

# Peak Performance

With a staff member fully dedicated to energy management, the Town of Banff has put energy efficiency at the forefront of operational planning, in line with their goal to be a global environmental leader and model of sustainable tourism.

## THE CHALLENGE

The Town of Banff has ambitious targets to reduce corporate and community-wide greenhouse gas emissions. But as a small municipality with many priorities, no staff member could fully dedicate their time and expertise to reducing the Town's energy consumption.

## THE SOLUTION

Action Centre funding made it possible to hire a staff member fully dedicated to finding energy savings. The Municipal Energy Coordinator project manages capital improvements, including the development of large solar electricity systems and multi-facility efficiency upgrades. Managing the LED lighting upgrades at the Fenlands Recreation Centre produced \$19,000 in annual savings alone.

The Coordinator also works with Facilities to incorporate energy efficiency upgrades into end-of-life capital maintenance planning. Now energy savings are ensured with every piece of equipment replaced. Since 2020, the Town has carried out a number of equipment upgrades, including the installation of a heat pump to replace an air conditioning unit and switching hot water tanks to on-demand water heaters.

## TOWN OF BANFF

**The Town of Banff** is Canada's first municipality incorporated inside a national park and is located within the Treaty 7 region of Southern Alberta.

The townsite covers 3.93 km.<sup>2</sup> The population of 8,000 residents swells with visitors to 43,000 on a typical summer day.

Nestled in the Rocky Mountains, Banff is a resort town and popular travel and tourism destination throughout the year.



GOAL	PROJECTS	SUCCESS		
<b>10%</b> ↓	<b>56</b> 🔧	<b>455t</b> ↓	<b>20%</b> ↓	<b>\$73,291</b> ↓
greenhouse gas emissions reduction below 2019 levels	energy conservation measures	greenhouse gas emissions annual reduction	greenhouse gas emissions reduction below 2019 levels	annual energy cost savings

## MEET THE MUNICIPAL ENERGY MANAGER



### Sally Biddlecombe, Municipal Energy Coordinator

*Sally Biddlecombe is an engineer with a background in mechanical building services design. In 2019, Sally joined the Operations Department and moved into the Municipal Energy Coordinator role in 2020. In addition to implementing energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, her responsibilities include reporting energy consumption and emissions, forecasting utility costs and empowering staff to make more energy-conscious decisions in the workplace.*



## LESSONS LEARNED

All departments influence energy use; as much as the Coordinator is a project manager, they must also **support the Facilities team and other staff** throughout the municipality. Success depended on the Coordinator helping other staff integrate energy efficiency into their projects, communicating to staff about equipment upgrades in their work areas, and persuading staff to update their procedures.

Striving to reflect environmental commitment in day-to-day operations means developing a **workplace culture** that upholds energy efficiency as a core principle. New staff now learn about energy efficient workplaces and receive tips in their monthly newsletter. Smart plugs on appliances and signage helps raise awareness about energy saving practices in the workplace.

## KEY ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED

- LED lighting upgraded across four facilities, a mixture of new fixtures and re-lamping solutions.
- 302 kW solar PV system installed, currently the largest in Banff National Park.
- Secured \$630,000 in grants for energy efficiency and solar projects.
- Collaborated to introduce the Green Team and Environmental Champions program, empowering employees to make environmentally positive changes to their workplace.
- Implemented the new Municipal Sustainable Building Policy and employee Sustainable Procurement Guidelines.
- Supported the installation of Building Management Systems across five facilities improving scheduling and use of HVAC systems.



## THE MUNICIPAL ENERGY MANAGER PROGRAM

*The Municipal Energy Manager Program provides funding for Alberta municipalities to hire an energy manager. Participating municipalities receive up to \$80,000 in salary to hire a professional to develop energy management plans, improve building performance, and produce noticeable energy savings.*

*The program was designed and delivered by the Municipal Climate Change Action Centre, a partnership of:*

