

Indigenous Climate Leadership Initiative



Guidebook for Submissions



Minister's Message



The Indigenous Climate Leadership Initiative is a key part of Alberta's Climate Leadership Plan. The Initiative will support Indigenous participation in environmental and economic development and diversification opportunities aimed at reducing carbon emissions. This Initiative is an example of Alberta's commitment to the principles and objectives of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

As engagement on the Initiative continues I would like to offer an opportunity for Indigenous communities and organizations to provide input by way of written submission. Written submissions are one of many ways for Indigenous leadership, communities and organizations to provide input on [the Indigenous Climate Leadership Initiative](#). This important step in the engagement process will capture Indigenous self-identified priorities, further shape the Initiative and inform decisions on future program and service delivery that satisfies the outcomes of the Climate Leadership Plan.

The following guidebook is intended to help you with the written submission process. Throughout the guidebook a number of probing discussion questions will provide a starting point for input and dialogue. Submissions will be used to shape discussions with Indigenous communities and organization leadership in Spring 2017.

It is through this joint process – between the Government of Alberta, and Indigenous communities and organizations – that we will deliver tangible input into building this important Initiative.

Thank you for your interest in climate leadership and your continued participation in this process.

Richard Feehan

Minister of Indigenous Relations

Indigenous communities are key partners with the Government of Alberta (GoA) in protecting the environment, building healthy communities and fostering new economic development opportunities through greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions, investing in renewable energy and addressing the challenges of climate change. In 2015, the GoA launched its first ever Climate Leadership Plan to take action on climate change and to protect the province's health, environment and economy. The Climate Leadership Plan is the GoA approach to addressing the impacts of climate change and making the transition to a low carbon economy. On January 1, 2017, the GoA introduced a price on carbon usage, known as the 'carbon levy'. A portion of the revenue generated from the carbon levy will fund initiatives aimed at energy efficiency, green infrastructure and renewable energy. Initiatives funded by the carbon levy are fully open to Indigenous participation.

The GoA recognizes that Indigenous people are both stewards of the land, and full effective partners in advancing clean growth and addressing climate change. The GoA also recognizes the need for meaningful participation in shaping Indigenous-specific programming to support climate action. As part of the GoA's commitment to Climate Leadership and in support of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the GoA is working with Indigenous communities and leaders to establish the Initiative.

The intent of this Initiative is to provide a means for Indigenous leaders, communities and organizations to realize the benefits and opportunities of Alberta's Climate Leadership Plan. The Initiative must uphold some basic principles, including: reduction of GHG emissions; creation of jobs; diversification of Alberta's economy; and development of renewable energy. As this Initiative is specific to Indigenous people, principles may be added, developed or augmented throughout this engagement process.

The Ministry of Indigenous Relations is undertaking a series of engagements with Indigenous leadership, communities, and organizations to ensure that efforts to address climate change are done in partnership while shaping the form and function of the Initiative. Your community or organization may also **participate in an online survey**, which is available at: <http://indigenous.alberta.ca/climate.cfm>.

Input received will help the GoA's mutual understanding about the kind of programming and opportunities you would like to see available, inform future engagement discussions, and ultimately, assist in the collaborative development of the Initiative.



Written Submissions

Written submissions are an opportunity to provide open comments to the GoA about the key opportunities specific to your Indigenous community or organization. This feedback will inform the GoA of the range of interest and capacity across the province. Ultimately, the written submissions will inform future discussions and capture input on the structure and governance of the Initiative. You may find it helpful to consider the following items within your written response:

- **Awareness** of climate change, the Climate Leadership Plan, and the Initiative
- **Programs/partnerships**, existing or proposed, related to renewable energy, reducing GHG, and climate change;
- **Priorities** and **opportunities** related to renewable energy and economic development;
- **Barriers** to achieving the communities and organizations climate change related goals; and
- **Expectations** of the Climate Leadership Plan and the Initiative.

The development of the Initiative is intended to be a joint process for Indigenous leaders, communities and organizations to realize the benefits and opportunities of the Climate Leadership Plan. Further discussion is needed on options to realize this goal. With this in mind, we would like your input on the following topics: **the Climate Leadership Plan, Community Capacity, Community Investment, Economic Development, Governance, and Recommendations**. Discussion questions have been provided to assist in the written submission process(Appendix A).

