**Vision 2025 Project**

A Vision 2025 Summit was recently hosted by the Edmonton District Sustainable Communities Initiative (SCI).

**Who is SCI?**

SCI is a provincial partnership between Alberta Environmental Protection and FEESA—an Environmental Education Society, as well as a variety of community representatives. The focus of SCI is to support efforts that focus on becoming a healthy and sustainable community through public education, participation and communication.

**Vision 2025 Project**

Over the last year, the Edmonton District SCI has undertaken a "Vision 2025" project. The main purpose of this project has been to seek a better understanding of the future sustainability of the Edmonton District community and to help foresee how the community will continue to meet environmental, economic and social needs over the long-term.

The Vision 2025 Summit was based on the Vision 2025 Report, which summarizes the responses of over 20 community leaders on their views regarding the sustainability of the community by the year 2025. The main concerns and opportunities drawn from the report provided the basis for discussions at the Vision 2025 Summit.

A number of goals were developed regarding each of these themes. Information generated at the Vision Summit has been compiled in a Summary Report. Further discussions regarding the goals and specific community action plans are presently being reviewed.

**Vision 2025 Report—Main Themes for Environmental Protection**

- Economic Diversity
- Environmental Integrity
- Partnerships

**Top Goals Identified at the Summit related to Environmental Protection**

- Provide a reality check of the long-term sustainability (carrying capacity of the landscape).
- Make our community a viable and desirable place to live for all ages.
- Raise environmental awareness through education in the community, with industry involvement.
- Ensure the sustainability of forests and additional renewable and non-renewable resources.
- Increase respect for and understanding of biodiversity and environmental sustainability.
- Prepare an economic development strategy.
- Develop the economy while ensuring sustainability.


---

**Foothills Model Forest Grizzly Bear Research Project**

A Grizzly Bear Research project is being conducted in the Northern East Slopes Region. This research project is a cooperative effort involving Alberta Environmental Protection, Foothills Model Forest (FMF) and Jasper National Park. Other partners currently supporting this project include: Alberta Conservation Association, Cardinal River Coals and the Centre for Wildlife Conservation.

The objective of this research project is to gather data that will help to ensure the long-term conservation of grizzly bears in the Alberta Yellowhead Ecosystem. It will focus on collecting various biological data that will help to address important management decisions, in support of current and ongoing wildlife management programs in this region. An element of this research will involve the capturing and collaring of grizzly bears.

The grizzly bear is the focus of the research and management program, as a healthy population of grizzly bears is considered to be an indicator of ecosystem health.

Managing for grizzly bears and their habitat at the landscape level should therefore, meet the requirements of many other wildlife species.

The grizzly bear research project is a component of an innovative "Working Framework for Achieving Integrated Grizzly Bear Conservation in the Northern East Slopes Region". This strategy is a management approach that will provide resource managers with planning and management tools. This document was initiated by the Northern East Slopes Environmental Resources Committee and has involved a number of regional stakeholders.

---

The Edmonton and District Sustainable Communities Initiative is now registered with Environment Canada as a Millennium Ecosystem Partnership (MEP). Details regarding the Edmonton SCI can be viewed at the following address: [http://www.gov.ab.ca/env/research/searchDetail.cfm?ControlIdentification=75D.](http://www.gov.ab.ca/env/research/searchDetail.cfm?ControlIdentification=75D.)