

Alberta ■
**CLIMATE
LEADERSHIP**
— Discussions —

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE SUMMARY

NOVEMBER 2015

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Alberta's Climate Leadership Discussions engaged with a wide range of Albertans to help inform the province's action plan on climate change. The engagement process was led by Alberta's Climate Change Advisory Panel with support from the Climate Change Secretariat, within the Department of Environment and Parks. The engagement process included Aboriginal engagement, public open houses, online engagement, and technical stakeholder sessions.

This document summarizes comments received in the public engagement stream, specifically open houses held in Calgary on September 1st and in Edmonton on September 2nd, 2015. More than 920 individuals attended the open houses, and more than 4,050 written comments were received from the participants.

The open house input is summarized here as themes relating to five discussion topics on which participants commented. Discussion topics included: what interests brought them to the open house; outcomes that would indicate successful action on climate change; priority considerations in guiding climate change decisions; personal actions participants will take and what would help them take action; and final messages for the panel. The themes were generally common across both open houses; any apparent variations are noted in the summary.

Most comments supported action on climate change, due to the urgent environmental and economic implications of the issue, both locally and globally. Many participants indicated they were also ready and willing to take individual action at home, in their communities, and in business. Participants spoke about the need for Alberta to move from relying on non-renewable energy sources by shifting its focus toward renewable and alternate energy sources. Some comments, however, indicated that non-renewable sources should continue to play an important part in the energy mix.

Many comments identified elements essential to success on climate change action, such as: making decisions based on a commitment to long-term sustainability; incorporating a clear plan that guides the nature and rate of change; and taking a pragmatic approach that promotes economic diversity and guards economic security well into the future. Some also commented on the importance of involving Albertans in ongoing climate change discussions and ensuring that proper consultation occurs with Aboriginal Peoples.

A range of strategic, policy, and regulatory mechanisms was suggested to guide action on climate change. The most commonly mentioned mechanisms were financial incentives to encourage adoption of renewable energy at home, in public buildings, and across communities, (e.g. to install solar panels, otherwise retrofit, or build to a net zero standard). Emphasis on sustainability in community development plans should include strict building codes, higher density, and substantial investment in transit infrastructure. Monetary tools also included subsidies and/or targets for renewable investments and research. . Regulatory tools such as portfolio standards, emission targets, revisions to the royalty system, carbon pricing, and a carbon tax were also mentioned. Education was viewed as a core component in successfully understanding the need to address climate change and what actions can be taken.

A small number of comments indicated action is unnecessary since evidence suggests climate change is not occurring, or is normal, and/or that human action will have no effect on it.

It is important to note that the themes described in this summary are illustrative of only those comments received at the open houses, and give a general indication of views expressed. The comments and themes are not representative of the general population.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Purpose of this Summary

Alberta's Climate Leadership Discussions collected input to help inform Alberta's action plan on climate change. The engagement process was led by Alberta's Climate Change Advisory Panel and included public open houses, an online engagement, online document submission, Aboriginal engagement and technical stakeholder sessions.

This document summarizes comments received at two public open houses for the Alberta Climate Leadership Discussions, held in Calgary on September 1st and in Edmonton on September 2nd, 2015.

Purpose of the Open Houses

The open houses offered the general public the opportunity to informally interact in person with panel members and subject matter specialists, and to:

- Share opinions on values, priorities, and outcomes to guide government actions to address climate change.
- Share input on what they are willing to do to address climate change, based on their values and priorities.
- Raise awareness about climate change.

Panel members and subject matter specialists were available throughout the room. Participants were encouraged to visit any or all of five stations positioned around the room, one for each of the discussion topics provided in [Table 1](#). A neutral facilitator was available at each station to engage participants and assist in capturing input. Comment cards, post-it notes and flipcharts were provided for this purpose. Information materials such as fact sheets, display panels and the [Climate Leadership Discussion Document](#) were made available.

Table 1
Discussion Topics and Questions

#	Topic	Questions
1.	Interests	What brought you to this open house?
2.	Outcomes	What does successful action on climate change look like? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In 2 to 5 years, in 10 years, and in 25 years?• For me, for my community, and for Alberta?
3.	Priorities	What considerations are most important in guiding decisions on climate change? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Least important considerations?
4.	Personal Action	What will you do to help take action on climate change? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What would help you take action?
5.	Your Message	What final message do you want to leave with Alberta's Climate Change Advisory Panel?

