

## Background

- C Climate change was identified as a priority issue at the inception of CASA. CASA initially worked on developing a response to the issue. Despite some success in developing principles and a strategic approach, CASA stakeholders could not agree on the pace of response to climate change, and abandoned the strategic discussion while continuing to work on specific initiatives and complementary strategies to address other air issues.
- C With increased attention to climate change post-Kyoto, the CASA Board has questioned what contribution CASA can and should make in responding to climate change in Alberta.
- C The national process developing implementation strategy for a climate change response is aiming at "quick start" options in fall, 1998, and options and strategies in fall, 1999. The Alberta Government process is coordinated with the national process and aimed at effective participation within the national process, and "best efforts" action in Alberta.
- C The national process fits within the broad framework outlined in Canada's National Action Program on Climate Change (NAPCC). This framework is based on taking a three-pronged approach to climate change: one that includes continued scientific research, working to adapt to climate change and greenhouse gas mitigation. While the focus on the new national process is on activities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, initiatives related to adaptation and scientific research will continue to receive consideration.
- C CASA's role needs to be linked to these processes and timetables; many CASA stakeholders participate in one or both. However, CASA's major contribution is likely to come from focusing on development and explanation of specific measures to accelerate adoption and implementation, beginning with quick start mitigation (that is, greenhouse gas reduction) measures, possibly continuing to other options, and addressing science and adaptation actions, as they emerge. CASA may even find opportunities, making use of the stakeholder process, to initiate certain actions, and thereby show leadership nationally through pro-activity.

## Goal

To contribute to greenhouse gas reductions by developing, assessing, prioritizing, explaining and recommending actions/measures to government and stakeholders which will broaden the scope of early action and assist in deciding on subsequent action.

## Objectives

- 1.To identify, define, explain and recommend quick-start measures for adoption by Alberta stakeholders.
- 2.To identify the implications for climate change of actions considered by other CASA project (working) teams (focused on other air issues) and to identify implications of climate change for those actions.
- 3.To enable individual stakeholders to contribute to the design of measures in the national process, by promoting communication and by providing a forum for measures assessment and design from an Alberta perspective.
- 4.To strengthen the Alberta process for responding to the climate change issue by contributing specific greenhouse gas reduction actions to the Alberta Cabinet Committee on Climate Change (C-4) process.
- 5.To identify, define and recommend longer-term climate change response measures, to assist on-going decision-making on climate change.

## Tasks

### *Action and Coordination*

- C Identify and prioritize actions, opportunities, measures that can be taken within Alberta to reduce greenhouse gas emissions drawing on previous CASA work, national processes, and stakeholder contributions.
- C Determine which actions are most suitable and likely for "quick start" action, and describe, assess, and explain how they could be implemented within Alberta.
- C Report recommended/feasible quick start actions and stakeholder positions on issues where there is no consensus.
- C Communicate with the national process to ensure CASA's actions are compatible with and complementary to the national process.
- C Identify other medium and longer term actions.
- C Initiate actions amongst stakeholders that are within their capability and responsibility and that are consistent with the goal and objectives of this CASA initiative.

### *Communication and Education*

- C Assist in keeping CASA stakeholders informed of national and provincial activities in response to climate change.
- C Facilitate access to scientific information for stakeholders and the public and work

towards improving the understanding of stakeholders and the public of the science of climate change, the challenges of adapting to climate change, and the opportunities for mitigating climate change.

### *Research and Information Gathering*

- C Consider producing a general inventory of greenhouse gas sources and sinks in Alberta.
- C Review and document, if possible, the results achieved by the initial CASA climate change working group.
- C Identify and quantify, where possible, the benefits, effectiveness, costs and other environmental effects of CASA initiated or recommended actions.

### **Membership**

- C Membership will represent a balance among the government, industry, and NGO sectors represented on the CASA Board.
- C Membership is open to all CASA Board members, their representatives, or members from interests not represented on the CASA Board.
- C The Working Group will choose its chair/co-chairs.

### **Reporting**

- C The Working Group will report to the CASA Board at each Board meeting and on key project deliverables and timelines.
- C The Working Group's Terms of Reference and Work Plan will be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that the work of the group remains topical and relevant for decision-makers.

### **Time Lines**

- C July - August:** Establish team and identify initial list of quick-start actions that will be assessed.
- C August - September:** Identification of Quick-Start Actions that can be taken in Alberta
- C Mid-September:** Interim Report to CASA and to Ministers of Energy and Environmental Protection
- C October 1998 - Spring 1999:** Assessment and follow-up on quick-start actions identified by the CCWG, the Alberta process and the national implementation process.
- C November 1998:** Bring to the CASA Board recommended actions by CASA stakeholders that show leadership.
- C Spring 1999:** Identification of longer-term options, Alberta opportunities for Credit for Early Action, recommendations on public engagement
- C Fall 1999:** Report to Ministers in advance of Joint Ministers Meeting
- C November 1999:** Re-confirmation of Terms of Reference

## **Deliverables**

1. Progress report to CASA Board on Quick Start Actions for Alberta - due mid September 1998.
2. Progress report to the Ministers of Energy and Environmental Protection on Quick Start Actions for Alberta - due end of September 1998.
3. Report to CASA Board detailing CCWG workplan and recommendations for Quick Start Actions for Alberta - due early November 1998.
4. Report to CASA Board detailing follow-up on Quick Start Actions and possibly initial identification of longer term actions - due early March 1999.
5. Report to CASA Board on progress with respect to longer term actions to be taken in Alberta - due early June 1999.
6. Report to CASA Board on actions to be taken in Alberta - due mid September 1999.
7. Report to Ministers of Energy and Environmental Protection on actions that can be taken in Alberta - due end of September 1999.
8. Final Report to CASA Board on Follow-up actions required by CASA possibly including the establishment of a Climate Change Project Team with new terms of reference - due end of October 1999.