



alberta
environmental
network

Alberta Election 2019

Environmental Platform Survey Results

The Alberta Environmental Network connects Albertans and environmental groups that are dedicated to preserving and protecting Alberta's environment. We are a non-partisan and non-advocacy group that does not take a position on issues but rather supports and enables collaboration amongst our members.

In March 2019, we asked Alberta's seven major political parties with candidates in the provincial election to complete a brief survey on their environmental platform. This questionnaire was an opportunity for every political party to speak on topics that are important to our members.

We received survey responses from:

- Alberta Liberal Party
- Alberta New Democratic Party
- Green Party of Alberta (one page response)
- United Conservative Party

These parties declined to complete the survey or did not respond to the survey request:

- Alberta Party
- Freedom Conservative Party of Alberta
- Independence Party of Alberta

Here are the 15 questions we asked Alberta's political parties and the unedited responses that were submitted. For more information about this survey, contact Natalie Odd, Executive Director of the Alberta Environmental Network, at nodd@aenweb.ca.

About the Alberta Environmental Network

The Alberta Environmental Network (AEN) connects individuals, groups and organizations that are working toward a common purpose to share information and resources. We facilitate dialogue between environmental groups, government and other stakeholders. To build the capacity of environmental groups, we provide training and support. We encourage fair process in governance and decision-making in local and provincial governments.

As a non-advocacy group, the AEN does not take a position on issues but rather supports collaboration. Our diverse membership of individuals and groups has priorities relating to biodiversity, conservation, air, water, land use and more. But we are unified with the same goal: a healthy and sustainable Alberta.

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Questions

1. What are your party's top 5 environmental priorities?
2. Alberta is home to a number of species at risk. What are your party's plans to halt the continuing decline of wildlife populations? Will you commit to implementing recovery plans that include substantial habitat protection for Alberta's species at risk, such as threatened native fish species, woodland caribou or whooping cranes?
3. Canada has signed the Convention on Biological Diversity's targets for 2020, which commits us to protecting 17% of our land by 2020. Alberta currently sits at only 14.9% protected, with most of that area within our National Parks. What is your party's plan for protecting at least 17% of Alberta's landscapes by 2020 and over the next 4 years?
4. Albertans support preserving our natural landscapes for generations to come while balancing recreational needs. Do you support the proposed designation of the Bighorn Country and the establishment of the Bighorn Wildland Park? If not, what would your party do if elected to protect this important region that provides drinking water and regulates water flow, which minimizes the risk of floods and droughts, for downstream communities?
5. In the fall of 2018, it was revealed that there is a potential \$260 billion dollars in unsecured liability risk associated with Alberta's oil and gas sector. This is due to insufficient rules to ensure timely clean up and a lack of funds held in security by the government to cover the costs of clean up in case of an operator's default. How will your party reduce Alberta's risk of the significant liability based on the immense shortfall from between what energy operators are obliged to pay for their site cleanup and the funds now held in trust in case of default?
6. How will your party support Alberta's surface water and groundwater monitoring network that tracks water quality and quantity?
7. A byproduct of oilsands mining is fluid tailings, which reached a volume in Alberta of 1.18 trillion litres in 2015 and continues to grow. Tailings ponds contain toxic materials that can leak into the surrounding environment and water. How will your party protect groundwater from tailings risks?
8. With increasing cumulative pressures from communities and natural resource extraction, impacts on air quality, water and biodiversity are reaching or have reached critical thresholds. How will your party manage cumulative land use impacts to the quantity and quality of Alberta's surface waters and groundwater?
9. Multi-stakeholder partnerships — such as the Clean Air Strategic Alliance, the Alberta Water Council, Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils, and airshed zone organizations — have been recognized as important contributors to the effective management of Alberta's clean air and water. What is your commitment to the continued support of and collaboration with multi-stakeholder partnerships to achieve local and regional air and water quality objectives?
10. One of the biggest sources of greenhouse gas emissions in Alberta is from the provinces electricity supply, primarily from higher emission sources of electricity such as coal generated power and natural gas. What is your party's commitment to increase the production of affordable, pollution free, and reliable renewable energy in Alberta?
11. Increasing the energy efficiency of households, businesses and industries is an effective way to reduce climate emissions and save taxpayers from costly infrastructure projects and electricity cost increases. Does your party commit to funding energy efficiency programs for households, businesses and industries? If not, what would you do to support and promote greater energy efficiency in Alberta?
12. Do you agree with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) recommendations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 45% by 2030 to ensure we keep global warming to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial temperatures? Will your party legislate an emissions reduction target for Alberta that is consistent with Canada's obligations under the Paris Agreement?
13. Using current projections (taking into account current climate policies), Alberta's greenhouse gas emissions will be almost double the emissions goal for all of Canada in 2050, set in accordance with the international obligations under the 2015 Paris Agreement. There is strong consensus that the most cost effective and efficient policy to drive emission reductions is through an economy-wide price on carbon. Does your party support an economy-wide price on carbon? If not, what is your party's economy-wide plan to reduce emissions?
14. Due to the continued volatility of some of Alberta's traditional resource-based industry, there is increasing interest from Albertan workers to diversify their skills and to pursue job opportunities in a more diversified economy such as the new green economy. What would your party do to protect and assist workers in traditional resource-based industries as we diversify our economy?
15. According to the Insurance Bureau of Canada, the damage from severe weather events across Canada reached \$1.9 billion in 2018. They anticipate climate change to continue to increase the cost of damages from extreme weather events (such as floods, wildfires, heat and drought). How does your party plan to cover the increasing costs of disaster relief services and private and public damages from these climate related emergencies and disasters?

