



**Alberta
Capital
Airshed**

**ALBERTA CAPITAL AIRSHED
STRATEGIC PLAN
2018-2019**

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 ten 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.

Ambient air monitoring is the systematic, long-term assessment of pollutant levels by measuring the quantity and types of certain pollutants in the surrounding, outdoor air.

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

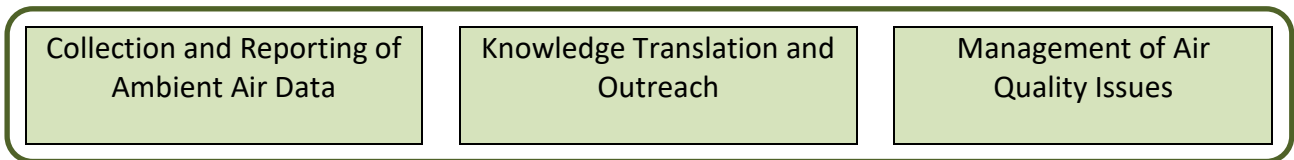
The ACA provides a credible voice on air quality to its members and the public, including all available air quality data

Responsive

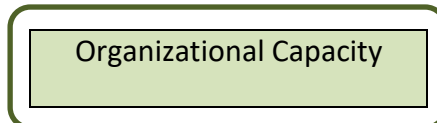
The ACA is a member-focused organization that is also responsive to all public inquiries

Our Focus Areas

The ACA has three areas of focus that provide services to the members



In order to accomplish these focus areas, there is a fourth that speaks to resources



COLLECTION & REPORTING OF AMBIENT AIR DATA

Goal #1 – Ambient air quality data, representative of the airshed and compliant with Alberta’s Air Monitoring Directive, is collected and available to the public in alignment with the North Saskatchewan Regional Plan.

Objectives:

- Provide multi-stakeholder oversight for all ambient air quality monitoring.
- Develop and maintain a robust Regional Monitoring Plan that aligns with the North Saskatchewan Regional Plan.
- Advocate for Air Monitoring Directive compliant community-based monitoring that is operated by the Alberta Capital Airshed given the value of multi-stakeholder oversight, financial efficiencies with various funding sources, expertise of members, and ensuring monitoring operations are not undertaken by a single stakeholder (government, industry).
- Provide publicly accessible ambient air quality data.
- Investigate and make effective use of available monitoring technologies and methodologies (passive, portable, sensors) where appropriate.

Tactics:

1. AQ Station Management

- a. Work with members and partners to promote the benefits of having ACA manage air quality monitoring stations.
- b. Ensure all stations within the ACA adhere to the Air Monitoring Directive.
- c. Take on the role of managing stations as available.
- d. Operate passive monitoring network.
- e. Ensure sustainability.

2. Regional Monitoring Plan

- a. Expand passive monitoring network.
- b. Update the Regional Monitoring Plan to include 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) to align with the North Saskatchewan Regional Plan.
- c. To initiate a TWG committee to scope out the framework to develop and maintain an updated and comprehensive gap analysis to include a blueprint for monitoring requirements for new communities.
- d. Develop a plan (technical, financial, operations) to purchase a portable monitoring unit.
- e. Engage Citizen Science working group with representations from members actively using Citizen Science monitors (City of Edmonton, Inside Education, U of A) and others interested in testing or deploying monitors.
- f. Liaise with all emitters that have clauses to contribute toward air quality monitoring.

3. Station Audits

- a. Implement an internal audit process and team for auditing all monitoring stations in the ACA area.

4. Air Quality Reports

- a. Develop a monthly dashboard reporting process and format for ACA members that includes a combined one page of all monitoring (continuous and passive) in the ACA as well as attached detailed reports from SIA, Lehigh and AEP.
- b. Publish 2017 State of the Air report

KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION AND OUTREACH

Goal #2 - Increase member and public awareness, knowledge and understanding of regional air quality and how it can be improved.

Objectives:

- Promote a better understanding of regional air quality.
- Promote the ACA as a trusted, credible source of air quality information.
- Promote the value of Alberta's Airshed model.
- Support members in their role of informing their audiences about air quality.

Tactics:

1. Strengthen our Communications and Outreach Team

- a. Develop terms of reference.
- b. Ensure good membership representation on the Communications Committee.
- c. Build and enhance our strategic communications framework.
- d. Submit a nomination of ACA for an Emerald Award.

2. Classroom Education

- a. Support and participate in CARS (Clean Air Responsible Schools).
- b. Continue to provide classroom presentations.
- c. Work with other airsheds to create new video segments on air quality issues.
- d. Support teacher education on air quality.
- e. Influence curriculum changes to include air quality as appropriate.

3. Community Events

- a. Coordinate and support regional municipal Clean Air Day events.
- b. Participate in other community and member events.
- c. Encourage all members to include ACA in their events.

4. Website & Social Media

- a. Update website with a focus on accessible data, AQ information, citizen science, citizen action and other resources.
- b. Enhance our social media presence utilizing our Communications Committee.
- c. Coordinate bi-annual photo contests and work.

5. Building Collaborative Relationships

- a. Identify potential partners and determine priorities.
- b. Work with existing member organizations to identify potential partners.
- c. Coordinate annual awards for clean air ambassadors.
- d. Explore opportunities to participate in youth education through school environmental groups and explore opportunities for air quality projects.

6. Conference

- a. Plan and deliver a one-day conference on air quality for the ACA region.

7. Alberta Airsheds Council Communications Committee

- a. Participate on the AAC Communications Committee for development of tools for Airsheds and Alberta-wide communications initiatives.

MANAGEMENT OF AIR QUALITY ISSUES

Goal #3 - Facilitate multi-stakeholder approaches to addressing air quality issues

Objectives:

- Provide a forum for responding to air quality issues.
- Provide science-based data to inform air quality issues.
- Identify strategic opportunities for collaboration.
- Actively participate on management initiatives led by other organizations (i.e. CASA, AEP, etc.) that align with ACA goals.

Tactics:

1. Community Monitoring Committee

- a. Continue to host monthly municipal issues management meeting for members.

2. Regional Air Quality Management

- a. Participate in and support Capital Region Air Quality Management Framework (through Oversight Advisory Committee).
- b. Facilitate input to Regional Planning, as required.

3. Air Quality Management Resources

- a. Provide issue response tools, developed by the ACA or other organizations on air quality issues such as idling reduction, odour management, and other related air quality topics.

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.
- Further the Alberta Airshed model by participating and providing leadership with the Alberta Airsheds Council.
- Speak for ACA's interests on the AAC and through liaison with other partner organizations.
- Increase sector-balanced membership in the ACA.
- Ensure ACA is sustainably funded.
- Strengthen relations with all orders of government.
- Define membership expectations and costs.

Tactics:

1. Governance and Human Resources

- a. Schedule AGM and at least one other general meeting.
- b. Complete updates in Policy manual.
- c. Provide interest-based negotiation (consensus decision making) training to Board and committees.
- d. Refine and maintain Terms of Reference for each committee.

2. Alberta Airsheds Council

- a. Provide leadership on the AAC.
- b. Participate in AAC meetings and workshops.

3. Alberta Airshed Council Technical Committee

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

4. Membership

- a. Encourage membership growth in all sectors by creating and implementing sector specific (industrial, municipal and NGO) funding model.
- b. Look at options for other organizations to participate in ACA as non-members (i.e. Health Canada).

5. Funding

- a. Manage membership funding program - all sectors (government, municipalities, industries, NGOs, etc.) to contribute financially to the Alberta Capital Airshed (particularly all regulated industries with obligations for air quality monitoring).
- 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.