

PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

32nd Annual Emerald Award Shortlist Announcement Recognizes Albertans as Leaders in Environmental and Climate Change Action

March 23, 2023 - Today, The [Alberta Emerald Foundation](#) (AEF) announced the [shortlist for the 32nd Annual Emerald Awards](#).

Since 1992, the [Emerald Awards](#) have showcased over 350 recipients and 850 finalists who are raising the bar in addressing environmental and climate change issues. These environmental awards celebrate excellence across all sectors, making them unique not only in Alberta but also in Canada.

This year's shortlist was chosen by a [third-party panel of volunteer judges](#), each bringing expertise from numerous sectors across Alberta. Judges selected the shortlist, consisting of 39 organizations, projects, and individuals from across the province, from 51 nominations. During their deliberations, the judges also determined who from the shortlist will take home an Emerald Award in each of the 15 award categories.

"Those represented in this year's shortlist demonstrate the incredible dedication that Albertans have toward protecting our environment and taking action against climate change" says The AEF's Executive Director, Marisa Orfei, "The diversity in the shortlist is also astounding, there's small grassroots organizations, large corporations, and everything in between. We're also incredibly proud to have 17 communities across Alberta represented in this year's shortlist, including Drayton Valley, Grande Cache, Canmore, and many more."

Here are the organizations, projects, and individuals recognized in The 32nd Annual Emerald Award shortlist:

Air Category - Recognizing projects and initiatives that improve air quality.

- Blindman Brewing First-in-Canada CO2 Capture and Utilization (Lacombe, AB)

Business Category - Showcasing an organization engaged in commercial, industrial or professional activities that has demonstrated a meaningful commitment to an environmentally sustainable future.

- Reimagine Architects - 26 Years Building Sustainable Futures (Edmonton, AB)
- Eco-Flex Recycled Rubber Solutions (Legal, AB)
- Envirotech Geothermal - Alberta's smartest way to Net Zero! (Sherwood Park, AB)

Community Group or Nonprofit Category - Recognizing associations dedicated to furthering a particular social cause or advocating for a shared point of view that have demonstrated a significant commitment to the environment through their actions.

- Alberta Bike Swap - supporting the circular economy before it was cool (Calgary, AB)
- Project Forest: Rewilding Canada, One Forest at a time (Edmonton, AB)
- Alberta businesses are building a better Business-as-usual with Green Economy Canada (Edmonton, AB & Calgary, AB)

Education Category - Acknowledging those that have raised the bar by showing leadership and creativity in educating students of all ages about environmental matters.

- Eagle Point-Blue Rapids Parks Council Environmental & Outdoor Education Program (Drayton Valley, AB)
- Future Energy Systems: Exploring Our Energy Future With The Community, Our Students, And More (Edmonton, AB)
- Evergreen Theatre: A 32 Year Legacy of Inspiring Environmental Awareness & Action Through the Arts (Calgary, AB)

Energy Category - Recognizing projects and initiatives that positively support the evolution of our province's energy systems.

- Calgary's Residential Solar Calculator (Calgary, AB)
- Bow Valley Green Energy Cooperative, empowering community to transform Alberta's energy (Canmore, AB)
- Metis Nation of Alberta Climate Change Action Plan (Edmonton, AB)

Government Category - Recognizing all levels of government whose ongoing commitment sets the example of environmental leadership and advocates sustainability as a major consideration in governance.

- Environmental Achievements of the City of St. Albert (St. Albert, AB)
- Violet Grove's Constructed Floating Wetlands System with Aeration (Drayton Valley, AB)
- Nose Creek Watershed Partnership - Celebrating 25-Years of Watershed Planning, Policy and Action (Airdrie, AB)

Infrastructure Category - Recognizing environmental advancements in the ways we design, build, and travel.

- Solar Aquatic Systems Wastewater Treatment (Drayton Valley, AB)
- SSRIA: Transforming the AEC Industry Towards a Net Zero Built Environment (Edmonton, AB)
- Ecoplast Solutions: Building Houses from Recycled Plastic Bottles (Lloydminster, AB)

Land Category - Recognizing projects and initiatives that demonstrate excellence in sustainable land use.

