APPENDIX 3

Clear Hills
County

CLEAR HILLS COUNTY

With a population of 3,159 in 2019,[1] Clear Hills County is made up of two Hamlets including Cleardale and Worsley, and multiple agricultural communities. The Village of Hines Creek is within the boundaries of Clear Hills County, and is its own municipality. Horse Lake First Nation has one community named Clear Hills 152C within Clear Hills County. In 2020, Clear Hills 152 C had a population of 0.[2]

Most of the population reside in rural properties outside the Hamlets of Worsley and Cleardale. The hamlets have experienced minor fluctuations in population over the last ten years, remaining close to 100 people in the Hamlet of Worsley and 400 people in the Hamlet of Cleardale. The majority of the County's landmass provides rich resources, bountiful harvest, lush forests, beautiful scenery, and ample recreational opportunities. The hamlets provide necessities such as food, fuel and lodgings. Most other provisions are sourced from outside the County lines in the larger urban municipalities. Worsley is in a strategic location to provide housing for residents and temporary workers in the oil and gas, agriculture, forestry sectors, as well as other support services associated with these industries. The County Office is located within Worsley.

With a land area of 14,892.43 km² the County borders the province of British Columbia to the west; County of Northern Lights the north and east; the Municipal District of Peace No. 135 to the east; the Municipal District of Fairview No. 136 to the southeast; and Saddle Hills County to the southwest. The Peace River traverses the southern boundary of the County.

Needs and Priorities

Table 35[3] identifies the needs &and priorities of Clear Hills County based on the primary and secondary data collected, as well as the data gaps identified[4]. Three key themes offer specific identification of the needs and priorities within, specific data can be found in the following indicators of this section.

1. Improved community services are needed to support residents of the County. Recent funding cuts from AHS and the provincial government have led to reduced access to medical and mental health care, forcing residents to travel outside of their region for childbirth, surgery, counselling – traveling as far as Grande Prairie at great costs (time, fuel, highway safety) and often with dangerous wait times. The cuts to emergency services have further endangered residents as well as municipal budgets, and there is also a demand for increased and improved elderly services.
2. Agricultural Production & Economic Diversification is essential for the long-term wellbeing and sustainability of Clear Hills County economy and population. The loss of family farms was identified as a primary concern and that incentives are needed to support local farms, engage youth in farming, and to diversify agricultural production. The need to diversify the economy beyond agriculture is essential, to promote other industries such as service centres and tourism development.
3. The Development of Recreational Activities would also support tourism opportunities as well as engage and retain residents in the region. These three key themes (and their needs and priorities within) are all connected. A strong, diversified economy will allow for the income generation for the municipality to provide increased services – through their support, but also demanding the provincial government return services to a thriving and growing region. This will also increase

[1] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/clear-hills/population/#/?from=2016&to=2020
[2] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/clear-hills-152c/#/
[3] CMR Consulting Inc., Open House Data Collection, 2020.
[4] The NWSAR Open House for Clear Hills County was hosted at the Eureka River Hall with 25 participants.

population retention to warrant the development of recreational activities for healthy communities across the County and to attract tourism income.

In 2019, the Clear Hills County Municipal Development Plan (MDP)[5] guides future change and development in the County. The MDP identifies the vision, goals, objectives and policies to guide different land use developments within the County. The guiding principles identified the following priorities for the County (Table 36)[6], many of which align with the needs and priorities identified at the Open House event in January 2020 identified in Table 35.

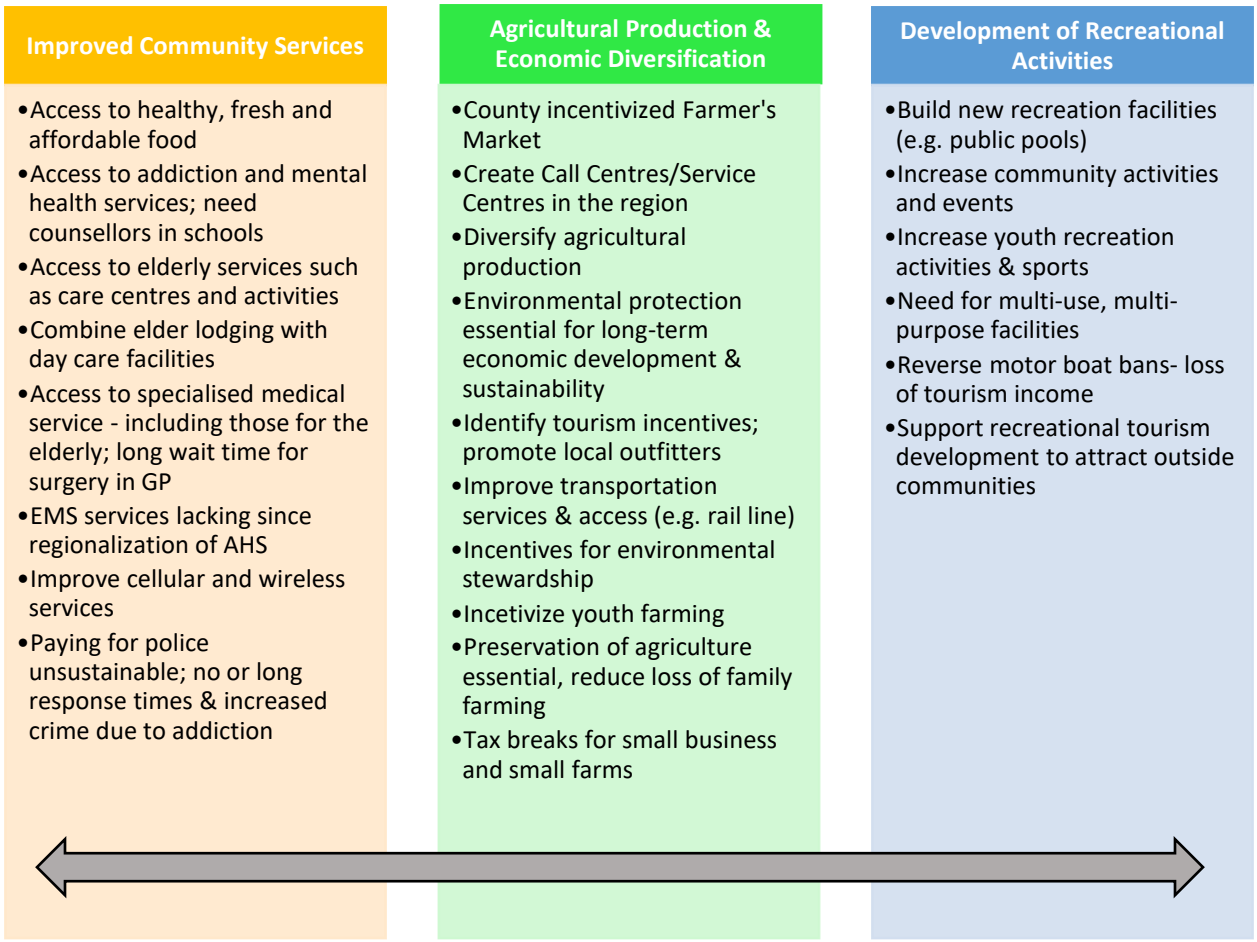

Table 35 Clear Hills County Needs and Priorities, 2020.

Guiding Principles	Description
Preserve agricultural land and facilitate agricultural operations	Agricultural and activities associated with sustainable agricultural practices in all its forms have priority in rural areas. Clear Hills County strives to protect farmlands by limiting their fragmentation and mitigating adverse impacts from other types of development.
Protect the natural environment	Clear Hills County values its natural environment, including its lakes, rivers and wetlands, forests and grasslands, and the diversity of flora and fauna in those ecosystems. The County aims to protect the natural environment from any adverse effects of new development.

[5] https://clearhillscounty.ab.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/CHC-MDP_Final-draft_N.pdf
[6] Clear Hills County Municipal Development Plan, Mackenzie Municipal Services Agency, 2019, p.24.

Promote and support the diversification of local economy	The County works to support the diversification of the local economic base and local business, particularly in the forestry and oil and gas sectors, while maintaining the agricultural industry.
Provide a diverse range of municipal services and infrastructure	Support the County's current residents and businesses and facilitate new development by providing efficient municipal infrastructure and social services.
Support the responsible growth of the County	Provide a framework for responsible decision-making with respect to growth and change within the County, especially within the hamlets and their surrounding areas.
Improve Inter-municipal cooperation	Continue to cooperate and build relationships with neighbouring municipalities to provide effective services to resident, and to collaborate on mutually beneficial initiatives, infrastructure and servicing

Table 36 Clear Hills County MDP Guiding Principles, 2019.

Regional Travel Distances and Times

Many residents of the County travel to outside their communities, County, and sometimes Province, to access services (e.g. health care), retail and employment. Table 37 shows approximate travel distances and times (each way). The travel times, costs and safety concerns (winter driving conditions, logging trucks, etc.) add strain for many residents. Though these challenges were identified by many stakeholders as the 'trade-off' for rural living, it is challenging for many youth and senior residents and can lead to isolation, as well as health and safety concerns.

↓ From / To →	Bear Canyon	Cleardale	Eureka River	Hines Creek	Worsley
Worsley	~ 70 kms/ 50 mins	~ 40 kms/ 25 mins	~ 30 kms/ 20 mins	~ 60 kms/ 40 mins	--
Fairview	~ 125 kms/ 1.25 hrs	~ 95 kms/ 1 hr	~ 55 kms/ 35 mins	~ 30 kms/ 20 mins	~ 85 kms/ 1 hr
Grande Prairie	~ 200 kms/ 2.5 hrs	~ 195 kms/ 2 hrs	~ 160 kms/ 1.5 hrs	~ 130 kms/ 1.5 hrs	~ 190 kms/ 2 hrs
Peace River	~ 185 kms/ 2 hrs	~ 150 kms/ 1.5 hrs	~ 110 kms/ 1.25 hrs	~ 90 kms/ 1 hr	~ 145 kms/ 1.5 hrs
Fort St. John (BC)	~ 60 kms/ 40 mins	~ 185 kms/ 2 hrs	~ 175 kms/ 2 hrs	~ 200 kms/ 2.15 hrs	~ 140kms/ 1.5hrs
Dawson Creek (BC)	~ 80 kms/ 1.25 hrs	~ 120 kms/ 1.5 hrs	~ 200 kms/ 2 hrs	~ 170 kms/ 1.75 hrs	~ 150 kms/ 2 hrs
Edmonton	~ 660 kms/ 6.75 hrs	~ 630 kms/ 6.25 hrs	~ 600 kms/ 6 hrs	~ 565 kms/ 5.5 hrs	~ 600 kms/ 6 hrs

Table 37 Approximate Travel Distances and Times for Clear Hills County Residents.

1.1 Community Health and Wellbeing

1.1.1 Addiction and Mental Health Services

The need for addiction and mental health services has been identified as an urgent priority within the NWSAR Region. Tables 38 and 39 show substance addiction, FASD rates and available services for Clear Hills County.

Services Accessed/Provided		April 2017 - March 2018	April 2018 - March 2019	April 2019 - March 2020
# of Emergency Department Visits	Alcohol	6	5	4
	Other Substance	10	1	6
	Mental Health	45	36	35
# of Discharges	Alcohol	2	4	1
	Other Substance	1	0	1
	Mental Health	5	1	3
# of New Enrolments to Programs at Community Health Clinics	Alcohol	4	7	5
	Other Substance	4	2	1
	Mental Health	33	38	76

Table 38 Addiction and Mental Health Services Accessed by Clear Hills County Residents, 2017–2020.[7]

Facilities and Services

Measurement	Rate per Capita	Facilities	Programs	After Care Support	Trained Personnel	Additional Information

Alcohol Addiction	Data Not Available	Nearest facility is Northern Addictions Centre for substance addiction in Grande Prairie (130-200 kms/1.5-2.5 hrs One Way drive, depending on origin)	None within Clear Hills County or Town of Fairview	AL-ANON (Hope and Help for Family and Friends of Alcoholics)[8]	None within Clear Hills County or Town of Fairview	Northern Addictions Centre offers:
						• Medically Assisted Detox;
						• 24hr Clinical Care; and
						• Individualized Treatment for:
						  ○ Substance Abuse;
						  ○ Opiate Addiction; and
						  ○ Alcoholism.
						• Individual and Group Therapy.[9]

Drug Addiction	Data Not Available		None within Clear Hills County or Town of Fairview	None within Clear Hills County or Town of Fairview	None within Clear Hills County or Town of Fairview	

[7] Stakeholder Engagement, AHS, Addiction and Mental Health, North Zone, August 2020.
[8] https://al-anon.ab.ca/contacts/
[9] https://www.rehab.ca/northern-addictions-centre/1100682-r#methodology

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)	Data Not Available	Nearest facility is Northwest Peace FASD Network[10] in Grande Prairie (130-200 kms/1.5-2.5 hrs One Way drive, depending on origin)	None within Clear Hills County or Town of Fairview	None within Clear Hills County or Town of Fairview	None within Clear Hills County or Town of Fairview 2 workers from WJS Canada based in Town of Peace River	NW Peace FASD Network have a Prevention Worker (Facilitator) who provides Education and Presentations to these areas. Individuals within the County can be referred to the GP Office and then diagnosed through a Mobile Clinic, which is scheduled in Peace River annually.[11]

Table 39 Access to Substance Addiction and FASD services for residents within Clear Hills County, 2021.

Table 40 identifies the facilities that residents visit for addiction and mental health services. Many services are not readily available, and County residents must travel long distances to Peace River, Grande Prairie and other large urban centres (e.g. Edmonton) to access drop-in and rehabilitation facilities.

