

Camrose Declaration.

Preamble: This initiative for the Camrose area was inspired by a national movement and developed by local citizens, in consultation with city officials and managers, who acknowledge that a healthy environment is our collective responsibility and best achieved by working together in a spirit of cooperation and good will.

This Declaration is a representation of the intent of the City of Camrose. In the case of any discrepancy between the contents of this Declaration and the City of Camrose's policies, Strategies, By-Laws or other Directions within the scope of the current Municipal Government Act of Alberta, the Declaration will not take precedence.

Declaration:

Whereas the City of Camrose understands that people are part of the environment, and that a healthy environment is inextricably linked to the well-being of our community;

The City of Camrose finds and declares that:

1. All people have the right to live in a healthy environment, including:

The right to breathe clean air

The right to drink clean water

The right to consume safe food

The right to access nature

The right to know about pollutants and contaminants released into the local environment

The right to participate in decision-making that will affect the environment

The City of Camrose has the responsibility, within its authority, to respect, protect, fulfill and promote these rights.

2. The City of Camrose shall consider the precautionary principle; where threats of serious or irreversible damage to human health or the environment exist, the City of Camrose shall consider cost effective measures to prevent the degradation of the environment and to protect the health of its citizens.

3. The City of Camrose will encourage the use of full cost accounting when evaluating reasonably foreseeable costs of proposed actions and alternatives. The City of Camrose will consider costs to human health and the environment.

4. By integrating the following into its Strategic Plan, the City of Camrose shall specify objectives, targets and actions the City of Camrose will take, within its jurisdiction, to fulfill residents' right to a healthy environment, including priority actions to:

- a. Consider equitably distributing environmental benefits and burdens within the municipality to prevent the development of pollution "hot spots";
- b. Consider infrastructure and development projects that protect the environment, including air quality;
- c. Help address climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and implementing adaptation measures;
- d. Responsibly increase density;
- e. Encourage walking, cycling and public transit as preferred modes of transportation;
- f. Ensure adequate infrastructure for the provision of safe and accessible drinking water;
- g. Promote the availability of healthy local foods, including community gardens;
- h. Reduce solid waste and promote recycling and composting;
- i. Establish and maintain accessible green spaces in residential neighbourhoods.

The City of Camrose shall review the objectives, targets, timelines and actions every one to four years, and evaluate progress towards fulfilling this declaration.

The City of Camrose shall consult with residents as part of this process.

5. The City of Camrose shall send a letter to the provincial government and to the federal government calling for the development of provincial and federal legislation that recognizes that all people have the right to live in a healthy environment.

