or in bottles or cans. Reusable cups are not required at food courts, at outdoor events or event venues. Many of Canada's other largest cities have businesses that offer affordable

reusable food containers and cup services for take-out orders, large events and venues. The City wants to see similar services offered in Edmonton.

An in-progress four-season waste characterization study will tell the City how many single-use items have been reduced since the launch of the Single-use Item Reduction Bylaw in 2023. Preliminary results indicate a significant reduction in items covered by the Bylaw, and a big increase in takeout containers, which are not covered by the Bylaw.

ACTION

2.A Launch a Circular Foodware Pilot

DESCRIPTION

Edmonton businesses and event planners want to use reusable dishes and cups. However, they face challenges, such as not having enough space, the cost of buying and maintaining the items, and ensuring the items are clean.

This action explores systems that address these challenges and make borrowing reusable items easier for business and residents.

TIMELINE

2026 - 2028: Research / Pilot implementation
2029 - 2030: Implementation / Refinement

MEASURES

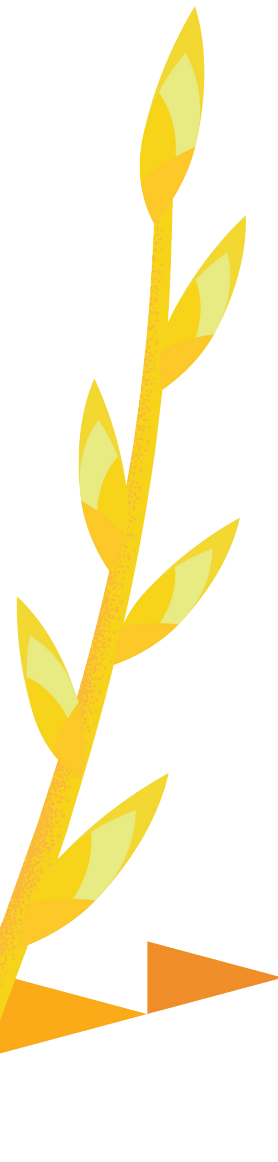
of reusable items used.

2.B Promote the adoption of reusable cups, bottles and foodware

Encouraging people who live in or visit Edmonton to use reusable cups and food containers everyday.

2026 - 2030

of webpage views.
Customer perception survey results.



3 SUPPORT PUBLIC EVENTS TO REDUCE WASTE

Focus Area

Edmonton is often referred to as Canada’s Festival City. In 2024 alone, it hosted almost 800 permitted events. Event waste is generated by millions of attendees each year. The City aims to equip event organizers with information and support them to reduce event waste.

ACTION

3.A Create low-waste event toolkits and guides

DESCRIPTION

Resources to educate and guide event organizers to reduce event waste.

TIMELINE

2027

MEASURES

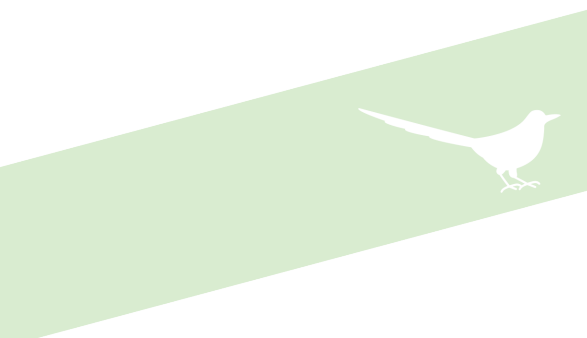
of webpage views.

3.B Provide events with waste reduction education and consultation

By offering action plans and advice, helping to track waste and educating event attendees, event planners can reduce waste where possible.

2027 - 2030

supports provided.



4 PREVENT FOOD WASTE AT HOME

Focus Area

Food waste is characterized as unavoidable or avoidable. Unavoidable food waste is the inedible or not commonly consumed parts of the food we eat, such as shells, bones and pits. Avoidable food waste is everything we could eat but throw away. Whether it is leftovers on a plate, food spoiled in the fridge or fruit grown outside going into food scraps collection, it is a waste of time, money and nourishment.

The opportunity to reduce avoidable food waste is significant. From 2022 to 2024, approximately 46,800 tonnes, or 13 per cent of all the waste collected from Edmonton homes, was avoidable food waste. On average, each resident throws away 41kg of avoidable food waste per year.

ACTION

4.A Share guides and toolkits about how to waste less food

4.B Create opportunities to use or share excess food

DESCRIPTION

These resources help people learn ways to reduce food waste at home. It offers practical tips like the best ways to store groceries and skills to prepare, cook and preserve food.

Connecting people with community events for local harvesting, fruit and vegetable processing, cooking and food preservation classes.

TIMELINE

2026 - 2027

2026: development
2027: launch

MEASURES

of webviews / social media engagement.

of events / classes offered and supported.
of participants.

