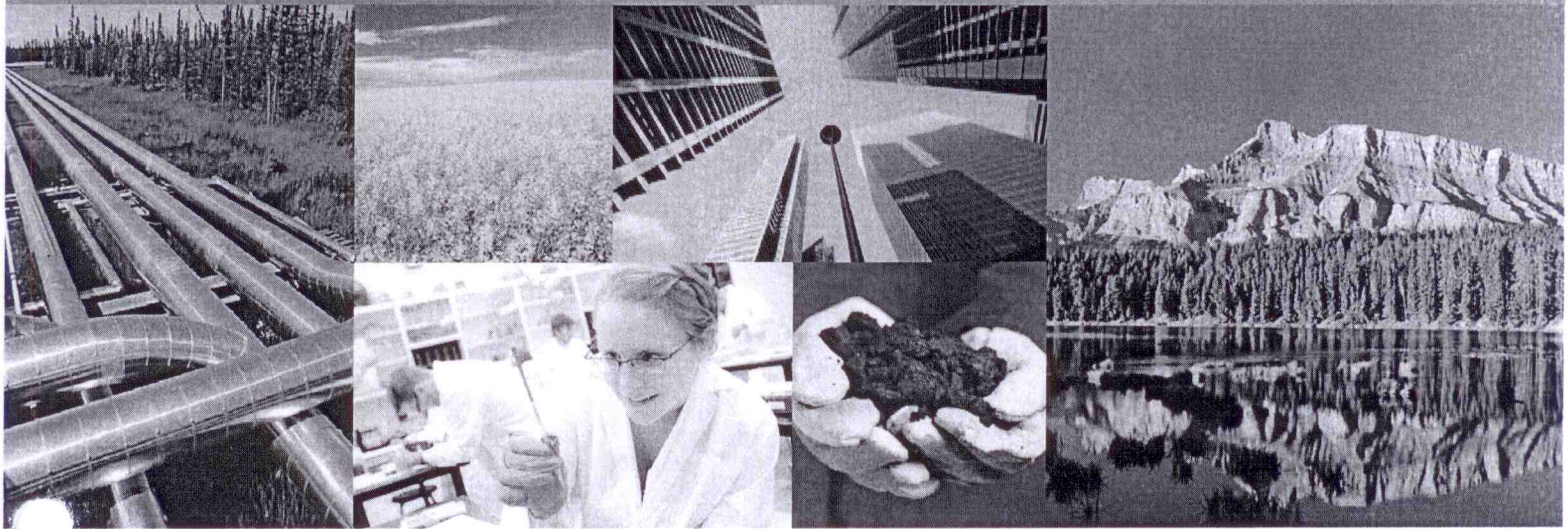




# Alberta's Clean Energy Story.



## our story \*

Located in Western Canada, Alberta is a province rich with a beautiful environment, abundant natural resources, a strong economy and a stable political system. We Albertans are proud of our home, and know we share responsibility to protect our planet. We are doing our part to move the world towards a clean energy future.

The challenge we all face is how to get there. The global demand for energy needed to drive cars, spur economic growth and improve living conditions continues to grow. We must continue to develop renewable and alternative forms of energy while being more efficient with the energy we already produce and use.

The world will continue to rely on fossil fuels for some time to come, so it is crucial that the world gets its energy from regions that take environmental and humanitarian responsibilities seriously and work to improve how fossil fuels are developed and used. With the world's second largest proven oil reserves, Alberta is front and centre in these efforts.

Our efforts and lessons learned are useful around the world as we all work towards the same goal – a sustainable, global energy future.



### global energy demand

WILL INCREASE BY 40 PER CENT BY 2030. 80 PER CENT OF THIS GROWTH IN DEMAND WILL STILL BE MET BY FOSSIL FUELS.

(source: International Energy Agency)

Government  
of Alberta  
Canada

Alberta  
Freedom To Create. Spirit To Achieve.





## cleaner energy

Jurisdictions around the world are looking for more environmentally sustainable ways to extract energy, produce it and use it to power our day-to-day lives. Alberta is no different.

Our greatest opportunity to further Alberta's clean energy story will come from technology. Many clean energy technologies are already proven and simply require a better way to deploy them on a large scale. Some remain to be proven, while others have yet to be imagined.

Alberta is also increasing the share of renewables in our own electricity mix – currently about 13 per cent – through strategic investments in technology and programs that nurture a growing renewable industry in the province. Alberta is already one of the top wind power producers in Canada.

The guiding principle to our actions is the need to balance environmental protection, economic growth and a high standard of living for Albertans.

### REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Alberta is the only jurisdiction in North America with mandatory greenhouse gas emission reduction targets for large emitters across all sectors.

Our program includes a price on carbon, a regulated carbon offset market and a clean energy technology fund worth over \$187 million (as of April 1, 2010).

We are achieving real results with more than 17 million tonnes of reductions to date. These steps are only our first. Alberta will ensure our industry operates under a comparable level of effort to our competitors. We will continue to push for policies that reduce emissions at the source.

Climate change is fundamentally an energy issue – and we are all energy consumers. Ultimate success relies on curbing global consumption while reducing emissions at all stages, from production to use.

### CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE

Alberta's \$2-billion commitment to this clean energy technology will result in a collection of projects, pipelines, storage and financing that is unique in the world.

As carbon capture and storage is a global strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, there are tremendous opportunities for those who have knowledge and experience they can provide to others around the world.

### ALBERTA INNOVATES

*Alberta Innovates* is the province's strategic hub for research and technology innovation. It coordinates the efforts of government, post-secondary institutions, industry and funding organizations that are committed to working cooperatively to reduce environmental impacts of energy development. All non-proprietary knowledge is shared to help speed up clean energy technology development worldwide.

