

OKOTOKS EMP



2018 PUBLIC & STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT REPORT



The Town of Okotoks' upcoming Environmental Master Plan (EMP) will be a long-term community plan to help protect and enhance our environment. It will encompass all aspects of the environment, from developing new land, to sustainable practices for energy, water, waste, emissions, green space, construction, and transportation – anything that impacts the natural world.

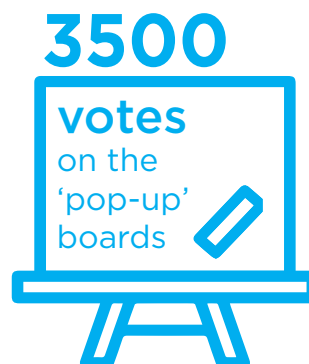
To build on what we heard during our first round of engagement in 2017, the Town hosted several engagement activities throughout March 2018. These included an online survey and a text survey, a community stakeholder workshop, and several 'pop-ups' at key locations around Okotoks. We thank you for the input you provided - it will help shape the EMP and ensure the plan will benefit all Okotokians!

KEY THEMES WE HEARD FROM YOU

- Ensure environmental actions are affordable for Okotokians
- Provide incentives to encourage positive behaviours
- Encourage a variety of housing options in Okotoks
- Ensure transportation options are affordable and cost-effective
- Harness the abundance of solar energy available in Okotoks
- Reduce single-use items and make sustainable alternatives available



7000+ votes on the online survey



3500 votes on the 'pop-up' boards

'Pop-up' board locations:

- Health & Wellness Centre
- Public Library
- High Schools
- Pason Centennial Arena
- Recreation Centre
- Local Churches



1000



estimated people engaged

WHAT WE HEARD

We heard a lot of great feedback from the community, including some BIG IDEAS! Here's a summary of what we heard:

OK

Urban Design



- Okotokians want to see a variety of housing options in the future, including more sustainable, affordable options, and complete communities, while maintaining a strong community feel
- 76% want to see solar-powered communities
- 72% support lower density, sustainable communities

BIG IDEA: Build adaptable housing that will meet the needs of the community, including young families and the elderly

Transportation

- Okotokians support the creation of car-free plazas or streets in the Town's downtown
- Car-free streets should only be implemented seasonally, and make sure that adequate parking is still located nearby



BIG IDEA: Create a bike share program

Green Infrastructure & Water Management



- Okotokians want to see climate-appropriate landscapes that use green infrastructure and water management strategies
- 88% support the use of naturalized areas to help manage stormwater
- 83% support an increase in the use of native, drought-tolerant plants on public and private lands

BIG IDEA: Create a park along the river for residents to enjoy, and avoid developing in the floodplain

Renewable Energy, Emissions, & Air Quality

- Okotokians want to see greater use of renewable sources of energy
- 82% support the use of solar panels on public facilities
- 70% support the use of solar panels on homes
- Only 21% support a large-scale wind farm outside the Town



BIG IDEA: Explore other forms of alternative energy, including geothermal and methane capture from the sewage treatment plant

Waste Systems



- Okotokians think that strategies to reduce single-use items are long overdue!
- 62% support a ban on plastic straws and bags
- 84% want to see styrofoam take-out containers banned
- Discounts for those who use reusable items is preferred over charges for the use of single-use items

BIG IDEA: Place paper and plastic recycling bins next to all garbage bins in Okotoks