Clean Air Strategy Project Team
Terms of Reference

Approved by the CASA Board on 21 June 2007

Background

At their March 2007 board meeting, the CASA Board of Directors approved a Clean Air Strategy statement of opportunity brought forward by Alberta Environment.

Air quality has potentially significant effects on the well-being of Albertans and the environment. The rapid economic and population growth in the province, combined with the public's increased awareness of health and lifestyle issues highlight the need for an update to the 1991 Clean Air Strategy for Alberta. The strategy would become the Government of Alberta's long term commitment to clean air, explore innovative ideas and respond to emerging issues.

Goal

To develop a clean air strategy for Alberta.

Objectives

Recommend a clean air strategy that would serve as the foundation of the Government of Alberta's long term strategy for clean air. The strategy will:

1. Protect the environment and the health of the human population.
2. Provide a strategic framework for existing and future clean air initiatives.
3. Demonstrate the commitment of government, industries and individuals to clean air in Alberta.
4. Seek continuous improvement opportunities considering economic performance and efficiency.
5. Identify areas and issues of special focus.
6. Clearly describe clean air outcomes.
7. Signal to all Albertans the direction Alberta is going regarding clean air.
8. To build on existing CASA frameworks.

Timelines

June 2007	Terms of Reference approved and a project team formed
September 2007	Clean Air Strategy Project Team first meeting
March 2008	Status report to the CASA Board
December 2008	Final report and recommendations presented to the CASA Board

Membership on the project team will include:

Agriculture
Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties
Alberta Environment
Alberta Health and Wellness
Alberta Urban Municipalities Association
Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers
Canadian Natural Resources Ltd.

Environment Canada
First Nations
Imperial Oil
Métis
Pembina Institute
PPA Buyers
Prairie Acid Rain Coalition
Suncor Inc.
The Lung Association
Toxics Watch Society of Alberta
TransAlta Corp.
Transportation

Appendix One: **Excerpt from the 1991 Clean Air Strategy for Alberta report to the Ministers**

The following excerpt from the 1991 Clean Air Strategy for Alberta report to the Ministers is intended to act as a starting point in the thinking of the Clean Air Strategy for Alberta. It in no way reflects the thoughts or direction that the Clean Air Strategy Project Team may take.

OVERALL VISION

This vision of clean air is the guiding star. It is fundamental to the development of an effective air quality management strategy for Alberta.

The air will be odourless, tasteless, look clear and have no measurable short or long-term adverse effects on people, animals or the environment.

MISSION STATEMENT

Alberta's Clean Air Strategy is to provide guidelines for the management of emissions from human activity and encourage appropriate life-styles so as to protect human health and ecological integrity within a provincial, national and international context.

The strategy will be comprehensive but flexible and, through an ongoing consultative process, will employ a wide range of mechanisms available for implementing the strategy, including public education, market-based approaches, legislation, regulation, and research and development.

Health, Quality of Life and Education

- Human health and ecological integrity within the province must be protected.
- Albertans have an obligation to their children and future generations to pass to them a healthy environment.
- Human health, environmental quality and the economy are interdependent and inseparable.
- Air quality management and decision-making must strive to use cooperative and constructive processes rather than adversarial approaches.
- An educated and motivated public, which is able to make sound life-style choices, is essential to the development and implementation of a successful clean air strategy.
- Full public access to information and involvement in decision-making for air quality is essential.

Equity

- Fairness in recommendations and actions is essential.
- All consumers should share fairly in the costs and benefits of reducing emissions.
- All suppliers of energy resources or services should be given an equal opportunity to contribute to a healthy environment and a sound economy.

Coordination and Interrelationships

- Addressing local and regional air quality problems is a priority.
- Albertans must work to alleviate their share of national and international air quality problems.
- Albertans have a leadership role to play in solving air quality problems.

- The various levels of government share responsibility for air quality management and must coordinate their efforts to avoid duplication of efforts.
- Encouraging wise use of energy use and striving to optimize energy conservation and efficiency are essential.

