

Cumulative Effects Management in Alberta's Industrial Heartland

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Preserving, enhancing, and managing our environment is a hot topic from classrooms to boardrooms. It's also a complex topic, especially when considering the effects of typical human activity and development.

Fortunately, environmental management has been ongoing and growing for decades in Alberta's Industrial Heartland. In particular, the Government of Alberta adopted a province wide "Cumulative Effects Management" (CEM) approach in 2007. The Heartland was identified as an important area for managing cumulative environmental effects because of industrial and municipal development.

CEM is designed to protect the water, air, land, and biodiversity of Alberta, while recognizing industrial and municipal growth will continue. This approach merges environmental management tools into a coordinated, integrated and legislated system. Previous to the CEM approach, initiatives dealt with one segment of the environment alone, such as water or air. Though great work was being done, a merging of these individual initiatives enhances efforts to manage environmental effects. Now, the initiatives for these segments of the environment are coordinated and implemented under the umbrella of CEM so they work in unison rather than in isolation.

Since adoption of the CEM approach, significant work went into three frameworks to form the foundation for managing cumulative effects in the Heartland:

1. [**Water Management Framework for the Industrial Heartland and Capital Region**](#)
 - Implementation stage
2. **Air Management Framework for the Industrial Air Management Area**
 - Developmental stage
3. [**Elemental Sulphur Management Framework for the Industrial Heartland**](#)
 - Completed and ready for implementation as growth pressures dictate

Other plans and projects feed into and support CEM, including the Climate Change Plan, Land Use Framework, Biodiversity Strategy, Capital Region Growth Plan, and others. Continued work on these and other projects ensure that municipal and provincial strategies align and reinforce CEM.

*Brought to you by **Life in the Heartland**, a partnership aimed at improving access to information, contacts, and resources for residents in and around Alberta's Industrial Heartland. For more information, visit www.lifeintheheartland.com or email info@lifeintheheartland.com.*