

Ministry of Environment



Plan for 2021-22

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Statement from the Minister



*The Honourable Warren Kaeding
Ministry of Environment*

I am pleased to present the Ministry of Environment Plan for 2021-22.

Government Direction and Budget 2021-22 is focused on protecting Saskatchewan people through the remainder of the pandemic, building the infrastructure that a strong economy needs, and growing Saskatchewan to help ensure a strong economic recovery.

The Ministry of Environment will continue to lead and 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, implementing the new Solid Waste Management Strategy, and supporting the development and deployment of small modular reactor technology through a nuclear secretariat.

The 2021-22 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.

The Ministry of Environment will report on progress made toward this plan in the 2021-22 Annual Report.

Response to Government Direction

Protect. Build. Grow. The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to protecting Saskatchewan people through the rest of the pandemic as life returns to normal and our economy grows. Investing in infrastructure like hospitals, schools, and highways will help build a strong economy and create jobs for strong families, strong communities, and a better quality of life.

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 2021-22 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

Strategic Priority: 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.
- Amount of waste generated in kilograms per capita.
- Number of new notices of site condition entered into the impacted sites registry.

Strategy

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

Key Actions

- Continue to lead cross-government collaboration of *Prairie Resilience*.
- Monitor federal, provincial, territorial and international climate policies for opportunities and impacts to the province.
- Analyze and report on results of the *Saskatchewan Climate Resilience Measurement Framework*.
- Continue to design and implement well-informed policies and programs to better address the climatic, economic and policy impacts of climate change.
- Build flexible regulatory compliance mechanisms, including a Saskatchewan carbon offsets program.
- Coordinate policy and program work within Executive Government to support the development and deployment of small modular reactors (SMRs).



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:
 - Engage with stakeholders to identify options to reduce organic and food waste to help meet reduction targets.
 - Conclude engagement and identify recommended improvements to the program regulations for household paper and packaging.
 - Collaborate with stakeholders and stewardship organizations to develop a comprehensive communications strategy.
 - Continue to work with other jurisdictions through the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment to implement action plans in support of the Canada-wide Strategy on Zero Plastic Waste.
 - Finalize membership and initiate meetings of the Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee.
 - Initiate development of Saskatchewan Environmental Code chapters for transfer stations and composting facilities.

Strategy

Identify, prevent and mitigate risks to human 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 a One Health approach to address zoonotic diseases with a particular focus on Chronic Wasting Disease.
- Continue to evaluate risks and formulate corrective action plans for non-uranium mines in Northern Saskatchewan.
- Implement the Air Quality Management System and ensure all industrial sources have an accepted air quality environmental protection plan.
- Ensure contaminated sites are safely managed and remediated.
- Ensure all permitted mining and industrial clients provide an approved decommissioning and reclamation plan and a financial assurance to the ministry.
- Continue to support environmental protection, managing natural resource utilization and contributing to public safety through the work of conservation officers.



Government Goals

A Strong Economy

Strong Communities

Strong Families

Strategic Priority: 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.

Strategy

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

Key Actions

- Implement a provincial invasive species and disease management framework to align priorities and improve collaboration on insect and disease prevention and management throughout the province.
- Apply cumulative effects analysis to strengthen landscape management decision-making through analysis of values, benefits and risks for Saskatchewan.
- Enhance the provincial terrestrial forest inventory to support landscape management decision-making within the northern boreal forest.
- Implement the Habitat Management Plan to guide habitat conservation while supporting responsible growth.
- Explore opportunities to enhance use of data analytic tools throughout the ministry.

Strategy

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

Key Actions

- Develop a multiple species approach to managing Critical Habitat on Crown land with the ministries of Agriculture and Energy and Resources.
- Continue to work with First Nations and Métis communities to support the establishment of Indigenous protected and conserved areas.
- Work with First Nations to identify and incorporate First Nations wildlife management values in wildlife management planning and programming.



Government Goals

 **A Strong Economy**

 **Strong Communities**

 **Strong Families**

Strategic Priority: 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

- Reduce risk of contamination from mining and industrial operations and landfills through compliance assurance activities.
- Continue to work to meet provincial Duty to Consult obligations and improve permit timelines.
- Continue to work with First Nations, at their request, on development and implementation of provincial environmental regulations on reserve.
- Work with stakeholders to present recommendations to modernize the Hazardous Substances and Waste Dangerous Goods Regulations and PCB Management Regulations as part of a Red Tape Review.
- Continue to work with Indigenous Services Canada and Government Relations on the development of Northern Regional landfills to support the unique solid waste management needs of northern municipalities and First Nations.
- In partnership with the Ministry of Energy and Resources, ensure that long-term environmental and public safety liabilities for closed and abandoned mining operations on Crown land are addressed and that sites are entered into the provincial institutional control program.



Government Goals



A Strong Economy



Strong Communities



Strong Families

Strategic Priority: Be a high-performing organization.

