

NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday 13 September 2007



Town Hosts Sustainability Charrette

Olds is one of five urban municipalities working closely with the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) to help chart a course for achieving municipal sustainability. In May and June 2007, the Town of Olds and the Olds Institute for Community & Regional Development (OICRD) hosted seven public input sessions on municipal sustainability. With public and corporate buy-in of the Sustainable Living Initiative gaining momentum, the Town and the OICRD are now pleased to host the Olds Sustainability Charrette, 20-22 September at the Mountain View County Office.

A charrette is a creative burst of energy that builds momentum for a project and then sets it on a course to meet project goals. The three-day event will bring together citizens of Olds, experts, town staff and elected officials for a session of evaluation and information exchange. This intensely focused session will use a collaborative approach to create realistic and achievable sustainability goals that work.

A Networking Dinner on Thursday 20 September will feature Calgary Alderman Bob Hawkesworth, the President of the AUMA and a strong advocate for municipal sustainability. As our keynote speaker, Mr. Hawkesworth will speak about the importance of moving communities toward sustainability. Chad Park, Senior Sustainability Advisor for The Natural Step Canada will deliver a presentation on The Natural Step framework, which has been embraced by communities such as Canmore and Whistler, and is recognized by municipal governments right across Canada.

For information on The Natural Step program, visit www.thenaturalstep.ca.

Three case-study presentations and a Sustainability Open House will be held on Friday 21 September. The presentations will begin at 9.30 am and the open house will run from 2.00 – 4.30 pm. The information from the seven public input sessions will also be on display.

The public is welcome to attend the sustainability case-study presentations and Open House on Friday. The Networking Dinner is by invitation only. For more information on these events, contact Nina Gales, Manager of Corporate Affairs, at Town Office.

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