Participation

Total participation at the open houses was approximately 920 individuals. Attendance counts are provided in **Table 2**. Together, participants offered more than 4,050 written comments across the five topics discussed.

Table 2
Participation

Date	Location	Attendance # (approx.)	Comment # (approx.)
September 1 st , 2015	Calgary	420	1,679
September 2 nd , 2015	Edmonton	503	2,375
	Total	923	4,054

Input Analysis and Limitations

All 4,050+ comments were transcribed into electronic form prior to qualitative analysis. Analysis involved reading all text, then sorting and combining comments to discern any patterns. Broad themes were identified and are set out in the narrative provided in this summary.

While the input captured at the open houses is important and represents a variety of perspectives, there are limitations to drawing conclusions from the comments and themes set out in this report, including:

- Open house attendance was voluntary and participants self-selected the discussion topics on which they wished to comment and the extent to which they commented.
- There is not a one-to-one relationship between the number of participants and comments received at each station; some participants may not have commented, while others may have submitted multiple comments at any or all stations.
- Comments often included multiple ideas that may have touched on one or more themes.

While this summary may be helpful in understanding participant comments, the themes are not statistically representative of those who participated, nor are they statistically representative of the general population. Rather, the themes described in this summary are illustrative of only those comments received at the open houses, and give a general indication of views expressed.

2. HIGHLIGHTS OF PARTICIPANT INPUT

2.1 Interests

What brought you to this open house?

The following themes were observed in the comments received as input on this question, and were common across the two open houses. Where any apparent difference was observed, it is noted below.

Take Action

- The most prominent theme in response to this question was the need to take action on climate change. This idea seemed more apparent in comments received at the Edmonton open house relative to the Calgary open house.
 - Many comments on this theme suggested a sense of urgency for action. Additionally, action was seen as important for the sustainability of future generations and long-term environmental protection.

Seek Opportunities for Renewable and Alternative Energy

- Many comments were made on Alberta's current approach to energy production and the potential to move to renewable and alternative sources. Most comments were supportive of this shift, while some suggested a cautious or blended approach. A few comments indicated limited support for a shift to renewable or alternative energy sources.
 - Wind and solar energy were the most common suggestions, while a few comments referred to alternate sources such as nuclear and geothermal.

Need for Pragmatism, Balance, and Diverse Solutions

- Many comments cautioned against urgent action, suggesting government avoid rushing and making uninformed or ineffective decisions.
 - Some comments on this theme also indicated that the province should learn from other jurisdictions, where various approaches have either worked or not worked.
- Some comments suggested that climate change is a global issue and that the province should not out-pace other jurisdictions, with any action being measured and supported by research and cost-benefit analysis.
- A few comments indicated a well-rounded action plan is required because of the complexity of the issue.

Economic Security, Diversification, and Jobs in Renewable Energy

- Many comments from both the Calgary and Edmonton open houses reflected on economic interests and the importance of considering the economy in any steps forward related to climate change.
 - Among these comments, many suggested that Alberta must seek to diversify its economy, moving away from a reliance on oil and gas.

Sample comments on what brought you to the open house:

"Climate change is the reality of our time. We need bold action now. I am here to support you in this effort."

"Enhance system already in place; current system is a great give and take model that promotes growth but it also looks for reductions; cap and trade is not a long-term sustainable model; we all have to be part of the solution, industry, municipalities, people all emit their fair share of GHGs; this does not all have to be funded and on the shoulders of industry. Industry is not evil. GoA needs to watch our next steps to ensure the models we choose, don't kneejerk the "issue".

"Alberta cannot afford to change any policies in regards to the climate change. It would drive us into a deeper recession and not fix anything. It's proven very uneconomic to build wind/solar and needs far too much support; build pipelines, support oil and gas. Go Oilsands - Build it Bigger."

- Some of these comments also suggested diversification should occur quickly, while others described the importance of a phased, longer-term approach, where oil and gas will continue to have a role in Alberta's future.
- Related to jobs, some comments suggested there were opportunities to transition Alberta's skills and labour force to broaden and support the renewable energy sector.

Concerns about Action on Climate Change

- A few comments indicated climate change is not an issue, or should not be a priority on which government should focus.
 - Some of these comments questioned the science related to climate change, suggesting climate change is natural, unpreventable, and/or the science is not settled. These ideas appeared to be more prevalent at the Calgary open house relative to the Edmonton open house.
 - Some of these comments also indicated that action on climate change would create too much stress on Alberta's economy, when it is already stressed.