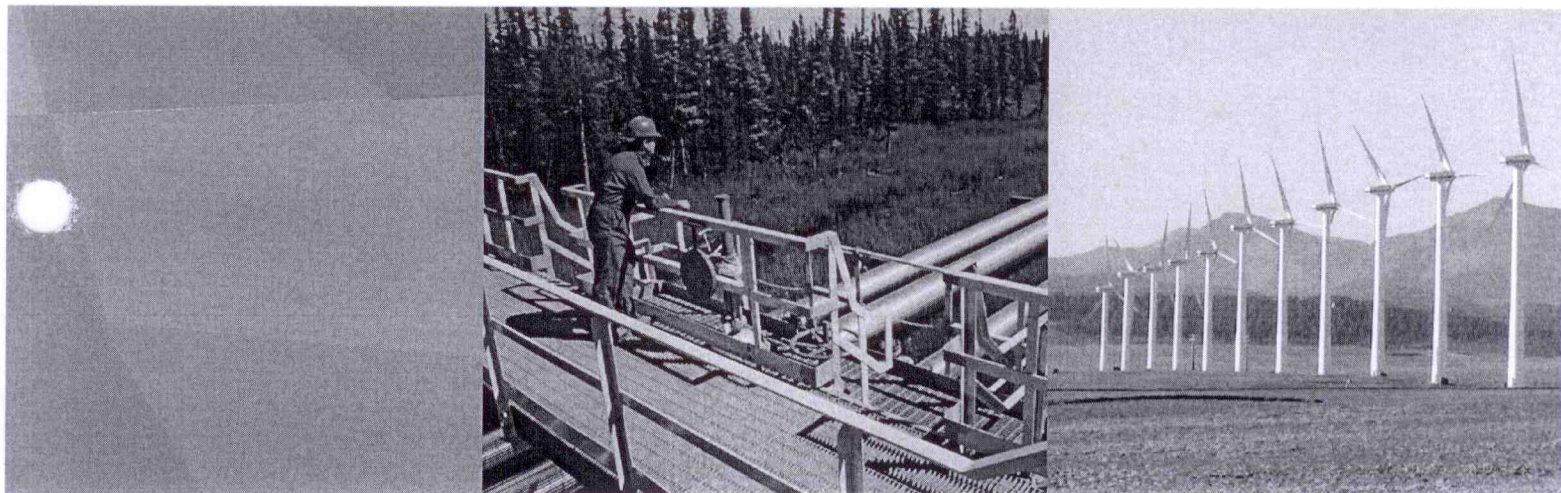


## investing in research and technology

THE ALBERTA GOVERNMENT RECENTLY INVESTED \$57 MILLION DIRECTLY INTO CLEAN ENERGY RESEARCH:

- \$25 MILLION TO THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA FOR ITS PARTNERSHIP WITH THE HELMHOLTZ ASSOCIATION OF GERMAN RESEARCH CENTRES, WHICH IS EMPHASIZING RESEARCH IN THE OIL SANDS
- \$25 MILLION TO CARBON MANAGEMENT CANADA, WHICH IS HOUSED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY, TO REDUCE CARBON EMISSIONS IN CANADA'S FOSSIL FUEL ENERGY SECTOR
- \$7 MILLION TO THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA FOR TAILINGS RESEARCH UNDERWAY AT ITS SCHOOL OF ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT





## the oil sands

Alberta is home to the second largest proven reserve of oil in the world – the majority being in the oil sands. Oil sands, sometimes referred to as tar sands, is a natural mixture of sand, water and bitumen (a thick, heavy crude oil). Oil sands production involves separating the bitumen from the sand and then upgrading and refining into a variety of consumer products.

### BENEFITS

About 1.3 million barrels of crude are produced every day in the oil sands. That number is expected to more than double within the decade. Alberta is one of the few non-OPEC regions in the world that can accommodate significant growth in oil production to help meet continued and growing consumer demand.

Oil sands development brings with it tremendous benefits to the people of Alberta and Canada. Royalties, tax revenue, jobs and investment translate into valuable government services and wealth for our citizens. For example, forecasts show the oil sands industry will provide 450,000 jobs across Canada annually for the next quarter century (Canadian Energy Research Institute).

### CHALLENGES

The size and nature of the oil sands does present significant challenges. At first, the challenge was how to extract the resource – both technically and economically. As the industry has matured, the challenge has become focused on making operations more efficient and more environmentally sustainable.

Government and industry are taking action to overcome the challenges. Alberta's oil sands industry continues to operate under some of the most stringent regulations and standards in the world that hold industry accountable for environmental performance at all times.

### CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Regulation alone will not get us to where we want to be. We must continue to develop new technology, innovate and commit to constant improvement. We know there remains a lot of work ahead of us. For example, some of the challenges facing oil sands development are to find new and better ways to:

- > more quickly reclaim land once a site is no longer active;
- > further reduce the volume of fresh water used, while increasing the share of recycled and non-potable water;
- > decrease the size of tailings ponds, while furthering new processes that will eliminate the need for large-scale ponds; and
- > increase energy efficiency and lower greenhouse gas emissions per barrel of production.

Government, industry and academic and research centres are committed to working through these challenges. The oil sands has always been about innovation and the innovation will continue even though some solutions will not be developed overnight. The past two decades show remarkable gains in production efficiency, with fewer emissions, less energy, and less water needed to produce a barrel of oil sands-derived crude. This trend will continue.

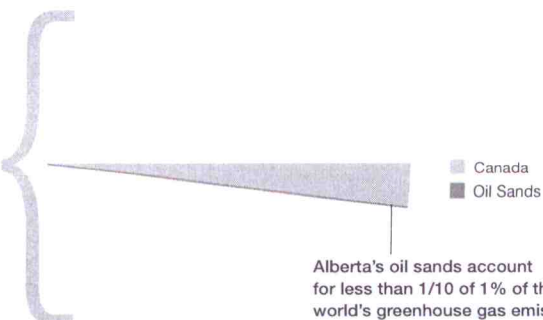
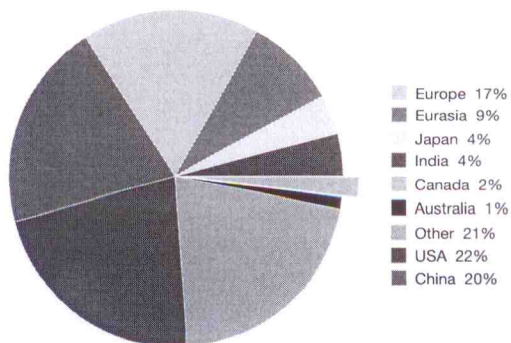
To learn more about oil sands development, as well as the actions being taken to ensure their responsible development, read Alberta's oil sands fact sheets.

