



**Alberta
Capital
Airshed**

**ALBERTA CAPITAL AIRSHED
STRATEGIC PLAN
2016 – 17**

The Alberta Capital Airshed (ACA) is a not-for-profit, multi-stakeholder organization that monitors and provides public information on air quality, as well as develops recommendations regarding air quality management and monitoring. In addition, ACA facilitates dialogue among the community, industry and government for managing air quality within an area that parallels the Edmonton Census Metropolitan Area.

ACA is one of nine Airsheds in Alberta, who together serve as an air monitoring partnership for Albertans. One of ACA's primary roles is to gather the information together from air quality monitoring data conducted by our members ensuring all stakeholders, including the public, have access to this important information.

Our Vision

Residents within the Alberta Capital Airshed region live, work and play in a safe and healthy environment with clean air that has no measurable short or long term adverse effects on people, animals or the environment.

Our Mission

To provide easily accessible, high quality data and expertise vital to develop comprehensive air quality management plans – clean air solutions that keep our air clean.

Value of ACA

Multi-stakeholder Collaboration

While our members have overlapping mandates regarding air quality, ACA offers important partnerships and synergy where collaboration, engagement and coalitions on topics of mutual interest can occur

Credible Voice in the Region

The ACA is an important voice for its members by increasing awareness of regional air quality, bringing attention to air quality issues and offering solutions and opportunities, including citizen actions/personal science to improve air quality

Expertise and Information

The ACA is able to provide information on air quality to its members and the public, including all available air quality data

Responsive

The ACA is a member-focused organization that is also responsive to all public inquiries

AIR QUALITY MONITORING

Goal #1 – Meaningful air quality data, that is representative of the airshed, is collected and available to the public

Objectives:

- Update Regional Monitoring Plan (RMP) to address and advocate for adequate monitoring (including stationary, portable, passives, new technology) in order to assess air quality against the Alberta Ambient Air Quality Objectives
- To investigate the deployment of various air quality monitoring equipment
- To have ACA directly manage stations to ensure consistency and transparency
- Work with the GOA, Alberta Airshed Council and ACA members to coordinate monitoring resources
- To maintain and develop expertise in monitoring on the Technical Working Group

Tactics:

1. AQ Station Management

- a. Develop position paper for ACA to manage AEP ACA area stations in order to bring them up to the provincial standard of the Air Monitoring Directive.
- b. Develop position paper for ACA to develop management role for SIA and Lehigh Cement stations.

2. Regional Monitoring

- a. Update Regional Plan to include new St. Albert station and options for monitoring to address gap areas as identified in the 2012 STI report, including passive and portable monitoring (with a resource list of available monitoring equipment) and enhance relationships with communities identified in the gap areas.
- b. Develop Citizen Science working group with representations from members actively using Citizen Science monitors (City of Edmonton, Inside Education) and others interested in testing or deploying monitors.

3. Station Audits

- a. Initiate regional station audits, using SIA audit process, for all monitoring stations in the ACA area.

4. Air Quality Reports

- a. Publish on-line report of 2015 air quality in the ACA region
- b. Develop air quality trends report in the ACA region

5. Alberta Airshed Council Technical Committee

- a. Provide representation on the Airshed Council Technical Committee (ACTC)

Air Quality Education and Outreach

Goal #2 - Improve awareness of regional air quality and how it can be improved

Objectives:

- To provide air quality education in primary and secondary schools
- To make air quality data available
- To provide public information on air quality
- To promote the ACA as a credible source of air quality information
- Re-establish the Communications and Outreach Team (COT)

Tactics:

- 1. Re-Establish the Communications and Outreach Team**
 - a. Develop a Communications Plan (Education, events, media and social media)
 - b. Determine Idling Reduction initiatives
- 2. Classroom Education**
 - a. Develop a plan that will incorporate schools, science fairs, idle reduction initiatives (identify and address specific audiences)
 - b. Continue to provide Classroom presentations for Grade 5 and Grade 9
 - c. Develop “Kids Corner” on the website with resources for children
- 3. Community Events**
 - a. Support members’ Clean Air Day events
 - b. Participate in other community and member events
- 4. Media**
 - a. Liaise with media on ACA and air quality
 - b. Develop and distribute Public Service Announcements and community newsletter articles on air quality topics
- 5. Website & Social Media**
 - a. Update website with a focus on accessible data, AQ information and citizen science and citizen action
 - b. Link website with social media (eg. Twitter)
 - c. Link to existing videos on air quality
- 6. Partnerships**
 - a. Approach Telus World of Science toward developing an interactive display on local and regional air quality
 - b. Explore possibility of air quality component on TWOS Citizen Science web page
 - c. Develop and deliver presentations to potential and existing members from each sector
 - d. Explore opportunities to participate in Youth Education in conjunction with Inside Education, look for schools that have environmental groups and explore opportunities for air quality projects (i.e. small prizes at science fairs)

7. Workshops / Presentations

- a. Develop and deliver citizen science workshops
- b. Develop and facilitate a workshop for member presenters to do ACA presentations

Air Quality Management

Goal #3 - Improve management of air quality issues in the region

Objectives:

- Provide the forum for identifying and responding to air quality challenges in the region.
- Identify strategic opportunities for collaboration.
- Actively participate on management initiatives underway that align with ACA goals, and identify gaps.
- Establish the Issues Management Committee (Jocelyn, Chandra, Fred, Andrew)

Tactics:

1. Airshed Role Clarification

- a. Meet with AEP Leadership to determine ACA's role with CRAQMF / PM Response
- b. Participate on the Oversight Advisory Committee of the Capital Region Air Quality Management Framework

2. Issues Management

- a. Form an Issues Management Committee to identify and address air quality issues within the ACA area

Organizational Capacity

Goal #4 - ACA has the necessary organizational capacity to meet its objectives.

Objectives:

- Ensure ACA has effective governance, strong management and makes the best use of its talented people resources
- To further the Alberta Airshed model by participating and providing leadership with the Alberta Airshed Council
- To further ACA's interests on the AAC and through liaison with other partner organizations
- To increase sector-balanced membership in the ACA
- To ensure ACA is sustainably funded

Tactics:

1. Governance and Human Resources
 - a. Complete updates in Policy manual
 - b. Provide interest based negotiation (consensus decision making) training to Board, committees and management
 - c. Refine and maintain Terms of Reference for each of the working committees; one Board member will be responsible for each committee and will be responsible for reporting back to the board at each Board Meeting
2. Alberta Airshed Council
 - a. Provide leadership on the AAC
 - b. Participate in AAC meetings and workshops
3. Membership
 - a. Encourage membership growth in all sectors by creating and implementing sector specific (industrial, municipal and NGO) membership recruitment strategies
 - b. Explore opportunity for voluntary contribution license fee to urban airsheds (through the AMA)
4. Funding
 - a. Manage membership funding program
 - b. Work with AEP and AAC to determine options and best path for sustainable funding
 - c. Apply for funding, as grants are made available to Airsheds
 - d. Explore new opportunities for grant funding beyond AEP