Policy Tools – A Mixed Review

- A few comments were provided on a range of ideas for policies, regulatory tools, and programs related to carbon emissions management. Some included comments or questions on the future of Alberta's existing Specified Gas Emitters Regulation.
 - Many of these comments were detailed and technical in nature, suggesting the participants were fairly knowledgeable on the options.
- Participants who provided comments related to carbon pricing or carbon tax tended to be supportive but often qualified them with suggestions that blended approaches are required, such as offsets or other market mechanisms.

Climate Leadership Discussions Process

- A few comments were made about the Climate Leadership Discussions process, many indicating appreciation for the opportunity to participate, with others indicating they attended to hear what others had to say.
 - Within these comments, some referred to a desire for fair and unbiased discussions while a few others did not support the engagement approach at all.
- A few comments were made about the process related to the new government, suggesting it is refreshing that the conversation is open, but also expressing cautious optimism about maintaining momentum.

Other Comments

- A few comments were made on the importance of incorporating the perspectives of Aboriginal Peoples.

2.2 Outcomes

What does successful action on climate change look like?

Participants were asked to describe what success looks like for action on climate change. They could comment across three timelines: short-term (two to five years), mid-term (10 years), and longer-term (25 years). Within each timeline, participants could comment on any of three scales: success for “me”, for “my community” and for “Alberta”.

The following themes were observed across the two open houses, and across timelines and scales. Where any apparent difference was observed, it is noted below.

Renewable Energy

- Many comments, notably along the short-term timeline, indicated the desire for a clear shift away from non-renewable to renewable energy sources such as solar and wind and, to a lesser extent, alternate sources including geothermal (but excluding natural gas). Comments indicated that success includes:
 - Improved costing structures such as a feed-in tariff to reward small or regional/co-operative generators.
 - Incentives and disincentives, innovation, and research.
 - “Best in class” investment.
 - New energy and transportation infrastructure.
 - Fair pricing and access to a range of energy providers.
- Many comments indicated willingness to install solar panels on homes and businesses and to see them throughout the community, including on farms and public buildings.
- A few comments on this theme suggested that oil and gas, including pipelines, should continue to be utilized and supported by innovation, to keep this sector as an important and responsible part of Alberta’s energy mix.

Take Action

- Many comments referred to the importance of taking action on climate change. Regardless of how much and how fast action or change should occur, these comments indicated that success at the provincial scale means that Alberta:
 - Makes a commitment to act based on a well-articulated and well-researched action plan.
 - Takes a lead on climate change action, becoming known over time as a leader and innovator in managing carbon and on sustainable energy.
 - Acts fairly and ethically.
 - Reclaims its reputation.

Sample comments on what successful action on climate change looks like:

“A willingness to embrace [renewable] energy development, even in your backyard, starting with mine.”

“A noticeable start to transitioning towards renewables; a commitment.”

“An economy that relies more on renewable resources and innovation technology.”

“An established green energy transition strategy as an incubator for new industries shifting to ‘green’ jobs.”

Strategies, Policies and Regulatory Tools

- Many comments referred to strategic, policy, or regulatory mechanisms to guide the change process at the provincial scale. These comments indicated that success includes:
 - Making Alberta “carbon neutral”; including phasing out coal.
 - Promoting value-add through e.g., agriculture and forestry.
 - Supporting alternate energy development, e.g. biomass.
 - Providing regulatory “certainty” or “stringency”.
 - Making the electricity grid “smart” and “green, or setting a mix of sources for the grid.
 - Creating a carbon currency/price or tax.
 - Placing a moratorium on oil sands development.
 - Setting caps on production.
 - Banning hydraulic fracturing.
 - Setting emissions production and/or reduction targets.
 - Modifying the royalty structure.
 - Reducing consolidation of energy corporations.
 - Altering distribution of ownership and/or revenues to keep them local to Alberta.
 - Maximizing local refining.
 - Monetizing energy.
 - Requiring “green” portfolio standards.
- Some comments offered additional ways the province can support action on climate change, including:
 - Engaging properly with Aboriginal peoples.
 - Providing ongoing and transparent opportunities for Albertans to participate and “have a voice” in the climate change discussion.
 - Ensuring Albertans of all ages are educated about climate change.
- A few comments referred to action at the individual scale, including the desire to be well-enough informed to be able to make sustainable personal choices.