1. What are your party's top 5 environmental priorities?

Alberta Liberal Party

Addressing the ever increasing threat posed by climate change.

Addressing Alberta's staggering \$260 billion in unfunded oilpatch liabilities, which the NDP have been just as quick to dismiss as past Conservative administrations.

Effective stewardship of Alberta's water resources, land, air and biodiversity.

Supporting the growth of renewable energy and phasing out coal-fired electricity generation.

On the recycling front, transitioning away from current product stewardship initiatives and implementing a policy of extended producer responsibility (EPR) for Alberta via legislation. Again, this is something that we have pressed the NDP to implement, but our calls have fallen on deaf ears.

Alberta New Democratic Party

Our platform lays out a number of positive measures to help strengthen environmental protection in Alberta, notably commitments to work to reduce emissions through the Climate Leadership Plan, achieving a phase-out of coal generation by 2030, meeting our target of 30% renewable electricity by 2030, reducing methane emissions by 45% by 2025, and a firm cap on oil sands carbon emissions. We firmly believe that Alberta is well positioned to be among the world's most environmentally progressive energy producers. We also commit to protecting our lakes and watersheds.

Green Party of Alberta

The Number 1. item on the Green Party of Alberta's Election Platform calls for the Development and Adoption of an Environmental Bill of Rights for the province. It would legally enshrine the right of Albertans to a "healthy and ecologically balanced environment" and would impose a duty on the government of Alberta to protect the environment under its jurisdiction for the benefit of both present and future generations.

This law would cover all the elements of environment protection which are listed on the survey. The financial obligations of such a law would be appropriately funded over the course of time by the implementation of a moderate sales tax.

We thank the AEN for their continuing efforts to protect all the many aspects of our environment in Alberta.

United Conservative Party

A United Conservative government would propose a Common-Sense Conservation Plan that recognizes that recreation, economic use, and conservation can and should support each other.

The United Conservative Party's top five environmental priorities are:

1. We will restore Alberta's reputation as a world leader in developing resources responsibly and as a leader in predictable and efficient regulation by completing a review of Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) and establish clear performance benchmarks;
2. Review Alberta Environment and Parks legislation to modernize it for the 21 century;
3. Improve data collection on environmental outcomes relating to parks and public lands to ensure these lands meet the needs of Albertans in the 21st century in an environmentally sustainable way;
4. Ensure that in the future, all major environmental protection proposals will be subject to mandatory social-economic impact assessments to allow the government to strike the appropriate balance between economic growth and environmental protection; and
5. Ensure that more department staff work in the outdoors and with local stakeholders, including facilitating visitor enjoyment of the back country and conducting environmental monitoring.

2. Alberta is home to a number of species at risk. What are your party's plans to halt the continuing decline of wildlife populations? Will you commit to implementing recovery plans that include substantial habitat protection for Alberta's species at risk, such as threatened native fish species, woodland caribou or whooping cranes?