Services Accessed/Provided	**Location and Occurrences (April 2019 – March 2020)**	
Addiction and Mental Health Discharge from Hospital	Fairview Health Complex	3
	Queen Elizabeth II Hospital	2
	Total Number	**5**
Enrolment into Programs in Community Addiction and Mental Health Services	Fairview	45
	Peace River	24
	Grande Prairie	11
	High Level	1
	Virtual Mental Health	1
	Total Number	**82**
Addiction and Mental Health Visit to the Emergency Department	Fairview Health Complex	29
	Queen Elizabeth II Hospital	8
	Grimshaw/Berwyn and District Community Health Centre	6

[10] https://nwfasdnetwork.com/about/service-area/
[11] Northwest Peace FASD Network Email Correspondence, January 2021.

	Central Peace River Complex	2
	Total Number	**45**

Table 40 Addiction and Mental Health Facilities Accessed by Clear Hills County Residents by Facility, 2019–2020.[12]

1.1.2 Health Care

Facilities and Services

Clear Hills County is in the Northern Region of Alberta Health Services (Area 2), under the Peace Health Advisory Council. Table 41 shows the current facilities and services available within the County. Many residents travel outside the County for medical services such as the Fairview Health Complex, Grimshaw Hospital, Peace River Community Health Centre, the Fort St. John Health Unit, and the hospital in Grande Prairie. STARS Medivac is available and used when necessary.

Facility	Facility Type	Primary Services	More Information
Worsley Community Health Centre[13]	Community Health Services	• Home Care • Dental Hygienist Services (cleaning and fluoride free for children under 12 years) • Licensed Nurse Practitioner (LNP) • Mental Health Counselling (MH) • Public Health Nurse (PHN) • Telehealth (video calls for meetings with long distance Health Providers)	• Immunizations are provided by the PHN • PHN available every 2 weeks from Fairview • MH Counsellor comes from Fairview by appointment • In 2020/21 Fairview Pharmasave provided flu vaccinations at the Worsley Health Centre

Table 41 Health Care Facilities and Services, Clear Hills County, 2020.

Healthcare and Specialist Providers

Access to Specialized health care and long waiting times for treatment of chronic illnesses are a concern and risk for County residents, as well as longer wait times for treatment. In 2019, there were five (5) doctors servicing the County (coming from Fairview), and Nurse Practitioner based in Worsley.

The Doctors would alternate making the trip from Fairview to Worsley once a week to see County patients.[14] Due to a physician shortage in 2020, the doctors have ceased their weekly visits to the Worsley Health Centre; this there is no longer any doctor coverage to the residents available within the County.

The Nurse Practitioner and local EMS are the only health professionals servicing the County from the Worsley Health Centre, with no coverage for time off. Home care services are available, but this service has not been consistent due to unfilled positions in the recent past.

Table 42 provides the access to healthcare practitioners and specialists within Clear Hills County.

Service/Specialization	# of Providers	Additional Information[15]
Cardiologist	0	Edmonton
Chiropractor	0	Fairview – 1

[12] Stakeholder Interview, AHS, Addiction and Mental Health, North Zone, June 2020.
[13] https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/findhealth/Service.aspx?id=5376&serviceAtFacilityID=1082188
[14] Stakeholder Interview, January 2020.
[15] Refer to Table 37 for distance and travel times across and outside of County boundaries.

Dentist	0	Fairview – 2
Diagnostics	0	Fairview has X-Ray and Ultrasound Services
Family Physician/ General Practitioner (GP)	0	Fairview: 5 at the beginning of 2020 who would alternate travelling to Worsley Community Health Centre. March 2021: 3 (1 retiring in May 2021) and 2 possible recruits to come Spring 2021
Gynaecology	0	Grande Prairie
Licenced Nurse Practitioner (LPN)[16]	1	Clear Hills County – Worsley Health Unit
Maternity/Midwife	0	Peace River, Grande Prairie, High Level & High Prairie
Mental Health	0	Fairview: 1 Telehealth for Doctor Calls Available
Nephrology	0	Grande Prairie and Peace River
Neurologist	0	Edmonton
Oncologist	0	Grande Prairie
Ophthalmologist	0	Grande Prairie
Orthopaedic	0	Grande Prairie
Other (Occupational Therapist)	0	Fairview: 1
Paediatrics	0	Grande Prairie
Physiotherapist	0	Berwyn: 1
Registered Nurse (RN)[17]	0	Fairview (unknown number)
Rheumatologist	0	Grande Prairie
Special Needs	0	Grande Prairie

Table 42 Breakdown of Health Care and Specialist Providers within Clear Hills County, 2021.[18]

Diagnostic Services – Clear Hills County Residents							
Diagnostic Service	Resident Community	Number of Services Per Year					Other Information[19]
		2015	**2016**	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	
X-Ray	Bear Canyon	9	22	10	9	21	Travel outside of the County The Nearest Facilities are within the Towns of Fairview and Peace River
	Cleardale	221	277	373	421	377	
	Eureka River	43	57	110	79	70	
	Hines Creek	-	-	1,017	978	1,016	
	Worsley	337	449	488	363	397	

[16] https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/info/Page8486.aspx
[17] https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/info/Page8605.aspx
[18] Stakeholder Provided Data, March 2021.
[19] Residents must travel to the following locations for care: Alberta Children's Hospital, Cold Lake Healthcare Centre, Cross Cancer Institute, Fort Saskatchewan Community Hospital, Grey Nuns Community Hospital, High Prairie Health Complex, Leduc Community Hospital, Medicine Hat Regional Hospital, Misericordia Community Hospital, Northwest Health Centre, Peace River Community Health Centre, Peter Lougheed Centre, Queen Elizabeth II Hospital, Red Deer Regional Hospital, Royal Alexandra Hospital, St. Mary's Hospital – Camrose, Strathcona Community Hospital, Sturgeon Community Hospital, University of Alberta Hospital.

Ultrasound	Bear Canyon	6	3	2	2	10	Travel outside of the County The Nearest Facilities are within the Towns of Fairview and Peace River
	Cleardale	71	113	116	124	117	
	Eureka River	10	14	32	16	21	
	Hines Creek	150	206	245	228	227	
	Worsley	85	78	99	122	109	
CT Scan	Bear Canyon	1	3	0	1	2	Travel outside of the County The Nearest Facilities are within the Towns Peace River and Grande Prairie
	Cleardale	29	47	58	67	60	
	Eureka River	11	6	17	9	10	
	Hines Creek	108	161	176	180	151	
	Worsley	39	56	72	44	81	

Table 43 Diagnostic Services for Clear Hills County Residents, 2015–2019.[20]

1.1.3 Elderly Services

Senior Housing

The County is a member of the North Peace Housing Foundation (NPHF), a management body established by Ministerial Order under the Alberta Housing Act to provide adequate and suitable housing in a variety of housing types that are accessible to low-income households in need, they oversee thirteen municipalities in the region, which includes Clear Hills County.

Beginning their work in 1960, inter-municipal cooperation is key to the success of the foundation, which now manages a portfolio of seniors and family housing units throughout the region, totalling 678 units.[21] NPHF offers Seniors Lodges & Senior Self-Contained Apartments.[22]

There is additional senior housing available in Cleardale (Cleardale Seniors Home/Residence; 10 one-bedroom units; not affiliated with the NPHF) which provide residences for seniors to remain within the community.[23]

Table 44 shows the current seniors living facilities are in Clear Hills County.

Facility	# of Beds/units	Description	Provider	Location
Homesteader Lodge	27	Private living space with social activities	NPHF	Hines Creek

[20] Stakeholder Provided Data, March 2021.
[21] https://www.nphf.ca/about-nphf.html
[22] North Peace Housing Foundation provides property management services, including maintenance and janitorial services, to its self-contained complexes. Where available, food and housekeeping services may be offered for a nominal charge. The province owns all of the apartment buildings under this program, and any operating deficits are fully funded by the province through an annual budget review process. Management and tenant selection are delegated to the local housing operators. Senior citizens whose income falls below local limits (refer to 2018 Core Need Income Thresholds document) and who are functionally independent, with or without the help of existing community based services are eligible. Applicants are prioritized based on need. (https://www.nphf.ca/seniors-self-contained.html)
[23] Clear Hills County Municipal Development Plan, Mackenzie Municipal Services Agency, 2019 p.24.

Pioneer Village	4	One-bedroom Apartments	NPHF	Worsley
Cleardale Seniors Home/Residence	10	One-bedroom Units	Cleardale Community Enhancement Society	Cleardale

Table 44 Senior Living Facilities in Clear Hills County.[24]

Senior Services

Centre/Club/Program	Services/Activities	Location
Seniors Drop-In Centre	• Facility – public rentals • Recreation	Hines Creek
Pioneer Club	• Facility – public rentals • Recreation • Transportation	Worsley
Seniors Check-In Line	• Daily (in-home) Call Service	Fairview

Table 45 Senior Services and Programs, Clear Hills County, 2020.[25]

1.1.4 Culture, Leisure and Tourism

The County is a member of the Peace Library System, which connects the library resources within the region. The following five public libraries receive funding contributions from Clear Hills County, two of which are shared spaces with the local school libraries: Bear Canyon (Cherry Canyon Hall), Cleardale (Menno-Simons Community School), Worsley (Worsley Central School), Hines Creek Municipal Library (Village Office) and Fairview Public Library (Provincial Building).

Clear Hills County contributes funding to five Recreation Boards annually, which then distribute these dollars to recreational programs/facilities within their boundaries. Recreation facilities are owned and operated by Agricultural Societies and other non-profit groups. Whispering Pines Ski Hill (owned and operated by the Worsley Clear Hills Ski Club) is a regional recreational destination and is ideal for downhill skiing and snowboarding.

Table 46 summarizes the County's recreational facilities.[26] All recreation facilities and campgrounds are run by a combination of volunteer groups and some paid individuals, which can include Council members. Volunteer groups fundraise in many ways including working casinos to provide funding for recreational boards and non-profit groups. Recreational uses include hunting, trapping and camping, but to a lesser degree (than industry use).

Recreational Type	Facilities Available
Community Halls	• Hines Creek, Seniors Drop In Centre • Worsley Community Hall, Seniors Club • Dave Shaw Memorial Complex Hall • David Thompson Community Hall • Eureka River Community Hall • Cherry Point Community Hall • Cherry Canyon Community Hall

[24] https://www.nphf.ca/uploads/1/2/3/4/123483327/north_peace_housing_foundation_business_plan_2020-2022_for_website.pdf

[25] https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/6b7b2f1b-95a7-4d74-bbfa-5f94de5861c4/resource/d5065fa8-b7c8-41e7-9315-d3437811d397/download/seniors-centres-directory.pdf. Fairview Golden Age Society offers services outside of County lines.

[26] Clear Hills County Municipal Development Plan, Mackenzie Municipal Services Agency, 2019, p.22.

Campgrounds	• Burnet Lee Park • Hines Creek Golf Course and Country Club • Carter's Camp • George Lake Recreation Area • Many Islands • Stoney Lake Provincial Recreation Area • Sulphur Lake Provincial Recreation Area • Running Lake Provincial Recreation Area • Worsley Campground • Cleardale – Clear River (1), OHV Park (1), Golf Course (1), Rodeo Grounds (1) • Ole's Lake Provincial Recreation Area • David Thompson Bible Camp • Centennial RV Park • Alberta Avenue RV Park
Playgrounds (including Splash and Skate Parks)	• Burnt River (2) – David Thompson Hall • Hines Creek – Hines Creek Museum (1), Hines Creek (2),m Carters Camp (1), George Lake (1) • Many Islands • Cleardale – OHV Park (1), Golf Course (1), Rodeo Grounds (1), Ball diamonds (1) • Cherry Canyon – School (2), Hall (1)
Picnic Grounds	• Burnt River (1) • Hines Creek (3) • Worsley – Clear Prairie (1), Worsley (1) • Many Islands • Cleardale – OHV Park (1), Golf Course (1), Rodeo Grounds (1), Ball Diamonds (1) • Cherry Canyon – Church (3), Hall (1), School (1)
Basketball/Tennis Courts	• Hines Creek (1) • Worsley (2) • Cleardale (1)
Rinks (Skating, Curling, Arenas)	• Worsley (1) – Natural Ice (indoor) • Cleardale (1) – Skating Rink (outdoor) • Cherry Canyon (1) – Curling/Skating Rink (outdoor) • Hines Creek (1) – Artificial Ice (indoor)
Ball Diamonds	• Burnt River (1) • Hines Creek – Hines Creek (2), Royce (1), George Lake (1) • Cherry Canyon (3) • Worsley – Eureka River (1), Worsley Central School (3), Worsley (1), Clear Prairie (1) • Cleardale (2) • Cherry Canyon (3)
Rodeo Grounds	• Eureka River (1) • Clear River (1) • CHAMPS Riding Arena
Museum or Historic Site	• Hines Creek Museum • All Saints Anglican Church • Worsley Museum
Gymnasium	• Worsley (1) • Cleardale (1) • Cherry Canyon (1)

	• Hines Creek (1)
Ski Hill	• Whispering Pines Ski Hill
Trails (Walking/Snowmobile)	• George Lake (1) – Ski Trail • Hines Creek (1) – Walking Trail • Many Islands (1) – Walking Trail • Hines Creek (1) – Snowmobile Trail • Sand Lake Natural Area
Golf Courses	• Hines Creek Golf Course • Cleardale Golf Course (Sand Greens)
Fitness Centres	• Hines Creek (1) • Worsley (1) • Cherry Canyon (1) • Cleardale (1)

Table 46 Clear Hills County Recreational Facilities, 2019.