## economic impact

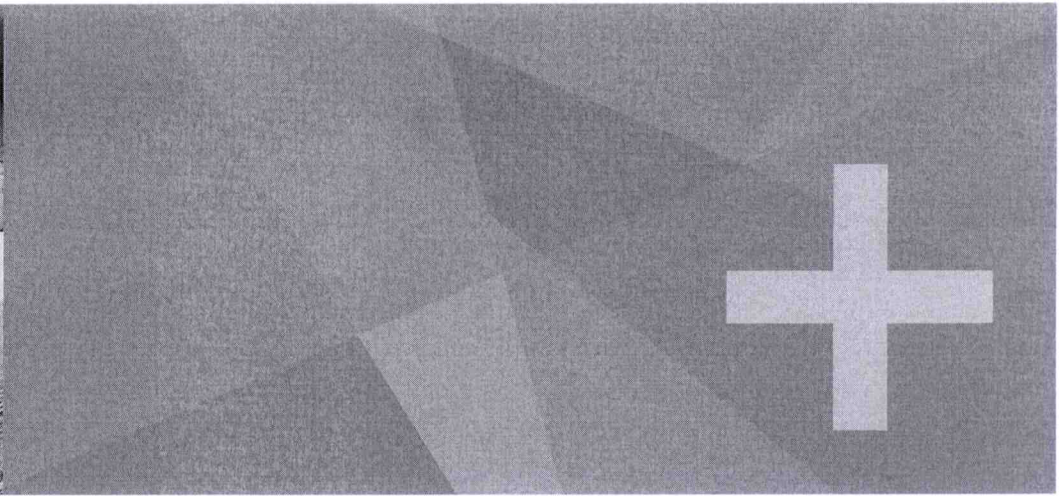
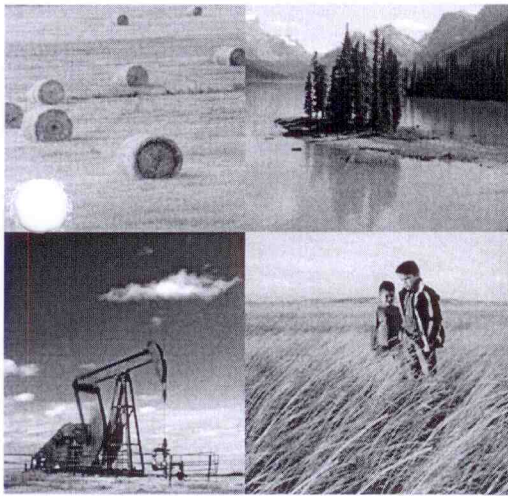
EVERY DOLLAR INVESTED IN THE OIL SANDS CREATES ABOUT \$9 WORTH OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY WITH ONE-THIRD GENERATED OUTSIDE ALBERTA – IN CANADA, THE U.S. AND AROUND THE WORLD.

OIL SANDS DEVELOPMENT IS EXPECTED TO GENERATE MORE THAN \$307 BILLION IN TAX REVENUE ACROSS CANADA OVER THE NEXT 25 YEARS.

Global Sources of Emissions







## the end game

Clean energy is one of the biggest challenges of our time. Overcoming the obstacles will require efforts from all of us around the world. We'll have to change the way we think about and use energy, alter our consumption patterns, and consider our responsibilities in a global context.

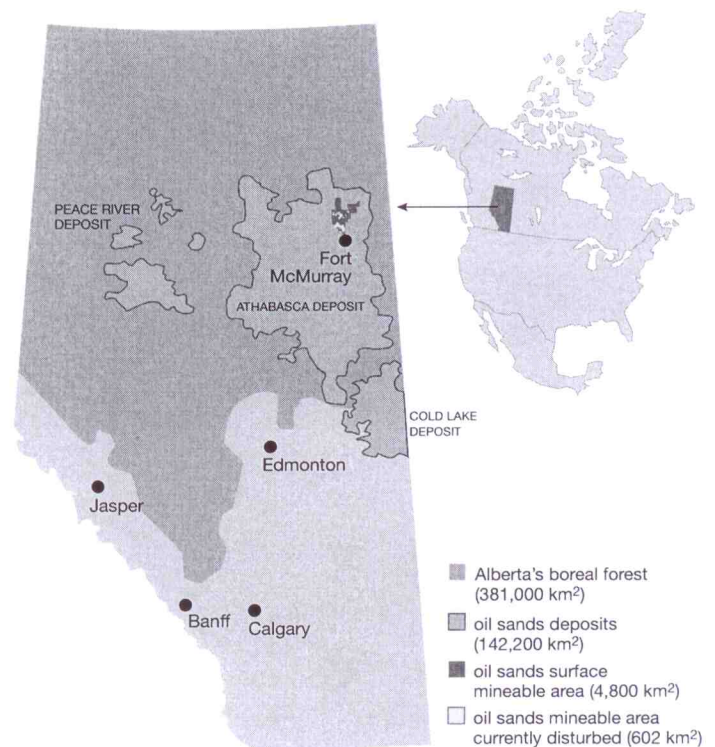
Alberta believes we will get there by establishing realistic targets and regulations today, and investing in clean energy technology for tomorrow.

## alberta's goal

TO BE A RESPONSIBLE WORLD-CLASS ENERGY SUPPLIER; AN ENERGY TECHNOLOGY CHAMPION; A SOPHISTICATED ENERGY CONSUMER; AND A SOLID GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CITIZEN.

