

ENVIROVISTA: ALBERTA ENVIRONMENT'S PROGRAM TO RECOGNIZE AND PROMOTE CORPORATE ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP

BACKGROUNDER AND QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

INTRODUCTION

EnviroVista is a voluntary facility-based program to recognize and promote environmental leadership and stewardship by Alberta's most progressive regulated operators. The program will contribute to enhancement of the environment (better air, water and land quality) through excellent emissions performance and continuous improvement from facilities regulated under the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (EPEA). There are two levels of participation: the EnviroVista Leaders level and the EnviroVista Champion level.

At the EnviroVista Leader level, Alberta Environment recognizes facilities that voluntarily meet three restrictive participation criteria. Alberta Environment encourages other facilities to take the actions required to become Leaders.

At the EnviroVista Champion level a participating facility commits to a *Stewardship Agreement* and will receive a *Modified Approval*. Combined, these two documents provide for a greater level of environmental enhancement and protection than is possible with a regulatory approval alone. As well, the documents provide the operational, regulatory and administrative flexibility that facilities need to pursue their enhanced environmental objectives.

BACKGROUND

Alberta has a long history of environmental protection and pollution control. This has been achieved largely through Alberta Environment issuing prescriptive regulatory instruments particularly EPEA approvals.

Alberta Environment and the operators of regulated facilities have come to appreciate the contribution of voluntary environmental stewardship to sustainable development. Many regulated facilities have demonstrated their commitment to voluntary stewardship through years of beyond compliance environmental performance and through proactive environmental management.

For these environmental leaders, Alberta Environment has developed the EnviroVista Program as an outcome focused approach to improving environmental performance.

Alberta Environment invites its best performing facilities to apply to participate in the Program. Please call Alberta Environment at (780) 644-4950, or email EnviroVista@gov.ab.ca



ENVIROVISTA: ALBERTA ENVIRONMENT'S PROGRAM TO RECOGNIZE AND PROMOTE CORPORATE ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP

THE ENVIROVISTA PROGRAM

Who can participate? EnviroVista is open to facilities holding a valid, current EPEA approval with specific emission limits. To qualify a facility must meet the EnviroVista Leader Participation Criteria as laid out in the document: "[EnviroVista: Alberta Environment's Program to Recognize and Promote Corporate Environmental EnviroVista Leaders Guide, June 2005](#)"

Why Participate? Alberta Environment offers specific benefits to EnviroVista Leader participants.

- Alberta Environment will feature the EnviroVista Leader facility name, company name and company logo on special Internet web pages and will provide links from the Alberta Environment site to the facility or corporate web site.
- Alberta Environment will feature EnviroVista Leader companies in appropriate printed material published by the department and in presentations by the senior executives (EnviroVista related material, Special Week brochures, Department reports, etc.).
- Participating facilities will be issued a certificate and will have the right to use the EnviroVista Program logo on their printed and electronic materials, signs and on other products.
- EnviroVista Leader participants will have a say in the design of any future refinements to the Program.
- EnviroVista Leader participants will have the option to remain in the Program for as long as the facility continues to meet the Participation Criteria; there are no sanctions for voluntarily withdrawing from the Program while still meeting the Participation Criteria
- EnviroVista Leader participants are eligible to keep the Certificate of Recognition and any annual renewals, whether or not the facility remains in the Program

How does it work? The application process is open year-round with program advertising and recognition occurring in June and October of each year. Interested facilities can find all application information and the application form on the EnviroVista web site at: <http://www3.gov.ab.ca/env/protenf/approvals/factsheets/enviroVista.html>. All renewals will occur in June of each year regardless of the date a facility first entered the program. The Renewal form and instructions are available on the EnviroVista web site at: <http://www3.gov.ab.ca/env/protenf/approvals/factsheets/doc/ApprenewalForm.doc>. Alberta Environment will announce new and renewed EnviroVista Leaders in June during Environment Week and in October during Waste Reduction Week.



ENVIROVISTA: ALBERTA ENVIRONMENT'S PROGRAM TO RECOGNIZE AND PROMOTE CORPORATE ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP

- **New Applicants**

Management of a facility not already participating as an EnviroVista Leader will decide if the facility is to apply for the Program. Participation in EnviroVista is entirely voluntary, should management at a facility decide not to participate, no further action is necessary. If the decision is to apply for the Program, the senior manager of the facility completes the application certifying that the facility meets the Participation Criteria, and submits the form to Alberta Environment. Alberta Environment will confirm that the information on the [application form](#) meets the Participation Criteria. If all requirements are met, Alberta Environment will issue a Certificate and provide the facility with the other benefits of participation.