The County Council wants to pursue tourism development; they are a member of the Mighty Peace Tourism Association, which partners with municipalities to promote tourism in the area. The County offers camping, scenic landscapes, outfitting/hunting (people travel from far away), and events (music festival, gospel jamboree).

The natural environment provides opportunities for various outfitting/outdoor and recreational activities that contribute to the County's tourism industry. There is also opportunity to offer farm and garden tours to boost interest and tourism in the area.[27]

Hotels/Guest Houses /Service Camps	# of Campgrounds	# of Restaurants	# of Visitors/Year	Annual Tourism Income
• Gateway Inn Hotel (32 rooms); attached open camp (additional 40 rooms) • Jim Moffatt Camp (65 rooms) • Cleardale open camp (8 rooms) • Cornerstone B&B (Hines Creek) • Hines Creek Hotel • Hines Creek Motel	1	3	Data Not Available	Data Not Available

Table 47 Accommodation & Food Services in Clear Hills County, 2020.

1.1.5 Food Security

There are no food banks in the County and those in need must travel to Fairview. Out of the 1,500 visits to the Fairview foodbank, 27% of them were from Clear Hills County last year.[28]

[27] Clear Hills County Municipal Development Plan, Mackenzie Municipal Services Agency, 2019, p.65.
[28] Stakeholder Interview, January 12, 2020.

The 2019 Municipal Development Plan did identify that a concern was the high costs of goods and services for residents due to distance to larger retail centres, forcing many to travel outside the County to Fairview, Grande Prairie, Peace River, Fort St. John or Dawson Creek, which is an added cost of living for them.

This is further exacerbated by the lack of competition among local retailers, which drives up prices.[29]

	# of Facilities/ Measurements	Additional Information
Grocery Stores	3[30]	Many residents travel to the larger grocery and box stores (e.g. Walmart) in Peace River or Fort St. John, (e.g. Costco) in Grand Prairie.
Farmers Markets	Not Available within Clear Hills County	Closet farmers Market in Town of Fairview.
Food Banks	Not Available within Clear Hills County	Closest Food Bank in Fairview. Out of the 1,500 visits to the Fairview foodbank, 27% of them were from Clear Hill County[31].
Locally Grown Food (%)	Data Not Available	

Table 48 Data Available for Food Security, Clear Hills County, 2020.

Table 49[32] shows the average food costs for three grocery stores in Clear Hills County for July 2020, compared to average food costs for Canada in the same month.

Product	Quantity	Month (2020)	General Store (Worsley)	General Store (Hines Creek)	General Store (Cleardale)	Av. Cost CHC	Av. Cost Canada
Round Steak	1 kg	July	*Not Available*	15.99	*Not Available*	15.95	18.39
Ground Beef	1 kg	July	21.96	12.79	*Not Available*	17.38	12.50
Chicken	1 kg	July	13.99	18.91	*Not Available*	16.45	7.41
Bacon	500 g	July	7.99	18.50	6.99	11.16	7.25
Partly Skimmed Milk	4 l	July	7.95	7.55	6.39	7.30	5.34
Orange Juice	1.54 l	July	2.90	4.79	9.99	5.89	4.26
Eggs	1 dz	July	4.99	3.99	3.99	4.32	3.62
Apples	1 kg	July	4.98	4.99	5.99	5.32	4.58
Bananas	1 kg	July	2.82	2.79	2.59	2.73	1.56
Onion	1 kg	July	5.76	4.89	3.29	4.65	2.50

[29] Clear Hills County Municipal Development Plan, Mackenzie Municipal Services Agency, 2019 p.64.
[30] These are 'general stores' that may not carry as many products as larger grocery stores.
[31] Stakeholder Interview, January 2020.
[32] Local data was collected by NWSAR Committee member between July 11th and 14th 2020 at each store listed in the table. Pricing was collected across multiple brands in the stores, then divided by the number of items for the average cost per product. Average food prices for Canada were sourced from the monthly average retail prices for food and other selected products: https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1810000201 this table uses the Consumer Price Index (CPI): https://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=2301#a2.

Carrots	1 kg	July	3.45	3.99	3.99	3.81	2.72
Mushrooms[33]	1 kg	July	1.99	4.69	2.20	13.02	9.50
Potatoes	4.54 kg	July	9.84	7.99	10.99	9.61	11.15
Bread	675 g	July	3.37	3.37	7.64	4.79	2.82
Flour	2.5 kg	July	7.99	8.55	5.98	7.51	4.73
Peanut Butter	500 g	July	4.92	4.39	4.08	4.46	2.82
Paper Towels[34]	6 rolls	July	12.69	13.47	12.89	13.02	3.19
Bathroom Tissue[35]	12 rolls	July	5.97	9.87	10.94	8.93	2.52
Shampoo	300 ml	July	4.89	5.59	6.19	5.56	3.88
Toothpaste	100 ml	July	4.37	5.89	2.89	4.38	3.37

Table 49 Clear Hills County, Average Food Costs, July 2020.

1.1.6 Political Participation

Clear Hills County is divided into seven (7) Electoral Divisions or Wards, each of which has one (1) Council position (Figure 38[36]). The County is in the Central Peace-Notley Provincial Electoral Boundary and the Grande-Prairie-Mackenzie Federal Electoral Boundary. Table 50 shows Voter Participation Rates for the County in various election years, in Municipal, Provincial and Federal elections (2017-2019).

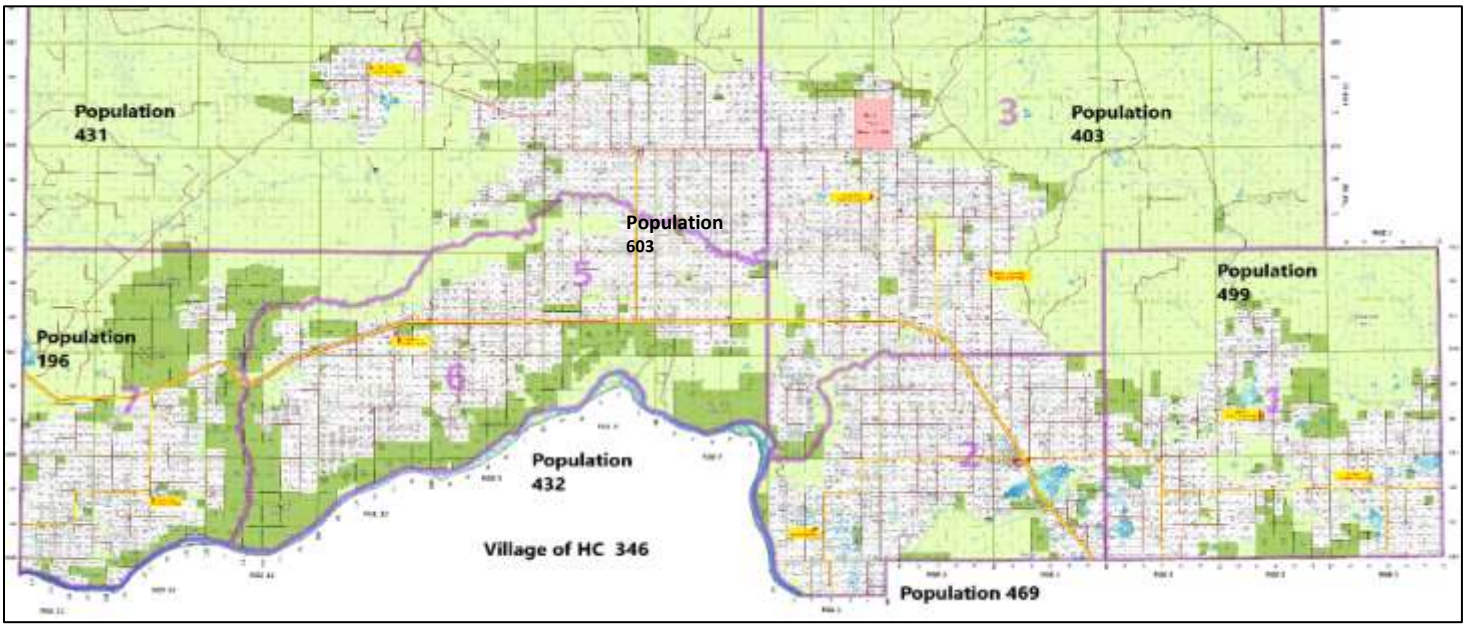

Figure 38 Clear Hills County Electoral Divisions.

[33] Mushroom prices from the region were calculated for $/227g in store so the average price for the County has been adjusted to match the metrics for the Canada average prices.
[34] Canadian average price for paper towels was for two (2) rolls. NWSAR region provided packs of six (6) or more paper towels for sale.
[35] Canadian average price for bathroom tissue was for four (4) rolls. NWSAR region provided packs or twelve (12) or more bathroom tissue for sale.
[36] https://clearhillscounty.ab.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/ward-map-with-population-1.jpg

% Municipal (2017)	% Provincial (2019)	% Federal (2019)
~ 45%[37]	~ 58%[38]	~72%[39]

Table 50 Voter Participation Rates, Clear Hills County, 2017-2019.

The 2017 municipal election saw three out of the seven wards result in a vote for a candidate. The other four wards were elected by acclamation. The percentage is the amount of three voting wards, with 700 eligible voters and 317 residents participating in the vote.

1.1.7 Poverty

Tables 51 and 52 show a five-year trend for median family income, average income and poverty rates for Clear Hills County.

All Families Income[40]			Couple Families Income[41]			Lone-Parent Income[42]		
2018	2013	Change	2018	2013	Change	2018	2013	Change
$69,028	$72,157	**-4.3%**	$70,357	$72,864	**-3.4%**	$38,662	$57,910	**-33.3%**

Table 51 Median Family Incomes, Five-Year Trends, Clear Hills County, 2013 and 2018.

Average Household Income (CHC)	Average Household Income (Alberta)	Prevalence of Low-Income (CHC)	Prevalence of low-Income base (Alberta)
$ 80, 079	$93, 835	19.3%	9.3%

Table 52 Average Household Income, Clear Hills County, 2016.[43]

1.1.8 Social Services

Ambulance Services

EMS Events by Station					
Community/Service	# of Vehicles	# of Call Outs/ Year Events by Station	# of Volunteers	# of Paid Staff	Area Covered

[37] Clear Hills County, 2021.
[38] https://officialresults.elections.ab.ca/orResultsED.cfm?ED=55&EventId=60
[39] https://enr.elections.ca/ElectoralDistricts.aspx?lang=e. (80.7% voted for the Conservative Party).
[40] The median income of families, including couple families, lone-parent families, and people without children. Half of families have income above this amount while half have income below this amount. https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/clear-hills/median-family-income/#/?from=2011&to=2016
[41] The median income of families with two parents and children. Half of families have income above this amount while half have income below this amount. https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/clear-hills/couple-families-median-income/#/?from=2011&to=2015
[42] The median income of families with one parent and children. Half of families have income above this amount while half have income below this amount. https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/clear-hills/lone-parent-families-median-income/#/?from=2011&to=2015
[43] https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=CSD&Code1=4817062&Geo2=PR&Code2=48&SearchText=Clear+Hills+County&SearchType=Begins&SearchPR=01&B1=Income&TABID=1&type=0

		2019	2018	2017			
Town of Fairview[44]	2	1,067	1,005	1,050	N/A	6	Regional coverage – no defined areas.
Worsley	1	74	122	159	N/A	4	

Table 53 EMS Events by Station, Clear Hills County, 2017–2019. [45]

EMS Events by Community							
Community/Service	**# of Vehicles**	**# of Call Outs/ Year Events by Station**			**# of Volunteers**	**# of Paid Staff**	**Area Covered**
		2019	**2018**	**2017**			
Cleardale	0	4	6	3	N/A	N/A	Regional coverage – no defined areas.
Hines Creek	0	53	50	59	N/A	N/A	
Worsley	1	9	7	7	N/A	4	

Table 54 EMS Events by Community, Clear Hills County, 2017–2019.[46]

Community	STARS Air Ambulance – Grande Prairie Missions within Clear Hills County 2019 – 2020 (#)
Bear Canyon	1
Cleardale	1
Fairview[47]	10
Hines Creek	1

Table 55 STARS Air Ambulance – Grande Prairie Missions, 2021.[48]

Fire Services

Due to the large area and limited access to remote parts of the County, agreements are in place with the Town of Fairview, Municipal District of Peace No. 135, County of Northern Lights and Town of Manning Fire Departments for response to fires and other 911 dispatches. There are also agreements in place with

[44] Fairview is not within Clear Hills County, but services are provided to residents within the County.
[45] EMS SPI interactive data by 'Service Detail' & includes all types of events within regional footprint. Date Range: April 1st to March 31st of each year. Stakeholder Provided Data, January 2021.
[46] EMS SPI interactive data by 'Service Detail' & includes all types of events within regional footprint. Date Range: April 1st to March 31st of each year. Stakeholder Provided Data, January 2021.
[47] Fairview is not within Clear Hills County, but services are provided to residents within the County.
[48] STARS Mission Record (2020): https://stars.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/STARS-Mission-Record-2020-AB.pdf

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry for forest protection areas within and bordering the County (wildfire firefighting).[49]

Clear Hills County has one fire hall located in Worsley. The Hines Creek Fire Department provides additional emergency services to the region; a majority of their budget is funded by Clear Hills County. Table 56 provides a detailed breakdown of all the available units.

