



- Service Area:** Aboriginal Community Engagement, Public Participation and Facilitation
- Project:** Information Base for Strategic Planning of the WBEA Air Monitoring Network
- Client:** Wood Buffalo Environmental Association
- Location:** North East Alberta

The Wood Buffalo Environmental Association (WBEA) is a community-driven organization with representatives from Aboriginal communities, health authorities, environmental non-government organizations (ENGOS), industry, and government. As a neutral non-profit organization, it is the mandate of the WBEA to conduct air quality and human and ecological health effects monitoring and to identify and manage programs that address regional environmental issues and concerns.

The chief objective of the WBEA is to monitor the ambient air quality in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo in a manner that is transparent and open to scrutiny by all interested stakeholders, including the public at large. The network was put in place to ensure existing developments are in compliance with government guidelines and regulatory requirements and to address some key issues that stakeholders have identified in the past.

In 2002, WBEA investigated potential benefits that may arise from reconfiguring the existing network and potentially adding new monitoring stations. With URS Corporation providing technical air quality support, partners from **the human environment group (HEG)** were consulted with stakeholders to obtain input into the planning process and to ensure their concerns were clearly identified and considered in the design of a new strategic monitoring network. Stakeholder groups consulted included Aboriginal communities, oil sands mine and SAGD operators, ENGOS, and government.