Alberta Liberal Party

The Alberta Liberals support evidence-based decision making and recognize that more and more wildlife species are facing significant pressures as human populations and activities continue to expand. We are strongly committed to implementing recovery plans for at-risk species, which may include substantial habitat protection. For example, we support the off-highway vehicle ban in the Castle Wilderness Area because of the impact it has been shown to have on sensitive wildlife.

Alberta New Democratic Party

Alberta's NDP is committed to stabilizing, recovering and ultimately achieving naturally self-sustaining populations of at-risk species. To that end, Budget 2018 dedicated \$15 million towards species recovery, ecosystem planning and associated landscape recovery actions. We are always open to discussing at-risk species and recovery plans with partners. For example last summer we led a delegation of industry representatives, First Nations and municipal leaders to Ottawa to request further support to conduct social and economic assessments, build Indigenous capacity, and support restoration work and rearing facilities with regard to woodland caribou protection.

Green Party of Alberta

Refer to answer in question #1.

United Conservative Party

A United Conservative government will address the continuing decline of wildlife populations, namely the wildland caribou. We recognize the federally-mandated need to propose a caribou range protection plan, but this must be done in close collaboration with all who are affected, and must be based on science and common-sense conservation policies.

A United Conservative government will reverse four years of reductions in the fight against the Mountain Pine Beetle by increasing funding by \$5 million to \$30 million annually. We will immediately form a Caribou Range Task Force of local municipal governments, the Northwest Species at Risk Committee, forestry and other industries, Indigenous representatives, and habitat scientists to review the Alberta Caribou Draft Plan.

3. Canada has signed the Convention on Biological Diversity's targets for 2020, which commits us to protecting 17% of our land by 2020. Alberta currently sits at only 14.9% protected, with most of that area within our National Parks. What is your party's plan for protecting at least 17% of Alberta's landscapes by 2020 and over the next 4 years?

	Alberta Liberal Party	The Alberta Liberals support the proposed protection of Bighorn Country, and would actively consult with stakeholders to develop a viable strategy for increasing the amount of protected land in the province.
	Alberta New Democratic Party	We support the goal of protecting more land and freshwater by 2020. In the last election we promised to protect Castle Park and we have delivered – investments are being made in additional parks staff and Conservation Officers, off-road vehicles are being phased out, and we are looking for opportunities to work directly with Indigenous partners through creation of cooperative management agreements with local First Nations. We created the world's largest boreal forest preserve with the creation of five new parks in Alberta's northeast. We are also supporting better environmental management through regional plans such as the Lower Athabasca Regional Plan and South Saskatchewan Regional Plan. Additionally the government is currently consulting with Albertans on a proposal for Bighorn Country that would conserve natural landscapes while boosting economic development, recreation and tourism. We will continue to work to protect vulnerable habitats and work toward the U.N. targets.
	Green Party of Alberta	Refer to answer in question #1.
	United Conservative Party	Alberta has an incredible amount of biodiversity that is being managed and sustained by the government as well as stakeholders beyond our official parks, particularly our Crown land. We will ensure Alberta continues its long tradition of respecting and preserving our natural spaces.

4. Albertans support preserving our natural landscapes for generations to come while balancing recreational needs. Do you support the proposed designation of the Bighorn Country and the establishment of the Bighorn Wildland Park? If not, what would your party do if elected to protect this important region that provides drinking water and regulates water flow, which minimizes the risk of floods and droughts, for downstream communities?

Alberta
Liberal
Party

Yes. The Alberta Liberals are on record as supporting the proposed mix of parks and public lands in the Bighorn. We need to protect and preserve more of Alberta's natural environments. Protecting Bighorn Country is critical to preserving biodiversity and our water resources.

Alberta
New Democratic
Party

We support the goal of protecting more land and freshwater by 2020. In the last election we promised to protect Castle Park and we have delivered – investments are being made in additional parks staff and Conservation Officers, off-road vehicles are being phased out, and we are looking for opportunities to work directly with Indigenous partners through creation of cooperative management agreements with local First Nations. We created the world's largest boreal forest preserve with the creation of five new parks in Alberta's northeast. We are also supporting better environmental management through regional plans such as the Lower Athabasca Regional Plan and South Saskatchewan Regional Plan. Additionally the government is currently consulting with Albertans on a proposal for Bighorn Country that would conserve natural landscapes while boosting economic development, recreation and tourism. We will continue to work to protect vulnerable habitats and work toward the U.N. targets.

