

Ministry of Environment



Plan for 2020-21

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Statement from the Minister



*The Honourable
Dustin Duncan
Minister of Environment*

Each year, the Ministry of Environment produces an annual plan that directs its work for the upcoming year and confirms its commitments to the people of Saskatchewan. I am pleased to present the Ministry of Environment Plan for 2020-21.

Government Direction and Budget 2020-21 is focused on growth for a better quality of life – fostering a strong economy, creating strong communities and strong families – and Building a Strong Saskatchewan.

The Ministry of Environment will also lead or support a number of key commitments in *Saskatchewan's Growth Plan: The Next Decade of Growth 2020-2030*. This includes commitments like delivering on the province's *Prairie Resilience* climate change strategy and implementing the new Solid Waste Management Strategy.

The 2020-21 plan describes how the ministry will manage and protect Saskatchewan's environment, and outlines the programs that will bring these goals to life. The Ministry of Environment continues to ensure the environment is protected, communities are safe and economic growth is balanced with environmental health.

Response to Government Direction

The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to *Building a Strong Saskatchewan*. Investing in strong communities and strong families creates opportunities for a better quality of life for the people of our province. Maintaining a strong economy will enable us to build upon the past decade of growth and continue to provide the services, jobs and infrastructure that meets Saskatchewan's needs.

Saskatchewan's Vision

"... to be the best place in Canada – to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life."



A Strong Economy



Strong Communities



Strong Families

Saskatchewan's vision and three goals provide the strategic direction for organizations to align their programs and services to build a strong Saskatchewan.

All organizations will report on progress in their 2020-21 annual reports.

Operational Plan

Mandate Statement

The Ministry of Environment's role is to manage the health of Saskatchewan's environment in a responsible manner that supports sustainable growth through objective, transparent and informed decision-making and stewardship.

Vision Statement

A healthy, resilient environment.

Mission Statement

We will manage and protect Saskatchewan's environment for the well-being of the province and its people.

Government Goals



A Strong Economy



Strong Communities



Strong Families

Government Direction

Protect the environment

Ministry Goal

Safe communities and a healthy environment

Performance Measures

- Total GHG emissions from electricity sector.
- Emissions intensity of Saskatchewan's economy (GHGs per unit of GDP).
- Amount of waste generated in kilograms per capita.
- Number of contaminated Crown land sites remediated.

Strategy

Co-ordinate the development and implementation of provincial policy to enhance Saskatchewan's resilience to the cumulative effects of climate change.

Key Actions

- Lead cross-government collaboration of *Prairie Resilience* through established working groups and committees.
- Monitor federal, provincial, territorial and international climate policies for opportunities and impacts on *Prairie Resilience*.
- Analyze and report on results of the *Saskatchewan Climate Resilience Measurement Framework* to facilitate its implementation throughout the ministry.
- Continue to design and implement well-informed policies and programs that better prepare the province for climate change.

Strategy

Implement the Solid Waste Management Strategy to improve the health of Saskatchewan's people and environment, and stimulate new growth opportunities to attract investment into the province.



Key Actions

- Lead collaboration to implement the Solid Waste Management Strategy commitments; including:
 - Establish a Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee.
 - Review and assess barriers to municipal participation in regional solutions for waste management and identify options to reduce them.
 - Engage with stakeholders, including municipalities, restaurants, whole food distributors and the public, to reduce food waste to help meet reduction targets.
 - Review the program for household paper and packaging to identify opportunities for improvement.
 - Support implementation of the new household hazardous waste program.

Strategy

Identify, prevent and mitigate risks to health and safety through the development of comprehensive plans and regulations.

Key Actions

- Continue to work with the ministries of Agriculture and Health to implement the Chronic Wasting Disease Management Plan.
- Continue to evaluate risks and formulate corrective action plans for non-uranium mines in Northern Saskatchewan.
- Deliver an ambient air monitoring program that aligns with the Air Quality Management System and influences air quality management policies and regulatory programs.

Government Goals



A Strong Economy



Strong Communities



Strong Families

Government Direction

Improve Saskatchewan's natural resource sustainability

Ministry Goal

Sustainable landscapes and wildlife populations that are resilient and biologically diverse

Performance Measures

- Total protected areas in Saskatchewan
- Forest type and age class distribution of forests
- Population status of game species

More information on these measures can be found in the State of the Environment 2017 and the State of the Environment 2019: A Focus on Forests available at [saskatchewan.ca](https://www.saskatchewan.ca)

Strategy

Conduct and use cumulative effects analysis to better support evidence-based decision-making on environmental impacts and issues.



Key Actions

- Develop and implement an invasive species and insect and disease management framework.
- Apply cumulative effects analysis to strengthen landscape management decision-making through analysis of values, benefits and risk.
- Develop and implement the habitat management plan to guide habitat conservation while supporting responsible growth.

Strategy

Work with our partners to develop and implement programs and policies to protect the province's biodiversity.

Key Actions

- Continue to develop and implement landscape-based plans for maintaining and recovering species at risk, such as the SK West Range Plan for Woodland Caribou recovery.
- Maintain a reliable forest resource inventory to better evaluate forest health issues and identify resource development opportunities.
- In partnership with the Ministry of Energy and Resources, ensure timely and effective consultation with Indigenous communities for approval of exploration and development projects to better address Duty to Consult requirements.
- Work with First Nations and Métis communities to support the establishment of Indigenous protected and conserved areas.

Government Goals



A Strong Economy



Strong Communities



Strong Families

Government Direction

Deliver comprehensive, clear and transparent regulation and enforcement

Ministry Goal

Knowledgeable, compliant and engaged regulated communities

Strategy

Collaboratively design and implement regulatory tools and processes to enhance environmental outcomes.