Science and Research and Development

- Alberta's strengths in technology, new technology development and services can be used to help resolve air quality problems and to diversify and strengthen the economy.
- Air quality should be managed on the basis of sound scientific information and appropriate risk management.

PRINCIPLES

Health, Quality of Life and Education

- The protection of human health and ecological integrity are fundamental considerations.
- Important consideration must be given to economic well-being and quality of life.
- The public must be informed about air quality in the province and aware of their individual roles in both problems and solutions.

Equity

- Alberta's environmental, economic and social interests relative to other jurisdictions must not be jeopardized in implementing actions.
- The costs and benefits of implementing measures must be shared fairly among all sectors, including consumers.
- The potential impacts of clean air policies and programs on low income Albertans must be addressed.
- The management of air quality must be approached on the basis of a full assessment of direct and indirect environmental, social and economic costs and benefits.

Coordination and Inter-relationships

- Cooperation with the federal government and other provinces must be ensured in setting and, where appropriate, in harmonizing air quality objectives without compromising provincial standards.
- It must be recognized that air quality issues at point sources within zone, regions, nationally and internationally are inter-related and must be addressed as such.
- Where appropriate, provincial expertise in technology and services must be shared with others (especially less-developed countries).

Science and Research and Development

- Sound, scientific information about emissions and their environmental and health impacts must be used to form the basis of air quality management decisions and strategies.
- Scientific and economic factors and other uncertainties are to be addressed using sound management principles and risk assessment.
- Scientific understanding of air chemistry and transport must be enhanced in order to build better practical models and improve theoretical understanding.
- Research and technology development must be encouraged in order to fill knowledge gaps and to develop new ways to prevent, reduce or eliminate undesired emissions and/or increase efficiencies.
- Development of cleaner energy sources must be fostered.

Key Thrusts

- Full consultation with affected and interested Albertans must be an integral component of air quality management and decision-making.
- The most cost-effective measures which achieve the greatest human health and ecological benefits must be implemented.
- The most appropriate approaches to prevent or reduce emissions must be selected from among the range of mechanisms, including public education, market-based approaches and regulations standards.
- Cost-effective energy efficiency must be maximized and energy conservation must be promoted as a priority.
- Local and regional air quality problems are to be addressed as priorities.
- Encouraging individuals to take actions that contribute to cleaner air must be a priority.
- Emission reduction and energy efficiency technologies and services must be pursued as potential opportunities for economic development and export.

CRITERIA USED FOR DEVELOPING THE STRATEGY

- It is recognized that considerable time will be required to achieve many of the goals and objectives. The resources required to achieve the goals will need to be balanced with other claims on provincial resources.
- Cost-effectiveness is essential. Changes in consumer behaviour, and in the energy industry and other sectors, will require significant investments over time. Recognizing the potential economic benefits associated with energy conservation and efficiency, investments to reduce emissions are likely to be large enough to affect the economy in various ways. Therefore, it is sensible to seek reductions at the lowest cost.
- A least-cost strategy by itself is not a satisfactory criterion. Flexibility in the approaches used to achieve goals is critical, especially if objectives to achieve the goals are to be economically viable. Innovative approaches need to part of the strategy.
- Agreed-upon problem definition and priority setting are also considered essential. The problem definition criterion used by the Clean Air Strategy for Alberta is “significance to Alberta.” The priority setting criteria employed are a mix of “ease of implementation” and “significance to Alberta.”
- The term management, as defined by the Clean Air Strategy for Alberta, means to identify, monitor, assess and where required, respond, reduce and follow-up.

Seven types of goals have been identified. These are:

- comprehensive air quality management system (Section 7.1, Goal A);
- energy efficiency, conservation and renewables (Section 7.2, Goals B, C and D);
- point source (Section 7.3, Goals E and F);
- zone (Section 7.4, Goals G and H);
- regional (Western Canada in Section 7.5, Goal I);
- national/international (Section 7.6, Goal J); and
- general (Section 7.7, Goals K, L, and M).