

Sask., Alberta worst greenhouse gas offenders: report

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Saskatchewan produces more greenhouse gases as a percentage of its gross domestic product than any other province and Alberta is the biggest overall emitter, says a David Suzuki Foundation report.

According to the environmental watchdog's 2006 report on provincial climate change programs, released Thursday, most provinces are doing little or nothing to deal with the problem of global warming.

"The necessary federal leadership to galvanize climate change action across the country is missing," said the report's author, Dale Marshall, Ottawa-based climate change policy analyst with the David Suzuki Foundation.

"We're seeing some progress provincially, but it's sporadic and not as co-ordinated as it needs to be. Most provinces and territories are missing huge opportunities for environmental and economic benefits," Marshall said in a statement as the report was released.

Saskatchewan and Alberta are the worst offenders, the report says.

Alberta produces more greenhouse gases than any other province, while Saskatchewan is the country's leader for greenhouse gas production as a percentage of its GDP.

Since 1990, greenhouse gas emissions in Saskatchewan have climbed by 62 per cent more than those in any other province, the report says.

It also says the Government of Saskatchewan doesn't have a climate change plan.

Saskatchewan has plan, Calvert says

Premier Lorne Calvert insisted his government has a plan to address the problem, which includes expanding wind power and carbon sequestration and pumping greenhouse gases underground.

He said emissions are high because of the province's coal plants.

The David Suzuki Foundation report credits Saskatchewan for its wind-power projects and for appointing a legislative secretary to be responsible for energy conservation and renewable energy.

However, the praise is faint.

"What Saskatchewan really needs is a strong climate change plan to turn sharp increases in [greenhouse gas] emissions into deep reductions," the report said.

Greenhouse gases, the most common of which is carbon dioxide, trap the sun's rays and increase the Earth's temperature.

Many scientists say the burning of fossil fuels has put so much carbon in the atmosphere that the global temperature has reached unprecedented levels.



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