Bighorn Country is a major source of drinking water, home to a wide array of rare plants and wildlife, and a place for Albertans to connect with their peers and their environment. Last fall Rachel Notley and Alberta's NDP launched consultations on a proposal for Bighorn Country that would better protect headwaters and biodiversity, support continued traditional land-use by Indigenous Peoples, and provide high-quality outdoor recreation and nature-based tourism opportunities. The proposal would create three new provincial parks - The David Thompson Provincial Park, The North Saskatchewan River Provincial Park, and the Ya Ha Tinda Provincial Park. Significant numbers of Albertans participated in these consultations and we look forward to moving forward with a plan that balances the desires of local residents and recreational users of the area with the need to protect sensitive lands. Subject to further consultation, in particular with Indigenous peoples in the area, we remain committed to protecting the Big Horn region.

Green Party
of Alberta

Refer to answer in question #1.

United
Conservative
Party

A United Conservative government would review the Provincial Parks Act. Many of the significant issues facing Alberta parks today were not contemplated with previous legislation and regulation. A United Conservative government would consult broadly to inform a modernization of legislation and regulation to accommodate the variety of modern needs on public lands in an environmentally sustainable way - particularly when it comes to our water supply.

5. In the fall of 2018, it was revealed that there is a potential \$260 billion dollars in unsecured liability risk associated with Alberta’s oil and gas sector. This is due to insufficient rules to ensure timely clean up and a lack of funds held in security by the government to cover the costs of clean up in case of an operator’s default. How will your party reduce Alberta’s risk of the significant liability based on the immense shortfall from between what energy operators are obliged to pay for their site cleanup and the funds now held in trust in case of default?

Alberta Liberal Party

The Alberta Liberals are the only party to be sounding the alarm over the current unfunded liability estimate, which a recent access to information request pegged at \$260 billion – and growing. In the fall 2018 sitting of the legislature, we demanded a “Standing Order 30” emergency debate on this issue, given that only \$1.6 billion in security deposits have been collected from industry to date. All other parties refused to have this debate. Both the NDP and UCP said this wasn’t an emergency issue. Alberta Liberals believe it is.

The Alberta Liberals also believe that the only sensible way to protect taxpayers from a potential fiscal Armageddon is to require energy companies to purchase reclamation and clean-up bonds as insurance. Anything less exposes taxpayers to far too much risk and violates the “polluter pays” principle. Additionally, we will put time limits on suspended wells to ensure non-producing wells aren’t left unreclaimed for decades, and will implement publicly-reported and independent reclamation cost evaluations.

Alberta New Democratic Party

We believe in the polluter-pay principle. Albertans expect industry to pay the costs of cleaning up and decommissioning wells and associated infrastructure. Alberta currently has an estimated 180,000 active wells, 83,000 inactive wells and 69,000 abandoned but not yet reclaimed wells. This is a major issue that needs to be addressed. We have launched a review of the upstream oil and gas liability management system. And we have committed to loan \$235 million to the Orphan Wells Association to boost efforts at orphan well and gas cleanup – repayment of which will be funded through the existing orphan fund levy paid by industry and managed by the OWA. If re-elected we have additionally committed to implement clear timelines for when companies need to clean up their abandoned oil and gas wells and require them to justify delays in reclaiming sites. We will also implement new corporate health measures on asset sales to prevent liability dumping as we continue to work with industry and the Orphan Wells Association to accelerate remediation of the orphan wells inventory.

Green Party of Alberta

Refer to answer in question #1.

United Conservative Party

As we note in our platform at www.albertastrongandfree.ca there are a large number of suspended inactive oil and gas wells and associated facilities in Alberta that have reached the end of their economic lives. Under the current climate of reduced oil and natural gas prices, the inventory of suspended wells and facilities has grown substantially.

