



Theme G: Ecological Systems

Ecological systems can be severely impacted by multi-year droughts, which are also known as ecological droughts.

Strategies

Monitor Conflicts Between Human Needs and Instream Flow Needs

- Before Drought
- Warning Signs
- During Drought
- After Drought

Develop and Implement Instream Objectives

- Before Drought
- Warning Signs
- During Drought
- After Drought

Resources

- Stakeholder committees
- Desktop Method for Establishing Environmental Flows in Alberta Rivers and Streams

Examples

A few examples of municipal plans considering environmental flows are listed below:

- The City of Calgary has developed a Water Efficiency Plan¹ based on monitoring data and projected water supply and demand scenarios, including times of drought. The City of Calgary has also set targets for environmental flows in their draft drought management plan.
- Lethbridge has developed a multi-staged process for water rationing² during severe drought conditions. Citizens monitor their own uses of water and respond to the rationing restriction. Violators are subject to significant fines while rationing is in place.
- Okotoks has developed a Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity Plan³, outlining how the municipality will manage its water supply. The plan notes that instream objectives are monitored for its rivers on a regular basis.

1 https://www.calgary.ca/UEP/Water/Documents/Water-Documents/water_efficiency_plan.pdf?noredirect=1

2 <https://www.lethbridge.ca/living-here/water-wastewater/Pages/Water-Rationing.aspx>

3 https://www.okotoks.ca/sites/default/files/pdfs/publications/Okotoks%20Water%20CEP%20Plan%202014_FINAL.pdf