



ALBERTA INNOVATES

AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL INNOVATION

WATER INNOVATION

FUNDING DETAILS

Ecwise Agriculture: Leveraging and Quantifying Farmer-led Innovation for Sustainable Ecosystem Restoration Benefits in Alberta

ALUS' Ecwise Agriculture project will support farmers and ranchers in Alberta, who are uniquely positioned to play an important role in the restoration of healthy aquatic ecosystems. The project aims to develop and pilot a tool to calculate the water retention value of on-farm nature-based solutions projects. Water-related benefits will be effectively communicated to partners in the sustainable agricultural value chain to accelerate adoption of and support for nature-based solutions projects that support healthy aquatic ecosystems.



RECIPIENT:

ALUS Canada
Koral Wysocki



PARTNERS:

**Alberta Innovates,
RDAR, Government of
Alberta**



TOTAL BUDGET:

\$700,000



AI FUNDING:

\$350,000



PROJECT DATES:

**NOV 2024 –
APR 2027**



PROJECT TRL:

**Start: 5
End: 8**

APPLICATION



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PROJECT GOALS

Development of a Water Calculator Tool:

Phase One - Identify and evaluate existing tools and methodologies that can accurately quantify the volume of water held on-site by ALUS riparian and water-related projects.

Phase Two - Develop and pilot an effective water calculator tool, specifically tailored to the needs and data requirements of ALUS communities in Alberta.

Translating Water Benefits:

Collaborate with value chain partners to communicate quantified water conservation benefits and sustainable practice benefits through ALUS in ways which inspire accelerated adoption of sustainable practices.

Knowledge Distribution to Stakeholders:

Foster a culture of care for Alberta's aquatic ecosystems by demonstrating the social and financial benefits of nature-based solutions projects through four outreach events.

BENEFITS TO ALBERTA

The health of aquatic ecosystems in Alberta are degraded, posing a challenge for farmers and ranchers, who are in a unique position to contribute to their restoration. Despite their potential to implement nature-based solutions that improve water health, farmers face barriers that hinder their participation in such initiatives. Barriers to adopting sustainable practices such as nature-based solutions include high initial costs, market uncertainty, cultural resistance, lack of peer support, insufficient knowledge and training, and inadequate access to research and data. This project seeks to quantify the value of ALUS' community-led model of delivery of nature-based solutions in order to increase value-chain investment to accelerate improvement of the health of aquatic ecosystems in Alberta.

CURRENT STATUS

OCT 2025 - IN PROGRESS

A cross-sector steering committee and Innovation Network has been established to inform the development of the water tool which is currently underway.