



ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
NEWSLETTER



Creating Opportunities in South-Central Alberta

July 24, 2018



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Headline Article:

SAAEP promotes renewable energy opportunities in southern Alberta

SouthGrow Regional Initiative | July 24, 2018



The Southern Alberta Alternative Energy Partnership (SAAEP) is an economic initiative championed by three economic development organizations: SouthGrow Regional Initiative, Alberta Southwest, and Economic Development Lethbridge.

As our region moves steadily towards its newest wind farm, and first solar farms, SAAEP is also once again gearing up to support its members and build relationships with industry and the province.

Thanks to a recent Energy Efficiency Alberta grant award, the partnership has been able to re-engage Randolph Seibold (Renewable Randolph Consulting) to coordinate its activities for the remainder of 2018.

SAAEP has announced that it will be hosting a monthly video conference call for its members and select industry guests. Calls will be held using the Zoom platform (no download or sign-up required) for 30-40 minutes and will include valuable information, as well as a chance to Q&A with guest experts. The last 10-15 minutes of every call will be 'members only', where SAAEP members can trade notes about renewable energy developments or concerns in their jurisdictions. Please confirm your RSVP to rseibold@renewable-randolph.com or any of the SAAEP organizations (i.e.: SouthGrow Regional Initiative, Alberta Southwest, and Economic Development Lethbridge). Further details are below.

Time:

- 12:00-12:30 PM

Schedule:

- Jul. 27: SAAEP Strategy Update & Alberta Industry Round-up (with Randolph Seibold)
- Sep. 28: Tools for Effective Engagement with Developers (with the Miistakis Institute)
- Oct. 26: Canadian Wind Energy Association Conference Re-cap (with regional project construction update)
- Nov. 30: Stirling/Cardston/Raymond/Magrath Solar Strategy (with a SAAEP member update on solar energy in their communities)

[SAAEP Website](#) | [SAAEP Events Page](#)

Weekly Economic Update

Markets & Currencies

International markets

🕒 At last close

DJIA	25,044.29	13.83 - 0.06%
S&P 500	2806.98	5.15 0.18%
FTSE 100	7655.79	- 23.00 - 0.30%
DAX	12548.57	- 12.85 - 0.10%
Nikkei 225	22510.48	113.49 0.50%
Hang Seng	28662.57	406.45 1.42%
Crude Oil (WTI)	68.2	- 0.44 - 0.65%
Gold	1224.2	4.10 - 0.33%

Exchange rates

🕒 Last updated: 09:50 (GMT)

EUR → USD	1.1685	< 0.001 - 0.094%
GBP → USD	1.3111	< 0.001 - 0.069%
USD → JPY	111.1940	0.053 0.048%
AUD → USD	0.7385	< 0.001 - 0.203%
USD → CAD	1.3173	< 0.001 0.167%
USD → CHF	0.9942	< 0.001 0.201%
EUR → GBP	0.8912	< 0.001 -0.034%

Things You Need To Know

From the SouthGrow Office



New funds announced for Indigenous green economy projects

The Ministry of Indigenous Relations increased funding to \$50 million from \$35 million for programs that help Indigenous communities and organizations create jobs, cut greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and reduce energy bills. Last year, Cold Lake First Nations accessed the Alberta Indigenous Solar Program to save approximately \$6,000 on utility bills, reduce more than 1,305 tonnes of GHGs and save nearly \$150,000 on utilities over the 25-year life of the solar panels. [Learn more.](#)

GROWTH
COMPASS
LAB

**Alberta Manufacturing
Innovation Accelerator**

An opportunity – Alberta Manufacturer Innovation Accelerator

The Alberta Manufacturer Innovation Accelerator (AMIA) provides manufacturers with the innovation mindset and capacity to improve their diversification and growth potential. AMIA will enable companies to look beyond their current problem spaces, identify new customers, product and market opportunities, and successfully execute on their innovation plans. AMIA will make real change happen in these organizations.

The AMIA is a four-step innovation program held over a 20-week period, leveraging both in-class face-to-face engagement, coaching/mentoring and webinar-based milestone reviews. [Learn more.](#)



Agriculture Entrepreneur in Residence (AgENT) Program

We are looking for industry partners to bring our students real-world challenges and act as mentors as they work to find innovative solutions.

Lethbridge College student-entrepreneurs are ready and eager to find solutions to the challenges you are facing in your business or industry.

As an industry partner in AgENT, you will guide student-entrepreneurs as they innovate and problem solve. The student-entrepreneurs will work under your mentorship throughout the academic year.

