

For immediate release

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Alberta Energy Efficiency Alliance reacts to Alberta budget

EDMONTON – *Jesse Row, Executive Director of the Alberta Energy Efficiency Alliance made the following comments in response to the provincial budget released today. The Alberta Government news release included an allocation of \$645 million over five years to support energy efficiency and micro-generation initiatives.*

“Alberta is currently the only province or state in Canada or the U.S. without energy efficiency programs. The funding from this budget will allow Alberta to finally start catching up.”

“Alberta families and businesses can expect to save over \$2 billion through these programs while reducing emissions equivalent to taking nearly 1 million cars off the road.”

“This will take Alberta from last place to the middle of the pack compared with energy efficiency funding in other provinces.”

“In response to the question ‘Do you strongly support, moderately support, moderately oppose or strongly oppose the creation of new energy efficiency programs in Alberta to help families and businesses reduce energy costs?’, over 80 per cent of Albertans said they either support or strongly support the creation of new programs. The survey was conducted between March 14 and 31, 2016 by Trend Research.”

“Most energy efficiency programs publicly report to a regulator every year to make sure they’re making good use of funds. Not only have they proven to be a good investment, provinces and states have continued to increase funding in this area.”

“During their last recession and recovery, energy efficiency program spending in the U.S. more than doubled (increased from US\$3 billion in 2007 to US\$8 billion in 2011) as a way to stimulate their economy.”

“Based on results in other places, Alberta can expect to create around 3,000 jobs from these energy efficiency programs. This is on top of more than \$2 billion in energy savings and emission reductions equivalent to taking almost one million cars off the road.”

“Saving money, reducing emissions, stimulating the economy and creating jobs are four solid reasons why energy efficiency programs are a good investment for Alberta.”

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The Alberta Energy Efficiency Alliance includes over 20 organizations that support the adoption of new energy efficiency programs and policies in Alberta. More information can be found at www.aeea.ca.

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