

Alberta's Climate Leadership Plan

The Government of Alberta announced its Climate Leadership Plan on November 22, 2015. For Alberta it is a sweeping plan. Its highlights include a phase-out of coal fired electricity by 2030 coupled with a transition to 30 percent renewable electricity generation, an overall cap – increased from today's levels to 100 million tonnes for the oil sands, an economy-wide price on carbon, and a strategy to reduce methane emissions by 45 percent by 2025.

The Government of Alberta convened a climate change advisory panel in the summer of 2015, its mandate was to review Alberta's climate change policies and to provide advice on a new set of policy measures which will reduce Alberta's greenhouse gas emissions. This panel saw more than 1,000 people attend public open houses, coupled with over 25,000 responses received through their online survey. Feedback was also received from multiple stakeholders, including Aboriginal Peoples, industry, and environmental organizations such as AWA. All of this fed into the panel's report and formed the basis of the Climate Leadership Plan.

AWA applauds the Alberta Government for this plan, as it acknowledges that Alberta should play a constructive role on the global stage with regard to climate change. Climate change has serious impacts on biodiversity and wildlife; it threatens our future water security. In Alberta, climate change very likely means more intense flood/drought events. It most certainly contributes to reduced river flow, increased glacial melt, and a reduction in water quality. A price on carbon that impacts everyone will ensure that we all will share the responsibility of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Alberta, the source for 36.8 percent of Canada's emissions, is Canada's greenhouse gas emissions leader. At AWA we hope this plan is the first step towards delivering the far-reaching impacts

needed to help reduce our national and international emissions. A healthy future depends on keeping global warming below 2 degrees Celsius.

Joanna Skrajny