

CONNECT, PROTECT AND CONSERVE

Alberta has Something to Celebrate

Environment Week 2011 is connecting Alberta Environment, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development and Environment Canada with International Year of Forests.



Biodiversity

Forests help maintain biodiversity; provide raw materials for food, clothing and shelter; and protect land and water resources. Biodiversity includes genetic, species and ecosystem diversity. Biodiversity is important because it is a measure of ecosystem health; greater diversity often indicates an ecosystem is healthy. Everything we need for a good quality of life is provided by the natural world. Learn more about Alberta's biodiversity by visiting www.srd.alberta.ca/BioDiversityStewardship

Did you know...?

- Forests cover nearly 60 per cent of Alberta's land mass.
- Roughly 82 million trees are planted in Alberta each year.
- Alberta's forest companies are required by law to reforest what they harvest.
- Four trees are regenerated for each tree harvested in Alberta.
- Forestry is a primary industry in approximately 50 Alberta communities.



CONNECT

Connect with your natural environment. Take a walk in a local wooded area, listen to the birds, take pictures and enjoy the surroundings. There are nearly 500 sites covering 27,663 square kilometers in Alberta's parks and protected areas network...find one near you by visiting www.albertaparks.ca/searchparks.aspx

PROTECT

Alberta Sustainable Resource Development works to ensure that forests remain vibrant in our province and are managed in a sustainable way for present and future generations. Alberta Environment works to ensure that Albertans have clean water, healthy ecosystems and programs to manage waste through recycling and reusing resources.



ReLeaf Program

The ReLeaf Program aims to help replace trees killed by mountain pine beetle on private or municipal land. Under the new program co-sponsored by Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, landowners and municipalities that lose trees to mountain pine beetle are eligible for funding for replacement trees. Applications forms to participate in the program are available from Tree Canada's website at www.treecanada.ca

Waste Stewardship Programs

Stewardship programs are important to Alberta's efforts to minimize, divert and properly manage our waste. There are currently five regulated stewardship programs in the province - used tires, electronics, beverage containers, used oil and the paint and paint container programs. As part of achieving the goals outlined in Too Good to Waste, Alberta Environment continues to develop and implement stewardship programs. Together a strong, responsible, province-wide approach will help to protect and conserve our resources. Learn more here www.environment.alberta.ca/02785.html

CONSERVE

What can you do to conserve resources? Keep the three Rs - Reduce, Reuse and Recycle - in mind and practice them every day. When all of us practice these actions daily, it adds up to make a significant impact.

You can do something. Commit to one simple act that will help you connect, protect and conserve the environment. Visit www.onesimpleact.alberta.ca



Commit to One Simple Act

- I will reuse and recycle paper.
- I will plant a tree.
- I will...(how will you finish this sentence?)

Alberta Forest Week May 1-7, 2011

A celebration of everything our forests have to offer us. Consider that forests provide habitat to many animals and plants; vital oxygen for our planet; places to go camping, walking and hiking; and provide jobs and materials that fuel our economy. Take the opportunity to make a personal connection with the forests that surround you.

Environment Week June 5-11, 2011

An opportunity to celebrate and take action to connect, protect and conserve our natural world. This year make a commitment to do something that will decrease your environmental footprint, celebrate with your community or participate in ways that make your community more sustainable.

Connect @ School

Schools can connect with One Simple Act and have all their actions add up to something big. The One Simple Act School Toolkit is a web-based resource that provides grades one to six teachers with tools and resources to have students personally commit to one of 10 simple acts that help protect the environment. This toolkit can help spark the development of young environmental leaders and ignite action in your school. Connect here www.onesimpleact.alberta.ca/get-involved/school-toolkit.asp



Connect @ Community

Celebrate by hosting or visiting a Green Stop in your community. What is a Green Stop? They are Environment Week events organized by local citizens and community groups designed to educate, empower and engage community members. The possibilities to engage and inspire your community are endless. Here are some ideas to get you started:



- Schools are the hub of neighbourhoods. Schools can put on Environment Fairs and invite the neighbours in. Everyone can have fun while learning.
- Community organizations can host workshops on composting, gardening or organize clean-ups of local waterways and parks or plant tree seedlings.
- A library is another community hub. Libraries can bring in speakers or read stories to raise environmental awareness.

Put your Green Stop on the map. Register here www.environment.gov.ab.ca/edu/eweek

Get in the Picture

Need more ideas for Green Stops? Look at the Environment Week Green Stop website at www.environment.gov.ab.ca/edu/eweek. Click on any of the green spots on the map to discover how other communities celebrate.

Arbour Day

Arbour Day has been celebrated since 1884 and continues to inspire values of stewardship and conservation. Alberta Sustainable Resource Development provides grade one students with tree seedlings, which helps students discover the essential role trees have in the environment and our lives. The program also helps increase students' awareness and stewardship of Alberta's natural resources. Most Alberta communities celebrate Arbour Day during Alberta Forest Week. A few remote communities in the far north celebrate Arbour Day when conditions make it more suitable for planting.

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BECAUSE YOUR ACTION COUNTS!