At the end of the year, the student-entrepreneurs will participate in a competition, where they will pitch their solutions in a quest to win prizes and see their solutions funded. [Learn more & sign-up.](#)

Stories We're Following

Government Affairs

['Rural broadband isn't a luxury': Alberta internet strategy set for fall](#)

Edmonton Journal | July 23

MLA Brian Malkinson was handed the Service Alberta file in a recent cabinet shuffle by Premier Rachel Notley. The broadband strategy is one of her major expectations for the new minister, and Malkinson told Postmedia he wants to see high-speed internet for ...

[Canada hits back at Trump's 'illegal' solar panel tariffs with NAFTA challenge](#)

The Canadian Press | July 23

OTTAWA – The Trudeau government has asked for a NAFTA review of a Trump administration tariff on solar panels, saying the 30 per cent charge is illegal and unfair. Global Affairs Canada says the tariffs have hurt workers in the clean energy sector on ...

[Japan has resumed Canadian wheat imports after temporary suspension: Ottawa](#)

The Canadian Press | July 20

Ottawa says Japan has ended its temporary suspension of Canadian wheat imports. Japan had halted shipments after some unauthorized genetically modified wheat was found in southern Alberta. Ottawa says the decision marks an end to all international ...

Economic Affairs

[B.C. contractor says it'll create jobs in Alberta if road maintenance contract is approved](#)

StarMetro Calgary | July 22

CALGARY—Despite last week's complaints, a British Columbia-based contracting company said it submitted an offer to take on 40 per cent of Alberta's road maintenance contracts fair and square — and intends to keep all of the existing contractors ...

[Retail sales reach new record](#)

The Owl: ATB Financial's Economics & Research Team | July 23

Alberta shoppers spent more than they ever have in May as total retail sales reached a record high. Just short of \$7 billion, May's total was two per cent higher than April and about three per cent higher than one year ago. In May, Albertans continued to outspend ...

[Restaurant receipts hold steady](#)

The Owl: ATB Financial's Economics & Research Team | July 24

Alberta's festival season is in full swing and for many people that means patio pints and

dining out. The latest statistics on our province's restaurants and bars show that, for now, receipts are holding steady. In May, restaurants and bars rang in \$772 million worth of ...

U.S. investors eye Alberta thanks to petrochemical incentives

Edmonton Journal | July 21

Wood Mackenzie senior vice-president of chemicals, Stephen Zinger, says although Canada has higher capital startup expense costs and a carbon tax, in Alberta those are offset by the government's recent petrochemical incentives. Zinger outlined his findings ...

Southern Alberta canola needs relief from heat

Western Producer | July 19

TURIN, Alta. — Variable maturity levels appear to be a common problem in southern Alberta canola fields lacking irrigation. Autumn Barnes, agronomy specialist ...

Social Affairs

'There is not any kind of formal support available for them': Immigrant entrepreneurs honoured by non-profit

StarMetro Edmonton | July 21

EDMONTON—Several immigrants were honoured at a Saturday event to celebrate entrepreneurship among Albertans born outside the country. Action for Healthy Communities (AHC) — a local non-profit that assists newcomers — held ...

County going solar to power building

Lethbridge Herald | July 20

In an effort to be more environmentally conscious, the Lethbridge County administration office building will look a little different over the next few weeks, as solar panels are installed on the roof of the building. The building, located on 4 Avenue South, took on ...

Province supports new Indigenous tourism group

Government of Alberta | July 20

The province has provided a grant to the Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada to help create a provincial group, Indigenous Tourism Alberta. The money will support the development of a provincial strategy for the organization, resources for entrepreneurs ...

Feds, Métis Nation sign historic agreement to negotiate reconciliation nation-to-nation

paNOW | July 21

Batoche is a site already ripe with history for the Métis people, and another historic chapter has been added that will see the nation no longer "left on the sidelines" of discussions. The

Métis Nation-Saskatchewan (MN-S) signed a framework with the federal government ...

Big Ideas

[Edmonton study shows snow only mildly affects solar panel productivity](#)

The Star Edmonton | July 22

EDMONTON—A five-year study led by Northern Alberta Institute of Technology's (NAIT) Alternative Energy Technology program found that the impact of snowfall only results in three per cent loss of solar energy. Tim Matthews, technologist in charge of the NAIT ...

[Students will find tomorrow's technology today at 'smart farm'](#)

Alberta Farmer Express | July 20

It's not often you find yourself in the middle of a field with full Wi-Fi bars on your phone. But what else would you expect from a 'smart farm?' "This is the classroom coming alive," said Jason Bradley, director of smart ag for Olds College. "The smart farm is a place where ...

