

ENVIRONMENT

Res. No. 201 – Renewable Energy

THE ALBERTA FEDERATION OF LABOUR WILL lobby the government to establish a policy that commits the province to using the wealth generated by the oilsands to promote the transition from a fossil-fuel-based economy to a renewable energy economy.

BECAUSE Alberta's non-renewable resources will not last forever and we must invest in renewable energy to ensure a future for the province.

BECAUSE by developing renewable energy sources, Alberta will have a decisive impact on reducing the greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming. Alberta is a leader in producing pollution but we have the ability and the opportunity to be a leader in cleaning up the environment and establishing a more sustainable energy industry.

AFL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

REFERRED TO INCOMING AFL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
M/S/CARRIED - CONCURRENCE

Res. No. 202 – Renewable Energy

THE ALBERTA FEDERATION OF LABOUR WILL lobby the government to take immediate measures to level the playing field for ALL energy companies, including renewable energy companies.

BECAUSE renewable energy sources can produce a stable and significant supply of Alberta's energy needs, with current technology.

BECAUSE removing the unfair advantages given to oil and gas companies or making the incentives and subsidies that are available for the oil sector equally available to renewable energy companies will stimulate the growth of a renewable energy industry.

BECAUSE renewable energy companies should be encouraged to break into the market and develop renewable energy alternatives for residential, commercial and industrial uses.

AFL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

REFERRED TO INCOMING AFL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
M/S/CARRIED - CONCURRENCE

Res. No. 203 – Feed-In-Tariff for Renewable Energy Sources

THE ALBERTA FEDERATION OF LABOUR WILL advocate for a feed-in-tariff for renewable energy sources.

BECAUSE the creation of a feed-in-tariff for Alberta, based on the German model, will provide a significant incentive for renewable energy companies to increase their production as well as an incentive for customers, both residential and commercial to choose renewable energy sources for their electricity needs.

BECAUSE the legislation is simple and has been proven to make a significant impact on the creation and use of renewable energy in several jurisdictions (Germany, Spain, Ireland, France, etc.).

AFL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

REFERRED TO INCOMING AFL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
M/S/CARRIED - CONCURRENCE

Res. No. 204 – Environmental Partnerships

THE ALBERTA FEDERATION OF LABOUR WILL continue to build partnerships, particularly with environmental groups like Greenpeace and the Sierra Club, as well as community groups like the Parkland Institute and Public Interest Alberta, and local businesses to develop a strategy to build a new green economy and create good, green jobs in Alberta.

BECAUSE we need a vision to transform our economy. This vision needs to be developed right and it should be started right now.

BECAUSE we can take this economic opportunity to build a new future for ourselves and our children.

BECAUSE working together with environmental organizations like Greenpeace and the Sierra Club, and community partners like the Parkland Institute, Public Interest Alberta and other groups, the Alberta Federation of Labour and its affiliates can develop a new strategy and direction for Alberta's economy.

BECAUSE we can draw inspiration from the alliances between labour unions and community groups in the United States, such as the Apollo Alliance and the Blue Green Alliances, as well as the increasing public support for a more sustainable economy, and the Alberta Federation of Labour can be a leader in reshaping Alberta.

AFL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

**REFERRED TO INCOMING AFL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
M/S/CARRIED - CONCURRENCE**

Res. No. 205 – Environmental Impact of Tar Sands

THE ALBERTA FEDERATION OF LABOUR WILL lobby the Provincial Government for time on their agenda to make a presentation to the members of Legislative Assembly that NO new approvals for tar sands development take place until environment and social concerns are meaningfully addressed.

BECAUSE ignoring the environmental impact of continued tar sands development without meaningful short-term and long-term strategies does not promise a bright future for Albertans.

CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES LOCAL 3550

**REFERRED TO INCOMING AFL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
M/S/CARRIED – CONCURRENCE AS AMENDED**

Res. No. 206 – Province's Water Supply

THE ALBERTA FEDERATION OF LABOUR WILL re-affirm its support for preserving the Province's water supply as a public resource.