Sample comments on what successful action on climate change looks like:

“A clearly articulated position and policy for a better climate change framework in Alberta, building on previous work.”

“A well-researched plan to reduce our impact on the environment – not necessarily an expensive plan.”

“Specific program supports offered to all Alberta municipalities to implement action.”

“Realization that industry with reasonable, realistic regulations is supporting our environment and the economy.”

“Alberta has rejoined the global community as a responsible member with strong triple bottom line.”

Economic Diversity

- Some comments indicated that taking action on climate change, including shifting to more (or only) renewable energy, will act both as a driver and an opportunity for economic diversity and stability, softening the impacts of the “boom and bust” cycle. These comments indicated that success:
 - Means a stronger economy based on diverse sector growth.
 - Provides “green” jobs well into the future, and keep jobs within Alberta.
 - Builds on current experience, and encourages investment.
 - Requires research and innovation in renewables.
 - Reflects a level playing field supported by incentives for renewables and disincentives for non-renewables.

Sustainable Living

Many comments reflected the desire to live in communities planned with climate change and sustainability in mind, offering choice on energy sources and home, building and community design. In general, comments about being a part of increasingly sustainable communities were evident along the mid-term timeline, and the resulting higher quality of life was evident along the longer-term timeline. Comments indicated that success:

- Means living in a net-zero home.
- Includes greater access to transit, cycling, and walking; more use of electric vehicles/stations; and less dependence on fossil-fueled vehicles.
- Promotes good health and a sense of community.
- Protects environment services such as air quality, water quality, and natural habitat including wetlands, ensuring quality for today and for future generations.
- Incorporates more local food production especially in urban areas, as well as comprehensive recycling/waste programs, including greater mindfulness about consumption.
- Benefits Albertans regardless of whether they live in urban or rural settings.

Tools for Creating Sustainable Communities

- Some comments identified policy or regulatory tools to promote development of sustainable communities, especially in the short-term and longer-term. These comments indicated success includes:
 - “Green” area development plans; building codes that require efficient appliances, and sustainable materials and products; programs and standards to encourage LEED (or similar rating systems), net-zero homes and buildings; and incentives and disincentives to promote retrofits.
 - Municipal planning that emphasizes transit and walkability, and other regulations to counteract sprawl such as limiting lot size and protecting agricultural land.

Other Comments

A few comments indicated the participant did not support taking action on climate change or that doing so was unnecessary or misguided.

Sample comments on what successful action on climate change looks like:

“Vibrant, living, walkable communities where family needs are easily met without driving.”

“My government supports me to reduce my CO² footprint by subsidizing home energy efficiency retrofitting and low energy appliances, and through other policies that enable me to make environmentally responsible choices.”

“Recognition that climate change is not based on carbon emissions or lack thereof.”

2.3 Priorities

What considerations are most important in guiding decisions on climate change?

The following themes were observed in the comments about priorities. Where any apparent difference was observed, it is noted below. Overall, fewer comments were received about least important priorities than about most important priorities.

Most Important Priorities

Balanced, Long-term Strategy

- Many comments suggested the government take a balanced approach to action on climate change. Most of these comments suggested reducing greenhouse gas emissions is the overall goal, but were combined with suggestions for long-term and integrated planning. Comments indicated that a balanced approach includes:
 - Considering the pillars of economy, society and the environment.
 - Designing approaches that are fair and adaptive.
 - Capitalizing on areas where the greatest reduction potential exists, with least amount of negative impact to Albertans.
 - Ensuring feasibility and taking the time to do it right.
 - Adopting a systems view or systematic approach.
- Many comments also called for government to develop a long-term strategic plan, recognizing how decisions today will have long-term impacts. This planning should have detailed and thorough research and analysis as its foundation (e.g. on cost/benefits). Comments suggested decisions should be based on actions that are proven to be effective and that are implemented in an integrated fashion.

Taking Responsibility and Shifting From Fossil Fuels

- Many comments pointed to the need for government to take action soon to begin shifting away from using fossil fuels as an energy source, and from a fossil fuels-based economy. Various reasons were given, including:
 - Avoiding long-term negative impacts to the environment and future generations.
 - Taking action for our environmental reputation and national competitiveness.
 - That it is a greater risk to not own the issue.
 - Needing to stay within 2 C temperature variation.
- Other comments here suggested priority action be taken on areas that can be done soonest with the largest impact. Comments for how to do so included:
 - A decrease in carbon emissions through reduction targets. Among these comments, many proposed absolute targets, while others called for targets that were tangible or realistic.
 - Regulations that are enforceable and support both penalties and incentives.
- Some comments indicated that the government, and Albertans, must be bold and brave with regard to addressing climate change.

