

REPORT CARD ON THE SASKATCHEWAN GOVERNMENT'S GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION PLANS

ASSESSMENT BY THE SASKATCHEWAN ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIETY

1. FOLLOW-UP BY THE SASKATCHEWAN GOVERNMENT ON ITS OFFICIAL 2009 PLEDGE TO REDUCE PROVINCE-WIDE GREENHOUSE GAS POLLUTION 20% BY 2020 (USING 2006 EMISSIONS AS A BASELINE)

RATIONALE: No reduction in overall Saskatchewan pollution levels has been achieved. In fact, greenhouse gas pollution levels have risen by 10.7% since 2005.

F

2. PLANS TO ADDRESS METHANE POLLUTION IN THE OIL AND GAS SECTOR

RATIONALE: The Saskatchewan government has formulated a serious plan to cut methane emissions in Saskatchewan's oil and gas sector. Congratulations!

B

3. PLANS FOR CUTTING EMISSIONS IN AGRICULTURE

RATIONALE: Agriculture is critically important to the future of Saskatchewan and emissions reduction in this sector is very challenging. Zero till and low tillage practices are important and the greenhouse gas emission reductions achieved since 2005 deserve to be recognized nationally and internationally. Plans to plant more nitrogen-fixing crops are also positive. Many other viable emission reduction options are available in the agriculture sector; surprisingly Prairie Resilience makes no reference to them. The suggestion in Prairie Resilience that wetland habitats will be enhanced in the coming years lacks credibility, given that wetlands are currently being drained at an estimated 28 acres per day.

C

4. PLANS FOR CUTTING GREENHOUSE GAS POLLUTION IN ELECTRICITY GENERATION

RATIONALE: The Saskatchewan government receives a passing grade in this area. Its new plans for expanding wind power are positive and cost effective. SaskPower could choose to do a lot more with respect to solar power, hydro imports, electricity conservation and cogeneration of electricity, but some modest steps are being taken. SaskPower's carbon capture project works much of the time, but is exceptionally expensive considering the emissions saved. Saskatchewan's failure to follow the lead of other provinces in phasing out conventional coal-fired power plants is disappointing, as is its increasing dependence on natural-gas as a fuel for electricity generation.

C

5. PLANS FOR CUTTING GREENHOUSE GAS POLLUTION IN THE TRANSPORT SECTOR

RATIONALE: There is no serious provincial plan for emission reduction in the transport sector. No targets have been set and the action measures proposed in "Prairie Resilience" will have limited impact.

F

6. PLANS FOR REDUCING EMISSIONS IN THE BUILDINGS SECTOR

RATIONALE: The Province gets a C for its plans to improve the building code as it pertains to new building construction, but unfortunately there is no serious plan to encourage energy efficient retrofit of our existing building stock, bringing the overall grade down. There is also no target for emission reduction in the buildings sector.

D⁺

7. PLANS FOR CUTTING EMISSIONS BY HEAVY INDUSTRY

RATIONALE: Saskatchewan government emission reduction goals for industry have at last been set, but they are exceptionally low. Moreover, there has been a 9 year delay in implementing greenhouse gas regulations for the industrial sector. Enabling legislation was adopted in 2009, but then never acted upon.

D

8. PLANS FOR CUTTING EMISSIONS IN THE MUNICIPAL SECTOR

RATIONALE: Community-wide greenhouse gas emissions in Saskatchewan cities are rising. Regina and Saskatoon have noble objectives but there is no targeted assistance from the Government of Saskatchewan to help any city address the problem.

D

9. WILLINGNESS TO PUT A PRICE ON GREENHOUSE GAS POLLUTION, AS A WAY OF REDUCING DANGEROUS EMISSIONS TO THE ATMOSPHERE

RATIONALE: Not only is there no provincial levy on greenhouse gas pollution, but the Saskatchewan government plans to spend a large sum of money obstructing a federal plan to introduce such a levy. There appears to be little concern about the fact that our province-wide emissions are more than triple the Canadian average. If Saskatchewan were theoretically a country, we would have the highest per capita greenhouse gas emissions in the world.

F

10. COMMUNICATING SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE TO THE SASKATCHEWAN PUBLIC

RATIONALE: The provincial government is not communicating critically important scientific information on climate change to the Saskatchewan public. The Saskatchewan government does very little to explain the risks associated with climate change, the long-lived nature of greenhouse gas pollution, or the serious consequences of inaction at a local and global level.

D



GRADING SCALE:

- A..... 80% or better
- B..... 70% to 79%
- C..... 50% to 69%
- D..... 40% to 49%
- F..... under 40%

Read the **Saskatchewan Environmental Society's** GHG emissions reduction recommendations for the Government of Saskatchewan at:
www.environmentalsociety.ca