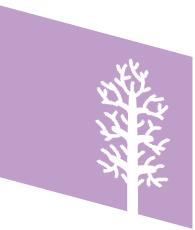


5

REDUCE WASTE FROM CITY FACILITIES & OPERATIONS

Focus Area

The City will continue to lead by example, promoting zero waste with staff and within City facilities. From conducting facility waste reduction action plans to educating employees on the best practices for handling unwanted materials, the City will aim to inspire action for waste reduction.



ACTION

5.A Further City employees' knowledge of waste reduction

5.B Explore actions for waste reduction with City staff

DESCRIPTION

Knowing how to reduce waste will allow employees to share waste reduction tips with friends, family and community members.

Training will be piloted within Waste Services. Expanding the offering to other City departments will be reviewed afterwards.

Waste Services to support and co-develop waste reduction plans for some facilities and operational procedures.

The City will also continue to monitor and improve waste reduction efforts in its operations.

TIMELINE

2026 - 2030

2026 - 2030

MEASURES

of internal City employees trained.

of facilities participating.
of waste reduction initiatives.



Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

GOAL: REDUCE THE QUANTITY OF WASTE GENERATED PER PERSON IN EDMONTON

25-year Target

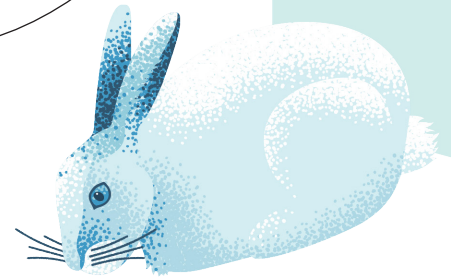
20%
reduction

in residential waste generation per person (2019 baseline)

Roadmap'30 Target

14%
reduction

in residential waste generation per person (2019 baseline)



Performance Measurement

The Waste Reduction Roadmaps use a three-tier performance framework. In this framework, short and long-term goals are tracked by desired outcomes, and actions help meet the desired outcomes.

By 2025, waste was reduced by 10 per cent per person from the 2019 baseline, which means the City is well on its way to reach the 2044 goal. Since economic, environmental, and social forces can significantly impact waste reduction, the performance framework helps to identify the Roadmap's impact.

Three desired outcomes for the Waste Reduction Roadmap are:

1. Edmonton residents make behavioural changes to reduce waste
2. Barriers to zero-waste innovation and circular economy developments are reduced
3. Awareness of and participation in waste reduction programs increases

To ensure Roadmap '30 is effectively supporting waste reduction targets, the City monitors key performance indicators (KPIs) and sets targets. Each of the Roadmap '30 actions contributes to meeting KPI targets and the Roadmap's main goals. This system allows the City to gauge performance, effectiveness and to continually improve.

Key Performance Indicators and Targets for Roadmap '30 Outcomes

OUTCOMES

Edmonton residents make behavioural changes to reduce waste

Barriers to zero-waste innovation and circular economy developments are reduced

Awareness of and participation in waste reduction programs increases

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- 1) % decrease of collected materials that are subject to Roadmap waste reduction activities (e.g. avoidable food waste)
- 2) Self-reported changes in waste generation habits

- 1) % of City grants allocated to external organizations for zero-waste innovation and circular economy initiatives
- 2) # of events with reuse opportunities supported by the City
- 3) # of partners supporting waste reduction activities

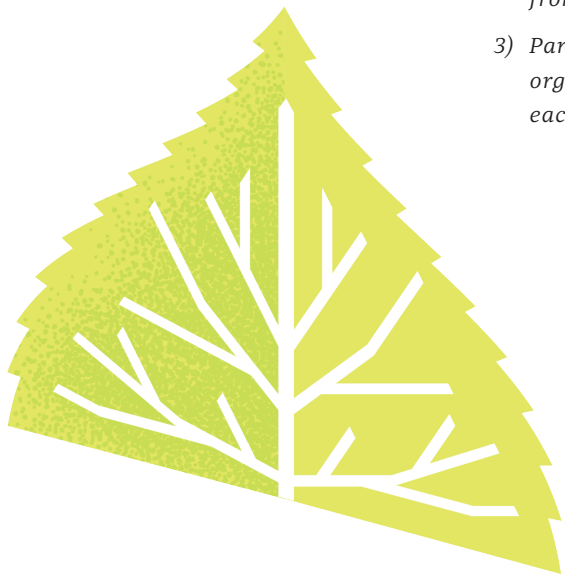
- 1) Awareness/impression monitoring of social media and other online waste reduction content
- 2) # of participants in City programs that teach zero waste/waste reduction concepts
- 3) # of waste reduction programs, classes and opportunities offered by the City

