



Climate Change Central



## NEWS RELEASE

### **ALBERTA'S GREEN COMMUNITIES TO HOST NATIONAL DELEGATION OF MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS 2007 FCM COMMUNITY ENERGY PLANNING MISSION JULY 29 – AUGUST 3, 2007**

**July 26, 2007, Ottawa, ON** – FCM's 12<sup>th</sup> Community Energy Planning Mission kicks off July 29 in Edmonton, Alberta when municipal leaders from across Canada begin a one-week visit to state-of-the-art green municipal installations in rural and urban Alberta.

The delegation will have the opportunity to listen to and observe policies, plans, best practices and technologies in support of sustainable community development that are equivalent to or better than those found any other place in the world.

Previous missions have visited European countries, such as England, Germany, Sweden, the Netherlands, Denmark and Finland, which have incorporated community energy planning concepts into their economic development strategies and national energy supply and demand management policies.

But this year the focus is on Canadian achievement in recognition of the advances Canadian communities have made in recent years in sustainability practices and greenhouse gas emissions reduction initiatives. Today, the world's best is right here in our own backyard.

Site visits and presentations will emphasize energy and environmental policies and strategies; site planning, building design and energy efficiency; land use and sustainable urban planning practices; infrastructure design and efficiency; renewable energy supply; district energy systems; and, sustainable waste management practices.

Delegates will learn innovative ideas and invaluable lessons to take home with them to help them build capacity for sustainability actions in their own communities.

The mission begins on July 29 with an evening reception hosted by the City of Edmonton. On July 30, the delegates will visit Edmonton's CO<sub>2</sub>RE project, Riverdale Net Zero project, Millwoods Police Station – a LEED Gold Building, and the Edmonton Waste Management Centre.

On July 31 the delegates will start their day at the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMDC) headquarters in Nisku, travel to Sherwood Park for a lunch hosted by the Canadian District Energy Association and then visit Strathcona County's Centre in the Park, its Community Energy Centre and the Emerald Hills Urban Village. They will then travel to Vegreville for a presentation by the Alberta Research Council and a visit to Highmark Renewables Inc.

On August 1, the delegates begin with a visit to the Edmonton Waste Management Centre's Street Sand Recycling Project. They then travel to the City of Red Deer to view its storm retention pond. In the afternoon, they will travel to Olds College for a presentation by the Alberta Urban Municipal Association (AUMA) on its Municipal Sustainability Planning pilot project, followed by a visit to Olds College School of Innovation's BioFuel Technology Centre.

August 2 commences in the City of Calgary with focus on its green energy and sustainable building policy and methane capture and reuse; then on to the City of Airdrie to visit eCycle Solutions and the Airdrie Environmental Education Centre. After a lunch hosted by the City of Calgary, the delegates will travel to the McBride Lake Wind Farm at Fort McLeod for a presentation by TansAlta Wind.

On August 3 the delegates will visit the City of Calgary's latest and largest green building initiative, the Calgary Water Centre – a LEED Gold Building. From there they will attend a presentation at Climate Change Central and then travel to the Town of Okotoks for an overview of the "Vision of Sustainable Okotoks" and site visits to Okotok's state-of-the-art wastewater treatment plant, recycling depot and Drake Landing – the first installation of solar seasonal storage technology in North America.

Along with FCM, the 2007 Community Energy Planning Mission is sponsored by AUMA, AAMDC, Climate Change Central, SAIC Canada, FVB Energy Inc., and Jacques Whitford Limited.

*FCM has been the national voice of municipal governments since 1901. It fosters sustainable communities enjoying a high quality of life by promoting strong, effective, and accountable municipal government.*

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For information on the FCM's Community Energy Planning Mission, visit [http://www.sustainablecommunities.fcm.ca/Programs/Community\\_Energy\\_Mission/default.asp](http://www.sustainablecommunities.fcm.ca/Programs/Community_Energy_Mission/default.asp)

For information on the Green Municipal Fund, including details of other approved projects and studies, visit <http://www.sustainablecommunities.fcm.ca>

For information on the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, visit <http://www.fcm.ca>

For information on the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMDC), please visit [www.aamdc.com](http://www.aamdc.com)

For information on the Alberta Urban Municipal Association (AUMA), please visit [www.auma.ab.ca](http://www.auma.ab.ca)

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