The Community Fire Trailers located within the agricultural communities are not meant for industrial, residential or emergency services. They are to be used as a preventative measure for grass fires during controlled agricultural burning events.[50]

Community	Type of Facilities	# of Trucks	# of Volunteers	# of Paid Staff	Average Response Times
Bear Canyon	Community Fire Trailer NW 22-83-12-W6M at water plant	0	0	0	Not Available
Cleardale	Community Fire Trailer SW 11-85-10-W6M at water plant Worsley Fire Department Grass Fire Truck	1	0	0	Response time is not tracked
Deerhill	Community Fire Trailer NW 9-84-2-W6M	0	0	0	Not Available
Eureka River	Community Fire Trailer NE 24-86-6-W6M	0	0	0	Not Available
Hines Creek[51]	Fire Hall	• 2 pumpers • 1 First Response • 1 MCR unit • 1 side by side with wildfire skid	14	0	Response time is not tracked
Montagneuse Valley	Community Fire Trailer SE 36-85-5-W6M	0	0	0	Not Available
Royce	Community Fire Trailer SE 16-83-6-W6M	0	0	0	Not Available
Whitelaw	Community Fire Trailer SW 28-83-1-W6M	0	0	0	Not Available

[49] Clear Hills County Municipal Development Plan, Mackenzie Municipal Services Agency, 2019, p.25.
[50] Clear Hills County, 2021.
[51] The Village of Hines Creek is a different municipality within Clear Hills County, which responds to the County.

Worsley	Fire Hall	• 2 pumpers • 1 first response unit • 1 water tender • 1 side by side with wildfire skid. • Grass Fire unit (this is housed in Cleardale 20 minutes away)	25	0	Response time is not tracked

Table 56 Fire Services, Clear Hills County, 2020.[52]

Fire Call by Type	2019	2018	2017
Alarms (actual and false)	15	19	18
Medical Co- Response (MCR)	29	28	46
Motor Vehicle Accident (MVA)	7	15	15
Structural Fire	6	4	17
Wildland	Data Not Available	Data Not Available	2
Other	21	16	14

Table 57 Fire Call by Type, Clear Hills County, 2017–2019.[53]

Emergency Services

Type of Services	# of Facilities	# of Programs	# of Trained Personnel	Wait times	Additional Information
Homeless Shelter	0	0	N/A	N/A	The closest shelters available are in Peace River (Salvation Army) and Grande Prairie
Women's Shelter	0	0	N/A	N/A	The closest shelters are in Fairview (Crossroads) and Peace River (Stepping Up & Salvation Army)
Victims Services	0	Unknown	Volunteer Outreach	N/A	Funding contributions from the County to Fairview and District Victims Services is determined annually. Victim Services is located at the Fairview RCMP Detachment

Table 58 Emergency Facilities and Services, Clear Hills County, 2020.

Crime and Justice

Clear Hills County receives their police services from the Fairview RCMP Detachment. The Provincial Courthouse of closet proximity is located in Fairview. Table 59 shows the crime, charges and convictions for Clear Hills County from 2017–2019.

[52] Stakeholder Interview, Clear Hills County, September 2020.
[53] Stakeholder Interview, Clear Hills County, September 2020.

Crime, Charges and Convictions	Fairview Detachment[54]		
	Clear Hills County		
Crime, Charges and Convictions	**2019**	**2018**	**2017**
Homicides & Offences related to death (Total #)	0	0	0
Charged / Charges Recommended (Total #)	0	0	0
Sexual Assaults (Total #)	2	1	5
Charged / Charges Recommended (Total #)	1	0	0
Assault (Total #)	9	9	6
Charged / Charges Recommended (Total #)	3	5	3
Break and Enter (Total #)	16	13	14
Charged / Charges Recommended (Total #)	1	0	2
Theft of Motor Vehicle (Total #)	9	7	14
Charged / Charges Recommended (Total #)	1	0	0
Theft Over $5,000 (Total #)	0	2	2
Charged / Charges Recommended (Total #)	0	0	2
Theft Under $5,000 (Total #)	18	13	13
Charged / Charges Recommended (Total #)	0	0	2
Fraud (Total #)	9	6	5
Charged / Charges Recommended (Total #)	2	0	0
Arson (Total #)	1	4	4
Charged / Charges Recommended (Total #)	0	0	0
Impaired Driving (Total #)	4	3	6
Charged / Charges Recommended (Total #)	4	3	6
Drug Enforcement Production (Total #)	0	0	1
Charged / Charges Recommended (Total #)	0	0	1
Drug Enforcement Possession (Total #)	1	1	0
Charged / Charges Recommended (Total #)	0	0	0
Drug Enforcement Trafficking (Total #)	1	0	2
Charged / Charges Recommended (Total #)	0	0	0

Table 59 Crime, Charges and Convictions for Clear Hills County, 2017–2019.[55]

Violations	**2015**	**2016**	**2017**	**2018**
Number – Total Incidents				

[54] This Detachment serves a total of 7,971 people in the following Catchment Areas: Bear Canyon, Bluesky, Cherry Point, Cleardale, Clear Prairie, Dunvegan, Eureka River, Fairview, Friedenstal, Gage, Highland Park, Hines Creek, Whitelaw, Worsley, Clear Hills.

[55] Stakeholder data collection, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Strategic Analysis and Research Unit, RCMP "K" Division, Alberta, 2020.

Total Actual Incidents	428	531	476	499
Total Persons Charged	99	114	164	120
Total Adult Charged	92	106	151	107
Total Youth Charged	7	8	13	13
Number – Violent Crimes				
Total Violent Crimes	108	84	69	81
Persons Charged	35	34	29	33
Adults Charged	33	33	27	29
Youth Charged	2	1	2	4
Number – Probation Breaches				
Total Probation Breaches	1	4	10	5
Persons Charged	1	4	8	4
Adults Charged	1	4	8	4
Youth Charged	0	0	0	0

Table 60 Clear Hills County Crime Rates, 2015–2018.[56]

Judicial and Child Services

	Name/ Location/ Total (#)
Court House Location	Fairview
Court House Catchment Area (Communities)	Bear Canyon Bluesky Cherry Point Cleardale Clear Hills Clear Prairie Dunvegan Eureka River Fairview Friedenstal Gage Highland Park Hines Creek Whitelaw Worsley
Population Served (#)	7,971
Nearest Male Federal Institution	Grande Cache Institution, Grande Cache – AB
Nearest Female Federal Institution	Edmonton Remand Centre, Edmonton – AB

[56] Fairview RCMP Statistics, Statistics Canada, 2020

Nearest Male Correctional Centre (Provincial)	Peace River Correctional Centre, Peace River – AB
Nearest Female Correctional Centre (Provincial)	Edmonton Institution for Women, Edmonton – AB
Nearest Youth Offenders Centre	Edmonton Young Offender Centre, Edmonton – AB
Nearest Youth Group Home	Sexsmith – AB
Probation Officers (#)	0[57]
Docket Days (Schedule)	Criminal: Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday Youth and Family: Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday

Table 61 Judicial and Correctional Facilities, Clear Hills County, 2021.[58]

Clear Hills County[59]	2019	2018	2017
Cases Commenced	217	114	159
Cases Concluded	132	109	172
Tickets Filed	857	723	1,290
Trials Heard	29	29	24

Table 62 Cases, Tickets and Trials, Clear Hills County, 2017-2019.[60]

1.2 Business and Employment

1.2.1 Economic and Community Development Incentives

Table 63[61] lists past and ongoing economic and community development incentives and initiatives in Clear Hills County.

Program/Incentive	Description	Additional Information
Annual Students Ski Trip	This Policy fund a one-day ski trip once each school year to the Whispering Pines Ski Hill for kindergarten to Grade 12 students who reside in Clear Hills County and the Village of Hines Creek.	The County will cover the costs for ski equipment, lift tickets, lessons and transportation costs to and from the 3 schools
Beyond Border	Facility or program usage by County residents, contribution to County resident's quality of life, contribution to Regional resident's quality of life, funding raising efforts, other funding sources, Urgency, and if the funds are intended for a capital project that they be used for enhancement of existing facilities versus new facility construction. Deadline is September 1 annually for next year funding consideration.	Examples: Climbing Wall at the Fairview Swimming Pool, new Fairview Day Care Facility.
Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) Testing Incentive Program	Canada may be at risk of losing its status as a controlled BSE risk country, due to testing numbers not meeting the 30,000 animal annual requirements. By providing a	

[57] 2 Probation Officers and 1 Admin all based in Peace River.
[58] Stakeholder Provided Data, January 2021.
[59] The numbers for Cases Commenced, Cases Concluded, Tickets Filed, and Trails Heard are broken down by fiscal years. For example, the values for 2017 represents the 2017/18 fiscal year.
[60] Stakeholder Provided Data, January 2021.
[61] https://clearhillscounty.ab.ca/county/scholarships-and-bursaries/

	Municipal BSE testing incentive, the County hopes this will encourage livestock owners to test cattle for BSE.	
Capital Grant	For not-for-profit groups maintaining and building facilities.	Projects that qualify: • Recreation, sport and community facilities • Arts and culture • Parks and playgrounds
Celebrating Business Awards	Business of the year Categories include: • Community Service/Involvement; • Innovation – New Business, Product, Service or Work System; • Investment – Job Creation, Growth and Expansion; and • Volunteer Award	Recognition will include: • Award plaque or framed certificate; • Donation of $1,000 to CHC non-profit of their choice; and • Picture with an announcement in the County Newsletter
Continuing Education Scholarship	$3,000 Scholarship to cover tuition costs for apprenticeship, trades, or post-secondary programs.	Awarded to Canadian Citizen or landed immigrant that has resided in Clear Hills County or the Village of Hines Creek for at least one year.
Cemetery Grant	The County provides funds in their annual budget for the purpose of assisting with the maintenance or upgrading of public cemeteries and burial sites within the County.	• Up-to $500 per cemetery
Family Community Support Services Funding (FCSS)	Annual budget $117,000 (Cost Shared 80% province, 20% county). Eligibility: community organizations and individuals Projects that qualify will: deliver social programs that are preventative in nature to promote and enhance well being among individuals, families and communities. These programs help individuals to adopt healthy lifestyles improve quality of life and build the capacity to prevent or deal with crises should they arise.	Examples: anti-bullying and education, drug and alcohol abuse prevention, health & wellness, suicide prevention, parent-child development activities, programs for single parents and seniors, counseling services that are educational and not treatment oriented, youth development, outreach programs for seniors or single adults.
Family Farm Award	To improve the relationship between urban and rural people, and to highlight the high ideals of agriculture and the opportunities of rural citizenship.	• Family name engraved on the Family farm Award plaque located at the County office; • Rural address sign plaque award; and • Up to 8 banquet tickets for the Farm Family to attend the Grande Prairie Peace County Classic Show.
Funding for Teams and Athletes Attending Provincials	Student athletes who qualify for Provincials from Hines Creek Composite, Worsley Central or Menno Simons Community Schools are eligible to apply for funds to offset transportation, meal and accommodation costs	• $500 per team (6 or more athletes); or • $100 per individual (5 or less athletes)

General Grant	For community organizations and individuals. Projects do not qualify under the criteria for funding under other County programs and demonstrate a contribution to area residents' quality of life.	Examples: Ward 7 Study, Clear Hills Watershed Initiative, Learning Store, Restorative Justice, Reel Shorts Film Festival, school hot lunch programs, annual schools ski trip.
Library Conference Funding	Eligibility: librarian or library trustee attending the annual Peace Library System Conference. Eligible Expense include **r**oundtrip mileage, motel Room costs, and registration fees for conference breakout sessions.	
Library Funding	Clear Hills County provides funds to maintain service levels and current technology, separate from the funding provided under the Peace Library System funding agreement (that the County also contributes to). Annually the County provides an unconditional grant of $4,000 to the following four local libraries: • Cherry Canyon Community Library (Bear Canyon) • Menno Simons School Library (Cleardale) • Worsley Central School Library • Hines Creek Public Library Annually the County provide $500 to each of the following five libraries to prevent reduction of service levels: • Cherry Canyon Community Library (Bear Canyon) • Menno Simons School Library (Cleardale) • Worsley Central School Library • Hines Creek Public Library • Fairview Public Library	
Operating Grant for Recreation Boards	Annual Budget: $338,000.00 (2021) There are 5 Recreation Boards in the County. The operating grants funds are allocated to the Recreation Boards based on a point system that has been established for the facilities in each Recreation Board's boundaries. • Cleardale Agricultural Society and Recreation Board • Cherry Canyon Agricultural Society and Recreation Board. • Worsley Area Recreation Board • Hines Creek and District Recreation Board • Burnt River Recreation Board Groups or individuals that approach the County for funds to provide recreation or cultural programs are referred to the Recreation Boards – some exceptions apply. Recreation Boards guidelines for distributing money are:	

	1. Maintenance of existing facilities 2. Existing recreation/culture programs. 3. Intent to access matching grants.	
Outstanding Recreation Facility Award	This award recognizes a facility that demonstrates outstanding or unique innovations in efficiency or accessibility, design, energy management, accessibility or all abilities and income levels, operations, revenue generation, or services that meet the community's needs.	• Award plaque or framed certificate; • Donation of $1,000 to the facility Operating Group; and • Picture with an announcement in the County Newsletter.
Sponsorship Funding Policy	The County may provide sponsorship funding to conferences and workshops of benefit to County residents.	Requests for sponsorship are accepted throughout the year and considered on a case-by-case basis.
Wolf Management Incentive Policy	Participants receive a monetary reward for the carcass of a wolf harvested lawfully within Clear Hills County, assisting in the protection of resident's livestock and the protection of Boreal Woodland Caribou.	
Volunteer Fire Fighters Recognition Program	To give recognition for years of volunteer service received from volunteer fire and ambulance personnel, and for their dedication and commitment to their community.	Upon retirement resignation of a volunteer, they receive monetary rewards ranging from: • $100 for 3 years of service; to • $1,000 for 50 years of service.

