

Business Plan

2022-23

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

Saskatchewan! 

Statement from the Minister



The Honourable Warren Kaeding
Minister of Environment

I am pleased to present the Ministry of Environment Business Plan for 2022-23.

Saskatchewan's Growth Plan: The Next Decade of Growth 2020-2030 outlines the near-term priorities for the Government of Saskatchewan, including many that impact the Ministry of Environment, its programs and services. This business plan is the ministry's road map for how it will contribute to those growth objectives.

Guiding this work are the following goals:

- Safe communities and a healthy environment.
- Sustainable landscapes and wildlife populations that are resilient and biologically diverse.
- Knowledgeable, compliant and engaged regulated communities.

Although much of the work takes place in the background, the Ministry of Environment plays a significant role in the responsible growth of our province. From assessment activities to zoonotic diseases, the ministry provides regulatory oversight, science-based solutions and mitigation measures to protect the environment and ensure growth is taking place in a sustainable and environmentally responsible manner.

Around the world, any mention of a healthy environment generally begins with recognizing climate change. In Saskatchewan, the Ministry of Environment continues to work to make the province more resilient to the effects of climate change through *Prairie Resilience*, Saskatchewan's comprehensive climate strategy. It contains more than 40 commitments to help businesses, residents and communities be more resilient to climate change. As the world transitions to a lower carbon economy, the ministry is taking steps to address climate change while protecting the province's economic interests.

Responsible growth also extends to Saskatchewan's natural resource economy. Our natural resources are key to our economic growth as a province. As such, we protect them through regulations, mitigation measures and compliance activities, while also ensuring the processes are clear and transparent for our industry partners.

By working together, we're protecting our environment and ensuring the sustainable development of our resources, while balancing economic growth.

2022-23 Budget Highlights

1	The ministry's proposed expense budget for 2022-23 is \$92.6 million, an increase of 4.5 per cent.
2	The budget includes \$1 million for continued delivery on Saskatchewan's climate change strategy, <i>Prairie Resilience</i> , and supports expansion of the Output-Based Performance Standards program.
3	An investment of \$400,000 will accelerate the Forest Resource Inventory project in support of doubling the growth of the Saskatchewan forestry sector.
4	\$587,000 is provided to support regulatory competitiveness and efficiency as Saskatchewan's economy and industries continue to grow.
5	The budget includes an increase of \$517,000 to continue remediation and monitoring of six former mine sites (non-uranium).
6	The annual grant provided for SARCAN recycling will increase \$462,000 as a result of environmental handling charges collected in 2020-21.
7	Modest increases to hunting and trapping licence fees, along with recreational angling and commercial fishing licence fees, will result in a \$980,000 increase to the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund for continued conservation and enhancement programming.
8	IT capital funding of \$3.6 million will modernize customer service business applications.
9	The budget includes a \$34.5 million non-cash allowance to account for the estimated remediation of six former mine sites (non-uranium).



Response to Government Direction

Saskatchewan is back on track. The Government of Saskatchewan is protecting and strengthening our province, carefully managing spending while investing in priority programs and services and into a strong and growing economy. Government is helping build a better Saskatchewan, investing in needed infrastructure – hospitals, schools, highways and municipal and crown capital projects.

Saskatchewan’s financial picture is improving, with a fiscal plan to return the budget to balance. The resurgent economy helps ensure the services, programs and infrastructure Saskatchewan people value are sustainable today and into the future. Saskatchewan is back on track.

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.”

>> Government Goals

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 2022-23 annual reports.

Vision

A healthy, resilient environment.

Mission

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

Mandate

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.

Goal 1: Safe communities and a healthy environment

Delivering on commitments identified in the Growth Plan, the ministry is continually working to enhance the health of the environment in Saskatchewan. In part, this is being accomplished by ensuring the province is more resilient to the effects of climate change and taking a strategic approach to reducing and managing solid waste. A made-in-Saskatchewan industrial emissions pricing system and opportunities to advance small modular reactor technology will increase innovation and help build a stronger provincial economy. Taking a One Health approach to responding to fish and wildlife diseases and a comprehensive view to protecting the environment further demonstrates the ministry's commitment to supporting strong and safe communities.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

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

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Build flexible and streamlined regulatory compliance mechanisms, including implementing a Saskatchewan Technology Fund.
- Coordinate policy and program work within Executive Government to support the development and deployment of small modular reactors (SMRs).

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

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

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Lead collaboration to implement the commitments in the Solid Waste Management Strategy, including:
 - Identify diversion opportunities for non-residential waste.
 - Work with Indigenous Services Canada and the Ministry of Government Relations on the development of northern regional landfills.
 - Work with other jurisdictions to implement action plans in support of the Canada-wide Strategy on Zero Plastic Waste through the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Identify, prevent and mitigate risks to human health and safety through comprehensive plans and regulations.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Identify and respond to emerging fish and wildlife diseases through a One Health approach with the ministries of Agriculture and Health.
- Evaluate risks and implement corrective action plans at priority non-uranium mines in northern Saskatchewan. Complete public safety assessments at abandoned non-uranium mine sites.
- Develop and strengthen partnerships with stakeholders to assess the air quality in Saskatchewan, as well as ensure air quality data is publicly available.