Submission of Document

Visit <http://www.indigenous.alberta.ca/climate.cfm> for more information, to learn about the engagement process, or to visit the **online survey**. Please submit your written submission back to the Government of Alberta by **April 30, 2017**, so information can be reviewed and materials produced for further engagement and dialogue. Submissions will be accepted throughout the duration of the Initiative's engagement.

Submit your written submission to IR.ClimateLeadership@gov.ab.ca

Thank you for your interest in Climate Leadership and your continued participation in this process. This feedback will assist to inform the establishment of the first ever **Indigenous Climate Leadership Initiative**, its programming and structure. This Initiative is created with specific intent to include Indigenous participation and perspectives. The Government of Alberta strives to realize outcomes which can help Indigenous communities and organizations transition to a lower carbon economy.

A. Climate Leadership Plan

From your perspective as an Indigenous community or organization in Alberta, please discuss how your community or organization feels about the Climate Leadership Plan.

- What are your thoughts on Alberta's plan to take action on climate change and protect the province's health, environment, and economy?
- What are your concerns with Alberta's plans to take action on climate change and protect the province's health, environment, and economy?

B. Community Capacity

Discuss how the Initiative can build skills and capacity in your community or organization that may assist in the transition to a low carbon economy.

- What is your community or organization currently doing to support GHG reductions, promote energy efficiency or implement renewable energy resources?
- What types of skills would your community or organization require to advance:
 - Energy efficiency – examples include:
 - Reducing electricity consumption with the use of solar panels;
 - Reducing fuel consumption in homes through retrofits including improved insulation, weather stripping, or programmable thermostats.
- Green Infrastructure – examples include community composts, community gardens, greenhouses, water management systems;
- Renewable energy initiatives – examples include the development of hydro, solar, geothermal and wind power sources.
- Are there partnerships that would help accelerate your community or organization's success in capacity building related to achieving reduced GHG emissions, and green economic growth?
- How do we ensure that capacity support (i.e. funding for staff, training, community workshops, etc.) in your community or organization leads to the intended outcomes of the Climate Leadership Plan, including reduced GHG emissions; a diversified economy; and increase community well-being?





Community Investment

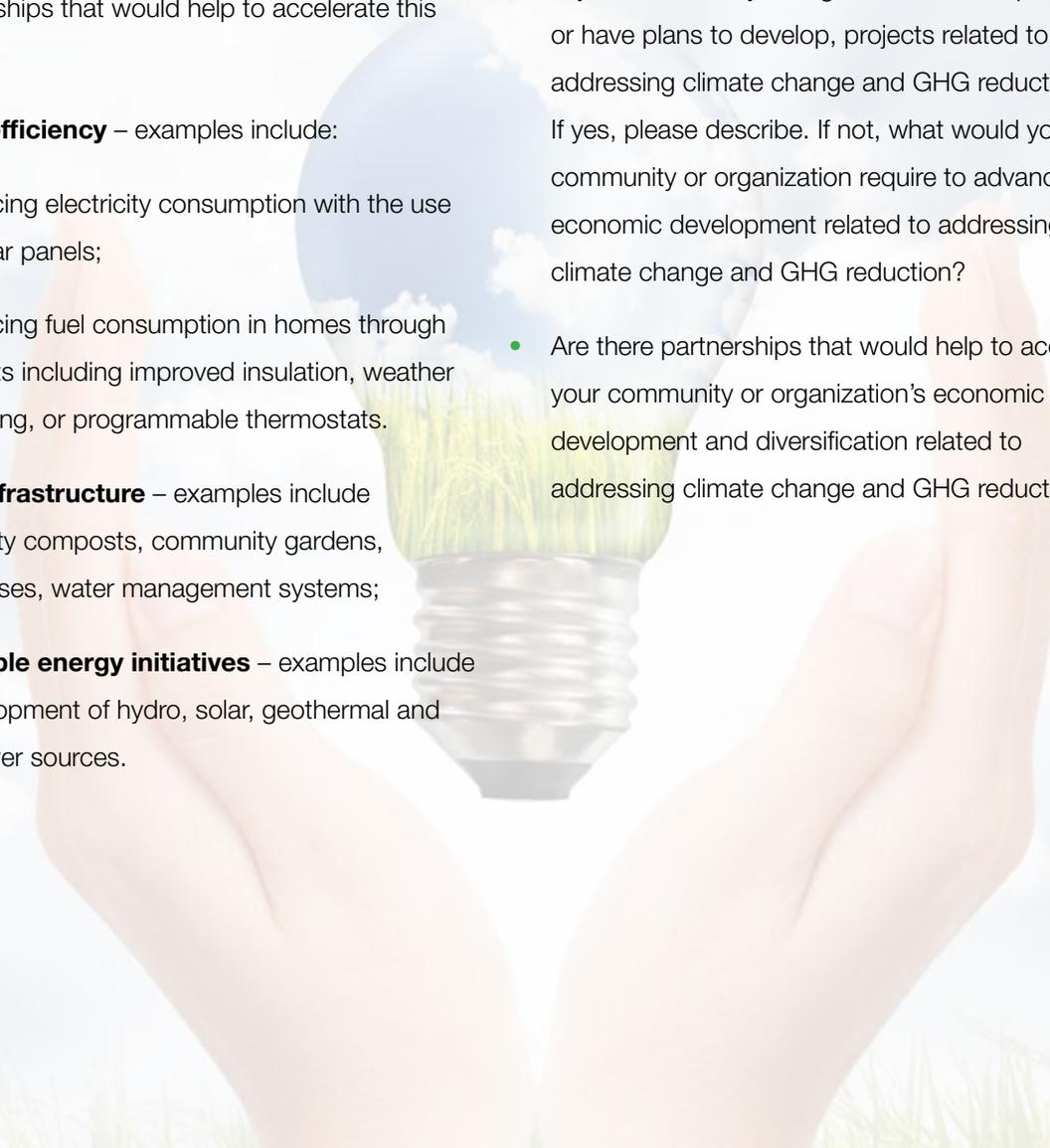
Discuss how the Initiative can support your investment on existing projects and service programs. What does your community or organization currently have in place in the areas listed below? What would your community or organization require to advance this investment? Are there partnerships that would help to accelerate this investment?

