



Saskatchewan Greenprint for Energy Conservation Backgrounder

Higher energy prices and concerns about climate change have renewed interest in energy efficiency. The best protection against rising energy costs and future environmental problems is to use energy more efficiently and to reduce consumption.

On May 24, 2001, Premier Lorne Calvert announced that the Saskatchewan Government is developing a plan to promote energy conservation, protect the environment and save consumers money. Peter Prebble, MLA and Legislative Secretary to the Minister of Energy and Mines, was appointed to co-ordinate the development of a Greenprint for Energy Conservation.

Purpose of the Greenprint

Greenprint will provide the Saskatchewan Government and the people of Saskatchewan with a long-term Provincial Energy Conservation Strategy that will help energy users:

- Provide ways for consumers to manage energy costs in the short-term;
- Create a longer-term vision and strategy on energy conservation that will cushion consumers from rising energy prices;
- Include as many energy users as possible and encourage them to take action to reduce energy consumption;
- Recognize the significant impact of energy costs on consumers; and
- Address the Province's responsibilities and commitments on Climate Change.

Greenprint Action Plan

Peter Prebble is developing a focused action plan to present to the Government in the fall. He is consulting with environmental organizations, business people, government departments, Crown agencies and interested individuals. Agencies participating on Mr. Prebble's Greenprint Interdepartmental Working Committee are: Energy and Mines; SaskEnergy; SaskPower; Saskatchewan Research Council; Finance; Crown Investments Corporation; Health; Economic and Co-operative Development; Education; Agriculture and Food; Municipal Affairs and Housing; Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation; Environment and Resource Management; and Executive Council.

The Greenprint action plan will build on the current planning work of the Crowns and departments, recognizing the unique roles and limitations of each. It will consider the views and recommendations of all stakeholders, including groups already set up (e.g. Stakeholders' Advisory Committee on Climate Change, Regina Green Ribbon Committee, and Energy Management Task Forces).

Greenprint will look at ways consumers can reduce energy use and will focus on improving the efficiency of natural gas, electricity and oil use in buildings, industry, agriculture and transportation. Greenprint will tackle energy efficiency and conservation at two levels:

1. Developing enabling measures that remove the institutional and other barriers that are preventing consumers from reducing energy use and costs; and
2. Designing programs that assist energy users in all sectors to reduce their energy costs.

You Can Help

The input of Saskatchewan people is needed as the province develops models for wise energy use and a prosperous and sustainable future. Peter Prebble wants to hear your views and suggestions for new initiatives.

- What do you think is the single most important thing you could do to make your home or business more energy efficient?
- What are the barriers that are preventing you from making your home or business more energy efficient?
- What do you think is the most important thing the provincial Government could do to assist you in making your home or business more energy efficient?

Contact Us

Interested members of the public can offer their ideas by calling toll-free and leaving a message at 1-800-668-4636, or by e-mailing energyconservation@sem.gov.sk.ca, or by visiting the Saskatchewan Energy and Mines web site at www.gov.sk.ca/enermime and clicking on “What’s New”.

Current Programs:

1. R2000: A Federal/Provincial program supporting the building of new low-energy/low environmental impact housing. (http://oee.nrcan.gc.ca/english/newhouses_r2000.cfm)
2. EnerGuide: A national appliance labelling program indicating the annual energy consumption of each product. (<http://energuide.nrcan.gc.ca/html/home.html> Click on Appliances)
3. EnerGuide for Houses: A federal program offering low-cost home energy efficiency audits. (<http://oee.nrcan.gc.ca> Click on English and then Houses)
4. SaskPower “Power Check” audit: An on-line tool that assists consumers to evaluate their electricity use. (<http://www.saskpower.com/powercheck>)
5. SaskEnergy “Home Energy Savings Tips” and furnace maintenance services. (<http://www.saskenergy.com/tips/default.htm>)
6. SaskPower “Energy Solutions”: A “turn-key” program for large energy users offering technical assistance and innovative performance contract financing. (<http://www.saskpower.com/solutions>)
7. Saskatchewan Research Council “Buildings Energy Management” and Ice Rinks Programs: A comprehensive energy audit program designed for smaller commercial and community buildings. (<http://www.src.sk.ca> Under Branches, click on Small Industry Services, and then click on Building Performance)
8. Canada-Saskatchewan Infrastructure Program: Grants towards the cost of environmental improvements to municipal infrastructure, including energy efficiency. (http://www.municipal.gov.sk.ca/PDFs/2001_Information_Guide.pdf)
9. Federation of Canadian Municipalities Green Funds: A new grant and loan municipal infrastructure program to reduce greenhouse gases, offered through FCM using Federal Climate Change funds. (<http://www.fcm.ca/scep/index.htm>)
10. Destination Conservation: An energy efficiency retrofit and education program offered to school divisions by the Saskatchewan Environmental Society. (<http://www.dc.ab.ca>)
11. Saskatchewan Energy Management Task Forces: Non-profit networks of energy efficiency practitioners in Saskatoon and Regina. (<http://www.emtfsask.ca>)
12. SaskEnergy “Loans at Prime” program: loans of up to \$10,000 available for higher efficiency natural gas furnaces, water heaters, fireplaces and clothes dryers. (<http://www.saskenergy.com/appliances/saskenergynetwork.htm>)