

## Oil sands quick facts

- Canada is responsible for about 2% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Extracting and upgrading Alberta's oil sands account for about 0.15% of global GHG emissions.
- Air quality is monitored 24 hours a day, 365 days a year at 16 stations across the region. Air quality in the oil sands region is rated good – the highest quality level – 95% of the time.
- All existing and approved oil sands projects may withdraw no more than 3% of the average annual flow of the Athabasca River; 2008 usage was 0.7% of the long-term average annual flow.
- Oil sands projects recycle 80 to 95 per cent of water used.
- Alberta has monitored water quality in the oil sands region since the early 1970s. Data indicates no increased concentration of contaminants in surface water in the oil sands area.
- Aggressive tailings management criteria by the Energy Resources Conservation Board include a mandated reduction in tailings and target dates for closure and reclamation of ponds.
- Alberta's boreal forest covers 381,000 square kilometers. About 660 square kilometres has been disturbed by oil sands mining. More than 50,000 square kilometres is under provincial or national designation (park). Twenty-three of Alberta's 50 largest protected areas, and Canada's largest national park, are within the boreal forest.
- Biodiversity in the oil sands region has been measured to be about 97% intact. A pristine area untouched by humans is considered 100% intact, a paved urban parking lot is 0% intact.
- Every dollar invested in the oil sands creates about \$9 worth of economic activity; with one-third of that economic value generated outside Alberta - in Canada, the U.S. and around the world.
- Alberta's oil sands contain recoverable reserves of 169 billion barrels, the third-largest reserves in the world.