THE ALBERTA FEDERATION OF LABOUR WILL lobby the Federal and Provincial governments to enact legislation governing the consumption of water by industrial corporations.

BECAUSE the preservation of Canada's ecosystems from overuse and pollution should be a non-negotiable issue and must be protected to ensure consumable water for future generations.

CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES LOCAL 3550

**REFERRED TO INCOMING AFL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
M/S/CARRIED - CONCURRENCE**

Res. No. 207– Greening AFL Events & Operations

THE ALBERTA FEDERATION OF LABOUR WILL work towards the greening of all AFL events and daily operations; and

THE AFL ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE WILL supply educational material to affiliates to encourage and assist in ways to green their events and operations.

BECAUSE greening meetings and our offices will decrease the carbon footprint.

BECAUSE the AFL should be a leader in greening day-to-day operations.

AFL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

**REFERRED TO INCOMING AFL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
M/S/CARRIED – CONCURRENCE**

Res. No. 208 – Green Economy

THE ALBERTA FEDERATION OF LABOUR WILL publicly support the diversification of our economy with green initiatives. A statement shall be released expressing our interest in supporting green building, energy production , retrofit programs, modernization of infrastructure, eco tourism, and other healthy business and industry initiatives at the small, medium, and large business levels, in our public, private, health, and education sectors.

BECAUSE the creation of new industries and modernizing expansion of all current industry will serve as a powerful vehicle for growth in coming decades to the economy and our membership.

BECAUSE labour will be proudly responsible for producing an image of Alberta that is different from the “Cattle and Oil” stereotype, backing that new image up with real action.

BECAUSE we currently trail other parts of Canada and nearly all U.S. jurisdictions in green initiatives and the development of environmentally friendly industries.

**INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS
LOCAL 424**

**REFERRED TO INCOMING AFL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
M/S/CARRIED - CONCURRENCE**

Res. No. 209 – Renewable Energy

THE ALBERTA FEDERATION OF LABOUR WILL publicly demand that government of Alberta support extended development and use of renewable energy sources.

BECAUSE Alberta needs to ensure its future status as an energy provider in a post-carbon world.

BECAUSE decreasing the provinces use of carbon based energy sources is a significant step towards reducing our negative environmental impact.

BECAUSE taking the above steps will serve to repair the provinces battered, world-wide image as a dirty energy provider.

**INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS
LOCAL 424**

**REFERRED TO INCOMING AFL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
M/S/CARRIED - CONCURRENCE**

Res. No. 210—Carbon Offset Credits

THE ALBERTA FEDERATION OF LABOUR WILL purchase carbon offsets when its full-time officers and staff attend events.

THE ALBERTA FEDERATION OF LABOUR WILL encourage its affiliates to purchase carbon offsets when their staff travel.

BECAUSE each trip produces CO₂ which contributes to climate change.

BECAUSE purchasing carbon offsets provides funds for projects that support the reduction of CO₂ in the atmosphere and invests in renewable energy sources.

AFL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

REFERRED TO INCOMING AFL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
M/S/CARRIED - CONCURRENCE

Res. No. 211—Bottled Water

THE ALBERTA FEDERATION OF LABOUR WILL discourage the provision of commercially bottled water at its events.

BECAUSE drinking water should be a human right.

BECAUSE water provided through public utilities should be clean, safe and free for all.

BECAUSE the production of commercially bottled water creates a high level of green house gas emissions and is a negative contributor to landfills.

AFL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

M/S/CARRIED
CONCURRENCE AS AMENDED

Res. No. 212—Improving Electrical Grid

THE ALBERTA FEDERATION OF LABOUR WILL lobby the Alberta government to invest in the improvement of the electrical grid so as to enhance the acceptance of wind, solar, and any other non-fossil fuelled energy; and to develop a fair market system for payment of the power produced.

BECAUSE the current grid was designed to accommodate large-scale energy projects that are mostly suited to TransAlta Utilities' business plan.

AFL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

REFERRED TO INCOMING AFL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
M/S/CARRIED - CONCURRENCE

Res. No. 213—Ban Plastic Bags

THE ALBERTA FEDERATION OF LABOUR WILL call on the Alberta government to ban the use of plastic shopping bags in any business in the province and replace them with environmentally friendly bags.

