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New Energy Innovation Fund supports energy development and environmental protection

Edmonton...The Alberta government is dedicating \$200 million over the next three years towards research, advanced technologies, market development and innovative projects focusing on energy supply and protection of the environment. Initial project funding for the Energy Innovation Fund in this fiscal year totals \$25 million.

"Investments through this fund will help ensure that current and future generations of Albertans receive even greater benefits from Alberta's resource wealth, while continuing to be good stewards of the environment," said Energy Minister Greg Melchin. "Our province's Integrated Energy Vision builds on the world-class knowledge, expertise and leadership within the province to responsibly develop our vast energy resources."

To receive funding, projects must increase the efficiency and effectiveness of energy exploration, extraction or development in Alberta. They must also focus on energy and/or environmental research; technology; innovation and efficiency; and they can involve renewable or non-renewable energy resources.

Examples of activities and areas that may be considered for funding include:

- energy efficiency and renewable energy;
- bio-energy;
- gasification of coal and municipal waste;
- environmental research, such as groundwater mapping; and,
- land management and wildlife habitat research.

The \$200-million fund will be administered by an advisory group from five sponsoring ministries: Energy; Agriculture, Food and Rural Development; Environment; Innovation and Science; and Sustainable Resource Development. The advisory group will consult with industry and government stakeholders prior to finalizing its recommendations. Details of approved projects will be announced by each sponsoring ministry.

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