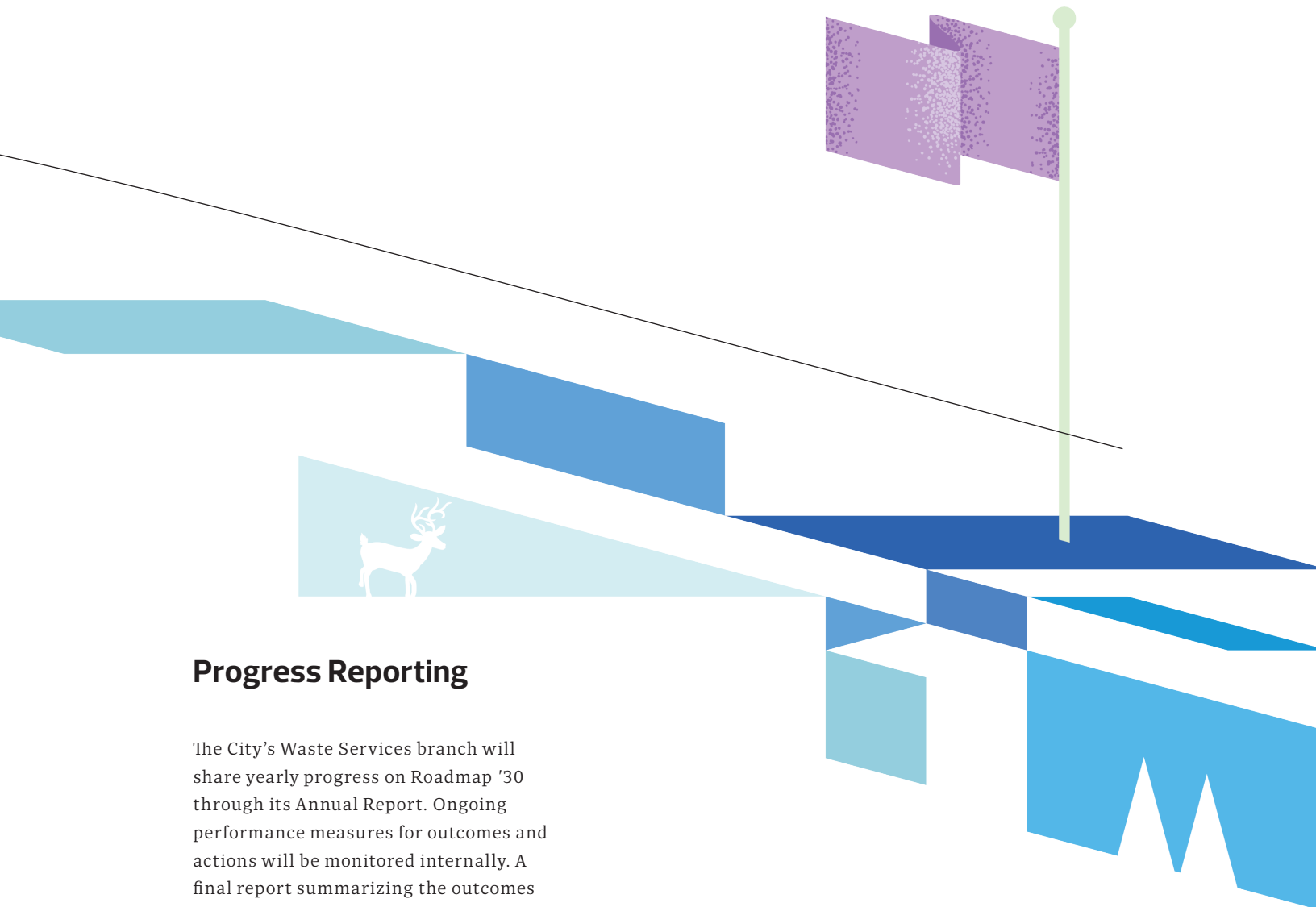
FIVE-YEAR TARGETS

- 1) % decrease from 2025
- 2) Increase in waste reduction efforts

- 1) Year-over-year increase
- 2) % increase of events with reuse partners from 2025 levels
- 3) Partner with one organization for each focus area

- 1) Year-over-year increase
- 2) Year-over-year increase
- 3) Increase or adjust programming to meet community needs





Progress Reporting

The City's Waste Services branch will share yearly progress on Roadmap '30 through its Annual Report. Ongoing performance measures for outcomes and actions will be monitored internally. A final report summarizing the outcomes of Roadmap '30 activities will be released when Roadmap '30 concludes.

The Waste Reduction Roadmap is an ongoing series of multi-year plans. Roadmap '30 builds upon past successes and supports Edmonton's journey toward a zero waste future.

Together, Edmonton is creating a future with less waste.



Waste Reduction Roadmap '30

edmonton.ca/WasteReduction

February 2026

