



# **Diamond Valley Sustainability Plan — 2025 Edition**

Prepared by Sustainable Life

This is a living document. Updates will be issued annually and as required.

## **Table of Contents**

1. Executive Summary
2. Vision, Guiding Principles & Core Values
3. Community Snapshot — Then & Now
4. Key Focus Areas
  - 4.1 Water Stewardship
  - 4.2 Air Quality & Public Health
  - 4.3 Built Environment & Green Building
  - 4.4 Local Food Systems
  - 4.5 Renewable Energy & Efficiency 4
  - .6 Waste Reduction & Circular Economy
  - 4.7 Sustainable Transportation
  - 4.8 Health, Culture & Livability
5. Strategic Actions & Indicators 6
  - . Governance & Implementation Framework
    - 6.1 Municipal Leadership & Integration
    - 6.2 Youth, Education & Civic Participation
    - 6.3 Funding, Partnerships & Capacity-Building
    - 6.4 Phasing & Timelines
7. Policy Foundations
  - 7.1 Green Reserve Fund (2025 Reinstatement Proposal)
  - 7.2 LEED Silver Resolution
8. Education, Engagement & Intergenerational Learning
9. Monitoring, Evaluation & Adaptive Management
10. Appendices
11. Implementation Roadmap
12. Acknowledgements
13. Version Log

## **1. Executive Summary**

Diamond Valley stands at a pivotal moment. Water scarcity, climate variability, rising energy costs, wildfire smoke, and infrastructure pressures are reshaping what resilience means for small communities across southern

Alberta. At the same time, Diamond Valley benefits from engaged residents, youth leadership, strong volunteer networks, and a legacy of grassroots sustainability efforts.

The 2025 Sustainability Plan provides a unified, long-term framework to guide Diamond Valley toward environmental, economic, and social resilience. This Plan identifies eight interconnected focus areas: Water Stewardship; Air Quality & Public Health; Built Environment & Green Building; Local Food Systems; Renewable Energy & Efficiency; Waste Reduction & Circular Economy; Sustainable Transportation; and Health, Culture & Livability. Each focus area includes objectives, strategic actions, and indicators to support implementation.

The Plan introduces two foundational policy tools that enable long-term sustainability: reinstating the Green Reserve Fund, which reinvests savings from efficiency measures; and adopting a LEED Silver standard for new municipal buildings. These mechanisms build on past successes and align with provincial infrastructure guidance.

This document also outlines governance structures, youth engagement strategies, partnerships, and a phased implementation roadmap. The Plan is designed as a living document, updated annually and adapted as new data or opportunities emerge.

A sustainable Diamond Valley is not merely an aspiration — it is a shared practice rooted in community identity. This Plan offers the tools, direction, and partnerships necessary to strengthen our collective future.

## **2. Vision, Guiding Principles & Core Values**

### **Vision Statement**

To cultivate a resilient, equitable, and self-sustaining community grounded in stewardship of the land, social responsibility, and intergenerational learning. We envision Diamond Valley as a place where sustainability is not a concept, but a living practice reflected in our homes, public policies, natural spaces, and local economy.

### **Core Values**

**Community Empowerment** Strengthen local voices — especially youth — through meaningful participation and education.

**Ecological Stewardship** Protect, restore, and regenerate ecosystems with a focus on watershed health, biodiversity, and low-impact development.

**Climate Resilience** Integrate adaptation and mitigation strategies to ensure long-term community viability.

**Circular Economy** Reduce waste, reuse materials, repair goods, and build local supply chains that keep resources and skills circulating.

**Cultural Integrity** Respect Indigenous worldviews and traditional ecological knowledge.

### **Guiding Principles**

**Integration** — Sustainability is embedded across all municipal decisions. **Education** — Learning opportunities are accessible to all generations. **Transparency & Accountability** — Indicators and progress updates are made public. **Inclusivity** — Diverse voices shape the Plan's evolution. **Innovation & Action** — Solutions embrace creativity and evidence-based approaches.

## **3. Community Snapshot — Then & Now**

### **Historical Context (2006–2008)**

The original Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) set an early precedent for environmental responsibility, youth leadership, and long-range planning. High school students served as voting members on the

Sustainability Committee, a rare and powerful inclusion.

## **Community Evolution (2008–2023)**

Amalgamation reshaped governance and planning structures. Sustainability programs diminished as committees dissolved. Despite this, grassroots engagement remained strong through repair cafés, maker programs, community gardening, and local environmental education. Climate pressures and water shortages increased public awareness of sustainability issues.

## **Present-Day Snapshot (2025)**

Diamond Valley faces both challenges and opportunities: moderate population growth; watershed and foothills ecosystems under pressure from drought and climate variability; high interest in water conservation, renewable energy, and community resilience; pre-amalgamation systems that create opportunities for modernization; and strong volunteerism, youth involvement, maker culture, environmental initiatives, and regional partnerships.