A United Conservative government will:

- Streamline the process for well and facility abandonment and environmental reclamation to reduce costs and increase the rate at which wells that will not be used again are officially “abandoned”
- Work jointly with the AER and industry to overhaul the liability management framework in Alberta, ensuring liabilities are covered without unduly discouraging new investment
- Propose that the federal government provide tax incentives and financial support such as “green” flow-through shares for the abandonment and environmental reclamation of oil and gas wells and associated surface facilities
- Urge the federal government to establish alternative financial vehicles that focus on environmental reclamation in the oil and gas industry, such as adapting Qualifying Environmental Trusts (QET) to include well decommissioning costs

6. How will your party support Alberta's surface water and groundwater monitoring network that tracks water quality and quantity?

Alberta Liberal Party

The Alberta Liberals are committed to maintaining funding and resources for both surface water monitoring programs and the Groundwater Observation Well Network (GOWN). Going forward, we support further expansion of existing surface water monitoring networks and the formation of more lake stewardship groups. Greater analysis of historical lake data is also needed to understand trends and inform ongoing surface water management. We also support continued expansion of GOWN, and believe that greater mapping and analysis of groundwater is needed – particularly in light of ongoing fracking operations and resource development.

Alberta New Democratic Party

Alberta's NDP have fundamentally reformed Alberta's environmental monitoring process through An Act to Ensure Independent Environmental Monitoring, which was passed in 2016 to ensure that environmental monitoring is considered a core government responsibility, and to better protect Alberta's water, land and air. We are committed to improving surface and groundwater monitoring specifically, as well as taking further action to improve watershed management – for example if re-elected we have committed to developing a Clean Lakes Strategy to reduce blue-green algae and protect our valuable shorelines.

Green Party of Alberta

Refer to answer in question #1.

United Conservative Party

The United Conservative government believes that stewardship of our air, land, water, wild-life is a moral obligation. Environmental stewardship is also supported by a strong economy, and monitoring and protecting our water supply is an essential task that all stakeholders are responsible for.

A United Conservative government will protect creeks and streams on the Eastern Slopes by adding \$1 million in funding (tripling provincial funding from \$531,000) to the Alberta Riparian Habitat Protection Society's "Cows and Fish" Program, while seeking matching funds from the private sector.

7. A byproduct of oilsands mining is fluid tailings, which reached a volume in Alberta of 1.18 trillion litres in 2015 and continues to grow. Tailings ponds contain toxic materials that can leak into the surrounding environment and water. How will your party protect groundwater from tailings risks?

**Alberta
Liberal
Party**

The Alberta Liberals fully acknowledge research demonstrating that toxic chemicals from tailings ponds are leaching into groundwater. This is a serious issue. We believe that a strong monitoring and reporting regime is absolutely critical to reducing the risk of groundwater contamination. Government also has a responsibility to support and incentivize new technologies aimed at reducing tailings and enabling their progressive reclamation.

**Alberta
New Democratic
Party**

We are committed to improved monitoring and environmental stewardship in the oilsands industry. We are hopeful that reform of our environmental monitoring process, through An Act to Ensure Independent Environmental Monitoring, will help improve monitoring standards throughout the province. We know more needs to be done on this issue and we are committed to working with stakeholders to improve Alberta's track record with tailings ponds.

**Green Party
of Alberta**

Refer to answer in question #1.

**United
Conservative
Party**

We acknowledge that tailings ponds pose a serious environmental threat. A United Conservative government will continue to industry is accountable for this very important issue.

8. With increasing cumulative pressures from communities and natural resource extraction, impacts on air quality, water and biodiversity are reaching or have reached critical thresholds. How will your party manage cumulative land use impacts to the quantity and quality of Alberta's surface waters and groundwater?

Alberta Liberal Party

Broadly speaking, the Alberta Liberals support the use of evidence-based decision making and a strong environmental monitoring and reporting regime to help guide public policy. We have been particularly active in pressing for stronger groundwater protection, demanding greater monitoring of the oil and gas industry's use of groundwater in fracking operations and better mapping and analysis of groundwater capacity in those parts of the province where industry is engaging in fracking.

