

# Alberta Land-use Knowledge Network



November 2020

## *Planning Research in Alberta*

The **Land-use Knowledge Network** was launched in 2011 and the **Land Use Planning Hub** in 2018. These two tools continue to grow and support research-based land use decision making throughout the province. If this newsletter was forwarded to you, please consider **subscribing** to our monthly publication.

Review **past issues** of our newsletter



Source: **CGA Web Maps** - Harvard University

## New on the Land Use Planning Hub

The **Land Use Planning Hub** is an informal network that supports the implementation of Alberta's regional plans. It is regularly updated with news, resources, and information on regional planning in Alberta. It was launched in 2018 as a complement to the **Land-use Knowledge Network**. Check out the resources and join the conversation.

For more information about the Land Use Planning Hub, contact the website's coordinator, **Jeff Wiehler**.

### Geothermal in Alberta



#### **Exploring Geothermal Potential in Alberta**

A pilot project made up of a handful of Alberta companies aims to demonstrate the viability of geothermal energy as a power generation source and as a commercially sustainable industry.



### Alberta's Land System

To understand the patterns of a landscape, land systems categorizes topography, vegetation and soils into standardized classifications. This assists decision makers, planners and researchers to assess and compare different regions based on their physical characteristics.



### The Boom and Bust of Regional Planning

The current regional plans, developed according to the *Land-use Framework*, are the latest approach to managing how land and resources are used. Reviewing the history of land use policies in the province provides the context to understand and best apply the latest iteration of regional planning in Alberta.



### Getting Started with Land Use Planning

How do we use Alberta's land and resources now and in the future? How do we make the best decisions for long-term respect for Alberta's environmental, economic and social wellbeing?

These are the complex questions that are at the foundation of land use planning. In Alberta, land use planning is guided by the Land-use Framework, the Alberta Land Stewardship Act and seven regional plans.

## Resources

Next month, LuKN will be asking you, once again, what we can do and what resources do you need to help you with your land use planning needs.

In January we will tackle the topic of grants and funding in the current lean environment. If you have grants and funding ideas and sources that you would like to see highlighted in our January newsletter, please send me an email at [lboltonholder@friresearch.ca](mailto:lboltonholder@friresearch.ca)

Land-use planning is a means of managing, controlling, and designing the ways people interact and use land and natural resources. This process relies upon a wide variety of research to adapt land use planning ideas and tools to ensure our land use allows for sustainable agricultural, industrial, and resource extraction activities as well as urban development that promotes the well-being of the inhabitants of cities and towns. In Alberta, the land use planning process is governed by the *Land-use Framework*.

Municipal Governance Reform and  
Land-use Planning in Alberta



Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities

ACSRC Report #25 - 2014

### Municipal Governance Reform and Land-use Planning in Alberta (2016)

This project found that the full effects of LUF on municipalities' capacity, planning and governance is largely unknown. This project identified that there are many potential issues and gaps within Alberta's current land-use governance structure that could impact achieving the priorities outlined in the LUF and implementing the seven regional plans.

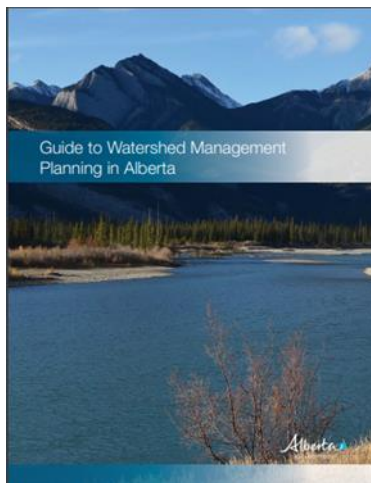


Land use planning tools  
for local adaptation to climate change

Canada

### Government of Canada: Land Use Planning Tools for Local Adaptation to Climate Change

Land use planning is one of the most effective processes to facilitate local adaptation to climate change. Historically, local governments have used land use planning tools – official plans, zoning, development permits and others – to minimize risks to communities from floods, wildfires, landslides and other natural hazards. As the climate changes, so will the frequency and magnitude of climate-related hazards, posing a challenge for community planners. A recent survey by the Canadian Institute of Planners confirmed that “planners gravitate to tools they know best and are looking for ways to adapt known tools when addressing climate change.”



Guide to Watershed Management  
Planning in Alberta

### Guide to Watershed Management Planning in Alberta

A guide for Water for Life partners outlining the best practices for watershed management planning in Alberta. This guide outlines a process for a consistent approach and provides useful tools and resources for watershed management planning.

Barton, H. (2009). **Land use planning and health and well-being**. *Land Use Policy*, 26, S115–S123.

BenDor, T. K., Spurlock, D., Woodruff, S. C., & Olander, L. (2017). **A research agenda for ecosystem services in American environmental and land use planning**. *Cities*, 60, 260-271.

Lovell, S. T. (2010). **Multifunctional urban agriculture for sustainable land use planning in the United States**. *Sustainability*, 2(8), 2499–2522.

Wates, N. (Ed.). (2000). **The community planning handbook: How people shape their cities, towns & villages in any part of the world**. London, UK: Earthscan.

Xiang, W. N., & Clarke, K. C. (2003). **The use of scenarios in land-use planning**. *Environment and Planning B: Planning and Design*, 30(6), 885–909.

# Events

If you have an event, announcement, or new report that you would like to see included in our monthly newsletter, please email [Linda](#) with the details.

## November

### **RMA 2020 Fall Convention & Tradeshow**

3-4 November, 2020, Edmonton

### **CPAWS: Climate Change & Alberta Conservation Areas**

10 November, 2020, Zoom

## December

### **An Asset-Based Community Development Virtual Workshop**

2-3 December, 2020, Zoom



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