



Alberta Environment Business Plan 06-09

vision

Alberta's environment sustains a high quality of life.

mission

Steward and protect Alberta's environment to sustain diverse ecosystems, healthy Albertans, strong communities and a prosperous economy.

valued behaviors

Respect, Knowledge, Continuous Learning, Shared Responsibility, Integrity and Leadership

core businesses

- Core Business 1 – Assuring Environmental Quality
- Core Business 2 – Sharing Environmental Management and Stewardship

goals

GOAL 1

- Alberta's environment is clean and safe

GOAL 2

- Albertans receive effective and efficient services

GOAL 3

- Albertans work with others to safeguard the environment

goal 1

Alberta's environment is clean and safe

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- > Drinking Water Safety Indicator
- > River Water Quality Index
- > Air Quality Index
- > Effective Water Management Infrastructure
- > Community Flood Risk Mapping

strategic priority

WATER

Albertans have a safe and sustainable supply of water

Strategies

- > Work with other ministries, governments and stakeholders to implement *Water for Life: Alberta's Strategy For Sustainability*, including:
 - Developing and implementing a comprehensive, phased long-term strategy to protect Albertans' drinking water;
 - Using a place-based approach, establish water management objectives and priorities in watershed plans to sustain healthy aquatic ecosystems and support sustainable economic development; and
 - Supporting best management practices in all sectors to improve the efficiency and productivity of water use.
- > Support Alberta's water infrastructure sustainability by:
 - Operating and maintaining provincially-owned water infrastructure;
 - Developing and implementing a management and reporting system (Environment Infrastructure Management System); and
 - Working with municipalities and other ministries to respond to needs for infrastructure improvements.
- > Review current policy and regulations for coalbed methane development, and respond to recommendations from the Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Committee pertaining to water management.
- > Effectively manage the impact of droughts, floods and major spills in coordination with Emergency Management Alberta.

strategic priority

CLIMATE CHANGE

Alberta takes effective action on climate change

Strategy

- > Make Alberta a leader in energy efficiency improvements, carbon management strategies and adapting to climate change and variability.

Air

Strategy

- > Enhance Alberta's comprehensive air management system by updating policies to maintain and improve Alberta's air quality.

strategic priority

SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Alberta has outcome-based environmental management systems, integrated resource and environmental policies, and streamlined regulatory processes

Strategies

- > Work with other ministries and stakeholders to further develop shared environmental outcomes, and integrate cross-ministry policies and information systems, including:
 - Delivering solutions in accordance with the Government of Alberta's Integrated Information Systems and the Information Management Framework to address the priority information needs of the Ministry, stakeholders and clients;
 - Recommending an integrated framework and improved delivery system for upstream oil and gas development, which improves clarity, efficiency, certainty, and accountability for industry and government, and is open and transparent to the public; and
 - Working with the Departments of Energy and Sustainable Resource Development in the consultation and development of strategies for oil sands development and environmental management for the benefits of current and future generations; and
 - Commencing the Southern Alberta Sustainability Strategy. The outcomes of this project will be the definition of desired regional environmental outcomes for southern Alberta landscapes, achieved through consensus of a multi-stakeholder partnership.

strategic priority

USING AND RESPECTING THE LAND

Alberta has an effective provincial land use framework

Strategies

- > Contribute to the development and implementation of an effective government-wide provincial land use strategy.
- > Demonstrate leadership in resource conservation, resource recovery and waste reduction.
- > Resolve contamination and liability issues through flexible tools and incentives promoting the restoration of contaminated sites to productive use, in response to the recommendations of the Contaminated Sites Stakeholder Advisory Committee.

strategic priority

STAFF CAPABILITY

Albertans receive exceptional leadership and service from Ministry of Environment staff to assure effective environmental management

Strategies

- > Update the primary business streams and identify skills required to support Sustainable Resource and Environmental Management.
- > Enhance leadership capacity, knowledge and skills for staff at all levels, to support continuous improvement in environmental performance.



goal 2

Albertans receive effective and efficient services

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- > Stakeholder Satisfaction

strategic priority

WATER

Albertans have a safe and sustainable supply of water

Strategies

- > Implement and enable delivery of a broad range of water management tools and techniques.
- > Continue to improve the resources available to communities for flood risk avoidance and warning.

strategic priority

SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Alberta has outcome-based environmental management systems, integrated resource and environmental policies, and streamlined regulatory processes

