



Our cities, towns, villages, resort villages,
and northern municipalities are
urban hubs bringing people together.

Policy in Brief

Municipal Eco-Action Centre

What is the Municipal Eco-Action Centre (MEAC)?

The MEAC was modeled after Alberta's Municipal Climate Change Action Centre (MCCAC), which was established in 2009 to strengthen municipalities' resilience to climate change. MCCAC is managed by Alberta Municipalities and focuses on providing resources to local governments for sustainable infrastructure projects.

Similarly, MEAC represents SUMA's dedication to promoting eco-friendly, sustainable development across municipalities in Saskatchewan. This initiative encourages collaboration among municipalities and offers access to funding and resources for renewable energy, energy efficiency, and environmental sustainability projects.

What Can MEAC Offer Municipalities:

- Assistance in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Promotion of energy-efficient infrastructure and best practices.
- Support for the development and adoption of renewable energy projects.
- Funding, technical resources, and expertise for sustainability and climate adaptation projects.
- A central resource hub that simplifies access to information, collaboration, and funding to address climate change challenges through green infrastructures projects.

How Did It All Start?

In 2019, SUMA and SARM met with the Minister of Environment to propose the establishment of the Municipal Eco-Action Centre (MEAC), designed to help municipalities enhance their resilience to climate change. The proposed model was based on the success of MCCAC in Alberta. The centre provides a collaborative framework for municipalities to access funding and resources for renewable energy projects and energy efficiency initiatives.

Government Response:

In 2021, the Minister of Environment sent a letter to SUMA with a commitment to provide in-kind support for the establishment of the MEAC. The proposed support was to assign the portfolio as an additional task to a ministry staff member. However, based on the observations from the successful implementation in Alberta, where the program required a dedicated staff member, SUMA expressed concerns that this level of support would not be sufficient for municipalities to fully benefit from the program. SUMA further emphasized that a more focused approach was necessary to maximize the initiative's potential.



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What Has SUMA Done So Far?

- SUMA engaged a consulting firm to conduct research on environmental issues affecting municipalities, which is published on SUMA's website.
- SUMA partnered with Eco-West to diversify funding streams, accelerate access to financial resources, and strengthen community networks.
- Despite a setback with the denial of Sustainable Development Goals' funding application, the commitment to pursue future funding opportunities remains a strong focus for SUMA.
- SUMA works with various organizations to promote responsible municipal leadership on environmental issues.
- SUMA also has different channels including webinars, regional meetings, resolutions, and conventions to foster knowledge sharing and capacity building on environmental matters.

What Does SUMA Want?

- The provincial government to take concrete action in providing funding for the establishment of MEAC.
- Increased provincial support for energy efficiency grants to help municipalities improve on their green infrastructure initiatives.
- Greater backing from the province for renewable energy initiatives, including promotion of solar, wind, and other sustainable energy sources.
- Government-led efforts to promote education and raise public awareness on climate adaptation and eco-friendly infrastructures.

Municipal Climate Change Action Centre <https://mccac.ca/learning-centre>.