

ABOUT THE GOOD PRACTICES GUIDE

Odours are one of the most common air quality complaints and can directly and indirectly affect health and quality of life. Odour-related conflicts may arise when residential and recreational activities and industrial, municipal, agricultural and/or commercial activities converge.

The *Good Practices Guide for Odour Management in Alberta* was developed to serve as a reference on odour issues and their management. It explains some of the most commonly used tools in odour management and provides guidance on the general situations and circumstances in which the tools may be most effective.

The guide is not intended to provide specific odour management recommendations or regulatory requirements. It does provide information that can guide the development of such recommendations or requirements.

The guide represents a compilation and summary of key information from more comprehensive “topic specific” documents. While much of the source information was developed with Alberta in mind, the information included in this guide is considered to be generally applicable to a broad range of jurisdictions and odour-related issues.

The task group’s topic-specific consultant reports are available online at casahome.org for those who wish to explore any of the topics or tools in more depth, review the charts and tables, or consult the references and source documents.

The *Good Practices Guide for Odour Management in Alberta* is made possible thanks to the hard work and commitment of the members who sat on the Clean Air Strategic Alliance Odour Management Project Team and these task groups:

- Health Task Group
- Prevention and Mitigation Task Group
- Odour Assessment Task Group
- Enforcement and Role of Regulation Task Group
- Complaints Task Group

The reports produced from their work are the basis of this guide:

Odour and Health Backgrounder which was prepared by members of the Health Task Group.

Review of Odour Prevention and Mitigation Tools for Alberta which was prepared by Pinchin Ltd.

Review of Odour Assessment Tools and Practices for Alberta which was by prepared Millennium EMS Solutions Ltd., and Environmental Odour Consulting.

Report to the Clean Air Strategic Alliance Odour Management Team Enforcement/Role of Regulation Task Group which was prepared by RWDI AIR Inc.

Odour Complaints in Your Area: A Guide for Developing an Odour Complaint Process which was prepared by members of the Complaints Task Group.

ABOUT CASA

Through two decades of dedication, the Clean Air Strategic Alliance (CASA) has emerged as one of Canada’s most productive multi-stakeholder organizations. CASA’s policy advice and regulatory frameworks have had a lasting influence on the management of air quality in Alberta. Decisions and recommendations related to the development of the Good Practices Guide for Odour Management in Alberta have been agreed to by consensus of the multi-stakeholder project team and task groups, who have worked together as equals to develop creative and long-lasting solutions.

Hard copies of the *Good Practices Guide for Odour Management in Alberta* are available by contacting CASA at casa@casahome.org.

The guide may also be downloaded from the CASA website (casahome.org).

10TH FLR, 10035 - 108 STREET TWITTER (@CleanAirSA)
EDMONTON, AB T5J 3E1 FLICKR (CleanAirSA)
PHONE: 780-427-9793 SLIDESHARE (CleanAirSA)



HIGHLIGHTS FROM

GOOD PRACTICES GUIDE FOR ODOUR MANAGEMENT IN ALBERTA

FROM PREVENTION AND MITIGATION TO ASSESSMENT AND COMPLAINTS



UNDERSTANDING ODOUR

Odours can be a significant contributor to air pollution and air quality concerns. Offensive odours may have adverse effects on peoples' lives and well-being, and can result in conflicts between the public and the facilities or activities generating the odours. An important step in managing odour is developing an understanding of its properties, frequency and duration of occurrence, sources, and impact on health and well-being.

ODOUR AND HEALTH

Everyone experiences odour in different ways. Keeping records can be useful to help people understand and track how odours may be affecting their health.

