

Environment Committee

Mandate

As environmental issues and concerns become increasingly important to business worldwide, the role of the Chamber's Environment Committee continues to grow. As part of its transformation, the committee is attracting the brightest minds in business and academia to work out a profitable and sustainable environmental business model.

Summary of Previous Year's Work

Over the course of the year, three issues emerged as priorities for the committee. First and foremost was water. The group recognized that in the future, economic growth may be jeopardized by the availability of water. Therefore, the Committee hosted leading experts to better understand the current policy framework and discuss what changes may be required to move to a more sustainable water management approach.

The second focus area was the issue of oil wells located in close proximity to, or within, the city limits. The committee noted that there are some unresolved jurisdictional issues in dealing with this problem, and policy innovation will be necessary for the issue to be resolved.

The third area of interest was climate change. Guest speakers provided updates on the provincial and federal frameworks. The Committee also worked with the Canadian Chamber of Commerce to develop a climate change policy for the national business community.

Committee Meeting Guest Speakers

Date	Speaker	Topic
September 2006	John Knapp, Assistant Deputy Minister, AB Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Change Policy at the Provincial Level
October 2006	Dr. David Keith, University of Calgary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Science of Climate Change
November 2006	Maureen Bell and Gary Webster, Committee Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calgary's Water Supply
December 2006	Rob McManus and Leah Lawrence, Committee Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban Oil and Gas Conflicts
January 2007	Heather Douglas, President and CEO of the Calgary Chamber of Commerce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chamber Energy Audit
January 2007	Bill Berzins, Chair, Bow River Basin Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Policy
January 2007	Kim Sturgess, CEO, Alberta Watersmart	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water policy

March 2007	Dr. David Schindler, University of Alberta	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Policy
March 2007	Maryiln Craig, Manager Public Safety and Sour Gas, Alberta Energy and Utilities Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban Oil and Gas Conflicts
April 2007	Bev Yee, Assistant Deputy Minister, Environmental Stewardship, Alberta Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water policy
April 2007	Mark Haxby, Sustainable Economy Ministry of Employment, Immigration and Industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural Capital and Water Policy
May 2007	Jim Shaw, Manager of Community Affairs, Nexen Inc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban Oil and Gas Conflicts
May 2007	Dr. Tim Lambert, Risk Assessment Specialist, Calgary Regional Health Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban Oil and Gas Conflicts
June 2007	Aldyen Donnelly, President of the Greenhouse Emissions Management Consortium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal Climate Change Policy