## alberta facts

- > Population: 3.69 million
- > GDP: \$291.7 billion
- > Key industries: energy, agriculture, forestry, manufacturing, information and communication technologies, tourism
- > Proven oil reserves: 172 billion barrels (2<sup>nd</sup> globally)
- > Oil production: 1.8 million barrels/day
- > Natural gas production: 5 trillion cubic feet/year
- > Energy exports value: \$46 billion per year
- > Greenhouse gas emissions: 244 Mt
- > Oil sands emissions: 37.2 Mt – 15% of Alberta, 5% of Canada, < 0.1% of world
- > Taxes: lowest overall regime in Canada

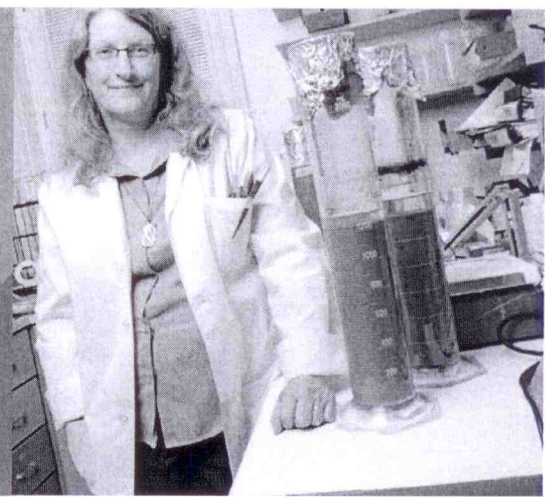


This map shows that, while the oil sands underlie a 142,200 km<sup>2</sup> area in north and eastern Alberta, the surface mining area is limited to a 4,800 km<sup>2</sup> region directly north of Fort McMurray – 602 km<sup>2</sup> of which has been disturbed by oil sands operations.

In situ oil sands operations – where bitumen is separated from the sand underground and pumped to the surface – are situated throughout the three deposits, and account for about 80 per cent of the accessible resource.



# Research and Technology



## our challenge

Transitioning to a clean energy future takes time, significant financial investment and a shared commitment between government, industry and Albertans. It requires us to think beyond traditional methods and attitudes and accept that changes are necessary if Alberta is to remain a reliable, global energy provider.

## our actions \*

Alberta is focusing expertise and money to find green and clean energy solutions through technology and research.

## success in innovation

- > The Alberta government, post-secondary institutions, industry and funding organizations are committed to working cooperatively to reduce the environmental impacts of energy development.
- > *Alberta Innovates* is the province's strategic hub for research and technology innovation.
  - It coordinates the efforts of agencies such as Alberta Innovates – Energy and Environmental Solutions, Alberta Innovates – Technology Futures, the province's post-secondary institutions that make up Campus Alberta and international collaborations.
  - All non-proprietary knowledge is shared to help speed up clean energy technology development worldwide.

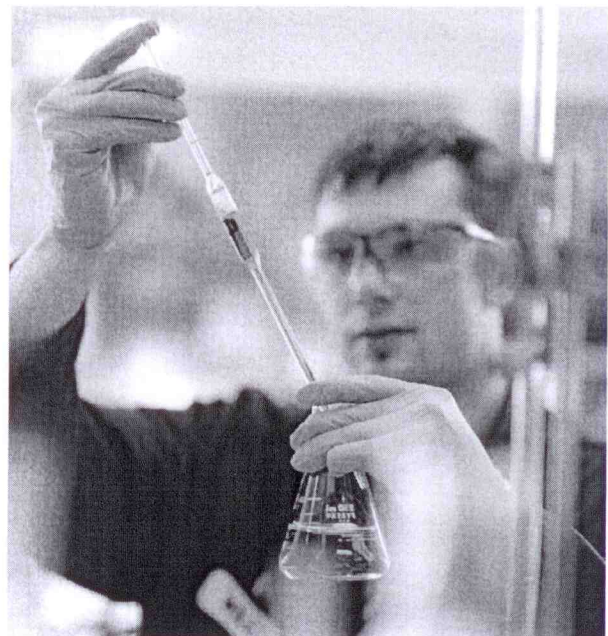


Photo courtesy of Syncrude Canada Ltd.

THE GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA WORKS WITH INDUSTRY AND ACADEMIC RESEARCH PARTNERS TO FUND INNOVATIVE CLEAN ENERGY SOLUTIONS.



## renewable energy

- > Alberta is pursuing renewable energy with its Bio Energy Plan. This \$150-million investment by the province has the potential to leverage up to \$2 billion in additional private investment.
- > Other renewable energy initiatives include:
  - Development of wind power – currently, Alberta is one of the leading provinces in Canada in this area, along with Ontario and Quebec
  - Integration of alternative energy sources such as geothermal energy to replace reliance on natural gas
  - Waste-to-energy and residue gasification initiatives
  - 100 per cent of the electricity used by provincial government buildings is purchased from renewable sources, mainly wind and biomass

## clean energy technology

- > More than \$187 million has been collected for a clean energy technology fund, which will be invested to find better ways to cleanly develop resources.
  - Funds are administered through the Climate Change and Emissions Management Corporation and awarded to projects within the province.
- > Alberta has allocated \$32 million to support clean energy research being driven by the University of Alberta, including a \$25-million research partnership between the University and the Helmholtz Association of German Research Centres with an emphasis on the oil sands.
- > The Alberta government is investing \$25 million into Carbon Management Canada, a national, university-led research network housed at the University of Calgary that is developing insights, technologies and policies to reduce emissions in Canada's fossil fuel energy sector.

## carbon capture and storage

- > The Alberta government has also committed \$2 billion to reduce GHG emissions in the energy sector through carbon capture and storage – a process that captures carbon dioxide emissions, transports and stores them in geological formations deep inside the earth.
- > Alberta is finalizing grant agreements for four key projects that will:
  - green electricity production at Alberta's coal-fired plants
  - produce clean energy with in situ coal gasification
  - reduce emissions at the upgrading stage for our oil sands supply
  - create a pipeline system to transport carbon dioxide

## oil sands research and partnerships

- > Research at the Centre for Oil Sands Innovation at the University of Alberta and the Alberta Ingenuity Centre for In Situ Energy at the University of Calgary focuses on less energy-intensive upgrading practices of oil sands resources.
- > New recovery technologies are funded through the Innovative Energy Technology Program, a \$200-million Alberta government royalty credit.
- > At the National Institute for Nanotechnology at the University of Alberta, nanotechnology is being used to explore and develop innovations that will accelerate improvements in the environmental performance of the energy sector.
- > The Government of Alberta is working with industry and researchers to develop new tailings performance criteria, management technologies and practical solutions to reduce and potentially eliminate tailings ponds as we know them today.
- > Research into improved in situ thermal extraction techniques will reduce – or eliminate – industry's reliance on fresh water, reduce energy consumption and lower greenhouse gas emissions.



