

- I am pleased to welcome the Honourable Shannon Phillips who is the representative for Lethbridge-West and the Minister of Environment and Parks.
- Thank you, Minister, for joining us today for a discussion on how provincial and municipal governments can work together to advance environmental sustainability and climate change action.

Environmental Stewardship as a Municipal Purpose

Topic	Current Status	Proposed Changes
Environmental Stewardship as a Municipal Purpose	<p>The MGA identifies the following municipal purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• to provide good government;• to provide services, and• to develop and maintain safe and viable communities. <p>The MMGA proposes also including the following as a municipal purpose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• to work collaboratively with neighbouring municipalities to plan, deliver and fund intermunicipal services.	<p>Include consideration of the stewardship of the environment as a municipal purpose.</p>

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- Municipalities are responsible for a range of matters that contribute to environmental sustainability.
- For example, we ensure effective land use, manage solid waste, undertake the conservation of wetlands and ensure safe drinking water.
- The province recently indicated an interest in modifying the MGA to formally add environmental stewardship as a municipal purpose.
- We look forward to hearing Minister Phillips's views on how this amendment would impact our current legislative authority and resources given that so much of our work is guided today by the boundaries set by federal and provincial legislation and regulations.

Increased Collaboration on Water and Wastewater



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- One example of dual regulatory systems is waste water management where the federal and provincial regulations are not harmonized so municipalities have to report under two different systems.
- The need for dual reporting of waste water management is particularly cumbersome so we appreciate receiving a progress update from the Minister.
- Many municipalities are struggling to maintain their drinking water and wastewater systems.
- We appreciate that the province has increased water and waste water funding and we will hear from Minister Mason later this morning on what lies ahead in terms of the funding that his ministry provides.
- We have asked Minister Phillips and her colleagues to strike a working group to explore the advancement of regional water systems as many have been challenged by issues with governance, finances and infrastructure.
- As well, AUMA has been working with Minister Philipps and her staff on other important water initiatives such as storm water management and wetlands.

Need for Regulations for Brownfield Remediation and Waste Management



Redevelopment of a former bulk fueling station into a solar park

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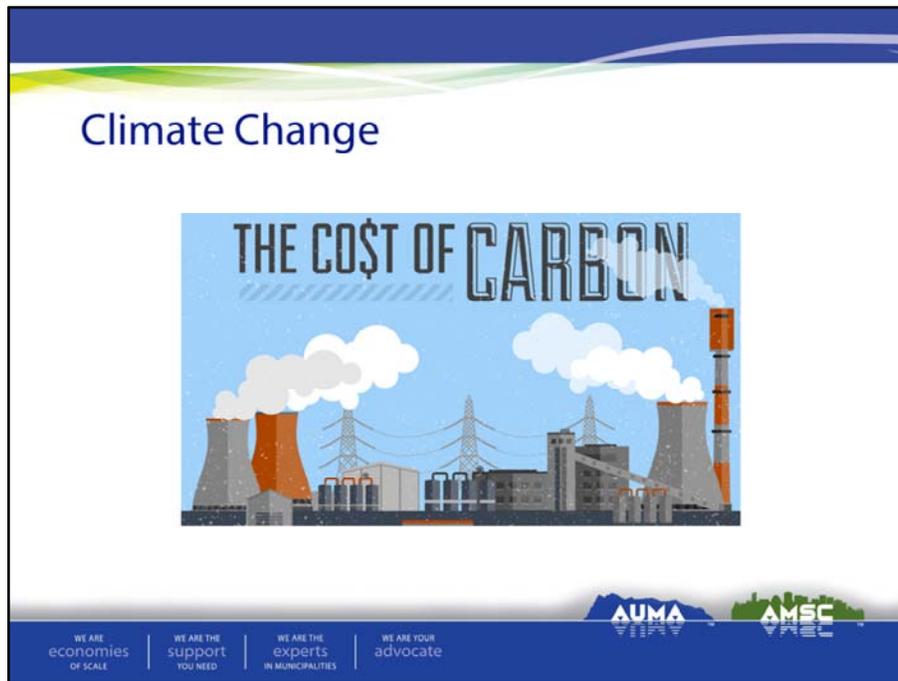
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- Another important environmental priority is the redevelopment of brownfields where remediation certification is one of the biggest barriers.
- Municipalities and industry are united in our repeated calls for the province to update remediation certificate regulations in line with best practices in provinces such as British Columbia and Nova Scotia.
- We look forward to the Minister's update on when and how Alberta's regulations will be changed.
- We also want to work with the ministry on strengthening waste management since, as one of the most wasteful province per capita in Canada, Alberta needs regulations to expand the recycling of used oil, paint, tires and packaging in particular.



- Provincial-municipal partnerships are essential to addressing climate change.
- We appreciate that the Minister has funded our Municipal Climate Change Action Centre which educates and funds municipalities in advancing energy efficiency, solar energy and GHG reductions.
- We appreciate that the ministry has recently approved the expansion of our centre so that we can provide supports to non profits organizations in our communities.
- We agree that carbon pricing can be a tool for incenting change and encourage the province to publically report GHG reductions that will result from the carbon levy.
- A portion of the levy should be dedicated to supporting communities transition to low carbon economic activities – in particular, those that have coal-fired plants.
- We recognize that municipalities may be eligible to receive a portion of the levy to fund public transit and energy efficiency.
- However, the levy will hit municipal operating budgets hard and many municipalities do not have the resources to access capital grants.
- Therefore we have asked the province to provide municipalities with a rebate for the cost of the levy, similar to how they are giving exemptions to other users of energy.

Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Action



Honourable Shannon Phillips
Minister of Environment and
Parks



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- I will turn things over to Minister Phillips so that she can respond to these top of mind issues and share other important updates from her ministry.