



FOOTHILLS COUNTY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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REALice Device Installed at Scott Seaman Sports Rink

HIGH RIVER: Foothills County has implemented REALice device installation at Scott Seaman Sports Rink to increase energy efficiency for arena operations.

“In an effort to reduce our carbon footprint, Foothills County is pleased to implement this energy-efficient REALice device at Scott Seaman Sports Rink,” said Reeve Delilah Miller. “We continue to work with our Municipal Energy Manager to find ways to do our part with ongoing climate concerns.”

The REALice device utilizes pressure and vortex technology to remove dissolved oxygen from water without the need for heating it, which results in a high-quality ice surface that takes less energy to produce than traditional methods, which require heating water to remove dissolved oxygen prior to freezing.

Since its installation in late August 2021, the Scott Seaman Sports Rink has moved from flooding its ice with 160°F water to 85°F water, saving an enormous amount of energy and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

“The installation of REALice at SSSR has eliminated the need for using hot water for ice rink flooding,” said Adeniyi Adeaga, Municipal Energy Manager for Foothills County. “Being one of numerous energy efficiency projects ongoing at various Foothills County facilities, it is estimated that this REALice device alone will save us 31280 kWh in electricity and 245 GJ in natural gas annual consumption.”

The installation of the REALice device was made possible through a grant from the Municipal Climate Change Action Centre (MCCAC), which provided a substantial portion of the project costs.

It is part of an ongoing Energy and GHG Emissions Reduction Initiative of Foothills County, which included an energy audit completed in January 2020 that identified a REALice device as one way to reduce GHG emissions at Scott Seaman Sports Rink.

Other low-cost and no-cost solutions undertaken to-date include unplugging walk-in fridge and freezers during low-use periods, setting back the ice plant ammonia refrigerant temperature during hockey season, and ensuring thermostat settings adjust building temperature based on usage.

Projects currently ongoing at Scott Seaman Sports Rink include a Building Automation System (BAS) installation for energy systems control, Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) installation on pumps and fans, and ice plant waste heat recovery for space-heating and water-heating.

In addition, LED lighting retrofit, light occupancy motion sensors, and smart occupancy motion detection thermostats have recently been installed at several Foothills County facilities, including the following: firehalls in Blackie, Cayley, Priddis, Heritage Pointe, and Longview; and public works shops in Millarville and Aldersyde.

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