HOME-GROWN ALBERTA TECHNOLOGY, SUCH AS WHAT IS USED IN STEAM-ASSISTED GRAVITY DRAINAGE (SAG-D), HAS HELPED THE OIL SANDS INDUSTRY ACCESS HARD-TO-REACH BITUMEN WITH LESS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT.

# Climate Change



## our challenge

Climate change is fundamentally an energy issue. Alberta is supplying energy to meet growing global demand for such things as fuel for transportation and to spur economic growth around the world. Achieving greenhouse gas emission reductions requires a prudent and unique set of actions.

## our actions \*

Alberta is regulating emissions from large industrial emitters and investing heavily in clean energy technology to reduce emissions at the source. Our actions allow Alberta to move in-step with emerging North American climate policies.

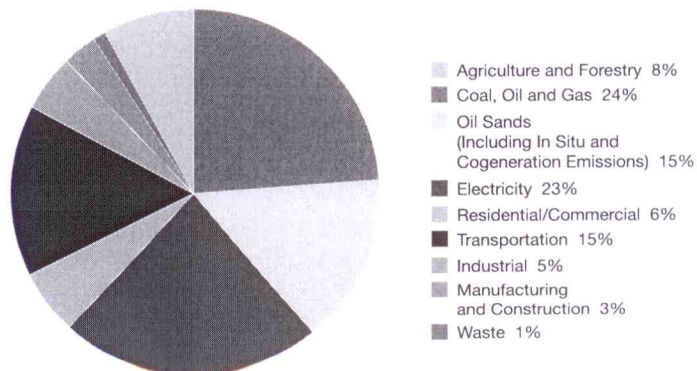
## regulating GHG emissions

- > Alberta regulates mandatory emission reductions from all large industrial emitters. These regulations include a price on carbon, a technology fund and a regulated offset market.
- > Alberta is the only jurisdiction in North America with mandatory reduction regulations for large emitters (>100,000 tonnes of per year) across all sectors.

## alberta's GHG emissions

- > Alberta produces about 1/3 of Canada's greenhouse gas emissions. The majority of emissions come from coal-fired electricity and oil and gas development.
- > The oil sands account for about 15 per cent of Alberta's emissions, which is equal to about 5 per cent of national emissions and less than 0.1 per cent of global emissions.
- > Alberta's increasing emissions reflect that the province's population has grown 45 per cent since 1990, the highest rate of growth in Canada.

2008 Alberta Greenhouse Gas Emissions (244 Mt Total)





## investing in clean energy technology

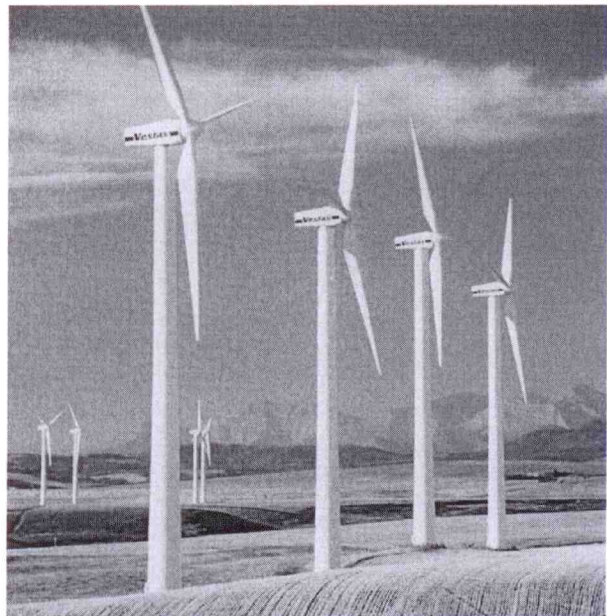
- > Alberta is investing in clean energy technology to green energy production, promote biofuels, and change the way we produce and use energy.
- > We are focused on high-potential technologies that will reduce emissions at the source and for the long term.
- > As part of Alberta's emissions reduction strategy, the Climate Change and Emissions Management Fund helps companies comply with the regulations. Since July 1, 2007, the fund has accumulated more than \$187 million that will be invested back into Alberta to develop new clean energy technologies and explore practical ways of implementing them.
- > The Alberta government is investing \$25 million into Carbon Management Canada, a national, university-led research network housed at the University of Calgary that is developing insights, technologies and policies to reduce emissions in Canada's fossil fuel energy sector.

## carbon capture and storage

- > Alberta's \$2-billion investment in carbon capture and storage will result in a collection of projects, pipelines, storage and financing that is unique in the world.
- > Carbon capture and storage in Alberta will reduce emissions by 5 million tonnes annually beginning in 2015.
- > Alberta is finalizing grant agreements with four key projects that will:
  - Green oil sands supply at the upgrading stage (Quest Project and Alberta Carbon Trunk Line)
  - Green electricity production at Alberta coal-fired electricity plants (Project Pioneer)
  - Create a pipeline system to transport CO<sub>2</sub> (Alberta Carbon Trunk Line)
  - Produce clean energy with in situ coal gasification (Swan Hills Synfuels Project)

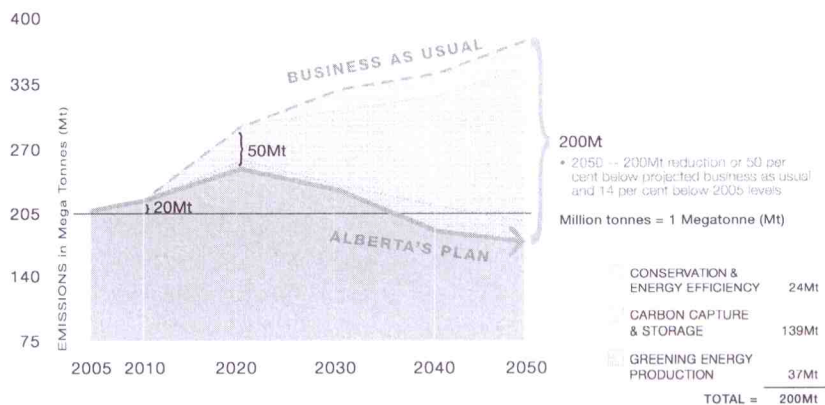
## climate change action

- > 17 million tonnes of reductions since July 1, 2007
- > \$187 million into a clean energy technology fund
- > \$2 billion for carbon capture and storage
- > \$15 per tonne carbon price
- > Almost eight million tonnes worth of emissions have been purchased on a regulated offset market
- > \$36-million energy efficiency consumer rebate program
- > Five per cent renewable fuel standard for gasoline and two per cent for diesel



ALBERTA IS ONE OF CANADA'S LEADING PRODUCERS OF WIND POWER.