# **4. Key Focus Areas**

## **4.1 Water Stewardship**

### **Objectives**

Strengthen water security; promote conservation and efficiency; protect watershed health; integrate Indigenous water governance; support climate-resilient infrastructure.

### **Strategic Actions**

Rainwater harvesting incentives; xeriscaping and native plantings; water budgeting in development reviews; partnerships with BRBC, Cows and Fish, Water Coalitions; greywater pilots and public education.

### **Indicators**

Annual litres of water saved; percentage of municipal xeriscape conversion; number of rain and greywater systems; seasonal water demand trends.

## **4.2 Air Quality & Public Health**

### **Objectives**

Reduce exposure to wildfire smoke and pollutants; improve indoor and outdoor air quality; strengthen public awareness of AQHI.

### **Strategic Actions**

Establish a CRAZ air quality monitoring station; publish live AQHI updates; integrate ASHRAE 62.1 and LEED IAQ standards; provide smoke preparedness education; limit drive-through approvals in walkable zones.

### **Indicators**

AQHI and PM2.5 averages; number of smoke advisory days; indoor air quality compliance; participation in public education programs.

## **4.3 Built Environment & Green Building**

### **Objectives**

Improve building efficiency; reduce long-term costs; enhance walkability.

## **Strategic Actions**

Adopt a LEED Silver resolution for new municipal buildings; provide residential retrofit rebates; develop low-impact development guidelines; support mixed-use and infill projects.

## **Indicators**

Percentage of municipal buildings achieving LEED Silver; number of retrofit applications; energy use intensity (EUI) of new developments.

### 4.4 Local Food Systems

## **Objectives**

Strengthen food security; support local production; expand educational food programs.

## **Strategic Actions**

Conduct a community food security assessment; expand community gardens and edible landscaping; support producers at markets and through procurement; develop school greenhouse and hydroponic projects.

## **Indicators**

Local food sales; number of garden participants; number of school food programs.

### 4.5 Renewable Energy & Efficiency

## **Objectives**

Expand renewable energy adoption; reduce energy costs; build energy literacy.

## **Strategic Actions**

Enable PACE financing; support solar cooperatives and group purchasing; provide energy workshops and audits; support rooftop solar, geothermal, and micro-wind installations.

## **Indicators**

Installed renewable kilowatts; number of households completing retrofits; municipal savings from efficiency upgrades.

### 4.6 Waste Reduction & Circular Economy

## **Objectives**

Reduce landfill waste; support repair and reuse culture; develop micro-manufacturing.

## **Strategic Actions**

Host Repair Café events and circular economy fairs; establish a local Materials Bank; pilot composting programs; support upcycling and micro-manufacturing initiatives.

## **Indicators**

Landfill diversion rate; Repair Café attendance and number of repairs; volume of reused materials.

### 4.7 Sustainable Transportation

## **Objectives**

Support active mobility; reduce emissions; improve regional mobility.

## **Strategic Actions**

Develop a Community Mobility Plan; expand trail and cycling networks; pilot e-bike libraries and rideshare programs; promote multi-modal development.

## **Indicators**

Kilometres of trail added; percentage of residents near active routes; participation in active transportation programs.

4.8 Health, Culture & Livability

## **Objectives**

Support wellness; expand cultural recognition; ensure accessibility.

## **Strategic Actions**

Implement Indigenous place-naming and signage; develop NatureRx programming; conduct accessibility audits; support intergenerational and cultural programs.

## **Indicators**

Wellness program participation; percentage of spaces with Indigenous recognition; Community Wellbeing Index results.

## **5. Strategic Actions & Indicators**

All actions and indicators from Section 4 are consolidated into an implementation-ready structure for council and administration, aligning objectives, actions, partners, and metrics.

## **6. Governance & Implementation Framework**

Municipal leadership and integration; youth, education and civic participation; funding, partnerships, and capacity-building; and phased implementation from 2025–2030 ensure that the Plan moves from vision to practice.

## **7. Policy Foundations**

The Green Reserve Fund (reinstatement proposal) and the LEED Silver resolution for municipal buildings form core policy mechanisms to reinforce long-term sustainability and fiscal responsibility.

## **8. Education, Engagement & Intergenerational Learning**

Youth leadership, community workshops, school partnerships, and public-facing communication tools support a culture of shared responsibility and continuous learning.

## **9. Monitoring, Evaluation & Adaptive Management**

**Indicators, annual reporting, mid-term reviews, and adaptive decision-making processes provide accountability and flexibility as conditions change.**

10. Appendices

Visuals, reference documents, and policy templates support implementation and communication.

11. Implementation Roadmap

Phased actions (2025–2030) detail foundation-building, program initiation, and infrastructure and innovation milestones.

## 12. Acknowledgements

Recognition of residents, partners, Indigenous Knowledge Keepers, and organizations supporting the Plan.

## 13. Version Log

v2025.1 — Initial Release; future updates to be added as the Plan evolves.