

Alberta

Starting July 1, 2007 Alberta facilities that emit more than 100,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases a year will be required to reduce their emissions intensity by 12 per cent under the *Climate Change and Emissions Management Act*. Companies have three ways to meet their reductions. They can make operating improvements, buy Alberta-based credits or contribute to the Climate Change and Emissions Management Fund.

View the [Baseline Application Forms](#) and accompanying [guidance document](#)

View the [draft protocols](#) for the Alberta-based credit system

The Province is in the process of updating its climate change action plan. The updated plan will incorporate [public](#), [stakeholder](#) and [expert](#) feedback received in a series of consultation sessions held across the province between March and June, 2007. The draft plan will be released in late summer 2007 for review by Albertans. The final plan will be released in late fall.

Alberta requires industrial facilities that emit more than 100,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (including carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulphur hexafluoride) to submit annual reports on their greenhouse gas emissions. The [Specified Gas Reporting Standard](#) describes what needs to be reported and how to calculate greenhouse gas emissions.

In 2007, ninety per cent of the electricity used in government facilities comes from [green power sources](#), (i.e., wind power from Pincher Creek and biomass from Grande Prairie).

Alberta Environment - Climate Change Web Page

<http://www3.gov.ab.ca/env/climate/index.html>

In 2002, Alberta adopted a climate change action plan. *Albertans & Climate Change: Taking Action* - establishes a framework to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The plan focuses on improving energy efficiency, enhancing technology to control industrial emissions, and seeking out renewable energy sources and better emissions management.

<http://www3.gov.ab.ca/env/climate/docs/takingaction.pdf>

In 2003, Alberta enacted the *Climate Change Emissions Management Act*. The Act provides for:

- An overall emission target for Alberta and targets for specific sectors of the province's economy that will be established by negotiated agreements.
- A tool kit of options to facilitate sectoral agreements and to focus on cost-effective reductions in Alberta.
- A framework for how emissions offsets will be applied against Alberta regulatory requirements.
- A provincial climate change management fund to help sectors reduce emissions and invest in Alberta energy conservation, energy efficiency and technology.

In 2004, Alberta began to require all new coal-fired power plants to lower their greenhouse gas emissions to [the level of a natural gas plant](#), potentially cutting in half their greenhouse gas emissions. The first plant under this standard comes on-line early in 2005. Under transition

principles developed with the utility sector, any new, coal-fired plants will have four recognized options to reduce greenhouse gas emissions:

- increase investment in technology development
- increase investment in renewable power generation
- receive credit for early shutdowns of existing facilities
- invest in emissions offsets

<http://www.gov.ab.ca/acn/200403/16053.html>

In 2004, Alberta enacted regulations requiring industry to report greenhouse gas emissions.

<http://www3.gov.ab.ca/env/air/EMR/sgreporting.html>

The reporting program is being implemented in phases, with subsequent years requiring more detailed information be submitted. In phase 1, industrial facilities emitting 100,000 tonnes or more of carbon dioxide equivalent (based on the sum of direct emissions of carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulphur hexafluoride) have been required to report emissions to Alberta Environment.

Starting in 2005, more than 90 per cent of the electricity used in government-owned facilities was to come from green power sources under contracts signed in 2003.

<http://www.gov.ab.ca/acn/200303/14035.html>

Alberta also:

- provides interest-free loans for projects to make municipal buildings more energy efficient.
- has adopted standards for new government building construction that are 25 per cent more efficient than the National Energy Code for buildings.
- established [Climate Change Central](#), an innovative public-private partnership for action on climate change.
- is increasing the use of alternative energy sources -- by 2008, 3.5 per cent total electricity will be generated from renewable and alternative sources, primarily wind and biomass and
- is helping to fund innovative technology.