Performance Measures: *What success looks like*

Desired Outcome	Measure	Target
Reduced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the electricity sector.	Total GHG emissions from the electricity sector.	Forty per cent reduction from 2005 levels.
Enhanced resilience of Saskatchewan to the cumulative effects of climate change.	Emissions intensity of Saskatchewan's economy (GHGs per unit of GDP).	Continued decrease in the emission intensity of Saskatchewan's economy.
Reduced waste.	Amount of waste generated in kilograms per capita.	Thirty per cent reduction by 2030. Fifty per cent reduction by 2040.
Reduced contamination.	Number of impacted sites entered in the notice of site condition registry.	Increased number of reclaimed sites entered in registry.

Goal 2: Sustainable landscapes and wildlife populations that are resilient and biologically diverse

The Ministry of Environment is delivering on its commitment to sustainably grow Saskatchewan's natural resource economy. This is accomplished, in part, through evidence-based decision-making on land use and environmental impacts, which is supported by cumulative effects analysis. Plans and strategies, such as the Habitat Management Plan and Framework for the Prevention and Management of Invasive Species in Saskatchewan, guide monitoring and response to issues impacting natural resources. In collaboration with partners, including First Nations and Métis communities, programs and policies are developed to conserve the province's biodiversity and resilience. Combined, these measures will help ensure the long-term health of Saskatchewan's natural resources by supporting their future sustainability.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

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

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Align priorities and improve collaboration on insect and disease prevention and management through the provincial Framework for the Prevention and Management of Invasive Species in Saskatchewan.
- Support landscape management decision-making within the northern boreal forest by enhancing the provincial terrestrial forest inventory.
- Guide habitat conservation while supporting responsible growth through the Habitat Management Plan.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

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

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Implement a multiple-species approach to managing critical habitat on Crown land with the ministries of Agriculture and Energy and Resources.
- Support the establishment of protected and conserved areas through ongoing collaboration with First Nations and Métis communities and conservation organizations.
- Identify and incorporate First Nations wildlife management values into wildlife management planning and programming.

Performance Measures: *What success looks like*

Desired Outcome	Measure	Target
A network of conservation lands.	Total protected areas in Saskatchewan.	By 2025, 7,809,629 hectares (12 per cent) are protected.
Suitable habitat for species.	Forest type and age class distribution of forests.	Forest type and age class distribution is maintained within 25 per cent of the natural range.
Sustainable game populations.	Population status of game species.	Dependent on game species.

Goal 3: Knowledgeable, compliant and engaged regulated communities

Saskatchewan’s natural resource industries are instrumental to the economic growth of the province. Delivering comprehensive, clear and transparent regulation and enforcement ensures industry partners are able to operate, while enhancing environmental outcomes for the province. This is further accomplished by reducing the risk of contamination through compliance assurance activities and working with industry partners to identify impacted sites. Opportunities to increase engagement and involvement with Indigenous communities continues through the Duty to Consult and permitting processes.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

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

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

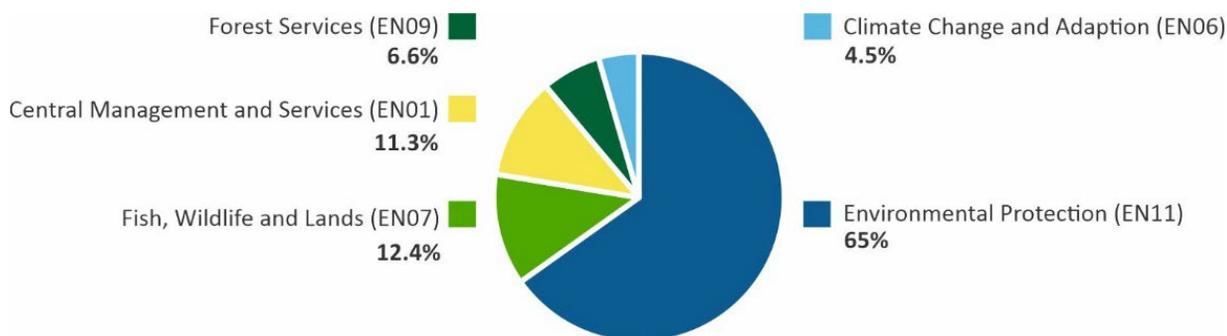
- Reduce contamination risk from mining and industrial operations and landfills through compliance assurance activities.
- Continue to fulfill provincial Duty to Consult obligations and improve permit timelines.
- Work with First Nations on development and implementation of provincial environmental regulations on reserves, as requested.

Performance Measures: *What success looks like*

Desired Outcome	Measure	Target
Regulated communities positively contribute to environmental outcomes	Percentage of operating landfills that require groundwater monitoring are doing so.	85 per cent in 2022-23. 100 per cent by 2030.

Financial Summary

Ministry of Environment 2022-23 Estimates (\$92.6 million)	(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services (EN01)	\$14,636
Climate Change and Adaptation (EN06)	\$5,827
Fish, Wildlife and Lands (EN07)	\$15,985
Forest Services (EN09)	\$8,563
Environmental Protection (EN11)	\$84,112
Total Appropriation	\$129,123
Asset Retirement Obligation Adjusted to Opening Accumulated Deficit	(43)
Remediation of Contaminated Sites	(\$34,466)
Capital Asset Acquisitions	(\$3,723)
Non-Appropriated Expense Adjustment	\$1,745
Total Expense	\$92,636



Links to More Information

[Ministry of Environment
Budget, Planning and Reporting](#)