

Outstanding Recommendations

Assessment of Implementation Report

Alberta Environment and Parks

Design of Systems to Manage the Climate Leadership Plan and Adaptation

(February 2018)

Summary of Recommendations

In March 2021, we completed our assessment of implementation from our February 2018 audit of Alberta Environment and Parks' *Design of Systems to Manage the Climate Leadership Plan and Adaptation*. We did not complete a full assessment of implementation as the Climate Leadership Plan (CLP) is no longer being used as the guiding plan for the government's climate change related initiatives and programs. As a result, our recommendation directed at a comprehensive implementation plan for the CLP, monitoring the progress and reporting against the CLP is no longer relevant.

CHANGED Circumstance:

Develop and use an implementation plan, improve quality of the monitoring data, and report on total cost

Recommendation:

Develop and use an implementation plan, improve quality of the monitoring data, and report on total cost

CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCE

Context

The Alberta government started taking action on climate change in 2002 when it released a climate change plan and a target to reduce emissions.⁴⁵ In 2008, the government released a new climate change strategy focused on reducing emissions through carbon capture and storage, using energy more efficiently and producing cleaner energy. In 2015, the government released another strategy, the CLP. The CLP introduced new measures for reducing emissions, including an economy-wide carbon tax and phase-out of coal generated electricity.

The Department of Environment and Parks has been responsible for leading the implementation of all three climate change strategies.

We have audited the department's systems for managing the climate change strategies four times. Our original audit of the 2008 strategy found that the department needed to improve how it plans, monitors progress and reports on the strategy results.⁴⁶ We made three recommendations and followed up on their implementation in 2012 and 2014.⁴⁷ The department did not implement any of the three recommendations, which we subsequently closed off when the CLP was introduced.

In 2018, we audited the department's systems to manage the CLP. Again, we found deficiencies in how the department planned, monitored progress and reported on the strategy results. In our February 2018 report, we recommended that the department develop an implementation plan, improve quality of the monitoring data and report on the total cost of the CLP.⁴⁸

After we made our recommendation in 2018, the CLP was discontinued following the provincial election in 2019.

During the course of our monitoring of the department's progress since 2018, we noted that the department took the following actions:

- developed and published a plan for how it will continue implementing the CLP in 2018-2019⁴⁹
- published the 2018-2019 CLP progress report⁵⁰
- published the CLP highlights for 2017-2018 and 2018-2019⁵¹

We did not complete the full assessment of implementation because the discontinuation of the CLP has made our recommendation no longer relevant.

⁴⁵ The target was to reduce emissions by 10 per cent below 1990 levels by 2020.

⁴⁶ *Report of the Auditor General of Alberta—October 2008*, pages 93-107.

⁴⁷ *Report of the Auditor General of Alberta—October 2012*, pages 35-40 and *Report of the Auditor General of Alberta—July 2014*, pages 39-47.

⁴⁸ *Report of the Auditor General of Alberta—February 2018*, pages 93-105.

⁴⁹ https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/da6433da-69b7-4d15-9123-01f76004f574/resource/b42b1f43-7b9d-483d-aa2a-6f9b4290d81e/download/clp_implementation_plan-jun07.pdf.

⁵⁰ <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/83285ecd-dbbe-4b6f-a1a2-ceaebf289fa3/resource/f6b4da5f-76d7-4ed2-9fd7-9a133c323440/download/clp-progress-report-2017-18-final.pdf>.

⁵¹ https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/83285ecd-dbbe-4b6f-a1a2-ceaebf289fa3/resource/9932c8ce-516a-4fcc-9bda-97cbedbc581a/download/clp_policyandprogramhighlights.pdf.