



ALBERTA INNOVATES

# AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL INNOVATION

WATER INNOVATION

## FUNDING DETAILS

### North Saskatchewan River Basin Project: Collaborative Assessment of Water Management Opportunities

The goal of the project was to create, in collaboration with a stakeholder working group (WG), a sustainable Water Management Roadmap (Roadmap) for the North Saskatchewan River Basin (NSRB). The Roadmap outlines a set of adaptations which are grounded in science, guided by community knowledge, and designed to align with Alberta's regulatory frameworks and strategies. With the support of a watershed decision making support tool, the WG members assessed climate, growth, and development adaptations to understand their potential impacts on water availability. The Roadmap was developed to reflect the intricacies of the basin, the participants' interests, and to facilitate informed decision-making in defining the most appropriate adaptation strategies and actions to adopt.



#### RECIPIENT:

North Saskatchewan  
Watershed Alliance  
Society



#### PARTNERS:

ATCO  
Cenovus  
City of Edmonton  
City of Spruce Grove  
Edmonton Metro Regional Board  
EPCOR  
GoA  
Keyera  
PrairiesCan  
RDAR  
WaterSMART Solutions



#### TOTAL BUDGET:

\$1,544,557



#### AI FUNDING:

\$250,000



#### PROJECT DATES:

FEB 2024 –  
AUG 2025



#### PROJECT TRL:

Start: N/A  
Start: N/A

## APPLICATION

The Roadmap can be used to inform future planning and water management efforts, guide government, water managers, and users on sustainable watershed management practices, highlight immediate needs, and outline next steps.



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## PROJECT GOALS

The overall goal of the project was to develop:

1. An operational model of the NSRB, including water quantity, water quality and climate change impacts.
2. A comprehensive roadmap for development in the NSRB that incorporates climate change projections and municipal and industrial growth strategies and provides a high-level economic assessment for the various mitigations and adaptation strategies identified by the project team.

## BENEFITS TO ALBERTA

The project will allow provincial authorities, and other water users, to:

- Identify, understand, and manage water quantity and quality risks.
- Provide an understanding of how much water is available in the basin system currently and how it will be impacted by climate change.
- Provide an opportunity to understand how development in the basin and climate change will continue to impact water quality and allow water users to make more informed decisions to protect the basin.
- Engage local experts in water management to enable sustainable economic development, including energy transformation projects like hydrogen.
- Communicate publicly regarding climate change impacts on water resources.

### CURRENT STATUS

#### SEP 2025 - COMPLETE

The results of this project highlight the need for collaborative and adaptive water management across the NSRB, as climate change and future growth and development increase pressure on water availability within the system. The adaptations identified on the NSRB Roadmap demonstrate how water security and economic growth can be facilitated together through collaborative action.