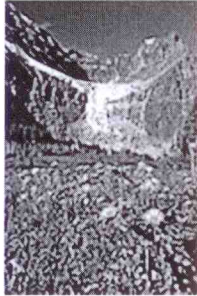
## alberta's emissions target





## Alberta's Climate and Geography

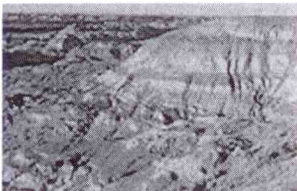
The sun shines throughout our cold winters and warm summers, illuminating the mountains in the west, and the plains in the north, centre and south.



### Alberta Rocky Mountains

The Rocky Mountains are perhaps Alberta's most recognizable geographic feature. Their rugged and spectacular scenery attract visitors from all over the world. Much of Alberta's oil and gas are found beneath the foothills that lie along the base of the Rockies.

The rest of the province is housed on a great plain, or prairie, which Alberta shares with Saskatchewan on the east, and with the state of Montana to the south. The plains are not totally flat. Their surface has been gouged and twisted by the action of massive glaciers that once covered the province. What is now Alberta lay buried under some 2,000 metres of ice only 8,000 or 10,000 years ago. The southern plain, which was once covered in tall grass, is today a checkerboard of farms.



### Alberta Badlands

The badlands are a unique area in southeastern Alberta. They are very dry and have little vegetation. Streams and rain have eroded the soft rocks, leaving bluffs, gullies, and multicoloured layers of stone. The Red Deer River has cut a deep, wide valley through the badlands, exposing the fossils of plants and animals that lived in Alberta millions of years ago, including the famous dinosaurs.

Northern Alberta is home to Wood Buffalo National Park, Canada's largest national park, and a UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) World Heritage site. Wood Buffalo National Park has the world's largest free-roaming bison herd, and the last natural nesting site for the whooping crane.



- [Alberta Wildlife Viewing Guide](#)  
Find out about Alberta's flora and fauna.
- [Alberta's Species at Risk](#)  
Learn about threatened wildlife in Alberta.
- [Alberta's Watchable Wildlife](#)  
Discover what animals you can watch.
- [Alberta Sustainable Resource Development Fish and Wildlife Site](#)  
Learn more about Alberta's animals and fish.

Alberta's cool winter climate is a result of its northern location, which exposes residents to cold arctic air masses from the north. In contrast, summers are usually warm. Regardless of the season, Alberta's skies are often sunny.

The Rocky Mountains cast a "rain shadow" over much of Alberta. As the moist air from the Pacific Ocean rises to pass over the mountains on its way to Alberta, it is cooled, and rain or snow fall on the Pacific side of the mountains. As the air descends on Alberta, it gains heat and produces warm, dry winds.

Alberta is famous for its chinook winds, which sweep into southern Alberta several times each winter. This dry, warm wind can rapidly lift the province out of a deep freeze. During one chinook, which reached Pincher Creek on January 1962, temperatures soared from -19°C to +22°C in one hour. Source: Phillips, D. 1990. *The Climate of Canada*. Catalogue No. En56-1/1990E. Ottawa: Minister of Supply and Services of Canada.

**Related Alberta Government Ministries:**

[Alberta Environment](#)

[Alberta Sustainable Resource Development](#)



## Alberta's History

Four districts of the Northwest Territories formed the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan in 1905: Athabasca, Assiniboia, Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Alberta was named after Princess Louise Caroline Alberta, fourth daughter of Queen Victoria. It was proclaimed a Province on September 1, 1905.

Albertans celebrated their centennial in 2005. Part of the celebrations included a Royal Visit by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh.

### **First Nations**



First nations beside a teepee

The First Nations settled the plains about 8,000 years ago. They sustained themselves by hunting the buffalo. Evidence of their activities can still be seen at Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump, which is now a World Heritage Site in southern Alberta. Later, these people — who included the Blackfoot, Blood, and Peigan — tamed horses and hunted buffalo with rifles they obtained from European explorers.

Another group of First Nations, who included the Woodland Cree and Chipewyan tribes, settled the woodland areas of central Alberta. These people hunted caribou, moose and fished the lakes and rivers. They used bark canoes to travel up and down streams in the area.

During the 19th Century, European fur traders married Native women. The result was the creation of a new people unique to Canada's plains. The children of these marriages are called Métis (meaning "mixed"), and they followed a different way of life that was similar to that of the First Nations' lives.

### **Fur Trade**

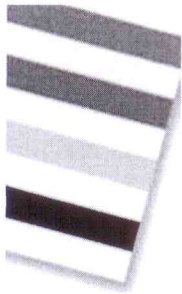
The first European to reach Alberta was the fur trader Anthony Henday, who explored the vicinity of present-day Red Deer and Edmonton in 1754-55. He spent the winter with a group of Blackfoot, with whom he traded and went buffalo hunting.



The fur trade changed the lives of the First Nations. Their somewhat nomadic lifestyle became focused on gathering, transporting and trading furs with European explorers and settlers. In return for their furs, they received guns, blankets and metal goods.

The trade also led to greater knowledge of the geography of Alberta, especially through the work of David Thompson. In the 1790s and early 1800s, Thompson drew the first good maps of the Alberta region as he explored and surveyed for the North-West Company (NWC).

### **The Missionaries**

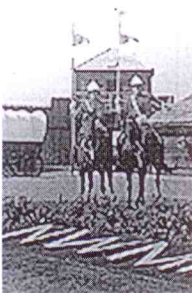


Bay blanket stripes

In 1821, the NWC merged with the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC), and the HBC took control of the fur trade across the whole Northwest. The company tried to keep settlers out of the area, but it allowed missionaries to move in. Alberta's first missionary was Robert Rundle, a Methodist, who arrived at Fort Edmonton in 1840.