Table 63 Economic and Community Development Incentives, Clear Hills County, 2020–2021.

1.2.2 Employment

Clear Hills County has started the development of a free business directory on their County website, as well as a hardcopy edition. Business owners can submit their business information, along with a link to their website and email address for advertisement on the County's page. The directory includes businesses within Clear Hills County and the surrounding area.[62]

Table 64 shows the participation, employment and unemployment rates for 2011 and 2016 for Clear Hills County.

Participation Rate			Employment Rate			Unemployment Rate			Seasonal Labour Rate
2016	2011	Change	2016	2011	Change	2016	2011	Change	
70.4%	72.5%	-2.9%	64.2%	67.7%	-5.17%	8.80%	6.70%	31.3%	*Not Available*

Table 64 Participation, Employment and Unemployment rates, Clear Hills County, 2011 and 2016.[63]

1.2.3 Industry

The major industries within the County are agriculture, forestry, oil, gas and gravel extraction, and their support services. The County has rich, natural resources, which allows the extractive industries to thrive.

[62] https://clearhillscounty.ab.ca/community-and-visitors/business-directory/
[63] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/clear-hills/employment-rate/#/

The Municipal Development Plan identified that capitalizing and promoting their sustainable development was essential for the local economy.

Table 65 shows the total number of business registrations by industry type within the last 5 years for Clear Hills County.[64]

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	5 Year Trend (%)
Annual Business Registrations	416	443	434	142	437	134.11
Business Size	**2020**	**2019**	**2018**	**2017**	**2016**	**Annual Change 2019–2020 (%)**
Large (200+ employees)	2	1	0	1	1	100.00
Medium (50–199 employees)	3	7	6	1	6	-57.10
Small (1–49 employees)	411	435	428	140	430	-5.52
Industry Type	**2020**	**2019**	**2018**	**2017**	**2016**	**Annual Change 2019–2020 (%)**
Accommodation & Food Services	17	21	17	2	15	-19.00
Admin & Support, Waste Management & Remediation Services	8	9	12	2	19	-11.10
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	83	84	80	58	69	-1.19
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	7	7	7	1	7	0.00
Construction	53	60	56	15	64	-11.70
Educational Services	1	2	1	0	1	-50.00
Finance & Insurance	11	12	12	0	10	-8.33
Healthcare & Social Assistance	16	18	19	2	17	-11.10
Information & Cultural Industries	5	5	5	1	3	0.00
Management of Companies & Enterprises	2	1	1	1	1	100.00
Manufacturing	6	7	5	1	6	-14.30
Mining, Quarrying, Oil & Gas Extraction	47	47	52	23	51	0.00
Other Services (except Public Administration)	38	41	41	8	41	-7.32
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	32	35	36	5	34	-8.57
Public Administration	3	3	3	1	3	0.00
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	19	20	16	1	14	-5.00

[64] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/clear-hills/number-of-businesses/#/?from=2016&to=2020

Retail Trade	31	31	31	3	34	0.00
Transportation & Warehousing	25	27	27	16	33	-7.41
Utilities	2	2	3	0	3	0.00
Wholesale Trade	10	11	10	2	12	-9.09

Table 65 Business Registrations, Clear Hills County, 2015–2019.[65]

- In 2020, Clear Hills County had 416 businesses, a decrease of 6.10% from 443 in 2019, and the Management of Companies and Enterprises segment saw the largest increase over the year;[66]
- In 2020, 98.8% of businesses in Clear Hills County were small businesses;
- The percentage of small businesses increased 0.62% year-over-year and increased 0.56% in the last five years;[67] and
- Three new business incorporated in 2019, reflecting a 40% decrease from 2018 and 25% in the last five years.[68]

The 2016 Federal Census data is shown in Tables 66 and 67 with a breakdown of the workforce by occupation and industry, as well as by gender for Clear Hills County.[69]

Occupation	**Total**	**Male**	**Female**
Management	250	180	75
Business, Finance and Administration	175	15	160
Natural and Applied Sciences	10	10	10
Health	35	10	30
Education, Law and Social, Community and Government Services	95	0	85
Art, Culture, Recreation and Sport	0	0	0
Sales and Service	135	15	120
Trades, Transport and Equipment Operators	350	315	35
Natural Resources, Agriculture and Related Production	285	220	65
Manufacturing and Utilities	70	70	0

Table 66 Breakdown of Workforce by Occupation, Clear Hills County, 2016.

Industry	**Total**	**Male**	**Female**
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	455	335	125
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	190	150	40
Utilities	0	0	10

[65] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/clear-hills/number-of-businesses/#/stacked/industry/?from=2016&to=2020
[66] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/clear-hills/number-of-businesses/#/?from=2016&to=2020
[67] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/clear-hills/percent-small-businesses/#/?from=2016&to=2020
[68] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/clear-hills/incorporations/#/?from=2015&to=2019
[69] https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/prof/details/Page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=CSD&Code1=4817062&Geo2=PR&Code2=48&SearchText=Clear%20Hills%20County&SearchType=Begins&SearchPR=01&B1=All&type=0

Construction	80	75	10
Manufacturing	40	35	10
Wholesale Trade	20	10	0
Retail Trade	70	25	50
Transportation & Warehousing	90	65	25
Information & Cultural Industries	0	0	0
Finance & Insurance	30	0	25
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	0	10	0
Professional, Scientific Services	25	10	15
Administrative and Support, Waste Management and Remediation Services	30	10	15
Educational Services	95	15	85
Health Care and Social Assistance	90	15	85
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	0	0	0
Accommodation and Food Services	30	0	25
Other Services (except Public Administration)	100	75	30
Public Administration	40	10	35

Table 67 Breakdown of Workforce by Industry, Clear Hills County, 2016.

Agriculture

The County is primarily an agricultural community with a strong desire to retain and maintain this sector; the first priority use for all lands capable for agricultural production is to be farming. There are multiple grazing leases (leased from the Crown through Alberta Environment and Parks) within Clear Hills County that provide additional pasture options for large animal operations.

The number of cattle operations continues to increase annually growing the number of cattle within the region substantially. Agricultural producers must travel outside the County to sell their yields. Dawson Creek in British Columbia has a grain elevator and a cattle market that the producers within Clear Hills County often frequent.[70] Table 68 shows the agricultural trends from 2011 – 2016.

	2016	**2011**	**Difference from 2011 to 2016 (%)**
# of Farms	443	390	-12.0%
Cropland (Acres)	270,291	286,166	-5.55%
Barley (Acres)	20,883	32,646	36.0%
Canola (Acres)	43,061	60,658	-29.0%
Durum Wheat (Acres)	2,876	1,038	177.1%
Non-Durum Wheat (Acres)	43,846	0	N/A
Oats (Acres)	21,311	34,905	38.9%

[70] Clear Hills County, 2021.

Other (Acres)	138,314	156,919	-1.9%
Cattle and Calves (#)	26,732	22,149	20.7%
Pigs (#)	447	306	46.1%

Table 68 Agricultural Trends, Clear Hills County, 2011 and 2016.[71][72][73][74]

Forestry

The Province owns all timber within the County's Crown lands. Through a Forest Management Agreement (FMA), this can be harvested and allocated to the timber industry. There are two FMAs in place: Manning Forest Products Ltd. for Forest Management Unit P20 and Daishowa-Marubeni International (West), now Mercer Peace River Pulp Ltd., for Forest Management Unit P19. Both FMAs expire in 2029.[75] There are also two smaller Forest Management Quota Areas in place: Boucher Bros. Lumber Ltd. for Forest Management Units P14 and P55, and Zavisha Sawmills has quota within Forest Management Unit P19.

Forestry Company	Forest Management Unit (FMU)	FMA/FMU Area (km^2)
Mercer Peace River Pulp Ltd.	P19	6,317.73[76]
Manning Forest Products Ltd.	P20	3,649.08[77]
Zavisha Sawmills[78]	P19	6,446.63[79]
Boucher Bros. Lumber Ltd.	P14	39.60[80]
Boucher Bros. Lumber Ltd.	P55	7.93[81]

Table 69 Forestry Management Area Sizes, Clear Hills County, 2017 and 2021.

A timber quota is a type of forest tenure that last for 20 years, and is renewable so long as the quota holder is in good standing. In Alberta, timber quotas range from less than 1,000m^3 to over 1,000,000m^3. Timber quota holders with a combined Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) of 10,000m^3 or more, are responsible for reforestation.

Timber quota holders with less than 10,000m^3 can either complete the reforestation work or pay a reforestation levy that allows organizations like the Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta (FRIAA) to complete the reforestation.[82]

[71] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/clear-hills/number-of-farms/#/
[72] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/clear-hills/cropland/#/
[73] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/clear-hills/total-cattle-and-calves/#/
[74] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/clear-hills/number-of-pigs/#/
[75] Clear Hills County Municipal Development Plan, Mackenzie Municipal Services Agency, 2019, p.16.
[76] Altalis, Geo-Administrative Areas, 2020.
[77] Altalis, Geo-Administrative Areas, 2020.
[78] Overlaps Mercer Peace River Pulp Ltd. Forest Management Area – duplication of area; Quota is within P19.
[79] Zavisha Sawmills, 2020.
[80] Boucher Bros. Lumber Ltd., 2017.
[81] Boucher Bros. Lumber Ltd., 2017.
[82] PREDA and REDI Northwest Alberta Commodities, 2020.

Table 70 provides the AAC for the timber quotas for Forest Management Units that fall fully or partially within Clear Hills County in 2019.

Forestry Company	Forest Management Unit (FMU)	Tree Type	Annual Allowable Cut (m^3)
Boucher Bros. Lumber Ltd.	P14	Conifer (softwood)	74,191
Community Based Value-Added Corp,	P14	Deciduous (hardwood)	95,352
Canadian Forest Products Ltd.	P19	Conifer (softwood)	366,507
Zavisha Sawmills Ltd.	P19	Conifer (softwood)	62,105
Tolko Industries Ltd.	P19	Conifer (softwood)	94,056
Mercer Peace River Pulp Ltd.	P20	Deciduous (hardwood)	325,500
Canadian Forest Products Ltd.	P52	Conifer (softwood)	3,195
Zavisha Sawmills Ltd.	P52	Conifer (softwood)	14,754
Norbord Inc & Clear Hills County Loggers	P52	Deciduous (hardwood)	31,229
Community Based Value-Added Corp	P55	Conifer (softwood)	26,030
Mercer Peace River Pulp Ltd.	P55	Deciduous (hardwood)	193,428

Table 70 Annual Allowable Cuts for Timber Quotas within Clear Hills County, 2019.[83]

Energy

Montney Shale Formation spans from Northwest British Columbia to Northwest Alberta and is a source of unconventional natural gas. This shale gas reservoir was once thought of uneconomic and tight, but can now be extracted using horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing. In 2018, there were 115.34km^2 of pipelines within the County.[84]

Table 71 shows the ten-year trends of energy resource production in Clear Hills County from 2009–2019. Between 2003 and 2019, 1,521 new wells were drilled within Clear Hills County. In 2006, there were 295 new wells and in 2017, there were 3 new wells. These represent the highest and lowest number of new wells drilled per year during this time period.[85]

Energy Resources	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	5 Year Trend (%)	10 Year Trend (%)

[83] PREDA and REDI Northwest Alberta Commodities, 2020.
[84] Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute, Human Footprint Inventory, 2018.
[85] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/clear-hills/well-count/#/?from=2015&to=2019

Natural Gas Reserves (m^3)[86]	5.7B	6.5B	6.5B	4.6B	6.2B	- 8.10%	- 40.60% (*8 year trend)
Natural Gas Production (m^3)[87]	478.2M	560.2M	641.2M	644.2M	780.1M	- 38.70%	- 74.30%
Oil Production (m^3)[88]	397,205	386,468	374,735	391,246	435,589	- 8.80%	- 23.50%
Well Count[89]	6	13	3	4	4	50.00%	- 90.00%

Table 71 Energy Resources, Five and Ten-Year Trends, Clear Hills County.[90][91][92][93]

Mining/Iron

There is an abundance of iron ore deposits that can be accessed by gravel roads reaching the north part of Worsley, a gravel road that connects to the Notikewin forest, or via helicopter and snowmobiles in the winter. There are no current developments that relate to iron mining in the area right now but there has been persistent interest in developing the iron ore resources.[94]

Construction

	2019	2018	Difference from 2018 to 2019	5 Year Trend
Major Projects Value	**$475 Million**	**$475 Million**	**0%**	**-2.56%**
Development Permits (#)	**43**	**34**	**26.47%**	**-30.01%**
Commercial and Industrial Development Permits	4	1		
Residential Development Permits	27	29		
Other Development Permits	12	2		
Development Permits Value ($)[95]	**$4,139,500.00**	**$15,559,000.00**	**-73.39%**	**85.56%**
Commercial and Industrial DP Project Value	-	-		
Residential DP Project Value	-	-		
Other DP Project Value	-	-		

[86] Reserves of raw gas or marketable gas or any constituent of raw gas, condensate, crude bitumen or crude oil that is recovered in processing and that is gaseous at the conditions under which its volume is measured or estimated.
[87] Production of raw gas or marketable gas or any constituent of raw gas, condensate, crude bitumen or crude oil that is recovered in processing and that is gaseous at the conditions under which its volume is measured or estimated.
[88] Conventional and non-conventional oil (including unprocessed bitumen and synthetic oil) production.
[89] Total development, exploratory, evaluation and experimental wells drilled including natural gas, coalbed methane, crude oil, crude bitumen and other wells.
[90] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/clear-hills/natural-gas-reserves/#/?from=2015&to=2019
[91] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/clear-hills/natural-gas-production/#/?from=2015&to=2019
[92] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/clear-hills/oil-production/#/?from=2015&to=2019
[93] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/clear-hills/well-count/#/?from=2015&to=2019
[94] Clear Hills County Municipal Development Plan, Mackenzie Municipal Services Agency, 2019, p.14.
[95] Clear Hills County do not track their development permit values by development type. To obtain these values, County staff would have to review individual development permit applications.