Alberta New Democratic Party

Managing cumulative effects is a significant challenge facing responsible resource development in Alberta and it requires close collaboration among all levels of government. We understand that airsheds, watersheds, forests and landscapes have a limited carrying capacity and that each new development can have an incremental effect on the environment. We are committed to working on regional planning that uses a cumulative effects management approach by setting and integrating economic, environmental and social outcomes that Albertans want to achieve. This will ensure clear, strong environmental standards for land-use while providing certainty for industry and other land users.

Green Party of Alberta

Refer to answer in question #1.

United Conservative Party

A United Conservative government will increase funding by 50 per cent (\$5 million) to the Alberta Land Trust Grant Program that conserves ecologically important areas, and preserve other program and policy priorities. We will also ensure that all major economic development proposals continue to be subject to mandatory environmental impact assessments.

9. Multi-stakeholder partnerships — such as the Clean Air Strategic Alliance, the Alberta Water Council, Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils, and airshed zone organizations — have been recognized as important contributors to the effective management of Alberta’s clean air and water. What is your commitment to the continued support of and collaboration with multi-stakeholder partnerships to achieve local and regional air and water quality objectives?

Alberta Liberal Party

The Alberta Liberals believe that the continued participation and involvement of such groups is essential to the effective management and health of Alberta’s natural resources. We are committed to working in partnership and collaboration with these groups for the benefit of all Albertans and our shared natural environment.

Alberta New Democratic Party

We agree that multi-stakeholder partnerships – including Alberta’s 11 local watershed councils – are vital to responsible resource management and good planning. If re-elected we have committed to multi-year, stable funding for watershed councils and land trust organizations so they can be more effective at protecting our water and vulnerable lands. We will also reduce barriers to the creation of land trusts to support voluntary land conservation across the province.

Green Party of Alberta

Refer to answer in question #1.

United Conservative Party

A United Conservative government is absolutely committed to ensuring we continue stakeholder engagement with important partners on environmental issues. Environmental stewardship is largely due to the efforts of civil society; a United Conservative government will continue to engage these groups.

10. One of the biggest sources of greenhouse gas emissions in Alberta is from the provinces electricity supply, primarily from higher emission sources of electricity such as coal generated power and natural gas. What is your party's commitment to increase the production of affordable, pollution free, and reliable renewable energy in Alberta?

Alberta Liberal Party

The Alberta Liberals believe that renewable energy represents a tremendous economic opportunity for the province, and that we absolutely must not waver from the planned phase out of coal-fired electricity generation. We are committed to creating a business and regulatory environment that will allow green initiatives like renewable energy to grow and thrive, and will carefully support renewable energy projects, including cogeneration plants that convert excess heat into usable power.

Alberta New Democratic Party

In November 2015 Alberta unveiled an aggressive Climate Leadership Plan – the province's plan to diversify the economy, create jobs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change. That plan included a commitment to ensure that 30% of Alberta's electricity production would come from renewable energy sources by 2030. We have set out a road-map to achieve this goal through the Renewable Electricity Program – through this program Alberta will see 5,000 megawatts of green electricity. Already 1,360 megawatts of wind power has been secured through 9 planned projects, several of which we have insisted must include significant Indigenous partnership. We are committed to continued progress towards our goal and we anticipate that by the end of 2021 we will have more than doubled the amount of wind energy produced in Alberta. We remain committed to phasing out coal- fired power plants by 2030 while providing a just transition for the affected workers and communities.

Green Party of Alberta

Refer to answer in question #1.

United Conservative Party

Through our Technology Innovation and Emissions Reduction (TIER) Fund, A United Conservative government would impose a "good-as-best-gas" performance standard, which would obviously apply to remaining coal generators. We will also uphold round 3 of the Renewable Energy Program and ensure our generation framework welcomes market-driven green power.

11. Increasing the energy efficiency of households, businesses and industries is an effective way to reduce climate emissions and save taxpayers from costly infrastructure projects and electricity cost increases. Does your party commit to funding energy efficiency programs for households, businesses and industries? If not, what would you do to support and promote greater energy efficiency in Alberta?