- **Existing Participants**

Management of a facility already participating as an EnviroVista Leader will decide if the facility is to continue to participate in the Program. Participation in EnviroVista is entirely voluntary, should management at a facility decide not to continue to participate, no further action is necessary. If the decision is to continue participation, the senior manager of the facility completes the renewal form in June of each qualifying year, certifying that the facility continues to meet the Participation Criteria and submits the form to Alberta Environment. Alberta Environment will confirm that the information on the re-application form meets the Participation Criteria and will issue a renewal of the Certificate and provide the facility with the other benefits of participation available to an EnviroVista Leader.

What are the entry criteria? To be eligible for acceptance into the Program, facilities must have:

1. *An Environmental Management System (EMS) in place¹. Robust EMSs provide the right conditions for excellent performance and continuous improvement. A properly designed and implemented EMS helps organizations achieve and maintain compliance and improve their environmental performance in both regulated and non-regulated areas.*
 - a. *Applicants should use the ten elements identified below to confirm their EMS is robust. Please see "[Elements of a 'Robust' EMS](#)".*
 - b. *Third party audited or internally audited, with results made available to the public upon request.*
2. *Sound emissions performance illustrated through greater than 99.5% compliance with each approval limit for hourly and daily source air emissions and daily industrial wastewater*

¹ Common EMSs include: ISO 14001- (International Standards Organization), Responsible Care (Canadian Chemical Producers Association), Forest Care (Alberta Forest Products Association), Basic Environmental Program For the Upstream Petroleum Industry (Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers), CSA Z750-94: A Voluntary Environmental Management System (Canadian Standards Association), Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), In - house EMS, and other(s). All will be assessed against this criteria.

ENVIROVISTA: ALBERTA ENVIRONMENT'S PROGRAM TO RECOGNIZE AND PROMOTE CORPORATE ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP

emissions averaged over a five-year period.

3. *A sound record of environmental compliance at the facility including:*
 - a. *Five years² with no EPEA or Water Act prosecutions, Enforcement Orders, Environmental Protection Orders, Administrative Penalties or Warning Letters; and*
 - b. *No outstanding notices of investigations from Alberta Environment under the EPEA or the Water Act.*

Details of the EnviroVista Leaders participation criteria are available in the “EnviroVista: Alberta Environment’s Program to Recognize and Promote Corporate Environmental Leadership” <http://www3.gov.ab.ca/env/protenf/approvals/factsheets/doc/EnviroVistaLeadersGuide.pdf>

Withdrawal from EnviroVista

The entry criteria and the operational requirements of the EnviroVista Program allow entry to only the best operators with excellent performance records and with incident prevention systems in place. However, it is difficult to anticipate and plan for all situations and particularly in large and complex facilities incidents may occur that will result in the department or the company reassessing its participation in the Program.

Can a facility withdraw from EnviroVista? The Program is voluntary; a facility may at any time withdraw from the EnviroVista Leader level.

What are the consequences of voluntary withdrawal from the EnviroVista Program? The program is voluntary; there are no Program specific sanctions for a facility that withdraws while in good standing from the EnviroVista Leaders level.

Can the department remove a facility from the EnviroVista Program? Alberta Environment may initiate removal of a facility from the EnviroVista Program if the facility is found to have provided false or misleading information with regard to any of the Participation Criteria, or if the facility has taken action that discredits the Program (for example, inappropriate use of the EnviroVista logo).

What does removal or withdrawal from the EnviroVista Program mean? Whether a facility voluntarily withdraws from the Program or is removed, the facility will keep its Certificates and any annual renewal Certificates it has earned. On withdrawal or removal from the Program, the facility must discontinue use of the logo, and Alberta Environment will remove the facility from the list of current Program participants; the facility will remain on any historical lists published by the Department.

² The five-year period is measured back from March 31st in the year of application. For example, a facility applying in May 2006 must not have had a compliance incident after April 1, 2001. If a facility does not meet this criteria, it would not qualify.

ENVIROVISTA: ALBERTA ENVIRONMENT'S PROGRAM TO RECOGNIZE AND PROMOTE CORPORATE ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP

NOTE: ALBERTA ENVIRONMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO RESTRICT PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM TO ANY FACILITY AND TO SUSPEND OR END THIS PROGRAM AT ITS DISCRETION.

Privacy Statement

Section 33(c) of the Freedom and Information and Protection of Privacy Act provides that personal information may be collected if that information relates directly to and is necessary for an operating program or activity. Alberta Environment is committed to effective environmental management and ensuring that a high quality environment is a shared responsibility through environmental management and stewardship. Achievement of this commitment requires access to and sharing of information on the state of environment and environmental standards, practices and outcomes. Through the EnviroVista Program, Alberta Environment intends to promote the voluntary efforts of industry. The information you provide may be subject to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.