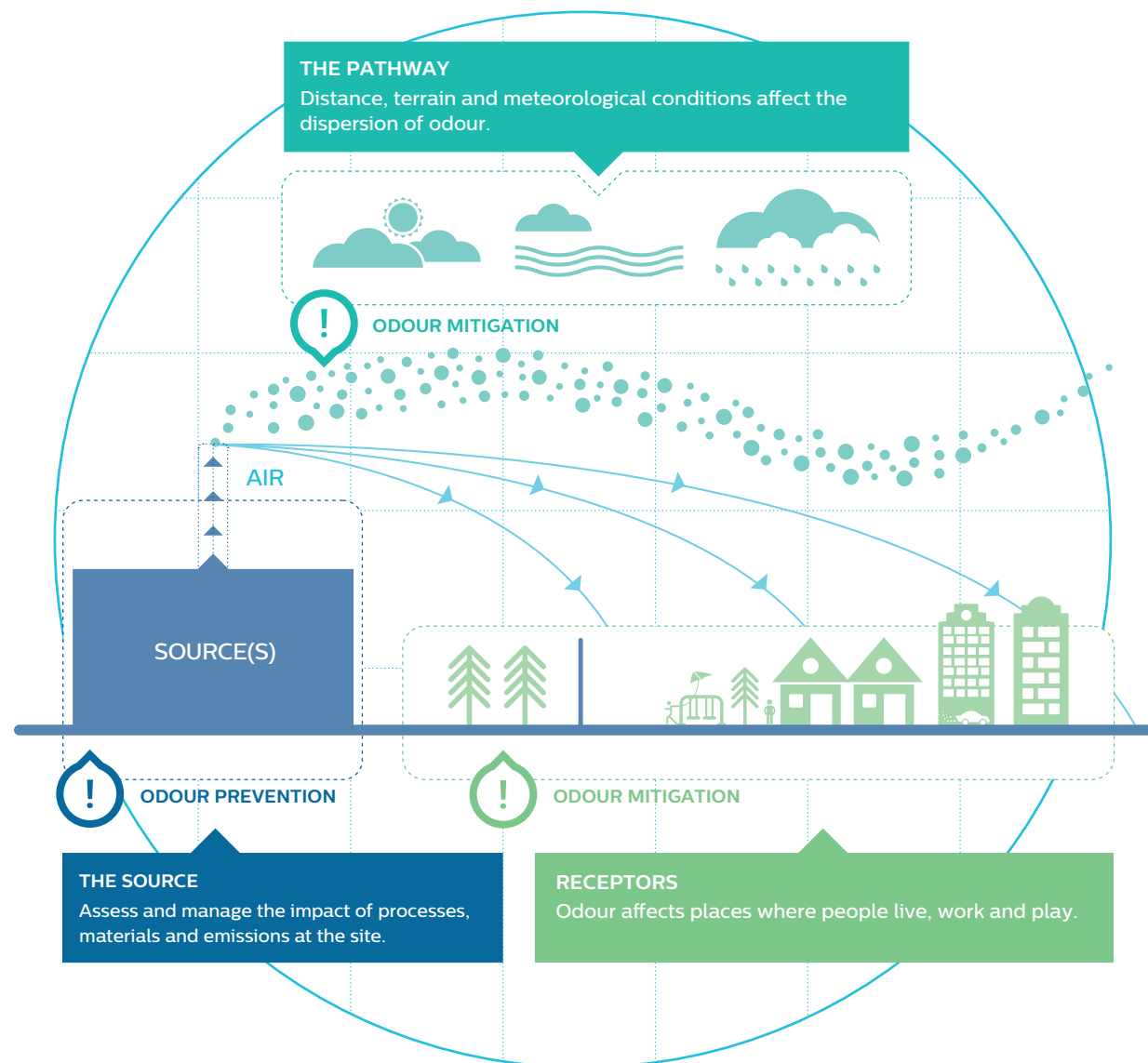
ODOUR PREVENTION & MITIGATION

Prevention and mitigation can be described as a suite of tools used to prevent or lower odorant emissions or reduce the occurrence of adverse odour effects.

- Prevention refers to actions or solutions that avert the creation of odours, such as material substitution.
- Mitigation techniques are more commonly used and target odours after they are generated.

There are various prevention and mitigation tools that can be used depending on the circumstance and their selection is often guided by odour assessment tools.

INSIDE GOOD PRACTICES GUIDE FOR ODOUR MANAGEMENT IN ALBERTA



ODOUR ASSESSMENTS

Odour assessments are conducted for a variety of reasons, and the tools used to conduct the assessment will depend on its purpose. Four types of odour assessments are: ambient odour, source odour, inventory and dispersion modelling.

ODOUR MANAGEMENT

Odour management involves the application of the appropriate tools to understand and effectively manage odour. Odour impacts may arise from a wide range of odour sources and the nature of odour perception and response is varied and qualitative. There are many approaches for managing odours in addition to challenges in determining the best options for control. Odour-related regulation and associated enforcement is one of many possible odour management tools.

ODOUR COMPLAINTS

Odour complaints often necessitate odour management activities. Receiving, understanding and effectively addressing odour complaints is a very important part of odour management, and it includes managing the public's expectations about odours. There are several factors that need to be considered in developing processes for handling the complaints, managing the relationship with callers and gathering necessary information for complaint follow-up.