

Quick Facts



proven reserves

- > Remaining established reserves: 170 billion barrels
- > Ranking of Alberta's oil reserves:
Second only to Saudi Arabia

land use

- > Size of oil sands deposit area: 142,200 km²
- > Surface mineable area: 4,800 km²
- > Potential area to be disturbed from existing and approved oil sands mining: 2,000 km²
- > Percentage recoverable through surface mining: 20%
- > Percentage recoverable through in situ: 80%
- > Size of Canada's boreal forest: 3,099,996 km²
- > Percentage of Canada's boreal forest within surface mineable boundary: 0.15%

reclamation

- > Area disturbed by mining to date (March/09): 602 km²
- > Amount reclaimed (March/09): 67 km²
- > Amount certified as reclaimed: 104 hectares
- > First reclamation certificate issued: March 2008
- > Number of trees planted by industry: Over 7.5 million
- > Footprint of tailings ponds (March/09): 130 km²
- > Alberta government tailings research grant amount (2008 and 2009): \$4.5 million
- > Amount held in reclamation security from oil sand mines as of March 31, 2009: \$820 million



water

- > Percentage of water use from recycled sources – for mining: Up to 85%
- > Percentage of water use from recycled or saline sources – for in situ: Up to 100%
- > Barrels of freshwater required per barrel of oil:
 - mining: 2 - 4 average
 - in situ: 0.5 average
- > Tailings produced per unit of oil produced by mines: 1.25
- > Athabasca River:
 - Mean annual flow in 2008: 506 m³/s
 - Oil sand mines annual net water use in 2008: 114,316,117 m³
 - Percentage of mean annual river flow used by oil sands mines in 2008: 0.7%
 - Percentage of existing and approved mines' water allocation compared to mean annual flow: < 3%
 - Water withdrawal limit during low flow periods: 1.3% of annual average flow

air

- > Air quality in the Athabasca oil sands region is rated good (highest quality): 98% of the time
- > Monitored: 24 hours/day, 365 days/year

climate change & greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions

- > Oil sands related greenhouse gas emissions in 2008: 37.2 Mt
- > Percentage of Canadian GHG emissions from oil sands: 5%
- > Percentage of global GHG emissions from oil sands: < 0.1%
- > Amount of emissions avoided through Alberta's GHG reduction program to date: 17 Mt
- > Amount Alberta government committed to carbon capture and storage: \$2 billion
- > Current amount in Climate Change & Emissions Management Fund: \$186.9 million

For more information, please visit the Government of Alberta's oil sands website: www.oilsands.alberta.ca