

2021 Municipal Election Environmental Survey

Questions:

1. Climate change and biodiversity loss are emergent and critical issues for current and future residents of the City of Lethbridge.
2. The City of Lethbridge should adopt strong science-based policies that address greenhouse gas emissions produced by the City.
3. The City of Lethbridge should uphold and work to meet the commitment made by the previous council to the emission reduction target for corporate emissions of 40% under 2018's levels by 2030.
4. The City of Lethbridge should expand upon Municipal Development Plan policy no. 169 by implementing an annual carbon budget to pursue the corporate emissions reduction target of 40% under 2018's levels by 2030.
5. In upholding Municipal Development Plan policy no. 155, the City of Lethbridge should establish adaptation strategies that preemptively address the cities vulnerabilities to climate change impacts and associated public health risks.
6. In upholding the Municipal Development Plan policy no. 153, the City of Lethbridge should adopt incentive programs designed to encourage residential property owners, businesses owners, and organizations to invest in energy and water efficiency retrofits and renewable energy projects.
7. In upholding Municipal Development Plan policies no. 76, 77, and 154, the City of Lethbridge should convert existing and dedicate all future parks and open spaces to become drought-tolerant, lowering demand on the municipal water supply.
8. In upholding Municipal Development Plan policy no. 156 and 170, the City of Lethbridge should implement measures that protect and enhance Lethbridge's Urban Forests.
9. In upholding Municipal Development Plan policy no. 150 and the many city policies on conservation, the City of Lethbridge should implement more creative solutions to prevent city litter due to excessive wind.
10. Expanding on the guidelines for collaboration in Municipal Development Plan policy no. 179 and upholding the commitments to water quality and conservation in policy no. 172, the City of Lethbridge should work with regional municipalities within our watershed to protect the Castle Crown headwaters.
11. The City of Lethbridge should oppose activity within our watershed that directly impacts the quality and availability of water, such as coal mining along the eastern slopes of the Rockies.

12. As per policies no. 76, 77, 87, 154, 156, and 157 of the Municipal Development Plan, the City of Lethbridge should implement measures protecting our watershed, river valley, and coulee ecosystems from unnecessary harm related to overuse and pollution or excessive construction.

13. In upholding Municipal Development Plan policy no. 156, the City of Lethbridge should develop a Biodiversity Strategy to support and enhance biodiversity on city-owned properties.

14. As per Municipal Development Plan policies no. 173, 181, 183 the city should meaningfully consult and engage with Indigenous communities and incorporate Indigenous knowledge into land stewardship and conservation efforts.

15. As per Municipal Development Plan policy no. 174, the city should foster greater collaboration with local organizations and stakeholders in addressing issues related to water, air quality, biodiversity, and other environmental and climate-related issues.

Long answer:

16. Please expand on your policy stance regarding the climate crises and how you plan to address this issue if elected?

17. Please expand on your policy stance regarding the health of the environment and local biodiversity. How do you plan to address this issue if elected?

18. Are you aware of any organizations in the Lethbridge area that are currently working on issues around the climate crisis? If so, how do you plan to involve them in your approaches to climate change mitigation and adaptation?

19. Once thought too difficult to implement, many environmental goals have now become accepted, even welcomed, aspects of modern life: sorting waste, choosing light rapid transit over driving, and generating power from wind and solar, to name a few. Describe your "pie in the sky" ideal environmental or social dream for Lethbridge. What environmental policies or practices that now seem impossible should be commonplace by 2050 or sooner? How do you intend on setting your ideal environmental or social dream into motion?