Innovation and Investment

- Some comments pointed to the importance of investing in innovation and research, and developing transformative technology for sustainable energy.
 - Comments within this theme suggested reviewing technologies that are being applied in other jurisdictions, and examining the merits of applying these approaches locally. Alberta has an opportunity, and is well positioned, to show leadership in innovation by making its oil and gas sector more “green”.

Economic Security and Diversity

- Many comments suggested it is important to consider Alberta’s economy in guiding decisions related to climate change.
 - Many of these comments indicated the need to diversify Alberta’s economy soon to allow for a smooth transition to a carbon-reduced future.
 - Some comments suggested Alberta should not be disadvantaged compared to other jurisdictions, and that the impact of action on climate change to consumers should be limited.
 - A few comments were offered about markets and their role in determining the most efficient way of reducing emissions without negatively impacting the economy.

Science and Analysis

- Some comments addressed the science associated with climate change. Of these comments, most pointed to the important role science plays in identifying and prioritizing actions and supporting decision-making, including that decisions should be based on fact, sound science, and thorough analysis.
- Alternatively, a few comments challenged the validity of science associated with climate change, or suggested alternative sources and disputed the need to take action on climate change. This idea was slightly more apparent in Calgary open house comments than in Edmonton. Regardless, comments related to research, data, and scientific study of climate change included that:
 - Studies should be objective and peer reviewed.
 - All data and information should be made available.
 - Sources should be clearly cited.

Sample comments on most important considerations to guide decisions on climate change:

“While I want us to move toward 100% renewable energy, particularly for home/building heating and for transportation, I want to see our progress proceed in an orderly fashion -- so as not to hurt our economy or Albertan's livelihood; I would like to see it done in such a way that Alberta is liberated from the boom/bust economy that many have suffered from.”

“Demonstrate worldwide leadership in oil and gas innovation to green, oversight of corporate and personal emissions plus incentives and penalties. Get off coal and other old CO² intensive energies.”

“Keeping a competitive economy; long term thinking not short term band-aid solutions; financial viability of programs; not excluding any industry in climate policy.”

“Going back to the basics on whether CO² is causing so called global warming/climate change; why are we rushing into this; understand the science first.”

Least Important Priorities

Economic Growth and Interests of Large Corporations

- Many comments suggested the least important consideration for taking action on climate change was ensuring economic growth, particularly in the oil and gas sector. Within this theme, comments on the least important considerations included:
 - Corporate bottom-line; unnecessary support of single-industry economy.
 - Price of oil, and profit of the oil industry.
 - Fear of industry leaving Alberta.
 - Sustainable fossil fuel industry in Alberta.
 - Gaining access to markets.
- Some comments reflected a similar sentiment in that the interests of shareholders and large companies should be the least important consideration in guiding decisions on climate change.

Political Motivations (National and International Interests)

- Another least important consideration in guiding decisions was related to political interests and motivations. These included political backlash, optics, and fears of not being re-elected.
- Some comments suggested that action on climate change should not be tied to, or limited to, election cycles.
- Suggestions were also made that Alberta should stand as a leader and not be entirely bound by what other jurisdictions are doing or not doing. It was suggested in some comments that Alberta may need to step forward alone.

Short-Term Goals, Impacts and Approaches

- Some comments suggested it is least important to consider short-term impacts to the economy or personal interests. Comments recognized that action on climate change will have impacts (at various scales), but these will be short-lived and should not be an important consideration.
- Other comments suggested that action on climate change should focus on long-term solutions rather than only short-term approaches and goals.
- A few comments were also made that suggested it is least important to keep the status-quo approach, to not change, and/or to keep with past practice.

Sample comments on least important considerations to guide decisions on climate change:

“Corporate bottom line, unnecessary support of single-industry economy.”

“Fear about loss of profits in the short term; selfishness that we don’t want to change how we live.”

“Cost, honestly the price we pay now/invest will determine how our planet will be in the near future, so we need to act now and direct our economy towards renewables.”

2.4 Personal Action

What will you do to help take action on climate change?

The following themes were observed in the comments received about action. Where any apparent difference was observed, it is noted below.

