

From: Environment and Protected Areas <epa.drought@gov.ab.ca>

Date: Tuesday, June 18, 2024 at 9:31 AM

To: Tracy Wasylow <twasylow@md.bonnyville.ab.ca>

Subject: Drought preparedness information and resources

Environment and Protected Areas

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Dear Municipal Leader:

While recent precipitation is improving conditions in many parts of the province, some communities in Northern Alberta are still experiencing drought. Lower-than-average snowfall over the winter and rain this spring are aggravating conditions in many areas.

There are steps communities and individuals can take to prepare for drought and water shortages. The Alberta government has information and resources to guide this work.

Please find attached a [list of resources](#) with links to documents found online. Please refer to these resources as you plan for water shortages and share the links with others who may benefit from this information. You may also link back to this information from your website.

If you have more questions and would like to discuss water shortage planning further, please reach out to me to arrange a meeting where Environment and Protected Areas staff can provide more information and answer questions.

Regards,

Greg Smith, Northern Basins Lead

Drought Emergency Operations Centre

Attachments: [Drought response resources.pdf](#)

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Drought response resources for northern communities

The following resources may help municipalities, organizations and individuals prepare for and respond to drought conditions in their communities.

Water shortage planning and government response

Building a water shortage response plan

This guide includes key considerations and a suggested template to guide municipalities in the development of water shortage plans.

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/being-prepared-for-water-shortage-a-guidance-document-for-municipalities>

Drought Response Plan fact sheet

Information about the Alberta government's Drought Response Plan, designed to help government, irrigators, communities, businesses and others respond quickly and effectively to drought.

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/alberta-drought-response-plan-info-sheet>

Expediated Support for Water Licence

EPA is implementing expedited Water Act licence and approval processes to support Albertans impacted by drought conditions. Water users and those who wish to conduct work in or around water, access new surface water or ground water can receive expedited assistance from EPA to help minimize the impact of drought.

<https://open.alberta.ca/dataset?tags=2024+drought+support>

Monitoring

Alberta River Basins

Advisories, snowpack and river conditions, reservoir data, forecast details and more are available on a web browser or your smartphone

Webpage: <https://rivers.alberta.ca/>

App: Alberta Rivers

Youtube: Learn to use Rivers.Alberta

This video has 5 chapters to help learn how to use Rivers.Alberta, and find the content you need.

1. Reading Station Data and how to read near-real-time data
2. Floods and Understanding Water Advisories
3. Drought and Water Shortage Advisories
4. Forecasts and Trends: Accessing Maps, Data and Reports
5. More Resources

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=psAlxtgGHmc>

Get to know your water flow:

This fact sheet will help water users predict and prepare for water shortages using the Alberta River Basins website. It explains how to find and interpret data from streamflow and lake level gauges, precipitation stations, and snow pillow stations. It also covers water supply outlook and water shortage advisories.

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/get-to-know-your-water-flow>

Alberta Flow Estimation Tool for Ungauged Watersheds (AFETUW)

This online tool will allow users to find watershed boundaries at any point on a stream within Alberta. It also allows for the estimation of ungauged flows and has a search tool for surface water and groundwater license information.

<https://afetuw.alberta.ca/>

Municipal Funding Opportunities

Drought and Flood Protection Program

Supports municipalities and Indigenous communities to improve their long-term resilience to drought and flood events.

<https://www.alberta.ca/drought-and-flood-protection-program>

Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program

Improve flood and drought resiliency through conservation, restoration and enhancement of Alberta's watersheds.

<https://www.alberta.ca/watershed-resiliency-and-restoration-program>

Agriculture

Farming in Dry Conditions

Information and tools to assist with on-farm business management and production issues during dry conditions and periods of business stress.

<https://www.alberta.ca/farming-in-dry-conditions>

Drought Proofing Farm Water Supplies

This fact sheet provides information about drought security related to farm water supplies. Water supplies include wells, dugouts and other water sources.

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/drought-proofing-farm-water-supplies>

Temporary livestock water assistance

This factsheet describes the temporary livestock water assistance efforts implemented to help livestock and poultry producers impacted by water shortage and drought conditions find alternative water

sources. <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/drought-support-temporary-livestock-water-assistance>

Homeowners

Water Shortages (Emergency Preparedness)

Hazard Preparedness: Learn about water shortages and what you can do to protect yourself and others.

<https://www.alberta.ca/water-shortages>

This factsheet supports water shortage preparedness for households that rely on a municipal water supply, including bulk water stations to meet their water needs.

Factsheet: <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/water-shortage-preparedness>

Working Well Program

Information resources for private water well owners in Alberta.

<https://www.alberta.ca/working-well-resources>

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/working-well-clean-water-well-protected-2023>

Additional resources

Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils (WPACs)

WPACs are independent, non-profit organizations designated by the Alberta government to report on the health of our watersheds, lead collaborative planning, and facilitate education and stewardship activities.

Find more information and a list of WPACs here:

<https://www.alberta.ca/watershed-planning-and-advisory-councils>

Alberta Water Council

The Alberta Water Council is a partnership that provides leadership, expertise and sector knowledge to engage and empower industry, non-governmental organizations, and governments to achieve the outcomes of its *Water for Life* strategy.

<https://www.awchome.ca/>

Preparing Northern Municipalities for Drought Webinar

This webinar was jointly organized by RMA and ABmunis. It is for all municipalities north of Red Deer, including urban and rural municipalities and counties. The webinar featured GOA and municipal speakers sharing their knowledge on developing water shortage plans and water enforcement bylaws.

<https://vimeo.com/920646488>