

May 5, 2010

Alberta leads with actions, results for clean energy future

Since 2007, 17 million tonnes of GHGs reduced; \$187 million in clean energy fund

Edmonton... Alberta's greenhouse gas reduction program continues to support a global clean energy future with 2009 emissions reductions being the equivalent of removing 1.4 million cars off the road and a clean technology innovation fund growing to \$187 million.

The 2009 results saw industrial emissions reduced by seven million tonnes from business-as-usual (emissions that would have otherwise existed in the absence of provincial regulations), and saw an additional \$62.9 million invested in the technology fund that will soon support projects aimed at more renewable forms of energy and cleaner energy development. Companies also purchased 3.8 million tonnes of offset credits from Alberta projects that were able to reduce emissions.

"While others continue to talk, Alberta is taking action in its growing role as a world-leading responsible energy producer," said Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach. "We are helping to develop a competitive energy industry that will set the bar for cleaner energy development. We are getting there with a robust plan that includes real reductions, a commitment to innovation and major investments in technology."

Alberta is the only North American jurisdiction with regulations that require mandatory greenhouse gas reductions from all large industrial sectors. Facilities emitting more than 100,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents per year must improve emissions per-unit performance by 12 per cent compared to a baseline measurement. Since the program started on July 1, 2007 more than 17 million tonnes of emissions that would have otherwise gone to the atmosphere were not released - the equivalent of 3.4 million cars off the road. Those facilities that don't meet their targets comply with Alberta legislation by purchasing offsets or paying into a technology fund called the Climate Change and Emissions Management Fund.

Environment Minister Rob Renner said that while some critics complain that Alberta's targets are based on per-unit emission reductions rather than overall reductions, they fail to acknowledge Alberta's position as one of the few developed jurisdictions in the world where energy production is increasing to meet global demand.

"Alberta is unique in meeting growing energy demand - but we do not use that as an excuse for inaction. We are making real reductions," said Renner. "Make no mistake: our commitment to clean energy technology development and innovation will play an enormous

future role in global emission reductions.”

That role is highlighted today as the Conference Board of Canada released a report on clean energy technology investment across Canada, and predicted benefits. They identified Alberta as making the largest total investment among the provinces at \$6.1 billion from 2010 to 2014; more than all the other provinces combined. The Board’s report is available at www.conferenceboard.ca/documents.aspx?did=3586.

For more information on how Alberta regulates GHGs, visit www.environment.alberta.ca.

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Backgrounder: 2009 greenhouse gas emission reduction results

Media inquiries may be directed to:

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2009 greenhouse gas emission reduction results

Results	2009 full year	Cumulative totals (since July 1, 2007)
Facility improvements to target	1.40 Mt	4.92 Mt
Carbon offsets	3.83 Mt	7.84 Mt
Emission performance credits generated	1.78 Mt	4.52 Mt
Emission reductions	7.01 Mt	17.28 Mt
Climate Change and Emissions Management Fund payments	\$62.9 million	\$186.9 million

1 Mt = 1 million tonnes. All figures rounded for presentation.

How do companies comply with reduction targets?

To achieve provincial targets, companies can:

- make facility changes to improve performance;
- purchase Alberta-based carbon offsets;
- pay \$15-a-tonne into the Climate Change and Emissions Management Fund; or
- purchase/use emission performance credits generated in previous years or at other facilities.

Why do Fund payments, offset purchases and other actions vary from year to year?

Companies can choose from any of the four options, and even combine different options as part of their compliance actions. They can also vary their compliance action from year-to-year.

Why is the reduction target based on per-unit performance and not on a hard cap?

Alberta is one of few regions in the world that can increase energy production to meet a growing global demand for energy. While Alberta recognizes the need to shift to more renewable forms of energy, experts say the world will continue to require carbon-based fuels for some time to come. Per-unit targets help industry become more efficient with their operations while allowing for potential growth to meet global demand for energy. Whether it's Alberta or another jurisdiction, that increased demand has to be met from somewhere. Alberta has demonstrated over many years it is a jurisdiction that can be counted on to develop its resources in an environmentally sound manner. This is a first step. When coupled with the investment in clean energy technology, we will see even greater reductions.

How many facilities are large emitters? What were their total emissions?

For 2009, 100 facilities fit the large emitters category. They produced 109.8 Mt of emissions.

What are Alberta's total emissions? How much comes from the oil sands?

The most recent total provincial emissions from all sources are for 2008. Alberta emitted 244 Mt, a drop of one per cent from the previous year. Alberta's top four sectors for emissions were: coal/oil/gas - 57.2 Mt; electricity - 55.9 Mt; oil sands and transportation - 37.2 Mt each. Oil sands make up about five per cent of Canada's emissions and less than one-tenth of one per cent of world emissions.

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