Willingness to Make Choices

- Almost all comments suggested a willingness to proactively make personal decisions (or have already done so) to adopt behaviours that reflect an awareness of climate change, as well as sustainability in general. This willingness to make these choices appeared to be more prevalent in comments from the Edmonton open house than from the Calgary open house.
- A few comments indicated that no action will or should be taken on climate change by individuals.

Education and Advocacy

- Many comments related to the importance of raising awareness, both for individuals to learn more themselves but also to share information with others about climate change, energy, and Alberta's and Canada's roles in taking action.
- Comments about education described informal and formal channels, and included:
 - Speaking with and sharing action ideas with family and neighbours.
 - Holding workshops and other group events, including preparing information materials (e.g. videos).
 - Involving youth (e.g. to increase understanding of the roles of innovation and politics in achieving change).
 - Participating in advocacy and/or teaching roles.
 - Continuing to be involved in government and other engagement discussions.
 - Encouraging politicians to consider future generations in all decision-making by committing to a long-term vision based on sustainability.

Sample comments on taking action:

"I am already taking action: paying a good bonus for electricity, using public transit, working on energy transition in urban area."

"I can write, I can speak, I can advocate for good policy."

"I would take advantage of any incentives for residential energy efficiency."

"Operate a company that helps industry reduce the risk of environmental damage".

Individual, Household, and Community Actions

- Many comments referred to actions that could be taken individually or at home, in a neighbourhood, or in the workplace.
- Some actions were described in conjunction with incentives or other policy tools to promote adoption, particularly with reference to switching to renewable energy options.
- Suggested actions included:
 - Driving less, cycling more, taking transit.
 - Installing solar panels.
 - Purchasing energy efficient products.
 - Purchasing a hybrid or electric vehicle.
 - Composting and recycling
 - Harvesting rainwater, using less water.
 - Retrofitting the home, or simply improving home insulation.
 - Reducing consumption overall.
 - Eliminating phantom power wastage.

- Creating and participating in community initiatives such as community gardens.
- Participating in the democratic process by voting.
- Volunteering with environmental not-for-profit organizations.
- Seeking out and using any incentive programs, especially to increase energy efficiency at home or work.

Workplace Actions

- Some comments indicated interest in working in/and or creating jobs in the field of environmental sustainability by:
 - Promoting climate change action in the workplace.
 - Pursuing or switching to careers in “green” energy.
 - Promoting new technologies and promoting innovation.
 - Creating businesses to install renewables.
- A few comments highlighted the need to be careful about protecting economic security and/or jobs for anyone affected by changes brought about by action on climate change.

What would help you take action?

Incentives and Disincentives

- Most comments indicated that provincial and municipal governments have a leadership role in climate change action, should work together, and could utilize a range of tools to enable Albertans to take action. Ideas related to incentives included:
 - Installation of renewables for home/business, e.g., solar panels.
 - Rebates for electric vehicles.
 - Retrofit programs.
 - Community programs and initiatives.
 - Innovation and research by industry and business (e.g., technology, food production).
 - Diversification of transportation in urban and rural areas.
- Some comments suggested it was important to apply a carbon tax or a gasoline tax as a disincentive.

Policy and Regulatory Tools

- Some comments identified regulatory actions such as:
 - Stricter building codes including zoning for higher density, and materials/installer standards.
 - Removal of barriers to adoption of alternate energy options (e.g., micro-generation).
 - Feed-in tariffs.
 - Investment targets for renewables.
 - Requirements for portfolio standards.
 - Revised royalty system.
 - Adoption of international targets.
 - Carbon pricing.
 - Tax credits, energy credits.
 - Renewable energy industry subsidies

Sample comments on help needed to take action:

“A registry or certification for companies/service providers that actively contribute to Alberta’s GHG reduction targets”.

“Funding to municipalities to do GHG plans and climate change plans.”

“Feed-in tariffs.”

“Energy efficient standards for new and existing buildings with government grant programs.”

“Incentives definitely encourage me to do environment retrofits sooner than later.”

Other Tools to Support Action

- Some comments identified other factors to promote action, including:
 - A clear action plan and committed leadership.
 - Proper First Nations consultation.
 - Support for food production diversification.
 - Awareness building and education at all school levels and at conferences (e.g., to identify implementation), including understanding success in other jurisdictions.
 - Investment in transit, including intercity/provincial scale rail systems.

2.5 Your Message to the Panel

What final message do you want to leave with Alberta's Climate Change Advisory Panel?

