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Community partnership drives cleaner energy future

Alberta invests \$2 million for Climate Change Action Centre

Edmonton... A one-stop action centre will help Alberta municipalities save energy and money, while advancing Alberta's efforts to address climate change.

The Municipal Climate Change Action Centre will provide technical assistance and expertise to municipalities on actions to increase energy efficiency of operations and improve community-wide conservation. The centre will be established with the help of a \$2 million grant from the Government of Alberta to the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) and the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMDC).

"This energy efficiency investment builds improved environmental performance and helps contribute to the province's overall competitive advantage," said Alberta Environment Minister Rob Renner. "We applaud the vision of Alberta's municipal organizations that are helping to build a cleaner energy future."

The Centre will be located in the new Edmonton headquarters of the AUMA, which itself is an environmentally sustainable project. It used recycled building materials for construction, has high efficiency upgrades, a solar panel, wind turbine and co-generation unit.

"This is all about capacity building through partnership," said AUMA Board president Darren Aldous. "Albertans want to see governments working in partnership on issues like climate change. AUMA believes that municipal governments can support the Government of Alberta targets on reduced emissions and implement real solutions through the Climate Change Action Centre."

Experts will provide guidance to municipalities looking to retrofit existing infrastructure or examine funding options for renewable energy investment. A website will be developed to deliver resources online and an action team will be established to host community workshops and presentations to help municipalities identify region-specific objectives to develop and implement their action plans.

"Regardless of where they stand on climate change, municipalities have been presented an opportunity to innovate renewable energy projects that could create new jobs and more sustainable rural communities," said AAMDC Board vice president Gerald Soroka. "We are proud of our partnership and the opportunity to encourage municipalities to take a leadership role in addressing climate change issues."

The centre delivers on a commitment in Alberta's Climate Change Strategy to help

municipalities develop the capacity to deal with climate change. Other actions to reduce greenhouse gases in Alberta include regulating mandatory reductions from large emitters, a price on carbon, a regulated offset market, consumer energy efficiency rebates and investing in clean energy technology like carbon capture and storage.

For more information on Alberta's Climate Change Strategy, visit www.environment.alberta.ca.

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