Strategies

- > Develop and use regulatory and non-regulatory tools and incentives to encourage, support and reward good environmental performance.
- > Develop and implement a Third Party Contracting Program to support and assist the Ministry's efforts to review major projects.
- > Review processes and increase capacity to continuously improve and integrate the regulatory regime, including clarifying approval requirements, and evaluating and streamlining reporting requirements.
- > In response to the recommendations of the Environmental Protection Commission, build Ministry capacity to support all-hazards environmental incident planning and response systems throughout the province, and improve business continuity planning and preparedness, in partnership with Emergency Management Alberta, and other government and stakeholder agencies.

strategic priority

STAFF CAPABILITY

Albertans receive exceptional leadership and service from Ministry of Environment staff to assure effective environmental management

Strategies

- > Target organizational training and development to enhance staff capability to provide effective service.
- > Implement the Ministry's Succession Management Framework and formalize knowledge management practices to ensure continuity of services.





goal 3

Albertans work with others to safeguard the environment

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- > Municipal Solid Waste to Landfills
- > New Renewable and Alternative Energy Generation
- > Beverage Container Return Rate
- > Used Oil Recovery Rate
- > Water Use Efficiency and Productivity Indicator (Under Development)

strategic priority

WATER

Albertans have a safe and sustainable supply of water

Strategies

- > Collaborate with partners to achieve the goals of *Water for Life: Alberta's Strategy for Sustainability*, including:
 - Supporting the work of the Alberta Water Council and the Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils on watershed management issues in the province; and
 - Supporting Watershed Stewardship Groups to improve the condition of local watersheds.
- > Help water-use sectors to develop and implement water conservation and productivity plans to meet Alberta's water conservation targets, including:
 - Working with stakeholders to implement recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Water Use Practice and Policy pertaining to the reduction or elimination of freshwater use in oilfield injection activities.
- > Work with other ministries and stakeholders on policy and supporting action plans to achieve sustainable wetlands, including development of a comprehensive drained wetland inventory for the province.

strategic priority

SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Alberta has outcome-based environmental management systems, integrated resource and environmental policies, and streamlined regulatory processes

Strategies

- > Develop and enhance collaboration and partnership with other ministries, governments, Aboriginal and other stakeholders to achieve shared environmental outcomes by:
 - Developing and implementing Alberta Environment's First Nation Consultation Guidelines;
 - Supporting the work of the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME);
 - Continuing to implement the Alberta/British Columbia Harmonization Agreement;
 - Supporting the Rural Development Strategy by working to improve air, land and water management in rural communities; and
 - Encouraging the use of stewardship endowments and trusts to support a high quality environment.
- > Develop fully functioning regional cumulative effects management systems for specific areas of the province, in collaboration with other ministries, governments, Aboriginals and stakeholders.
- > Encourage broader awareness and stewardship of the environment by:
 - Supporting public awareness and education programs; and
 - Providing online access to environmental information.
- > Develop and deliver a provincial conservation plan focusing on the areas of waste, energy conservation, and water. This approach will include:
 - An extensive public education and awareness campaign aimed at motivating, educating and mobilizing all Albertans to reduce waste, conserve our resources and protect our environment; and
 - A road-map outlining Alberta's strategies and actions for improved waste management, now and in the future.

strategic priority

CLIMATE CHANGE

Alberta takes effective action on climate change

Strategy

- > Implement the provincial strategy, *Albertans & Climate Change: Taking Action* by working with stakeholders on innovative and practical long-term solutions to address the risks of climate change, including:
 - Working with other governments in developing bilateral, national and international climate change policies.

Air

Strategies

- > Work towards the completion of airshed zones using a place-based approach.
- > Collaborate through the Clean Air Strategic Alliance to develop plans to maintain and improve Alberta's air quality by:
 - Developing a strategic air quality management plan for confined feeding operations;
 - Increasing the use of renewable and alternate electricity generation; and
 - Assisting in the implementation of the Human Health and Animal Health recommendations.

strategic priority

STAFF CAPABILITY

Albertans receive exceptional leadership and service from Ministry of Environment staff to assure effective environmental management

Strategies

- > Ensure Environment staff members have the knowledge, skills and opportunities to be strategic facilitators and relationship builders.
- > Support the Ministry's vision and valued behaviors through the Workplace Culture Action Plan.

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