- The City of Calgary's Willow Plantation for Marginal Land Improvement and Carbon Capture (Calgary, AB)
- Ledcor Highway Maintenance Yard Upgrades (Edmonton, AB)

Lifetime Achievement Award - Celebrating environmental leaders who, throughout their lifetime, have made contributions of outstanding environmental significance.

- Dirk and Nanja of The Barrelman Inc.: 25 years of protecting land and water through local action that inspires (Calgary, AB)

Public Engagement & Outreach Category - Recognizing programs and initiatives that educate and empower the broader public by teaching the necessary skills to make informed environmental decisions and take responsible action.

- GreenLearning's Eco 360 program: Transitioning to a circular economy for plastic waste! (Drayton Valley, AB)
- My Green Closet: Sustainable Lifestyle and Slow Fashion Platform (Edmonton, AB)
- Calgary Climate Symposium: How The City of Calgary Engages and Educates Albertans on Climate Change (Calgary, AB)

Shared Footprints Award - Recognizing those who have exemplified land and water stewardship, built shared knowledge, improved air quality, reduced land disturbances, and encouraged ecotourism.

- Edmonton River Valley Conservation Coalition: Working Together to Protect the North Saskatchewan River Valley (Edmonton, AB)
- Highfield Regenerative Farm (Calgary, AB)

Waste Management Category - Recognizing projects and initiatives that innovate the repurposing, reduction, and disposal of waste in an environmentally-conscious way.

- Earth Warrior (Edmonton, AB)
- Revolutionizing Recycling with [Re] Waste: Transforming Waste Management for a Sustainable Future (Edmonton, AB)
- Microgreens Club - A Zero Waste Initiative (Calgary, AB)

Water Category - Recognizing projects and initiatives that demonstrate excellence through the monitoring, management and/or stewardship of water and watersheds.

- Forest industry collaboration cultivates sustainability around vital wetland ecosystems (Edmonton, AB)
- LakeKeepers: Community Based Monitoring of Alberta's Lakes (Edmonton, AB)
- Safe water and water sustainability in Alberta (Calgary, AB)

Wildlife & Biodiversity Category - Recognizing projects and initiatives that protect and conserve natural habitats and wild species.

- Aseniwuche Winewak Nation's Caribou Patrol Program: 11 years of saving Alberta's caribou (Grande Cache, AB)
- Friends of Fish Creek Provincial Park Society - Sikome Beaver Coexistence Project. (Calgary, AB)
- The Edmonton Urban Coyote Project: Collaborative Research and Education for Coexistence with Wildlife (Edmonton, AB)

Youth Category - Recognizing people, 25 years of age and under, who have made meaningful contributions and have taken positive action to improve the environmental health of their community.

- Monica Figueroa: Edmonton youth climate activist (Edmonton, AB)
- Strathmore High School Community Greenhouse (Strathmore, AB)
- Energy & Environmental Sustainability Projects in Action at New Myrnam School (Myrnam, AB)

The recipients in each category will be named at the 32nd Annual Emerald Awards ceremony on June 7, 2023 at the Citadel Theatre in Edmonton, Alberta. Emerald Award Recipients receive:

- A \$2,000 grant to support their work or to donate to an environmental charity of their choice
- A profile of their work through The AEF's [Sharing Stories program](#), which includes the Emerald Documentary Series, What On EARTH Can We Do? podcast, and Emerald Speakers Series
- A certificate and Emerald Awards recipient digital logo to commemorate their achievement

The Awards will also be livestreamed through the [AEF's YouTube Chanel](#) to allow people from across the province to attend.

Tickets for the 32nd Annual Emerald Awards ceremony can be purchased [here](#).

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The Alberta Emerald Foundation (AEF) is a registered Canadian charity with the unique mission to tell Alberta's environmental good news stories to uplift, educate, and inspire our province toward meeting environmental and climate change goals.

Research suggests that when we learn about what real environmental and climate change solutions look like and how they're being implemented in our communities, it increases our ability and desire to take action in our own lives. By providing real-life examples of these



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solutions through our various storytelling programs, the AEF helps Albertans take the next step toward environmental protection and climate action. With every person that we reach through our programming, we're helping Alberta reach its broader environmental and climate change goals.

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