

Regional Environmental Action Committee (REAC)

History

In 1986, a group of concerned citizens got involved in projects to help our environment. They made presentations about recycling in schools, wrote “Green Facts” weekly for the South Peace News, and became the local organizers for **Earth Day and Environment Week**.

In 1992, REAC was incorporated as a non-profit, non-governmental society. Local businesses, schools and offices were canvassed to recycle their paper. Grants were received for the construction of a recycling centre, which included during its operation, the collection of over 100,000 tonnes of all types of paper and a large quantity of plastic.

REAC has provided recycle bins for High Prairie, Joussard, Faust and Kinuso.

With over two hundred members all around the Lesser Slave Lake, we have been asked to work and represent our community on other local environmental issues, such as hazardous waste treatment, contaminated sites, air, water, and forest management. We became a registered charity in 2006, focusing on providing research and public education around waste management, local pollution issues, and providing renewable energy demonstration sites.

REAC Projects

REAC continues to provide research, resources, and experience to improve recycling and other waste management initiatives for rural, remote, and Indigenous Communities. We focus on providing education about why recycling is so important to our sustainable future; saving energy and resources for future generations.

Plastic Remanufacture Project

What if plastic could be recycled in the communities where it becomes waste? This project, in partnership with the department of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Alberta, aims to answer questions around health, safety, and environment protocols while working with plastic, and then provide expertise, capacity, and equipment for 4 community recycling hubs in rural Northern Alberta. As we move towards Extended Producer Responsibility opportunities can change waste management.

“My Life” Video Series”

“My Life as a Plastic Bottle” (2003), follows the life cycle of Ethane gas as it is made into a plastic bottle, consumed, recycled and bought back as a polarfleece sweater. The sequel, “My Life as a Tire” 2007 ‘speaks’ similarly for Steel, Oil, Rubber, and Carbon Black, as they become a tire. Both videos are available on our website, along with Teachers’ and Students’ guides.

Sustainable Forest Management

REAC is concerned for the state of our forests in these days of climate change and high yield harvesting. This led to work with the Forest Stewardship Council of Canada and the Slave Lake Forest Public Advisory Committee, not yet achieving goals for selective harvest and herbicide abatement.

Renewable Energy Sites (R.E.S.)

REAC promotes renewable energy - power provided from self-sustaining means such as solar and wind. We are opposed to nuclear energy because of long-term radioactive liability, danger, and expense to Albertans. Between 2000 and 2010, we fundraised primarily from oil, gas, pipeline, and other fossil fuel companies, to show they are not ‘opposed’ to renewable energy. With the funding achieved, we provided the following renewable energy sites.

2011 Lesser Slave Lake North Country Community Association

REAC provided a solar powered water pump so that cattle do not trample the Driftpile River bed. In coordination with the Canadian Rural Partnership, this represents a segment of the Driftpile Valley Riparian Land Management Plan.

2013 Hilda Bin Eben Park – Slave Lake

REAC provided a timed solar night light to light the skateboard park.

2013 Northern Lights Aquatic Centre Northern Lakes College – Slave Lake

REAC provided a 5.75 kW solar installation, providing power to the swimming pool and the college campus.

REAC supports a tax credit or rebate for the purchase of renewable energy technologies, including off-grid power.

Regional Environmental Action Committee



Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

email _____

Area of Interest:

Recycling
Renewable Energy
Pesticide Use
Pollution
Forests
Video projects
Other

Date _____

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Regional Environmental Action Committee Provides:

a solid base and local public forum to positively affect environment and health issues in our communities.

Advisory Committees:

REAC Directors have participated in the following committees and boards:

- Alberta Environment Network
- Canadian Environment Network Steering Committee
- Alberta Environment's Waste Management Stakeholder Group
- Lesser Slave Watershed Council
- Lesser Slave Lake Public Forest Advisory Committee
- Northern Coordinated Action for Recycling Enterprises
- Keepers of the Athabasca, Keepers of the Water
- Alberta Ecotrust Foundation



Becoming a REAC member allows you a unified voice for expressing sustainable environmental objectives.

Help us to achieve environmental goals by becoming a member!

- \$5 lifetime membership fee
- Meetings every three months
- Volunteers welcome!

The Society of High Prairie

Regional Environmental Action Committee



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