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### **NEW PLAN ATTACKS CLIMATE CHANGE IN SASKATCHEWAN**

Saskatchewan has an aggressive new plan to address the major challenge of climate change and to continue growing its energy sector.

Premier Lorne Calvert, Industry and Resources Minister Maynard Sonntag and Environment Minister John Nilson today released the Saskatchewan Energy and Climate Change Plan. The new strategy sets ambitious targets to cut the province's greenhouse gas emissions by 32 per cent by 2020 and 80 per cent by 2050.

"Our vision is of a province that is a model of innovative and sustainable energy," Calvert said. "In realizing that vision, we recognize the current strengths we have as an energy powerhouse and the responsibilities that come with that strength. While contributing to our economic prosperity and quality of life, our energy industries also generate the majority of our greenhouse gas emissions. Change has to occur and this plan demonstrates our commitment to addressing climate change, and continuing to make Saskatchewan a great place for families today and building a stronger future here for our young people."

The plan's main targets include:

- Stabilizing the level of greenhouse gas emissions in Saskatchewan by 2010;
- Reducing emissions by 22 tonnes per person by 2020, which translates to a 32 per cent reduction from current (2004) levels and represents the largest per capita reduction in Canada; and
- Reducing emissions by 80 per cent from current levels by 2050, a decrease of 55 tonnes per capita.

The plan is built on five components, or "emissions reductions wedges" to enable Saskatchewan to move from an unchecked level of emissions and meet its 2020 and 2050 targets. These wedges include:

- Conservation and efficiency measures by industry, business and homeowners;
- Carbon dioxide capture and storage measures in Saskatchewan's oil and gas industry and in the province's electricity sector;
- Increased use of renewable energy, including wind, solar power and hydrogen, and further development of Saskatchewan's ethanol and biodiesel resources;
- Reduction of methane and other emissions in the oil and gas industry, and methane and nitrous oxide emissions in the agriculture industry; and
- Creation of more natural carbon sinks in Saskatchewan's forests and soils.

The 2007-08 Budget contains \$48 million to support various climate change initiatives. Crown Corporations will spend an additional \$49 million. The premier announced today an additional \$44.4 million over three years to fund emission reduction initiatives similar to projects that will receive support under the federal trust fund for clean air and energy efficiency projects.

The premier also noted officials in many other jurisdictions are taking action on climate change, including governors of western American states who at their Western Governors' Association meeting earlier this week discussed strategies related to renewable energy opportunities and climate change problems. Calvert attended the meeting in Deadwood, South Dakota and said Saskatchewan is joining the governors' Western Regional Climate Change Action Initiative as an observer, monitoring the work on common targets for emissions reductions, and participating where it can in discussions on shared approaches and actions to combat climate change.

"Saskatchewan has the most diverse primary energy resource base in Canada and exports nearly 90 per cent of the energy it produces," Sonntag said. "Through the stewardship of industry and government, we will reduce the environmental footprint of energy production and ensure that our economy continues to be green and prosperous."

"The Saskatchewan Energy and Climate Change Plan is about ensuring that future generations enjoy the benefits of a clean and healthy environment," Nilson said. "By working together, we will do our part to address the effects of climate change by making Saskatchewan a leader in environmental protection and the green economy."

Based on Environment Canada's Inventory of Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Saskatchewan generated 69.1 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent in 2004. This represented 9.1 per cent of total Canadian emissions. The oil and gas industry accounted for 33 per cent of Saskatchewan's annual greenhouse gas emissions. Electricity production accounted for another 24 per cent; transportation 16 per cent; and agriculture 14 per cent. The remainder of provincial emissions came from residential and commercial heating and other industries.

The Saskatchewan Energy and Climate Change Plan can be found at [www.se.gov.sk.ca/green](http://www.se.gov.sk.ca/green).

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Saskatchewan

# ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE PLAN

2007

## Our Vision

Over the decades between now and 2050, Saskatchewan will become a model jurisdiction of innovative and sustainable energy.

## Our Goal

To significantly reduce Saskatchewan's greenhouse gas emissions with specific and measurable targets demonstrating national and international leadership within a green and prosperous economy.

## Our Emission Reduction Targets

2010 – Emissions Stabilized

2020 – 32 per cent lower than current levels -  
a reduction of 22 tonnes per capita

2050 – 80 per cent lower than current levels -  
a reduction of 55 tonnes per capita

## Highlights

Toward a greener future, Saskatchewan will ...

### Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- Stabilize the absolute level of greenhouse gas emissions by 2010;
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 22 tonnes per person by 2020, a 32 per cent reduction from current levels; and
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80 per cent from current levels by 2050.

### Provide Greener Electricity

- Ensure all of SaskPower's new and replacement electricity generation facilities are either emissions-free or fully offset by emission credits; and
- Develop a conservation program to reduce SaskPower's electricity load by 300 megawatts by 2017.

### Promote More Environmentally-Friendly Transportation

- Work with industry to develop E-85 (fuel blends of 85 per cent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline) Corridors in the Province;
- Encourage all provinces and the federal government to work together to create an E-85 Corridor across Canada;
- Work with industry to increase the percentage of biofuels in Saskatchewan gasoline and diesel;
- Develop a 1.4 billion litre biofuels industry to utilize our natural advantages, create rural jobs, capture environmental benefits, and support our agricultural industry to capture emerging provincial, federal and international market opportunities; and
- Implement a Government and Crown vehicle purchase policy that requires all vehicles to be hybrid-electric, alternative or flex fuel, or within the top 20 per cent efficiency in their class.

### **Build on Our Strengths in Agriculture and Forestry**

- Encourage establishment of agricultural soil sinks to remove over 25 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent annually from the atmosphere by 2012, increasing to over 37 million tonnes per year by 2050; and
- Reforest 20,000 hectares by 2017, storing the equivalent of 4.9 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent in these regenerated forest lands.

### **Further Reduce the Impact of Non-Renewable Energy Resource Production**

- Work with industry to prepare a report and recommendations on reducing greenhouse gas emissions from flaring and venting associated with oil and gas production; and
- Build on the success of the Petroleum Technology Research Centre and the International Test Centre for Carbon Dioxide Capture in carbon capture and storage.

### **Adapt to Change**

- Develop a province-wide climate change adaptation strategy; and
- Expand the provincial watershed planning process so that water supplies are better protected from climate change.

### **Expand Research and Innovation**

- Establish a Bio-Products Centre of Excellence; and
- Establish a Technology Fund to receive voluntary payments from Saskatchewan industry as a method of complying with industry's mandatory emissions reduction obligations under the federal climate change plan.

### **Fully Engage Education and Training**

- Integrate concepts and principles of sustainable development into all appropriate Pre-kindergarten to Grade12 curricula;
- Work with First Nations and Métis to ensure their full participation in building the green economy; and
- Work with SIAST and the regional colleges and other educational institutions to ensure appropriate educational and training opportunities are available in those areas that will require specialized training in energy efficiency retrofit, solar and wind installation and biomass applications.

### **Lead by Example**

- Establish a performance standard of at least 30 per cent greater than the Model National Energy Code for all new government buildings with significant energy consumption; and
- Extend the Saskatchewan EnerGuide for Houses Program and the Saskatchewan Home Energy Improvement Program to 2011.

**Additional information can be found at [www.saskatchewan.ca/green](http://www.saskatchewan.ca/green)**