	Alberta Liberal Party	Yes. The Alberta Liberals recognize that energy efficiency programs are an important component in the fight against climate change and allow consumers to reduce both their energy usage and costs.
	Alberta New Democratic Party	We think it's shameful that Alberta was the last province to have an energy efficiency program. We are proud to have created Energy Efficiency Alberta to help families, businesses and entire communities reduce both their energy costs and their greenhouse gas emissions. Already, Energy Efficiency Alberta has saved Albertans \$510 million through lower energy costs. If re-elected we would continue to support Albertans in transitioning to a more energy efficient future.
	Green Party of Alberta	Refer to answer in question #1.
	United Conservative Party	A United Conservative government would evaluate the agencies responsible for energy efficiency in Alberta; we will have a Technology Innovation and Emissions Reduction (TIER) Fund to replace the NDP's Carbon Competitiveness Incentive Regulation (CCIR) and we project it will generate reductions similar to the NDP plan without taxing households and typical businesses. There will accordingly be fewer dollars available for government-sponsored efficiency programs, but in a strong economy more households and businesses will be able to make efficiency investments that will generate financial and emissions savings for them.

12. Do you agree with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) recommendations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 45% by 2030 to ensure we keep global warming to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial temperatures? Will your party legislate an emissions reduction target for Alberta that is consistent with Canada's obligations under the Paris Agreement?

Alberta Liberal Party

Not sure. This is a proposal that the Alberta Liberals would study in closer detail before making any decision.

Alberta New Democratic Party

Since the implementation of our Climate Leadership Plan, Alberta's greenhouse gas emissions have dropped 16% - that's the equivalent of three Metro Vancoovers. We anticipate significant emissions reductions through our measures aimed at reducing methane - we have invested over \$200 million to reduce methane gas emissions in support of our ambitious 45% methane emission reduction target. With regard specifically to legislating a target, we have taken the view that establishing greenhouse gas targets does not lead to emissions reductions. Action is what is needed, and if re-elected we will continue to take concrete action to prioritize greenhouse gas emissions reductions programming and investments.

Green Party of Alberta

Refer to answer in question #1.

United Conservative Party

A United Conservative government will introduce the Technology Innovation and Emissions Reduction (TIER) Fund to replace the NDP's Carbon Competitiveness Incentive Regulation (CCIR), which will achieve real greenhouse gas emission reductions while encouraging investment across industries.

Under the TIER system, existing facilities with emissions above 100,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide (or equivalent) other than electricity generators, will have to meet an emissions performance target of reducing their emissions intensity by 10 per cent (increasing by one per cent per year) compared to their average performance between 2016 and 2018, that can be achieved by either reducing facility emissions, purchasing credits from facilities that have exceeded their compliance targets, purchasing credits from facilities that have exceeded compliance targets, purchasing accredited offsets from emissions reductions occurring elsewhere in the Alberta economy, or paying into the TIER Fund at a rate of \$20/tonne.

A United Conservative government will also require large final emitters (LFEs) in the electricity sector to meet a "good-as-best-gas" performance standard. A United Conservative government will also implement a TIER Fund which will help companies reduce emissions with cleaner technology.

13. Using current projections (taking into account current climate policies), Alberta's greenhouse gas emissions will be almost double the emissions goal for all of Canada in 2050, set in accordance with the international obligations under the 2015 Paris Agreement. There is strong consensus that the most cost effective and efficient policy to drive emission reductions is through an economy-wide price on carbon. Does your party support an economy-wide price on carbon? If not, what is your party's economy-wide plan to reduce emissions?

Alberta
Liberal
Party

Yes. The Alberta Liberals believe that putting an economy-wide price on carbon is necessary to reduce emissions. We recognize that, to be effective, a carbon tax must be broad-based and apply to more than just large industrial emitters. We also believe that the carbon tax should be truly revenue-neutral, and not used to help fund general government operations and pet political projects – as the NDP have done. In our opinion, the NDP have used the carbon tax as a proxy for a sales tax, which clearly wasn't its intended purpose. This has bred cynicism among many and fueled calls for it to be rescinded.

Alberta
New Democratic
Party

Putting a price on carbon pollution was a key part of our Climate Action Plan and we are committed to maintaining it as part of our wider plan to diversify our economy, create jobs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Green Party
of Alberta

Refer to answer in question #1.

United
Conservative
Party

A United Conservative government will repeal the carbon tax; we do not support the carbon tax pricing regime brought forth by the NDP government, which hurts everyday Albertans. However, we do believe it is important to address emissions in partnership with our larger emitters, which is why we will introduce the Technology Innovation and Emissions Reduction (TIER) Fund to replace the NDP's Carbon Competitiveness Incentive Regulation (CCIR).