The first Roman Catholic missionary was Jean-Baptiste Thibault, who arrived at Lac Sainte Anne in 1842. Some of Alberta's future towns were built at mission sites. For example, Father Albert Lacombe's mission, which is now a historical site, became the city of St. Albert.

### **Law and Order**

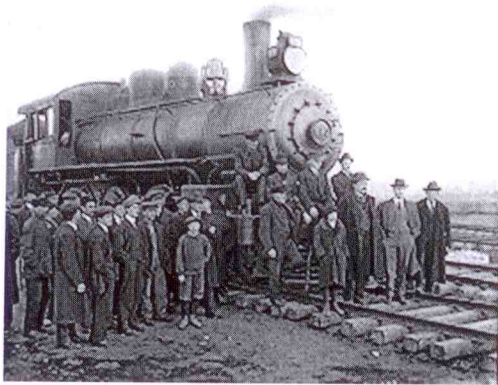




Two RCMP officers  
on horses

In 1870, the Hudson's Bay Company turned over control of the entire Northwest to Canada. In 1872, the region was opened for settlement. To support its claim to the Northwest and to keep law and order in the region, the Canadian government formed the North-West Mounted Police in 1873.

The Mounties established their first post in Alberta in 1874 at Fort Macleod. One of their first tasks was to control the whisky trade. ([Royal Canadian Mounted Police website](#)).

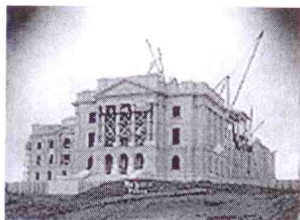


People standing beside a train

A major event in Alberta history was the arrival of the railway in 1883. The railway made the Canadian settlement of the West possible. In 1881 there were about 1,000 non-Native settlers in Alberta. Ten years later that number had grown to 17,500.

The most successful early settlers were the ranchers, who found Alberta's foothills to be ideal ranching country. Most of Alberta's ranchers were English settlers, but the cowboys — such as John Ware, who in 1876 brought the first cattle into the province — were American.

Farming the prairie proved more difficult. Most newcomers preferred to settle in the United States West, but by the 1890s, most of the American land was taken. In 1897, Canada's minister of the interior, Clifford Sifton, began a massive advertising campaign in Europe to encourage people to come to the Canadian West.

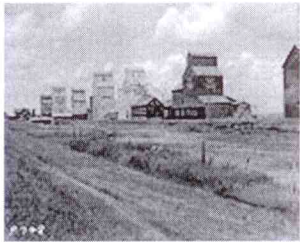


## Construction of the Legislature building

Alberta was proclaimed a province in 1905 and Edmonton became the capital city.

While most of the early settlers came from Ontario, Britain or the United States, many of the people who came as a result of Sifton's campaign were of German, Ukrainian, and Romanian descent, giving Alberta the diverse population that it has today. The result of Sifton's campaign was spectacular. Alberta's population grew to 73,000 in 1901; to 374,000 in 1911; and to 584,000 in 1921!

## Conflict and Setbacks



Grain elevators

When Alberta became a province in 1905, it was not given control of its own resources — creating a dispute with the federal government. Alberta was given control 25 years later.

Alberta suffered severely during the Great Depression of the early 1930s. Droughts, grasshopper plagues, and soil erosion drove many farmers from their land. Even harder to bear was the falling price of wheat. Many farmers went bankrupt and lost their land altogether.

## Oil and Gas



Pump jack and hay  
bales in an Alberta field



Alberta's destiny was changed forever in 1947, when a major oil discovery was made at Leduc, near Edmonton. As more and more oil and gas discoveries were made, a share of the oil money flowed to the provincial government.

Jobs were created in the petrochemical industry, as well as in construction, surveying, and transportation. Edmonton and Calgary emerged as prosperous cities of business and finance, surpassing their rural neighbours.

After World War II, immigrants continued to come to Alberta from different parts of the world, including Asia and the Caribbean.

### **Alberta Today**

While Alberta's economy has continued to expand in many areas, oil still plays a large role in its prosperity. When the price of oil is high, Alberta prospers. When it drops, as it did in the mid-1980s, times may be difficult. In the 1990s, improved oil prices and the growth of new industries helped make Alberta's economy one of the strongest in Canada.

Alberta is now a vibrant, prosperous province, with a high quality of life. Alberta has been host to many world-class events, international sporting competitions, and unique festivals such as the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary and the Big Valley Jamboree.

### **Related Alberta Government Ministries:**

[Alberta Energy](#)

[Alberta Sustainable Resource Development](#)

## Alberta's People

As of July 1, 2009, Statistics Canada estimates Alberta's population to be 3,687,700. This represents a yearly increase of approximately 2.6% for the twelve months ending July 1, 2009.

The main language spoken is English, although many other languages are spoken because of Alberta's multinational population.

Alberta's population is highly-skilled. Most people live in urban centres. Albertans, in general, are described as being strongly independent and entrepreneurial.

### **Architecture**

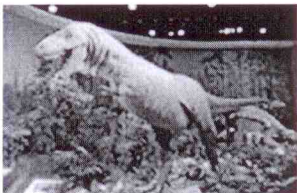


Edmonton's City Hall is an example of modern architecture

Since many settlers didn't make it out west to Alberta until the late 1800s or early 1900s, the architectural style of many buildings in Alberta is relatively new. Over the past decade, Alberta's economy has been very strong. As a result, many new buildings are going up to accommodate the influx of people.

- [Legislature Building facts](#)
- [Alberta's Government House](#)
- [Alberta museums and historic sites](#)

### **Archeology and Paleontology**



Albertosaurus



Alberta is a land with a rich record of the past going back hundreds of millions of years. There is even a dinosaur named after the province — the Albertosaurus!

- [Royal Tyrrell Museum](#) 🦕
- [Dinosaur Provincial Park](#)
- [Writing-On-Stone Provincial Park](#)

## **Culture**



### **Writing-On-Stone**

Alberta's population is made up of many ethnic backgrounds. Newcomers are encouraged to keep their traditions when they move here. Albertans are fortunate to be exposed to so many different foods, dances and cultures, as part of everyday life.