[Alberta farming, tourism offer bright lights as dark economic clouds loom: economist](#)

Global News | July 19

A leading Alberta economist points to the province's agriculture and tourism sectors as bright spots for the bottom line this summer, but warns there could be trouble ahead. "2018 is shaping up to be a very interesting year, and some dark clouds could be on the ...

Upcoming Events

Hosted by SouthGrow & Our Partners

[Sep. 26 | 2018 Alberta Climate Summit](#)

Host: [Pembina Institute](#)

Time: [8:30 AM – 5:30 PM](#)

Location: [BMO Centre | Calgary](#)

The Alberta Climate Summit brings 500+ thought leaders from industry, government, environmental NGOs, and Indigenous and rural communities together to learn about global trends with implications in Alberta, hear diverse local success stories and explore the potential in Alberta's energy evolution. The full-day event showcases a range of

perspectives, opportunities for Alberta, informs and connects decision makers, and inspires participants to play an active role in the province's energy future.

[Learn More & Register](#)

Sep. 26 - 28 | 2018 AUMA Convention & AMSC Trade Show

Host: [AUMA/AMCS](#)

Time: [7:00 AM - 4:00 PM](#)

Location: [Westerner Park | Red Deer](#)

Registration is now open for the 2018 AUMA Convention and AMSC Trade Show, which takes place from September 26-28 at the Westerner Park, in Red Deer! This year's convention will include dialogue sessions with provincial Ministers, and breakout session topics such as the opioid crisis, impact of autonomous vehicles, cyber security, municipal rights-of-way, what the upcoming provincial election means for municipalities, and more.

[Learn More & Register](#)

Oct. 3 | 2019 Economic Outlook

Host: [Calgary Economic Development & ATB](#)

Time: [10:15 AM – 1:30 PM](#)

Location: [Calgary TELUS Convention Centre](#)

Confidence in the economy is rising - how will this transform your business in 2019? Join us at the 2019 Economic Outlook and hear about current economic trends and forecasts in your industry to get an edge up on 2019 planning. Learn how local, provincial, national and international economic forecasts for next year may influence your business.

[Learn More & Register](#)

Employment Opportunities

[AUMA | Association of Urban Municipalities of Alberta](#)

[RMA | Rural Municipalities of Alberta](#)

[Government of Alberta](#)

Tech For Your SouthGrow Team

At SouthGrow's main office, we are working hard to further improve our implementation of technology and data to improve our organization and service. Here's what we are using, as well as some other tools we think would help the businesses within our communities.

What We Use

[G Suite – Gmail, Docs, Drive, Calendar and More for Business](#)

Do your best work with Google's suite of intelligent apps (formerly Google Apps). Get business email, video conferencing, online storage and file sharing.

[Google Maps Platform - Geo-location APIs](#)

Choose Google Maps Platform to create immersive location experiences and make better business decisions with accurate real-time data & dynamic imagery

[Workplace by Facebook: A Work Collaboration Tool](#)

Workplace is already the place for teams to connect and collaborate. Now get even more productive with integrations. Connect to the apps and services you ...

[Economic Dashboard - Government of Alberta](#)

Welcome to the Alberta Economic Dashboard. The dashboard compiles the Alberta economy's most important indicators for businesses in one place.

[Trello](#)

Infinitely flexible. Incredibly easy to use. Great mobile apps. It's free. Trello keeps track of everything, from the big picture to the minute details.

[Wix.com: Free Website Builder | Create a Free Website](#)

Create a free website exactly the way you want. With Wix, you get the whole package - sophisticated website builder, complete customization, reliable web ...

Other Resources

[Community \(Local\) Economic Development - Government of Alberta](#)

Tools and resources to help support local economic development. ... Alberta's communities need qualified workers and professionals to drive their local ...

[Fundingportal - Government Grants, Tax Credits ... - The Funding Portal](#)

Canada's bilingual one-window gateway to improve access to 7000+ sources of government funding and private financing for business, hospitals, universities, ...

[SAP Software & Solutions | Technology & Business Applications](#)

Get software and technology solutions from SAP, the leader in enterprise applications. Run simple with the best in cloud, analytics, mobile and IT solutions.

[xarvio Digital Farming Solutions](#)

xarvio™ Digital Farming Solutions makes you feel more confident, reduces your risks and gives you more security in all your plannings and decisions.

[Farmers Edge - Grow.More.Precisely.](#)

Empowering growers and ag professionals with data-driven solutions Farmers Edge is the best option for making data-driven decisions on the farm. We help ...



How to keep people living in small towns: Noah Fleming TED Talk

How the "addiction" of organizations to continuously attracting new customers applies to the economies of small towns.

Questions? Suggestions? Have a story you would like us to share?

Contact the SouthGrow team!

info@southgrow.com | [\(403\) 394-0615](tel:4033940615)

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