

---

## Driving New Business & Investment

**TransAlta:** has announced they are proceeding with their Garden Plain Wind Project which will see construction north of Hanna. Cactus Corridor is supporting their project with local connections to help meet their construction and ongoing project requirements.

For more information, please see their announcement: <https://www.transalta.com/plants-operation/garden-plain/>

**Building Remediation:** Cactus is working with 3 commercial property owners in Hanna on possible remediation of old buildings in an effort to promote future development. Older properties in rural communities present a possible obstacle to development, as often the value of the property isn't as high as the cost to remediate the property.

Cactus is working with property owners to overcome this issue and move forward to clean up old sites and promote future development.



## Picking up the Climate Change Taskforce Work

The many projects that were identified as part of the climate change taskforce work continue to move forward. Highlights of just a few of the projects:



**Community Development:** both the Hanna & Youngstown community development projects are moving forward. 818 Studios is the consultant leading the projects with community stakeholder engagement. They have been to a farmers' market in May and will be setting up shop next to the post office in June.

Community development includes a main street revitalization component in both communities. Options are being presented in an effort to gather feedback from residents on what they'd like to see; make sure to have your voice heard.

**Regional Marketing:** the regional marketing initiative is moving full steam ahead. Alignment of our partners (Hanna, Youngstown, Special Areas and the Hanna Learning Centre) has started with re-branding and strategy components. Coming soon will be some new logos, websites and marketing materials. Once that's complete, we will be ready to launch the campaign to boost our efforts to attract business, residents and tourists.



**Irrigation Projects:** a new partnership was announced with the Government of Alberta, the Canada Infrastructure Bank and the Special Areas to continue work on the projects that were started in 2020. This has the potential to help move irrigation forward in the region. More to come.

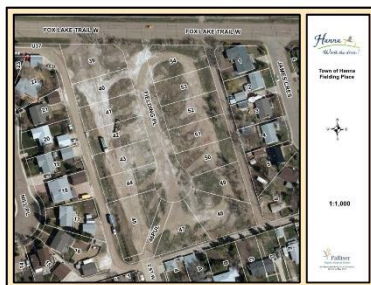


**Agricultural Center:** Preliminary work on the project is complete and has identified a few elements to continue to pursue as possible pieces in the ag center including:

- Livestock Hub components: animal therapy, animal training, equine boarding, veterinary services, lab services, animal nutrition
- Educational components: partnerships with local schools and post secondary schools
- Research facilities
- Riding and Event Center: indoor riding arena
- Food Production

Work will continue on a business case to see what is feasible to pursue as a final option.

Funding for these projects is provided by Western Economic Development (Government of Canada) and the projects should be completed by the fall so opportunities can move forward.



## Attracting Residents

**Land Development:** Cactus has engaged with local realtors and builders to attract new residents to the region. We are actively pursuing residential housing development in Hanna and Youngstown, including new homes on existing lots.

## Promoting Tourism

**Tourism Plan:** We are working with other groups such as Return to Rural, Western Economic Development (federal government), Travel Alberta and Travel Drumheller to make tourism a regional priority.

## Supporting Stakeholders in the Region

**Business Hub:** Cactus continually works with the Business Hub in Hanna on a number of initiatives and regards the Hub as key resource driving economic development forward.

**Development Incentive Program:** Youngstown has passed its development incentive package. If you're thinking of upgrading a house or business, check out the incentive policy and see if it can help your project.

**Regular Communications:** Cactus engages on a regular basis with local stakeholders such as the Business Hub, Town of Hanna and Special Areas to share best practices, update plans and communicate opportunities.

---

## Cactus Corridor Economic Development Corporation

For more information contact

Mark Nikota, Economic Development Manager at 403-854-0589 or [mark.nikota@cactuscorridor.com](mailto:mark.nikota@cactuscorridor.com)