



4512 - 46 St, Olds, Alberta Canada T4H 1R5
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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE SHOWCASES RURAL INNOVATION Addressing the realities of climate change and the need to diversify our rural economy

(OLDS, Alberta – November 10, 2015) The Olds Institute collaborated with local partners to promote and champion rural innovation in sustainable initiatives at a three day conference in Olds from November 8 - 10, 2015. The conference presented speakers who shared their initiatives in managing important elements such as water, waste, and energy in non-urban communities. A common theme from the speakers was how rural communities needed to create a collaborative environment with government, citizens and local innovators to achieve success in their sustainability initiatives. Attendees included representatives from rural municipal governments across Alberta interested in implementing best practices in their regions.

“I see Olds as a community that has a really big story to tell,” said Lisa Fox, Executive Director of Sustainability Resources. “You’ve got some amazing initiatives and innovations here and partnerships with industry and partnerships with other communities that can be celebrated.”

A round table panel with local regional thought leaders opened the conference by discussing the question, "What is our vision for the future of rural communities in Alberta given the realities of a changing climate and the need to diversify our economy and resource base?"

Organized by Sustainability Resources, this rural sustainability conference was hosted by the Olds Institute, Town of Olds, Mountain View County and Olds College. The conference was held at the Pomeroy Inns & Suites who prepared locally sourced food for the lunches and breaks. Sponsors included O-NET, the community owned Giga-bit broadband network who provided free high-speed Wi-Fi services to the conference. The event sessions were live streamed via the O-NET internet network to colleges and universities in Alberta.

The Olds Institute was formed in 2001 by community leaders who realized they could achieve more together than they could apart. It is governed by a volunteer board of directors representing their four founding members and includes members of the community at large.

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Event Media:

Videos of event session available at Olds Institute Vimeo channel:

<https://vimeo.com/album/3681456>

All photos courtesy Olds Image Seeker Photo Club and Olds Institute for Community & Regional Development.

Photos are available at www.OldsInstitute.com at this link: <http://www.oldsinstitute.com/?p=2229>

	
<p>P2S Olds Rural Sustainability conference November 8-10 2015, Olds AB.</p>	<p>P2S Olds Rural Sustainability conference November 8-10 2015, Olds AB.</p>
	
<p>Volunteers and hosts for P2S Olds Rural Sustainability conference November 8-10 2015 pose at conclusion of the event.</p>	<p>P2S Olds Rural Sustainability conference opening round table, Sunday November 8, 2015, Olds AB.</p> <p>From left to right: Bruce Beatty, Reeve of Mountain View County; Judy Dahl, Mayor of Town of Olds; Bob Hawkesworth; Al Kemmere, President of AAMDC; Matt Cornall, President, Economic Developers of Alberta; Rachel de Vos (Bocock), Director of Policy and Advocacy AUMA; Dee Ann Benard Executive Director of ARDN; Nathan Cooper - MLA Olds Didsbury Three Hills.</p>