14. Due to the continued volatility of some of Alberta's traditional resource-based industry, there is increasing interest from Albertan workers to diversify their skills and to pursue job opportunities in a more diversified economy such as the new green economy. What would your party do to protect and assist workers in traditional resource-based industries as we diversify our economy?

Alberta Liberal Party

Diversifying our economy and workforce beyond oil and gas is now more important than ever. As much as some may not be willing to admit it, our province is in the midst of a seismic shift whereby we absolutely must reduce our reliance on the resource sector for job creation and royalty revenues. The Alberta Liberals believe that government's first responsibility to traditional resource sector workers is to ensure that appropriate supports are in place to help unemployed workers and to offer workers assistance with retraining or updating their skills. That is our primary focus, and green jobs are a logical shift for many. We recognize that the latest downturn has forced many companies to find much greater efficiencies in both staff and operations, so some lost jobs are not coming back – or certainly not to the extent that previously existed. The recovery is different this time.

Alberta New Democratic Party

Alberta's economy is changing fast, with new technologies, emerging industries and global opportunities. We are committed to embracing those opportunities. This new economy requires a workforce with education and skills to take on new challenges in new industries. That's why we are creating 3,000 new post-secondary spaces dedicated to technology education. If re-elected we are committed to providing stable and consistent funding for post-secondary education, so that higher education remains affordable and accessible for all Albertans. We are also committed to supporting workers displaced by a shift to greener technologies to re-train and find jobs in the new burgeoning industries.

Green Party of Alberta

Refer to answer in question #1.

United Conservative Party

A United Conservative government will ensure we balance the need to diversify with our traditional resource-based industries.

A United Conservative government will attract business with competitive tax rates and eliminating red tape. We will repeal the carbon tax, which costs businesses thousands of dollars every year; we will introduce our Job Creation Tax Cut, which will lower the tax on job creators from 12 to eight per cent over four years; we will pass a Red Tape Reduction Act, which will measure, report and reduce the province's regulatory decisions to be made. All of these measures will make Alberta an attractive place to do business by incentivizing job creators from diverse industries to operate here.

15. According to the Insurance Bureau of Canada, the damage from severe weather events across Canada reached \$1.9 billion in 2018. They anticipate climate change to continue to increase the cost of damages from extreme weather events (such as floods, wildfires, heat and drought). How does your party plan to cover the increasing costs of disaster relief services and private and public damages from these climate related emergencies and disasters?

Alberta
Liberal
Party

The Alberta Liberals believe that the province needs to start budgeting much more realistically for disaster recovery instead of relying on massive supplementary appropriations after the fact. In 2018-19, many would be surprised to learn that the province budgeted a mere \$215,000 for disaster recovery. We would budget based on a rolling average of the previous five years. We would also require all Albertans that live or operate businesses in the floodway or flood fringe to have flood insurance, in the same manner that drivers are required to carry motor vehicle insurance. We would also legislate a requirement for government to immediately release all independent, post-incident emergency response assessments as soon as they are received. In the past, the government has sometimes withheld these for a period of time to avoid criticism.

Alberta
New Democratic
Party

There is no doubt that as our climate changes, more severe weather events can be anticipated – we can expect to see increased forest fires, drought and flooding throughout the country. Alberta is not immune. Any responsible government must plan accordingly. That’s why the government is investing \$22 million in local flood and drought resilience programs and equipment. It is also why if re-elected we have committed to help protect Calgary from flooding, with a \$1 billion upstream reservoir that would prevent catastrophes like the flooding that ravaged Calgary in 2013.

Green Party
of Alberta

Refer to answer in question #1.

United
Conservative
Party

The United Conservative fiscal plan included a \$700m “Risk Adjustment,” which is usually standard for Alberta budgets to make allowance for unexpected revenue or expense changes. For some reason the NDP decided to remove that from the 3rd quarter budget update that they used as the basis for their platform.

More generally, by boosting our economy and getting our fiscal house in order and the private sector and government we will both be better able to afford disaster-related costs and proactively invest in measures to mitigate natural disasters.