Building Permits (#)[96]	**4**	**3**	**-25%**	**-22.62%**
Commercial Building Permits	2	0		
Industrial Building Permits	3	3		
Residential Building Permits	4	9		
Institutional Building Permits	0	0		
Building Permits Value ($)[97]	**$1.2 Million**	**$1.5 Million**	**-17.3%**	**232.49%**
Commercial BP Project Value	0.00	0.00		
Industrial BP Project Value	0.00	0.00		
Residential BP Project Value	890,000	1,500,000		
Institutional BP Project Value	350,000	0.00		

Table 72 Development and Building Permits, Clear Hills County, 2018–2019.

1.2.4 Municipal Tax Assessment

Table 73 shows the Equalized Assessment trends from 2008–2019 in the Clear Hills County, with Table 74 providing the uncollectable and unpaid taxes from 2008–2020, and Table 75 offering the annual change rate of the Property Assessment rates from 2018–2019.

Year	Residential	Farmland	Non-Residential (Non-Regulated)	NR Linear Property	Machinery & Equipment	Annual Total
2019	139,026,985	39,946,780	76,530,904	583,446,870	263,677,720	1,102,629,259
2018	134,605,893	39,953,400	65,346,171	578,389,490	239,694,720	1,057,989,674
2017	127,111,182	40,681,950	67,359,063	675,065,960	255,318,460	1,165,536,615
2016	113,157,747	40,711,350	65,775,800	741,860,900	264,578,700	1,226,084,497
2015	100,562,931	40,726,560	73,476,364	714,664,700	280,944,500	1,210,375,055
2014	96,909,454	40,735,790	69,972,087	675,572,620	262,764,450	1,145,954,401
2013	91,733,571	40,750,330	62,174,790	615,852,760	272,783,470	1,083,294,921
2012	88,172,866	41,340,230	61,151,837	599,328,370	290,652,490	1,080,645,793
2011	75,005,989	40,616,860	57,549,750	611,356,160	266,954,050	1,051,482,809
2010	75,951,229	40,269,730	54,100,020	667,655,650	269,206,560	1,107,183,189
2009	57,439,894	40,263,990	54,130,622	600,249,590	273,105,730	1,025,189,826
2008	47,654,840	40,288,540	42,686,450	566,346,570	207,705,320	904,681,720

Table 73 Equalized Assessment Trends, Clear Hills County 2008–2019.[98]

Year	Total Uncollectable Taxes[99]	Total Unpaid Taxes[100]

[96] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/clear-hills/number-of-building-permits/#/?from=2015&to=2019
[97] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/clear-hills/value-of-building-permits/#/?from=2015&to=2019
[98] https://open.alberta.ca/publications/1844032
[99] Total uncollectable taxes are taxes that are unable to be collected due to age or bankruptcy.
[100] Total unpaid taxes is the outstanding amount of taxes owing as of the corresponding years, as taxes accumulate each year.

2020	$9,926,257.92	$10,291,064.61
2019	$8,556,676.21	$8,666,640.59
2018	$6,578,223.42	$6,778,385.57
2017	$5,060,074.33	$5,098,152.57
2016	$2,864,233.48	$3,469,263.87
2015	$1,130,758.87	$1,620,252.11
2014	$569,519.11	$1,207,930.36
2013	$452,310.55	$1,407,860.26
2012	-	$888,712.80
2011	-	$292,420.58
2010	-	$283,903.21
2009	$45,620.67	$345,368.04
2008	$55,815.69	$337,871.12

Table 74 Total Uncollectable and Unpaid Taxes, Clear Hills County, 2008–2020.[101]

As of March 24, 2021, the oil and gas revenue assessment has not been received. The exact loss of revenue for the County is unknown, but the anticipated affect will be significant.[102]

Property Type	2018	2019	Annual Change
Farmland	$40.0M	$39.9M	-0.02%
Machinery & Equipment (M&E)	$239.7M	$262.7M	9.58%
Non Residential (Non Regulated)	$65.3M	$76.4M	16.9%
Non Residential Co-Generating M&E	$0	$0	N/A
Non Residential Linear Property	$578.4M	$583.4M	0.87%
Non Residential Railway	$0	$0	N/A
Residential	$134.6M	$139.5M	3.65%
Grand Total	$1.1B	$1.1B	4.16%

Table 75 Annual Change Rate, Property Assessment Rates, Clear Hills County, 2008–2019.[103]

1.2.5 Retail Centres

Select shops and services for the County are located in Worsley and Cleardale, these include general stores, mechanics, and financial services; there is also a general store in Hines Creek. Most residents of the region travel to the Town of Fairview to shop, Grande Prairie or Fort St. John for larger retail and box stores.

Table 76 breaks down retail businesses by community within the Clear Hills County.

[101] Clear Hills County, 2021.
[102] Clear Hills County, 2021.
[103] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/clear-hills/property-assessments/#/stacked/property-type/?from=2015&to=2019

	# of Retail Stores	# of 'Big Box' Stores[104]	More Information
Bear Canyon	0	0	Travel to Fort St. John
Cleardale	0	0	Travel to Fort St. John
Eureka River	0	0	Travel to Fairview, Peace River Grimshaw or Grande Prairie
Hines Creek	3	0	Home Hardware, Liquor Store, etc.
Worsley	1	0	Liquor Store

Table 76 Retail and Big Box Stores, Clear Hills County, 2020.

1.3 Services and Infrastructure

1.3.1 Access to Professional Services and Trades

Due to the high amount of home-based and small-scale businesses within Clear Hills County, access to professional services and trade for all residents and communities is unknown.[105]

Table 77 lists Trades and Certifications for 2015 in Clear Hills County.

Trade	New Apprentices[106]	Registered Apprentices[107]	Certified Apprentices[108]
Total All Trades	**1**	**21**	**3**
Agricultural Equipment Technician	0	1	-
Auto Body Technician	-	1	-
Automotive Service Technician	0	0	-
Carpenter	1	1	-
Crane and Hoist Equipment Operator	0	1	-
Electrician	0	4	0
Hairstylist	-	1	0
Heavy Equipment Technician	0	3	1
Instrument Technician	-	1	-
Motorcycle Mechanic	0	2	-
Plumber	0	1	1
Rig Technician	0	1	0
Sheet Metal Worker	-	0	-

[104] 'Big Box' Store is defined as a physically large retail establishment, often part of a chain of stores, and offering a variety of products (e.g. Walmart, Superstore).
[105] Clear Hills County, 2021.
[106] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/clear-hills/new-apprentices-registered/#/stacked/trade/
[107] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/clear-hills/new-apprentices-registered/#/stacked/trade/
[108] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/clear-hills/apprentices-certified/#/stacked/trade/

Steamfitter-Pipefitter	-	0	1
Welder	0	4	-

Table 77 Trades and Apprentice Certifications, Clear Hills County, 2015.

1.3.2 Access to Transportation

The County's remote location hinders some progress, due to the County's lack of proximity to urban centres such as the cities of Grande Prairie and Edmonton.

Air

The closest airports for passenger services:

- Fort St. John Airport, Fort St. John BC (90 km – 200 km drive depending on origin);
- Grande Prairie Airport, Grande Prairie AB (130 km – 200 km drive depending on origin); and
- Edmonton International Airport, Edmonton AB (565 km – 660 km drive depending on origin).

Due to the mutual aid agreement in place to assist in the event of wildfires within the northern and eastern portions of the County, in 2020 Clear Hills County committed to a 5-year agreement to provide funding to the Town of Manning Airport. The Town of Fairview Airport does not receive annual funding from the County; any contributions are per request to assist with capital expenditures.[109]

Roads

The transportation network in the County provides access to markets, services and large population centres such as Fort St. John, Dawson Creek and Grande Prairie[110]. Clear Hills County has over 7,000 km of roads, with 7 provincial highways that traverse and connect the County (Hwy 64, 685, 717, 726, 729, 730, 732 and 735).

Worsley is located 50 km east of BC border and easily accessible to Hwy 64 to connect to larger population centres like Fort St. John, Dawson Creek and the Town of Fairview and Cleardale is located 35 km east of the BC border, close to Hwy 64 to connect to larger population centre of Fort St. John. Table 78 shows the breakdown of road ownership within the County; each owner is responsible for maintaining their roads.

Road Ownership	Classification	Material	Length/Area (km/km^2)
Clear Hills County	Local Government Road	Asphalt	82.00 km
	Local Government Road	Dirt/Gravel	1,718.80 km
Clear Hills County Total: 1,800.80 km[111]			
Government of Alberta	Primary Highway	Asphalt	196.56 km
	Unknown	Unknown	47.00 km
Government of Alberta Total: 243.56 km[112]			
Natural Resource Industries	DLO – Licence of Occupation	Unknown	59.41 km^2
	LOC – License of Occupation	Unknown	71.90 km^2

[109] Stakeholder Interview, March 2021.
[110] Clear Hills County Municipal Development Plan, Mackenzie Municipal Services Agency, 2019, p.18.
[111] Clear Hills County, 2021.
[112] Alberta Municipal Data Sharing Partnership, 2014.

	PLC – License of Occupation	Unknown	0.10 km^2
Natural Resource Industries Total: 131.41 km^2[113]			
Other	Winter Road and Access	Unknown	664.05 km
	Unimproved, Unclassified Roads and Truck Trails	Unknown	3,679.23 km
Other Total: 4,343.28 km[114]			

Table 78 Road Ownership and Total Kilometers, Clear Hills County.

Rail

Canadian National Railway discontinued the use of the railway between Grimshaw to Hines Creek on 13th October 2000.[115] The discontinued railway line within Clear Hills County measures 22.7 km.[116]

Water

There are no waterway transportation services required within the County.

1.3.3 Childcare Availability

Day homes are the only childcare option available within Clear Hills County and the Village of Hines Creek, and the number of day homes is unknown. Due to the distance to travel to Fairview, most County residents would not utilize Fairview day care facilities unless they worked within the Town of Fairview.[117] Table 79 shows childcare availability and demand for Clear Hills County from 2017–2020.

	2017	2018	2019	2020
# of children in registered day care	Data Not Available			
# of children in registered day homes	Data Not Available			
# of children on a waitlist	Data Not Available			
# of children in informal childcare	Data Not Available			

Table 79 Childcare Availability & Demand, Clear Hills County, 2017–2020.

[113] Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute, Human Footprint Inventory, 2018.
[114] Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute, Human Footprint Inventory, 2018.
[115] https://otc-cta.gc.ca/eng/notices-rail-line-discontinuance
[116] Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute, Human Footprint Inventory, 2018.
[117] Stakeholder Interview, March 2021.

1.3.4 Child Intervention

Child Intervention offers a range of supports and resources for children, youth and families in five regions across Provincial, Metis and Indigenous Children's Services offices and Delegated First nation Agencies.[118]

There are no child intervention facilities within Clear Hills County. Children, youth and young adults from the County who require intervention services would likely access these services from the Grande Prairie or Peace River worksites, and the average number of intakes coming from Clear Hills County is unknown.

There are four (4) group care or treatment focused facilities accessed by the Ministry of Children's Services, which are located in relative proximity to Clear Hills County. These facilities are located in Grande Prairie (2), the Town of Sexsmith (1) and the Town of High Prairie (1).[119]

↓ From / To →	Grande Prairie	Sexsmith	High Prairie
Bear Canyon	~ 200 kms/2.5 hrs	~ 200 kms/2.5 hrs	~ 320 kms/ 3.25 hrs
Cleardale	~ 195 kms/2 hrs	~ 175 kms/1.75 hrs	~ 290 kms/3 hrs
Eureka River	~ 160 kms/1.5 hrs	~ 140 kms/1.5 hrs	~ 250 kms/2.5 hrs
Hines Creek	~ 130 kms/1.5 hrs	~ 110 kms/1.25 hrs	~ 230 kms/2.25 hrs
Worsley	~ 190 kms/2 hr	~ 170 kms/1.75 hrs	~ 285 kms/3 hrs

Table 80 Approximate Travel Distances and Times for Clear Hills County Residents to the Group Care or Treatment Facilities accessed by the Ministry of Children's Services.

1.3.5 Education

There has been a steady decline of registered students attending schools within the Clear Hills County Catchment Area. On average, there are 462 students enrolled from K-12 (K-Gr 9 averaging 375 students and Gr 10-12 averaging 87). The decrease in student enrolment in recent years can be attributed to dropout rates, students attending schools outside of the County or private schools, and students being home-schooled.

There were 324 students registered in K-Grade 9 in 2017, reflecting a 4.14% decline from 338 in 2016;[120] 93 people enrolled in high school in 2017, reflecting a 19.2% increase from 78 in 2016. The grade 10 segment had the largest increase over last year, increasing 57.7% to 41.[121]

The Peace River School Division (PRSD), with three public schools, located in Worsley, Cleardale and Hines Creek, administers education in the County.

There are also two private schools within the County that receive funding from the PRSD; Bear Canyon Colony School and the Cleardale Colony School.

There are other private schools with the County that operate outside of the PRSD directives and funding. Some families also utilize home schooling across the County.[122]

[118] Ministry of Children's Services, 2021.
[119] Ministry of Children's Services, 2021.
[120] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/clear-hills/k-9-enrollments/#/?from=2015&to=2019
[121] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/clear-hills/high-school-enrollments/#/?from=2015&to=2019
[122] Students may attend schools outside the County in Fairview (Saint Thomas Moore Catholic School, E.E. Oliver Elementary School) and Clearview Elementary/Jr Secondary School in British Columbia. Clear Hills County, 2021.

