



## Handling flaring and venting

CASA stakeholders created a flaring and venting framework in the late 1990s. By 2008, solution gas firing had dropped 77% from that of 1996. Solution gas venting is down 41% since 2000. Today's updated framework goes beyond that to include facility flaring, well test flaring and venting of solution gas. The team continues its work on ways to eliminate routine flaring and venting, evaluate implementation progress and review previous recommendations.

In 1999, CASA was recognized with its first Emerald Award for Environmental Excellence for this work. The project also won the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) Pollution Prevention Award in 2005.

## Testing vehicle emissions

An initial Roadside Optical Vehicle Emission Reporter (ROVER) project was followed by ROVER II eight years later. Both ROVER projects used a remote sensing van to measure exhaust emissions. Results showed Albertans are aware of and interested in knowing about, vehicle emissions. It also found that a small number of vehicles caused most of the emissions.

## Replacing high-polluting vehicles

CASA developed and implemented Breathe Easy, a pilot program showing the value of incentives. In 10 weeks, Breathe Easy took over 500 high-polluting cars off the road. Climate Change Central built on the pilot through the longer-term Car Heaven program, ultimately removing over seven thousand vehicles. Later, the federal government considered the Breathe Easy results during development of the Retire Your Ride program.

## Controlling mass transit emissions

CASA partnered with Edmonton Transit to test diesel particulate filters in cold weather. That pilot project showed substantial decreases in total hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide and total particulate matter. As a result, ETS bought conventional buses with diesel particulate filters and exhaust gas recirculation, meeting the stringent 2007 EPA standard.

## Managing confined feeding operations

A few years ago, CASA developed a plan to address emissions from Alberta's confined feeding operations. The Government of Alberta and industry are implementing it, with the CASA team assessing progress.

## Documenting livestock economic performance

CASA developed the Herd Environmental Record System (HERS) in 2003 to supplement existing record-keeping systems. The framework encourages proactive procedures for recording baseline information on livestock performance. It also includes procedures for documenting incidences of environmental contamination to cross-reference with livestock performance data.

## Providing accessible information

The **CASA Data Warehouse** at [www.casadata.org](http://www.casadata.org), reports air quality across Alberta. It provides both real-time and historical provincial ambient air quality information. Available data includes air quality information from over 200 monitoring and industrial compliance stations, and historical data from Alberta Environment stations.

Clean Air Information was created in response to workshop feedback. Housed at [www.casahome.org](http://www.casahome.org), this one-stop shop includes information about air quality education, and outreach programs and materials available in Alberta.



## Partnering for Success

definition of success /

*1. action that realized tangible improvements in air quality; 2. agreements or frameworks that provide valuable tools for managing air quality*

- Promoting consensus
- Improving future air quality
- Supporting airsheds
- Monitoring ambient air
- Setting renewable & alternative energy targets
- Setting ambient air quality objectives
- Reducing smog
- Preventing acid rain
- Managing electricity emissions
- Handling flaring and venting
- Testing vehicle emissions
- Replacing high-polluting vehicles
- Controlling mass transit emissions
- Managing confined feeding operations
- Documenting livestock performance
- Providing accessible information



*The Clean Air Strategic Alliance (CASA) has been recognized for its innovative process and commitment to air pollution prevention since its formation in 1994. By working with government, industry and non-government organizations in a collaborative, transparent way, CASA's successes benefit all Albertans. Some of CASA's more significant successes are outlined here. More details are available at [www.casahome.org](http://www.casahome.org).*

## Promoting consensus

CASA's key success is the use of consensus to reach agreement. Each year over 200 stakeholder groups with diverse perspectives and positions employ collaborative decision-making for creative and innovative recommendations everyone can live with. Those are often longer-lasting than recommendations developed using more traditional methods.

Almost 40 final project reports have been approved by consensus of the CASA Board, and the commitment to consensus continues. In partnership with the Alberta Water Council, we brought people together from across Alberta to develop ways to better practice consensus.

In 2005, CASA was awarded Carleton University's Arthur Kroeger Award for Policy Leadership.

## Improving future air quality

CASA stakeholders reached consensus on recommendations for a renewed clean air strategy for Alberta. The successful process included broad public consultation. The team's recommendations helped guide the government's Clean Air Strategy and the future of air quality management in Alberta.

## Supporting airsheds

CASA has endorsed eight local airshed zones to monitor and manage air quality regionally. Together covering almost half the province, zones allow for flexible solutions to address local concerns. The zones operate independently, with CASA support when requested. A standing CASA board committee encourages two-way communication.

## The CASA vision

*The air will have no adverse odour, taste or visual impact and have no measurable short - or long-term adverse effects on people, animals or the environment.*

## Monitoring ambient air

An integrated province-wide ambient air monitoring system is fundamental to managing Alberta's air quality. The recent Ambient Monitoring Strategy for Alberta outlines seven monitoring sub-programs in an overall strategy. The CASA board's consensus recommendations included an "emitter-pay" principle for the monitoring system.

## Setting renewable and alternative energy targets

Through consensus, a definition and a calculation method for determining the increased supply and demand for Alberta's renewable and alternative energy were developed. CASA supports the Government of Alberta's target for increasing the renewable and alternative energy portion of total provincial electricity sales.

## Setting ambient air quality objectives

CASA partnered with Alberta Environment for a Priority Setting Workshop three times over nine years. By consensus, participants developed a list of pollutants or substances affecting air quality. Alberta Environment uses that list to develop their workplan on ambient air quality objectives.

## Reducing smog

CASA's framework sets levels and actions to proactively manage fine particulates and ozone in Alberta. It balances environmental, economic, social and health concerns, while concentrating on preserving already-clean areas of the province. Through it, three urban areas developed ozone management plans when ambient concentrations reached specified levels.

The CASA project team earned the Premier's Award for Excellence (Bronze) in 2001 for its work.

## Preventing acid rain

A framework for a management plan highlighted CASA's proactive approach to environmental protection. The framework addresses acidifying emissions before widespread impacts can actually occur. Ongoing monitoring shows current and projected acid deposition levels are below established criteria.

In 2000, CASA won the Premier's Award for Excellence (Bronze) with the Target Loading Report.

## Managing electricity emissions

The Government of Alberta accepted CASA's recommendations to reduce emissions generated from the electricity sector. Included in those recommendations are regular reviews, and dialogue with Albertans. In addition to eliciting valuable information, the public meetings provide numerous opportunities to educate and create awareness of the emission management framework.

In 2004, the framework earned CASA the Alberta Emerald Foundation's Emerald Award for Environmental Excellence.

