



A L B E R T A  
*Energy Efficiency Alliance*

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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# **Energy efficiency could save Alberta millions and create thousands of jobs while cutting carbon pollution**

CALGARY — Recent analysis shows that establishing a new energy efficiency program for Alberta would reduce utility bills and greenhouse gas emissions while creating jobs. The analysis, based on a previous study done for Natural Resources Canada, estimates that an average-sized efficiency program for Alberta would save consumers over \$460 million per year, create 3,800 jobs and reduce emissions equivalent to taking 800,000 cars off the road.

The program would cost about \$24 per capita, which is the average other Canadian provinces are spending on energy-saving programs.

The Alberta-specific analysis was conducted by Dunskey Energy Consulting and commissioned by the Alberta Energy Efficiency Alliance, a multi-sector association including oil and gas companies, energy utilities, municipalities, product and service providers, and non-profit organizations.

Jesse Row, executive director of the Alliance, says that while it will take some time to ramp up programming to a level that matches other provinces, Alberta should get started right away to take advantage of the economic and environmental benefits that energy efficiency has to offer.

“Alberta is currently the [only jurisdiction](#) in North America without energy efficiency programs,” Row said. “It’s time for Alberta to start realizing the benefits of energy efficiency programs that other jurisdictions are already seeing.”

Alberta’s Environment Minister, Shannon Phillips, [recently said](#) the government will deliver a new energy efficiency program for Alberta as part of its renewed climate strategy.

The province could fund a new energy efficiency program in the short term through the Climate Change and Emissions Management Fund (CCEMF), which many of Alberta’s energy producers currently pay into as a way of complying with emissions regulations. To date, it is [reported](#) that the fund has collected over

\$500 million and committed less than \$250 million to climate change-related projects.

Last June, then-environment minister Robin Campbell [said](#) Alberta would get new energy efficiency programs by October 2014. A request for proposals (RFP) for designing the programs was issued in August, but put on hold when then-premier Jim Prentice took office. “Taking this RFP off hold would be the quickest way for the new government to demonstrate action on its priorities of job creation, reducing emissions and economic growth,” Row said.

Previous [polling](#) undertaken showed 77 per cent of Albertans either support or strongly support using a portion of the CCEMF for residential and commercial energy efficiency programs. Only seven per cent of respondents either opposed or strongly opposed using the funds this way, with 16 per cent of respondents indicating they didn’t know or were unsure whether they support or oppose this approach.

Energy efficiency programs are used in every other jurisdiction in North America as a proven way for households, businesses and organizations to improve their energy efficiency, reduce energy bills, create jobs and reduce emissions.

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The Dunsky Energy Consulting analysis referenced above can be found on the Alberta Energy Efficiency Alliance [website](#).

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