BECAUSE the dumps are over-stocked with non-biodegradable materials.

BECAUSE plastic bags are easily strewn in the environment and hard to keep in check, and they endanger wildlife.

AFL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

REFERRED TO INCOMING AFL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
M/S/CARRIED - CONCURRENCE

Res. No. 214—Water for Life Strategy

THE ALBERTA FEDERATION OF LABOUR WILL lobby the government of Alberta to enhance the conservation and protection of our water resources for future generations, to ensure a reliable and good quantity and quality of water to support a sustainable economy.

THE AFL WILL also lobby the Alberta government to ensure that any changes or renewal to the “Water for Life” Strategy adequately addresses the issue of all water allocations and water licences issued to all industries, agriculture and municipalities.

BECAUSE the water resources in the province of Alberta are decreasing due to weather changes and issues related to climate change.

BECAUSE a large portion of our water resources has been already allocated for use.

AFL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

REFERRED TO INCOMING AFL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
M/S/CARRIED – CONCURRENCE AS AMENDED

Res. No. 215—Toxin Emissions Standards

THE ALBERTA FEDERATION OF LABOUR WILL demand the Alberta government sets a higher standard for the emissions of toxins into the river systems situated downstream from the Alberta tar sands.

BECAUSE all life must be guaranteed the right to clean, safe drinking water.

BECAUSE the negative impact of the emissions of toxins on the watershed will affect wildlife habitat, wildlife and quality of life for human kind for many generations.

AFL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

REFERRED TO INCOMING AFL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
M/S/CARRIED - CONCURRENCE

Res. No. 216—Clean Drinking Water

THE ALBERTA FEDERATION OF LABOUR WILL lobby the Alberta government to guarantee Albertans the basic human right of clean drinking water.

BECAUSE neither the government of Canada nor Alberta have acknowledged Canadians have a right to water.

AFL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

REFERRED TO INCOMING AFL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
M/S/CARRIED – CONCURRENCE

Res. No. 217-Research into Wind & Solar Power

THE ALBERTA FEDERATION OF LABOUR SHALL lobby the Alberta government to invest in research for improved wind and solar power, in addition to funding infrastructure for carbon capture on behalf of the oil industry.

BECAUSE the current government plans are designed to sustain business as usual for the oil industry at the taxpayers’ expense.

BECAUSE Alberta is suited for harvesting these types of energies.

BECAUSE investing in these areas now could reap huge rewards for Alberta taxpayers and diversify the economy.

AFL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

REFERRED TO INCOMING AFL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
M/S/CARRIED – CONCURRENCE

Res. No. 218—Encourage Reduction of Energy & Water Use

THE ALBERTA FEDERATION OF LABOUR WILL lobby the Alberta government to encourage reduction of energy and water use with rebates to homeowners, farms, small business, and municipalities.

BECAUSE current plans show no likelihood of success.

BECAUSE too many homeowners, particularly seniors, and small businesses, would be hard pressed to pay for such measures.

AFL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

**REFERRED TO INCOMING AFL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
M/S/CARRIED - CONCURRENCE**

Res. No. 219—Nuclear Power Watchdog

THE ALBERTA FEDERATION OF LABOUR WILL lobby the Canadian Labour Congress to urge the Federal Atomic Energy Commission to create a “Nuclear Power” watchdog, to be comprised of equal representation of government, industry and labour.

BECAUSE, as guardians and protectors of the environment which includes the natural resources throughout Canada, the federal government bears the ultimate responsibility to current and future generations of Canadians to safe guard their well being.

BECAUSE the construction of nuclear energy plants are being considered for the province of Alberta.

BECAUSE the known hazards of nuclear waste produced by the creation of nuclear energy must be monitored and reported on to the citizens of Canada through ongoing public information bulletins and community hearings.

BECAUSE every precaution and safeguard must be put in place to prepare for and prevent nuclear disasters with full and immediate disclosure and accountability.

AFL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

**M/S/CARRIED
CONCURRENCE**