The following themes were observed in the comments received on this question. Where any apparent difference was observed, it is noted below.

Take Action and Show Leadership

- Most comments related to the importance of taking action, with suggestions that government show leadership on climate change.
 - Some of these comments suggested the government needs to be courageous, that this is difficult, and that Alberta has an opportunity to show leadership both within Canada and globally.
- This theme appeared to be more prevalent at the Edmonton open house, where almost half of the comments referred to the need to take action and/or show leadership on climate change.

Shift from Fossil Fuels

- Many comments suggested that Alberta needs to transition from fossil fuels as its primary source of energy/electricity, and in particular move away from coal.
- Comments on this theme also suggested that Alberta is an ideal place to adopt renewable and alternative energy sources, and is in a good position to lead research and innovation in these areas.

Balance and Economic Security

- Many comments supported the need for action on climate change, but suggested that a cautious, pragmatic and/or balanced approach be taken. These comments most often pointed to the importance of ensuring a secure economy and not making quick, uninformed changes that may risk driving industry out of the province.
- Comments on this theme also stressed that cooperation and inclusion are important -- no single sector, industry, or government can effectively move forward alone.

Build From What is Working Already

- Some comments suggested that Alberta is heading in the right direction now with its regulation and programs.
- Comments on this theme also suggested Alberta's Specified Gas Emissions Regulation is an effective tool, particularly with recently made changes.

Protect the Environment

- Some comments described the importance of taking action on climate change in order to protect Alberta's water, air, land, and biodiversity.
- Long-term perspectives were shared, with suggestions that a healthy environment is important for future generations, not only for the health of individuals but also for a sustainable economy.

Sample comments on final messages to the Panel:

"We have already delayed too long, time to act now."

"Don't be afraid to make hard decisions. Be open and honest about why decisions are being made, try to educate/encourage public support, make incentives for industry to lead change -- they won't do it if they don't have incentive -- they compete on a global market not on the Alberta market".

"Don't compromise energy affordability. Low income people struggle to pay their heating bills if we rush into changing the renewable mix. Create a plan that represents economic stability and prosperity and responsible development. Take the time to get it right."

Climate Leadership Discussions Process

- More comments about the Climate Leadership Discussions were received at this discussion station than at any other station.
 - Most of these comments pointed to support and appreciation for the process, and the need to maintain momentum.
 - Some of these comments reflected less support for the process, and were specific to the format of the public sessions, critical of the online engagement, or suggested the process was driven by political agendas and interests.
- Some comments also pointed to an awareness of the timelines and drivers of the Climate Leadership Discussions process including the December 2015 global conference on climate change in Paris.
 - These comments reflected both support for, and caution around, working towards these timelines.

Other Comments

- A few comments referred to the importance of involving Aboriginal Peoples in discussions and action related to climate change.

APPENDIX A

WRITTEN COMMENT TABULATION				
#	Question / Sub-Question	# of Comments (approx.)		
		Edm #	Cal #	Total #
1(a)	What brought me to the open house?			
	Question Total	182	138	320
2(a)	What does successful action on climate change look like in 2-5 Years?			
	i. For Me	134	97	231
	ii. For My Community	128	97	225
	iii. For Alberta	243	161	404
	Subtotal	505	355	860
2(b)	What does successful action on climate change look like in 10 Years?			
	i. For Me	82	64	146
	ii. For My Community	91	64	155
	iii. For Alberta	166	106	272
	Subtotal	339	234	573
2(c)	What does successful action on climate change look like in 25 Years?			
	i. For Me	57	45	102
	ii. For My Community	62	40	102
	iii. For Alberta	132	90	222
	Subtotal	251	175	426
2(d)	Comment cards left in Open House Drop Box by choice of participant; not visible by others	9	0	9
	Question Total	1104	764	1868
3(a)	What considerations are most important in guiding decisions on climate change?			
	Subtotal	214	190	404
3(b)	What considerations are least important in guiding decisions on climate change?			
	Subtotal	141	126	267
	Question Total	355	316	671
4(a)	What will you do to help take action on climate change?			
	Subtotal	264	140	404
4(b)	What would help you take action?			
	Subtotal	204	121	325
	Question Total	468	261	729
5(a)	What final message do you want to leave with Alberta's Climate Change Advisory Panel?			
	Question Total	266	200	466
	GRAND TOTAL	2,375	1,679	4,054