The province celebrates multiculturalism by celebrating the first Monday in August as Heritage Day, a statutory holiday.

## **Environment**

Albertans treasure their outdoors. Whether it's taking a stroll through a river valley, hiking through the mountains, exploring the wind-shaped hoodoos, cross-country skiing through a field, or camping in the forest under the stars — Albertans have many places to enjoy.



### **Hoodoos**

Alberta has created the first provincial electronic recycling program in Canada. In addition, Alberta's tire recycling program is increasingly recognized as one of the best

recycling programs in Canada and around the world. Alberta's air quality was rated as "good" 98% of the time with no "poor" days.

Albertans also enjoy the most days of sunshine in Canada.

- [Alberta Recycling Management Authority](#) 🌐

## Film

Alberta's natural beauty, low tax regime and skilled labour has made it an attractive location for several Hollywood movies. Some examples of movies filmed in Alberta include, *September Dawn*, *The Assassination of Jesse James*, *Doctor Zhivago*, *Legends of the Fall*, *Passchendaele*, *Brokeback Mountain*, *Shanghai Noon*, and *The Edge*.

Local-based film productions are also an important part of Alberta's cultural community.

- [Alberta Film](#)

## Research and Development

Alberta is a centre for research and development, particularly in the medical field, with examples such as:

- [The National Institute of Nanotechnology](#) 🌐
- Alberta centers of excellence, such as the [Mazankowski Alberta Heart Institute](#) 🌐 and the [Alberta Bone and Joint Institute](#) 🌐

Alberta routinely attracts top researchers and health specialists from across the country.

## Sports

### Did you know?



Between 1915 and 1940, the Edmonton Grads, a team of female basketball players, played 522 games, against men's and women's teams from across Canada and throughout the United States and Europe. Of those 522 games, the Grads won 502: including Western Canadian and Canadian championships and Olympic exhibition games.



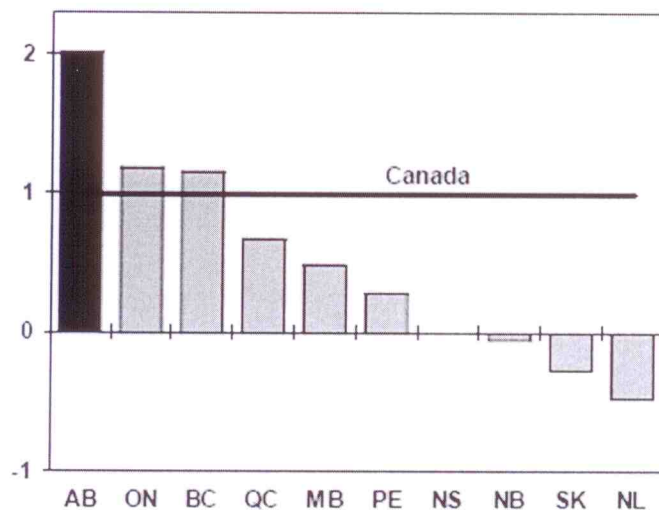
Alberta is home to two National Hockey League teams (the Edmonton Oilers and the Calgary Flames) and two Canadian Football League teams (the Edmonton Eskimos and the Calgary Stampeders).

Alberta has hosted many international sporting events such as the Commonwealth Games in 1978, the Universiade Games in 1983, the Winter Olympics in 1988, the World Games in Track and Field in 2001, the World Masters Games in 2005 and the Grand Prix in 2005.

## Population

### POPULATION

2002-2006 Average Annual Growth (per cent)\*

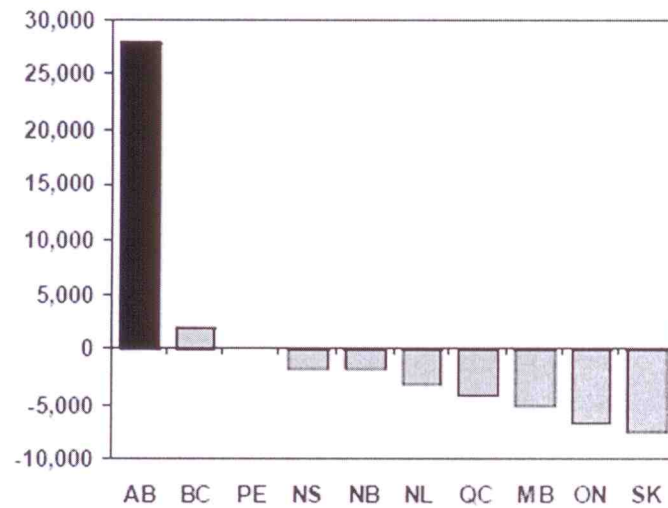


\* Annual population based on 3rd quarter (July 1) estimates.  
Source: Statistics Canada

- Over the past five years, Alberta's population has grown the fastest among the provinces.
- In 2006, Alberta's population growth of 3.0% also led the provinces.

## NET INTERPROVINCIAL MIGRATION

2002-2006 Annual Average (net number of interprovincial migrants)\*



\* July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2006.  
Source: Statistics Canada

- Alberta had the highest number of interprovincial migrants in Canada over the past five years.
- From July 2005 to June 2006, a net of 57,105 migrants came to Alberta from other provinces. The only other province to experience positive net interprovincial migration during this time was British Columbia, at 3,779.

Demographic information — quarterly demographic statistics including population growth, births, deaths, international migrants and interprovincial migrants



## **Alberta Tourism**

Tourism is one of the province's largest industries, employing 109,000 Albertans and generating more than \$5 billion in revenue annually.

Alberta is home to five of Canada's 14 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including Dinosaur Provincial Park, which protects one of the world's largest dinosaur deposits. More than 12 per cent of Alberta's land base, approximately 82,000 square kilometres (31,660 square miles), is protected in five national parks, four national wildlife areas, and 500 provincial parks and protected areas.

Alberta's towns have many unique attractions to offer as well, such as the largest pysanka (Easter egg) in the world in Vegreville and the Starship Enterprise Replica in Vulcan.

### **Attractions**

Places to Go 

Museums and Archives 

Provincial, National Parks and Natural Wonders

UNESCO World Heritage sites

Travel and Tourism links

Travel Alberta

Canada.Travel 