



ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP WORKBOOK 2017

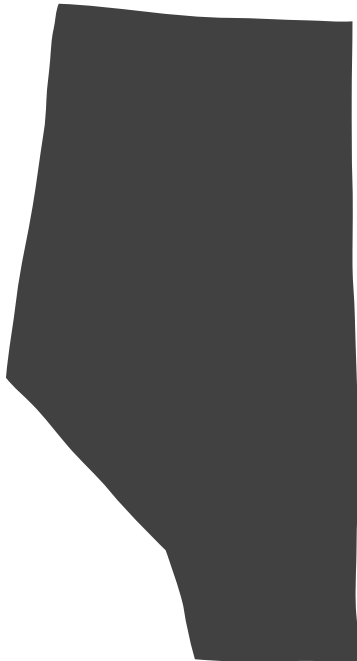
NAME: _____

SCHOOL: _____

TOWN / CITY: _____

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP STARTS WITH YOU

Alberta has an environment that is abundant in natural resources and beautiful scenery. The Government of Alberta is responsible for ensuring that our air, land, water and biodiversity are healthy for future generations.



Our environment is impacted by everything we do and caring for it is a shared responsibility. That includes individuals, communities, businesses, industry and government.

What can we all do to take care of the environment? How do your actions and lifestyle impact the environment? How can you become an environmental steward? How will you inspire others to take action?

MANAGING THE ENVIRONMENT IS A BIG JOB!



- Air Quality (Regulate and monitor)



- Quantity—Enough water for wildlife, agriculture, industry and business
- Quality—Clean water to drink
- Ground water
- Surface water (lakes, wetlands, rivers)



- Public lands
- Provincial Parks
- Shorelines
- Waste (Recycling and hazardous waste regulations)



- Fish and wildlife
- Landscapes
- Habitat
- Species at risk



- Greenhouse gasses
- Environmental quality
- Environmental values

“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot,
nothing is going to get better, it’s not!”

-Dr. Seuss, The Lorax

What does **ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP** mean to you?



Being an environmental steward involves speaking up and taking action. Use each letter in the word **STEWARDSHIP** below to write some actions that Albertans can do to care for and protect the environment.

S _____

T _____

E _____

W _____

A _____

R _____

D _____

S _____

H _____

I _____

P _____

THE ENVIRONMENT IS FACING SOME CHALLENGES



Our planet is changing. Earth has a lot of natural systems- the water cycle, nutrient cycles, energy flow, weather, etc. When these systems change, everything that lives on Earth is affected, including us. The amount of carbon in our atmosphere is increasing, which is making our planet slowly warm up. This is called global warming and it is causing the climate to change.

Our planet is connected. All of Earth's natural systems are interconnected. A changing climate affects everything, from how we grow our food to where different animals can live. Since Earth's systems are connected, what happens in Alberta can influence the environment in all of Canada, North America and the entire world!

Our planet needs care. Think about your role in Alberta. How do your actions and lifestyle shape your local and global environment?

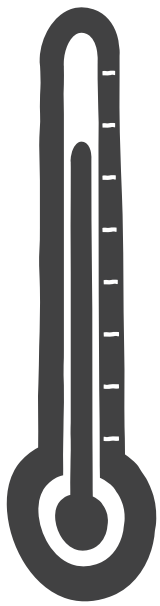
Earth's changing climate is caused by:

1 Using fossil fuels. Burning fossil fuels increase greenhouse gases that trap heat within Earth's atmosphere. This is called the **GREENHOUSE EFFECT**.

- Name a fossil fuel that you use daily.
Hint: Think of how you stay warm, get to school, how you get your food, etc.

2 Decreasing natural areas. Developing forests and wetlands for agriculture, industry, and residential activities reduces the number of **CARBON SINKS**, which keep carbon in the land and out of the atmosphere.

- Describe how you have you seen a natural area in your community change.
- What do you think we can do to protect our local natural areas?



ALBERTA'S CLIMATE IS CHANGING

How will a changing climate affect us? How will it impact Alberta's plants and animals?

Climate is the average weather in an area over the past 30 years. What happens when it changes? As climate changes around the world, different areas are being affected in different ways.

Below are some of the ways the climate in Alberta is changing. What are some of the positive and negative consequences of these changes for you and for Alberta's plants and animals? Compare your answers with your friends and family.

Type of Change	How will it affect Alberta's plants?	How will it affect Alberta's animals?	How will it affect me?
Increase in droughts			
More severe weather events like thunderstorms			
Decrease in the size of glaciers			
Snow melting earlier in the spring			
Hotter average temperatures in the spring, summer, and autumn			
Shorter winters			
Higher wind speeds all year			

WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER

Looking after the planet is a big job! Before we take action, it's important to consider three perspectives: environmental, economic, and social. These are the three pillars of sustainability.

Environmental: Are air, land, water and biodiversity being protected for current and future generations?

Economic: Are jobs being created or maintained?

Social: Is quality of life (recreational and cultural opportunities) being maintained or improved?

Consider this scenario:

Your town is thinking about logging a nearby forest to turn it into a recreation facility or a park. What are the environmental, economic, and social impacts of the two options?

	Recreation Facility	Park
Environmental		
Economic		
Social		

What option do you think the town should choose? Why?



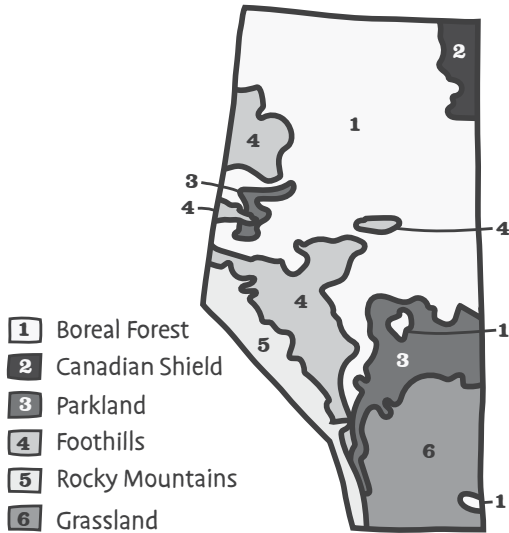
All living things on our planet need air to survive. The energy we use every day affects the quality of the air we breathe. Look at the activities going on inside and around your school.

1. What activities in and around your school use energy?

List the activities you see:

2. We use many things that come from all over the world. Look for things in your classroom or school that are made in Canada and in other countries. Transportation of these things takes energy. List some things you use and their country of origin. Are there ways you could use similar items that were made in Alberta?

3. Think about some ways to reduce energy use in and around your school. When we reduce energy use we also reduce emissions, improving air quality and helping to reduce the rate of climate change. List your ideas below:



As Albertans, we are lucky to have a beautiful and diverse environment right in our backyard. We are responsible for taking care of it and leaving it as good as or even better than we found it.

Our actions over the next 5 to 10 years will shape the environment of the future.

Brainstorm actions or projects that you can complete as a class or school that will make a difference for the environment.

Our Ideas:

-
-
-
-
-
-

As a class, vote on an action project that your class or school can complete to make the biggest difference.

List your top three ideas below:

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

Invite your school’s principal into your classroom and share your best action project ideas with them. As a group, decide on one action project that your class or the school will complete this year!

TAKE ACTION!

What action project will your class or school complete to benefit Alberta's environment this year?

We will _____

What part of the environment will your action project help protect? (Circle one or more)



It's important to understand the current state of our environment to know if our actions help to maintain or protect it.

How will you measure the impact of your project?