Table 81 provides a breakdown of schools by grade, students registered and location within the County for the 2018-2019 school year; as well as [select] Annual Education Results. [123]

School	Measure (Local compared to Alberta)					Measure Evaluation Overall
		Current Result	**Prev 3 Yr. Average**	**Current Result (AB)**	**Prev 3 Yr. Average (AB)**	
Hines Creek Composite School K–12 154 Students [Hines Creek]	Safe & Caring	86.7	86.0	89.4	89.2	Good
	Program of Studies	71.2	71.7	82.4	82.0	Issue
	Education Quality	84.7	88.8	90.3	90.1	Acceptable
	Drop Out Rate	1.2	1.1	2.7	2.7	*Not Available*
	High School Completion Rate	90.9	84.4	79.7	78.4	Excellent
	PAT: Acceptable	60.0	69.2	73.8	73.6	Concern
	PAT: Excellence	0.8	10.1	20.6	19.6	Concern
	Diploma: Acceptable	57.1	63.1	83.6	83.1	Concern
	Diploma: Excellence	10.2	3.0	24.0	22.5	Issue
	Diploma Exam Participation Rate	63.6	39.0	56.4	55.6	Good
	Rutherford Scholarship Eligibility Rate	60.0	58.2	66.6	63.5	*Not Available*
Menno-Simmons		**Current Result**	**Prev 3 Yr. Average**	**Current Result (AB)**	**Prev 3 Yr. Average (AB)**	

[123] http://www.prsd.ab.ca/Departments.php; https://hfcrd.ab.ca/

Community School K–12 120 Students [Cleardale]	Safe & Caring	92.0	89.4	89.4	89.2	Excellent
	Program of Studies	77.2	73.1	82.4	82.0	Acceptable
	Education Quality	91.9	88.5	90.3	90.1	Excellent
	Drop Out Rate	8.2	4.8	2.7	2.7	*Not Available*
	High School Completion Rate	67.0	*Not Available*	79.7	78.4	*Not Available*
	PAT: Acceptable	51.6	52.8	73.8	73.6	Concern
	PAT: Excellence	1.6	4.4	20.6	19.6	Concern
	Diploma: Acceptable	47.8	75.0	83.6	83.1	Concern
	Diploma: Excellence	4.3	10.0	24.0	22.5	Concern
	Diploma Exam Participation Rate	0.0	*Not Available*	56.4	55.6	*Not Available*
	Rutherford Scholarship Eligibility Rate	33.3	66.7	66.6	63.5	*Not Available*
Worsley Central School K–12 81 Students [Worsley]		**Current Result**	**Prev 3 Yr. Average**	**Current Result (AB)**	**Prev 3 Yr. Average (AB)**	
	Safe & Caring	93.3	87.4	89.4	89.2	Excellent
	Program of Studies	66.5	72.4	82.4	82.0	Issue
	Education Quality	91.7	78.2	90.3	90.1	Excellent
	Drop Out Rate	0.0	1.9	2.7	2.7	*Not Available*

	High School Completion Rate	*Not Available*	54.9	79.7	78.4	*Not Available*
	PAT: Acceptable	78.8	71.2	73.8	73.6	Acceptable
	PAT: Excellence	28.2	8.5	20.6	19.6	Excellent
	Diploma: Acceptable	71.4	78.2	83.6	83.1	Concern
	Diploma: Excellence	14.3	5.4	24.0	22.5	Acceptable
	Diploma Exam Participation Rate	*Not Available*	36.6	56.4	55.6	*Not Available*
	Rutherford Scholarship Eligibility Rate	*Not Available*	81.3	66.6	63.5	*Not Available*

Table 81 Education Data and Performance Indicators, Clear Hills County, 2016–2019.

Post-Secondary

Post-Secondary Enrollment[124]			**High School Enrollment[125]**			**K–9 Enrollment[126]**		
2019	**2015**	**5 Year Change**	**2019**	**2015**	**5 Year Change**	**2019**	**2015**	**5 Year Change**
18	17	**-13.70%**	82	80	**0.57%**	310	351	**-12.98%**

Table 82 Education Enrollments Five-Year Trends, Clear Hills County.

Clear Hills County had 18 students attending a public post-secondary institution in 2019, and a 0.00% change from 18 in 2018. The Trades and Technologists segment had the largest increase over the last year, increasing 200.0% to 6.[127]

1.3.6 Housing

In 2019, there were 1,083 dwelling units in Clear Hills County.[128] Of these homes, 74.5% were single-family homes, which has declined by 7.95% over five years between 2011 and 2016.[129]

[124] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/clear-hills/post-secondary-enrollment/#/?from=2015&to=2019
[125] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/clear-hills/high-school-enrollments/#/?from=2015&to=2019
[126] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/clear-hills/k-9-enrollments/#/?from=2015&to=2019
[127] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/clear-hills/post-secondary-enrollment/#/?from=2015&to=2019
[128] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/clear-hills/dwelling-units/#/?from=2015&to=2019
[129] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/clear-hills/percent-single-family-houses/#/

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	Value Change
Average Housing Prices												
Number of Owned Properties												
Number of Rental Properties												
Value of Land Transfers[130] (Millions $)	13.8	15.4	10.4	14.	11	12	10.3	10.2	7.7	8.5	7.5	45.6%
Number of Land Transfers[131]	70	82	58	101	78	82	75	73	85	88	76	-7.9%
Land Prices												

Table 83 Housing Prices and Land Values for Clear Hills County, 2009–2019.

Low-Income Housing

The North Peace Housing Foundation offers Family Housing and Rent Supplements with a range of units and programs to fit their family housing clientele, which includes low and moderate-income families, and individuals with special needs who cannot afford private sector accommodation. They provide property management services for 163 family housing units, operating under two programs.[132]

- Alberta Community Housing Program provides subsidized rental housing to low-income families, senior citizens, and individuals with special needs who cannot afford private sector accommodation. Priority is given based on need, as determined by income, assets, and current housing condition. The tenant's rent, which includes heat, water and sewer expenses, is based on 30% of a household's adjusted income. The tenant is responsible for electricity, telephone and cable television, as well as any additional services they may request (i.e. parking). The following units are available in Clear Hills County:
    - Hines Creek (1 Unit) – currently for sale in 2020, with no plan to replace.
- Alberta Rural and Native Housing Program is designed to assist low-income eligible households in obtaining affordable rental accommodation in rural communities, generally, with populations of 2,500 persons or less

Rent supplement programs provide financial assistance to households in need to help them obtain and maintain affordable and suitable rental accommodation. The program provides rent subsidies in eligible rental projects. The program operates in two ways:[133]

[130] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/clear-hills/value-of-land-title-transfers/#/?from=2015&to=2019.
[131] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/clear-hills/number-of-land-title-transfers/#/?from=2015&to=2019.
[132] The province owns all of the dwellings under these programs, and any operating deficits are fully funded by the province through an annual budget review process. Management and tenant selection are delegated to the local housing operators. (https://www.nphf.ca/family-housing.html).
[133] https://www.nphf.ca/rent-supplements.html

- Private Landlord Rent Supplement (PLRS) is a relationship between North Peace Housing Foundation, the Landlord and the tenant. The relationship between North Peace Housing and the Landlord is mainly regarding rent. The market rent that is set is agreed upon between NPHF and the landlord, and should be in line with similar rents found in the area's private market. These can be found in NPHF's annual market rent survey. The Tenants rent is calculated at 30% of adjusted income and reviewed annually. This is considered the tenants rent, and an addendum to the lease should be signed (provided by NPHF). The landlord should not charge more rent to the tenant than what is calculated by NPHF. The difference between the tenant's calculated rent and the agreed market rate is then paid to the landlord each month. The landlord must submit a monthly claim to NPHF.
- Direct to Tenant Rent Supplement (DTT), which is paid directly to the tenant. This program is a relationship between North Peace Housing Foundation and the tenant. Rent is calculated on 30% of a households' adjusted income, and is reviewed annually. The subsidy paid is the difference between what the tenant should pay, based on their income, and the actual market rate to a maximum of $400.00 each month. We confirm the details of the property and terms of rental with the landlord, but other than that, everything is between the tenant and NPHF. The tenant must submit a receipt to NPHF, to confirm that rent has been paid each month in full in order to receive supplement for the next month.[134]

In previous years, NPHF were given a set number of designations for each program, 17 for PLRS and 35 for DTT. Tenants also had to score a minimum number of points in order to be eligible to receive the rent supplement. Currently it is based upon budget; NPHF receives $215,000.00 annually to provide the rent subsidy for both programs combined. That works out to about 47 tenants combined.

In the past, NPHF did not have a waitlist for this program; it has only been within the last 12–18 months that the waitlist has built up. As of September 2020, NPHF has 20 clients waiting for support. This does not include any of the Cleardale seniors. NPHF have received an average of 2–3 new applications each month.

The waitlist for both programs is based upon the Priority of Need Assessment set out in the Social Housing Accommodation Regulation. This assessment gives points based on various factors to determine the need of each applicant. Points are awarded based upon number of children, rent to income ratio, and other factors related to current housing. Points vary between 3–32, and when the supplement becomes available, the person with the highest need is offered the rent supplement.

Once an applicant is offered the supplement, they may continue to receive it until they are no longer eligible, or if the Government of Alberta discontinues the program.

Each application that is received by NPHF is assessed for a housing unit first. If a person is suitable for a housing unit within the foundation (family or senior) that is what is offered to them. The clients that make up our rent supplement waitlist have been assessed and are either, not eligible, or not suitable for a housing unit.[135]

[134] Stakeholder Interview, September 2020.
[135] Stakeholder Interview, September 2020.

1.3.7 Utilities, Services and Waste Management

Electricity

Clear Hills County has approximately 391.60 km of transmission lines[136] and is located within ATCO Electric's transmission and distribution territory.[137]

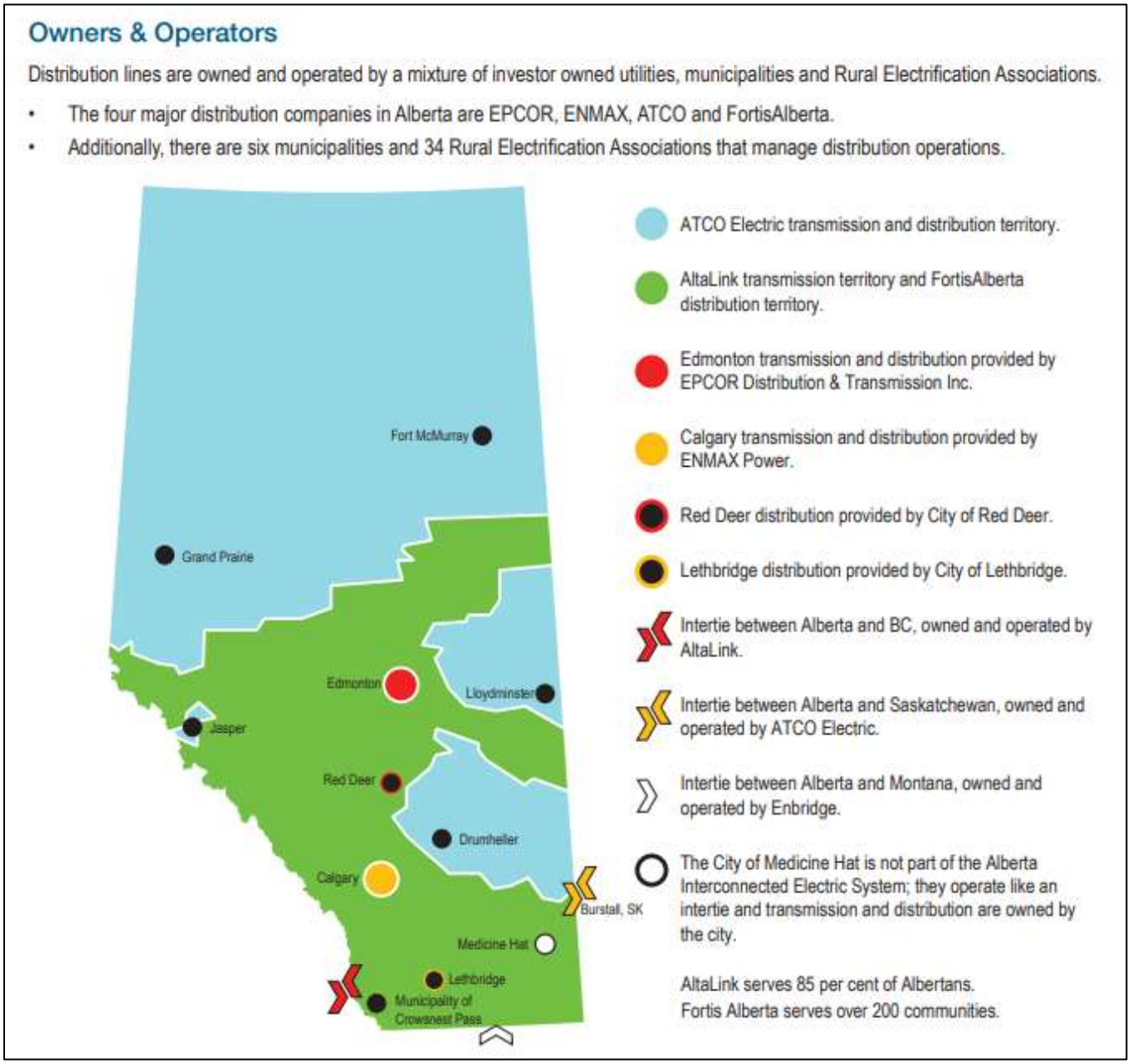

Figure 39 Owners and Operators – Electricity Distribution, Government of Alberta, 2014. [138]

[136] Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute, Human Footprint Inventory, 2018.
[137] https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/eb73a7a5-7b54-4510-920d-a820fb9bc41a/resource/0497733c-2716-445f-b151-6d26a61c1a3d/download/2014-12-electricity-distribution.pdf
[138] https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/eb73a7a5-7b54-4510-920d-a820fb9bc41a/resource/0497733c-2716-445f-b151-6d26a61c1a3d/download/2014-12-electricity-distribution.pdf

The average cents per kilowatt-hour for electricity regulated rates in 2020 across all four distributors were relatively similar province-wide. However, consumption rates are likely increased in the North zone due to sustained colder temperatures during the winter season.