- **Energy efficiency** – examples include:
 - Reducing electricity consumption with the use of solar panels;
 - Reducing fuel consumption in homes through retrofits including improved insulation, weather stripping, or programmable thermostats.
- **Green Infrastructure** – examples include community composts, community gardens, greenhouses, water management systems;
- **Renewable energy initiatives** – examples include the development of hydro, solar, geothermal and wind power sources.

Economic Development and Diversification

Discuss how the Initiative can support economic development and diversification opportunities that address climate change and GHG reduction for your community or organization.

- Is your community or organization developing, or have plans to develop, projects related to addressing climate change and GHG reduction? If yes, please describe. If not, what would your community or organization require to advance economic development related to addressing climate change and GHG reduction?
- Are there partnerships that would help to accelerate your community or organization's economic development and diversification related to addressing climate change and GHG reduction?





Governance

As previously mentioned, the development of the form and function of the Initiative is intended to be a joint process between the GoA and Indigenous communities and organizations. This includes the concept of a joint governance structure to administer the Initiative. The goal of joint development and administration reflects a commitment to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

In this section we are looking for discussion related to potential governance options for the Initiative, such that your community and organization's interests can be represented as programming is developed and managed. You may wish to consider the following ideas as you reflect on an appropriate governance structure:

- A partnered governance structure that can facilitate the goals of this Initiative;
- A partnered governance structure that has capacity to create a fund to hold the funding resources over multiple years; and
- A partnered governance structure that can potentially complement other climate actions, such as the establishment of Energy Efficiency Alberta.

Some examples of potential governance structures include:

- **Joint advisory board:** To provide advice to government on programming;
- **Joint management board:** To provide direction to delivery organizations;
- **Jointly managed delivery organization:** To manage funds and disperse services and funds to achieve outcomes; and
- **Other organizational options:** Crown agencies, delegated authorities, trusts, or not-for-profit corporations.

You may present more than one option with associated advantages and disadvantages between styles in support of your preferred choice of governance. Some probing governance questions include:

- How will governance represent different Indigenous voices?
- How will governance ensure accountability to the outcomes of the Climate Leadership Plan and complement other climate actions, such as the establishment of Energy Efficiency Alberta?
- Does the Initiative itself continue to engage Indigenous communities and organizations going forward, or does that continue to be a government-driven responsibility?





Recommendations/Barriers

Please provide any other recommendations to the potential form and function of the Initiative, over and above, the topics and questions already covered in this guidebook. Some examples may include your community or organization's thoughts on:

- How will the Initiative be best received by Indigenous communities and organizations?
- What are the barriers (and solutions) to be considered in terms of taking full advantage of the Initiative?