Ministry Goal

An engaged and resilient 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

- Continue to work with Métis Nation Saskatchewan to finalize and implement an agreement regarding application of Métis Aboriginal rights to hunt and fish for food.
- Continue to improve ministry engagement with Indigenous communities, organizations and people.

Strategy

Increase client satisfaction through improved service.

Key Actions

- Review recommendations from the business process and technology review and prioritize an information technology roadmap to improve online services and address client challenges.
- Seek IT governance and budgetary approvals on the first phase of technology implementation.
- Meet application and report submission review service standards for clients.

Strategy

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

Key Actions

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

Highlights

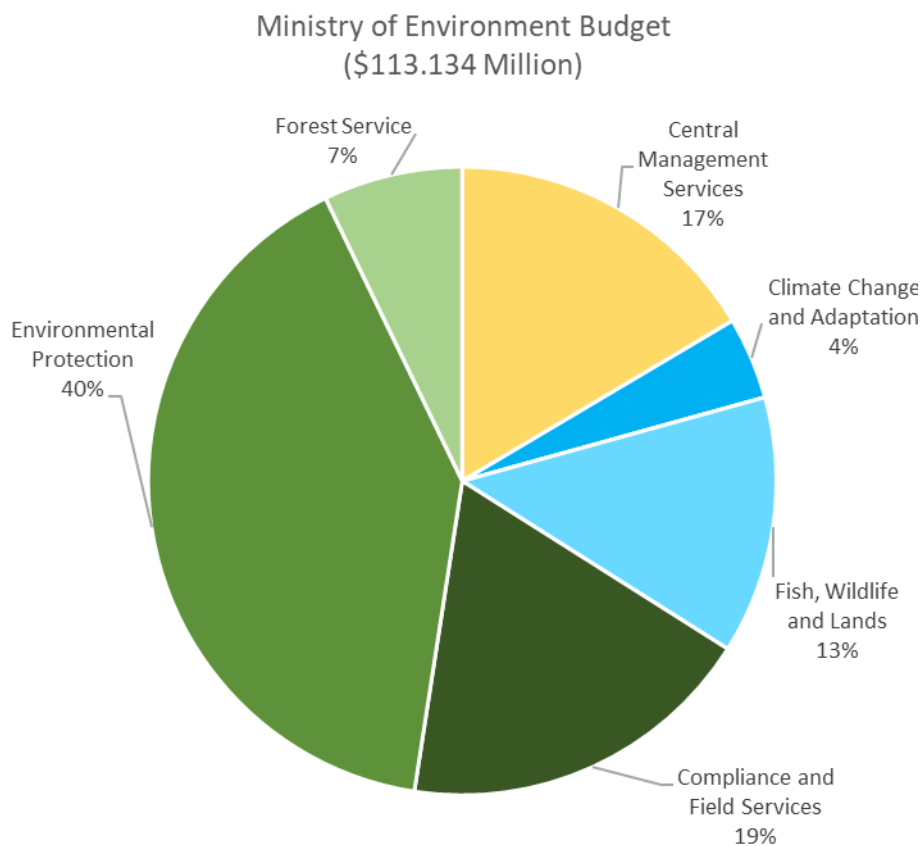
2021-22 Budget Highlights:

- The ministry's proposed expense budget for 2021-22 is \$113.134 million, an increase of 3.2 per cent.
- The budget includes 10.2 per cent in additional funding for SARCAN Recycling, based on environmental handling charge revenue generated in 2019-20.
- The budget supports delivery on Saskatchewan's climate change strategy, *Prairie Resilience*, by investing an additional \$255 thousand in the Output-Based Performance Standards Program and \$629 thousand for the Small Modular Reactors unit.
- The budget includes \$719 thousand for the remediation of the Newcor non-uranium abandoned mine located near Creighton, Saskatchewan.
- The conservation officer service will see an injection of \$450 thousand in recognition of its critical role in supporting environmental protection, managing natural resource utilization and contributing to public safety.
- \$450 thousand is provided to address shortages for staff accommodations in Southend.
- A new fund of \$200,000 will also be established to better support Indigenous participation in a range of ministry engagement initiatives.
- The budget is investing \$144 thousand in its Intelligence Management unit to provide oversight, coordination and expertise on intelligence, data analysis and communications.
- The 2021-22 budget includes a reduction of \$1.64 million for the transfer of the Provincial Office of Geomatics Coordination to the Ministry of SaskBuilds and Procurement.
- The winding down of the Net Metering Rebate Program will reduce the ministry's Climate Change and Adaptation budget by \$3.5 million to reflect lower program allocation costs.

Financial Summary

Ministry of Environment 2021-22 Estimates (\$113.134 million)	(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management Services	\$ 18,523
Climate Change and Adaptation	\$ 4,744
Fish, Wildlife and Lands	\$ 14,912
Compliance and Field Services	\$ 20,764
Environmental Protection	\$ 45,380
Forest Service	\$ 8,063
Total Appropriation	\$ 112,386
Remediation of Contaminated Sites	(\$719)
Capital Asset Acquisitions	(\$845)
Capital Asset Amortization	\$2,312
Total Expense	\$ 113,134

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/environment>