While the average monthly transmission charges have been similar from 2004 to 2019 across all four distributors, monthly distribution charges have been significantly higher in the North zone since 2004.

Distributor	EPCOR Distribution	Fortis Alberta Inc.	ENMAX Power Corporation	ATCO Electric
Average 2020 Electricity Regulated Rates in cents/kWh	6.809	6.708	6.360	6.590

Table 84 2020 Regulated Rates, Utilities Consumer Advocate, 2020.[139]

Transmission Charges

Transmission rates are approved and regulated by the Alberta Utilities Commission. The transmission charge on an electricity bill is based on how much electricity the customer has used.

As shown in Figure 40, Alberta has seen an increase in transmission charges since 2004 due to the expansion of infrastructure. There have been a number of large transmission projects, which have led to an increase in costs being passed on to consumers. In 2019, monthly transmission charges paid by the average residential customer with 600kWh of consumption ranged from $21.04 (in EPCOR's service area) and $27.59 (in ENMAX's service area). Transmission charges constitute between 14% and 24% of a customer's total bill.[140]

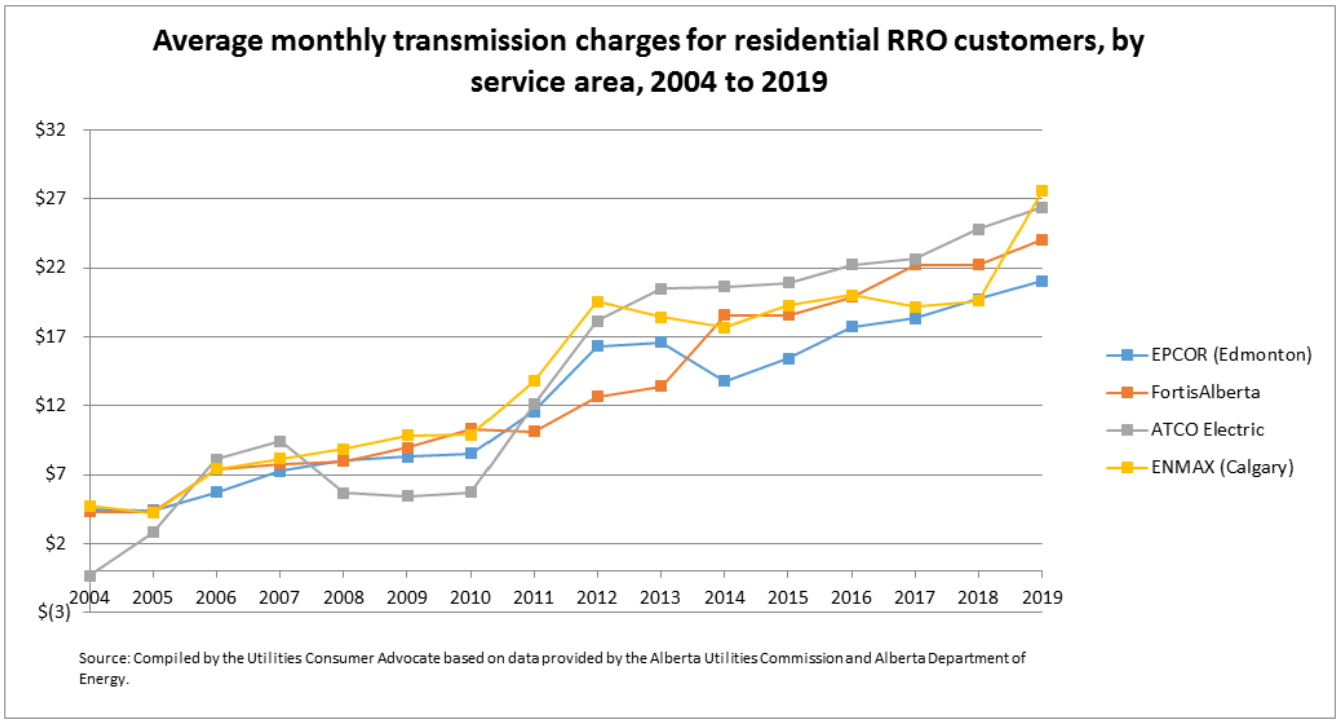

Figure 40 Average Monthly Transmission Charges in Alberta, 2020.

[139] https://ucahelps.alberta.ca/regulated-rates.aspx
[140] https://ucahelps.alberta.ca/electricity-transmission-and-distribution-charges.aspx

Distribution Charges

The Alberta Utilities Commission also regulates distribution rates for Calgary (Enmax), Edmonton (EPCOR), Fortis Alberta and Atco Electric.

Distribution rates for Cardston, Ponoka, Red Deer and Lethbridge are approved by local municipal governments and town councils. Rural electrification associations have boards of directors that approve distribution rates on behalf of members.

As shown in Figure 41, distribution costs vary with location and consumption. Distribution charges are higher for customers in rural Alberta than for customers in urban areas because of the low population density and longer distances between customer sites.

In 2019, monthly distribution charges paid by the average residential customer with 600kWh of consumption ranged from $22.13 (in ENMAX's service area) to $85.77 (in ATCO's service area). Distribution charges constitute between 20% and 47% of a customer's total bill.[141]

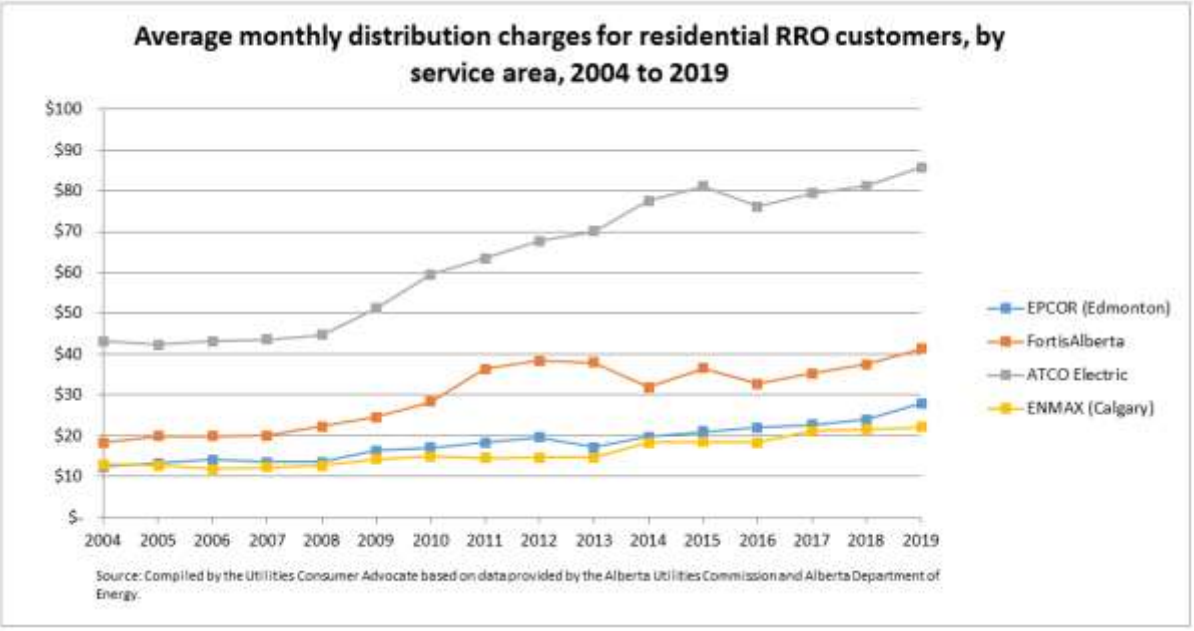

Figure 41 Average Monthly Distribution Charges in Alberta, 2020.

Internet

Currently, the internet service levels that meet the CRTC objectives (50/Mb download and 10/Mb upload) are not available within Clear Hills County. The challenge is that a higher population density is required to make broadband enhancements viable (approx. 5,000 individuals)[142] and in 2019 Clear Hills County had a population of 3,023.

Internet Provider	Average Upload Speed (Mb per second)	Average Download Speed (Mb per second)	Average Latency Speed (Milli-seconds)	Type of Connection Available (Fibre-Optic, DSL, Fixed-Wireless)	Cost for Connection by Type	Cost for Consumption (per Mb or Unlimited)
AB North						

[141] https://ucahelps.alberta.ca/electricity-transmission-and-distribution-charges.aspx
[142] Northern Alberta Broadband Preparedness Project, Taylor Warwick Consulting Inc, 2017

Mighty Peace Wireless						
Telus Smart HUB[143]	1 Mbps	25 Mbps	-	Fixed Wireless	$45.00[144]	Average monthly rate for Unlimited is $89.99
Xplornet	1 Mbps	10 Mbps	-	Satellite	$99.00	Average monthly rate for Unlimited is $121.99
Measurement Lab[145]	1.37 Mbps[146]	5.85 Mbps[147]	81.4 milliseconds[148]	-	-	-

Table 85 Internet Services Availability, Clear Hills County, 2021.

Natural Gas/ Heating

Clear Hills County is located within the North Peace Gas Co-operative Ltd. distribution area[149] and ATCO Gas also provides natural gas within the County. North Peace Gas Co-op provides natural gas services to residential, farmers and industrial customers, including trenching, horizontal directional drilling, and water, sewer, and furnace installations.[150]

Construction costs for North Peace Gas Co-op to install a new natural gas service:

- Rural Contracts: $7,876.00
- Urban Contracts: $3,151.50[151]

Distributor	ATCO Gas	Alta Gas Utilities
Average 2020 Natural Gas Regulated Rates in cents/kWh	2.238	2.348

Table 86 2020 Regulated Natural Gas Rates, Utilities Consumer Advocate, 2020.[152]

Other sources of heat for Clear Hills County residential and farm dwellings include:

- propane;[153]
- wood stove burning wood pellets or logs;[154] and
- diesel generators.[155]

Landfills

The County is a member of the North Peace Regional Landfill (located in the M.D. of Fairview). County residents may haul their waste directly to the landfill or to 9 municipal transfer stations within the County

[143] Not available in Eureka River.
[144] If an antenna is required, add an additional $99.00 installation fee.
[145] https://www.measurementlab.net/tests/ndt/
[146] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/clear-hills/median-upload-speed/#/?from=2015&to=2019
[147] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/clear-hills/median-download-speed/#/?from=2015&to=2019
[148] https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/clear-hills/average-latency/#/?from=2015&to=2019
[149] https://www.fedgas.com/Map
[150] https://northpeacegas.ca/services/
[151] https://northpeacegas.ca/fees/
[152] https://ucahelps.alberta.ca/regulated-rates.aspx
[153] Price per litre of propane in March 2021 was 0.58 cents.
[154] The average cost of a Cord of wood in 2020 was approximately $150.00.
[155] Price per litre of diesel in February 2021 was $1.0469.

(Whitelaw, Deerhill/David Thompson, Royce, Bear Canyon, Cleardale, Eureka River, Worsley, Clear Prairie and Hines Creek).

The landfill accepts different types of waste, including burnable debris, metals, unusable appliances, and compost piles. Clear Hills County budgeted $400,000.00 in 2021 for the transfer station costs, which includes 100% of transportation fees.[156]

Recycling

Clear Hills County provides recycle bins for plastic, tin, mixed paper and cardboard at five locations Eureka River, Worsley, Cleardale, Bear Canyon and the Village of Hines Creek).[157] Clear Hills County budgeted $70,000.00 in 2021, which includes transportation of the recyclables.[158]

Water Sources

Municipal water infrastructure (water treatment plant in Worsley) serves Worsley and Cleardale. A regional waterline transports treated water to Cleardale. Residents outside Worsley and Cleardale boundaries who are within proximity of the water line may be able to connect to municipal water services, subject to County Policy 4105.[159]

Non-potable water supplies and truck fill stations provide additional water sources around the County for public use (free-of-charge). The majority of rural residents and farm operators utilize dugouts as their primary source of water. Cisterns are commonly used as a potable source of water, which is hauled to site.[160]

Wastewater

Sceptic tanks and lagoons are commonly used on rural properties to store wastewater and sewage.[161]

Municipal sanitary sewer infrastructure serves Worsley and Cleardale and is funded through monthly utility charges on all serviced properties.[162]

[156] Clear Hills County, 2021.
[157] Clear Hills County Municipal Development Plan, Mackenzie Municipal Services Agency, 2019, p.42.
[158] Clear Hills County, 2021.
[159] https://clearhillscounty.ab.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/4105-Policy-Waterline-tie-in-.pdf
[160] Clear Hills County, 2021.
[161] Clear Hills County, 2021.
[162] Clear Hills County Municipal Development Plan, Mackenzie Municipal Services Agency, 2019, p.42.