Key Actions

- Continue to implement and co-ordinate regulatory frameworks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and environmental risks from industrial and mining operations.
- Implement a provincial performance credit framework to administer the output-based performance standards.
- Reduce risk of contamination from landfills through compliance assurance activities.
- Review and improve regulations, programs, policies and procedures to conserve Crown lands for future generations.
- Engage with stakeholders and partners on the design of the provincial carbon offset system.



Government Goals

A Strong Economy

Strong Communities

Strong Families

Government Direction

Be a high-performing organization

Ministry Goal

An engaged organization committed to excellence

Performance Measures

- Employee Engagement index

Strategy

Proactively build strong, collaborative relationships with First Nations and Métis communities and organizations.

Key Actions

- Work with Métis Nation Saskatchewan to develop an agreement regarding application of Métis Aboriginal rights to hunt and fish for food.
- Work with First Nations to identify sustainable wildlife management principles that can inform future wildlife management initiatives.
- Continue to work with First Nations at their request on development and implementation of provincial environmental regulations on reserve.

Strategy

Increase client satisfaction through improved service.

Key Actions

- Enhance government and public use of geomatics data for decisions related to land use.
- Increase ministry use of the Saskatchewan.ca public access portal to enhance client access to current online services.
- Review business processes in order to determine IT support requirements.

Strategy

Foster a culture that reflects the Saskatchewan Public Service core values.

Key Actions

- Continue to ensure that internal committee work plans champion accountability, innovation and safety.
- Continue to implement provincial safety council recommendations regarding Mission Zero and National Standard of Canada for Psychological Health and Safety in the Workplace.

Highlights

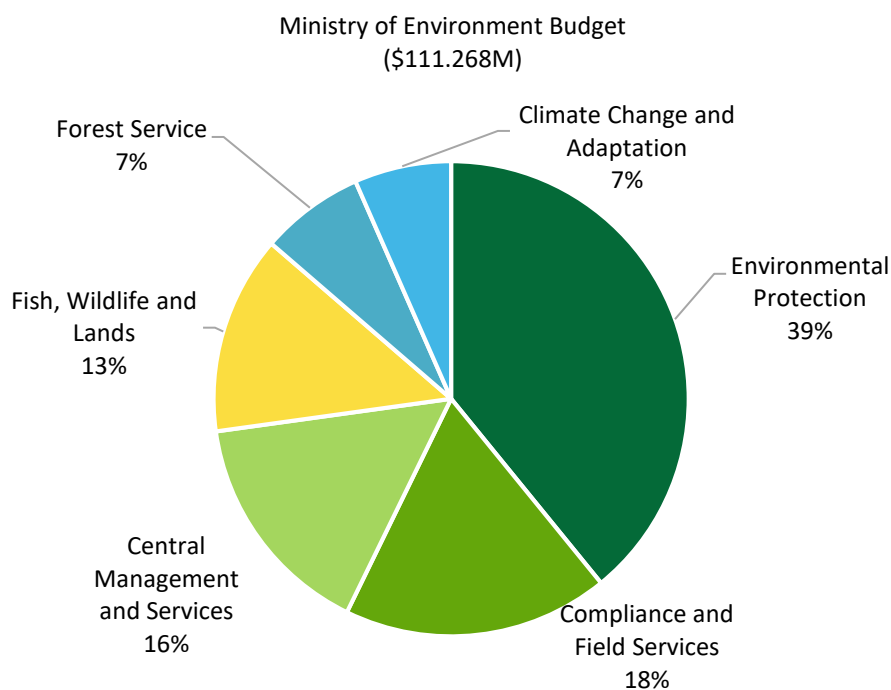
2020-21 Budget Highlights:

- The ministry's proposed expense budget for 2020-21 is \$111.268 million, a decrease of 35 per cent.
- The 2020-21 budget includes a reduction of \$66.821M for the transfer of wildfire management functions to the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency.
- The budget includes 17.8 per cent in additional funding for SARCAN Recycling, based on environmental handling charge revenue generated in 2018-19.
- The budget provides \$3.5M to fund rebates stemming from the Net Metering Program.
- The budget supports delivery on Saskatchewan's climate change strategy, *Prairie Resilience*, by investing \$480K in the Output-Based Performance Standards Program.
- The budget continues to focus on protecting the province's biodiversity through the following allocations:
 - \$129K for the establishment of new Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas;
 - \$150K to help conserve critical habitat for species at risk on grazing lands; and,
 - \$160K to support oversight on economic development opportunities.
- The chronic wasting disease initiative will receive \$355K, an increase of \$120K.
- The budget includes \$110K to support the Saskatchewan Landfill Closure Program and \$90K to support implementation of the Solid Waste Management Strategy.
- The ministry will earmark \$250K in new funds to conduct a business process review and assess future IT/IM system requirements.

Financial Summary

Ministry of Environment 2020-21 Estimates	(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management Services	\$17,106
Climate Change and Adaptation	\$7,247
Fish, Wildlife and Lands	\$14,860
Compliance and Field Services	\$19,883
Forest Service	\$7,764
Environmental Protection	\$42,976
Total Appropriation	\$109,836
Capital Asset Acquisitions	(\$1,180)
Capital Asset Amortization	\$2,612
Total Expense	\$ 111,268

For more information, see the Budget Estimates at: <http://www.saskatchewan.ca/budget>



For More Information

Please visit the ministry's website at <http://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/government-structure/ministries/environment>