

Carbon Pricing and Energy Efficiency – SCC Action

While there is general consensus that carbon emissions need to be reduced, the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce, along with over 80% of its members, do not agree that implementing the proposed federal carbon pricing plan is an appropriate mechanism for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the province. Introducing a carbon tax would be detrimental to businesses in Saskatchewan, while not necessarily reducing emissions to any great extent.

The Federal Government's backstop plan will impose a carbon pricing regime on those provinces that do not already have an existing plan in place, or will act to supplement existing carbon pricing systems that do not fully meet the federal benchmark. While revenues from the carbon pricing system will stay in the province, the Federal Government is still non-committal about whether this revenue will be given directly to the province for distribution or if the federal government will bypass the province altogether and distribute revenues to businesses and households directly.

The Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce is currently focusing its research and advocacy efforts on providing written feedback on the newly-released federal carbon pricing backstop plan discussion paper for the June 30, 2017 submission deadline. The carbon levy element contained in the federal backstop plan is scheduled to take effect January 1, 2018.

In response, the Chamber has formed an Energy Efficiency Taskforce to articulate a clear policy framework for Saskatchewan in-line with promoting energy conservation.

By adopting of energy efficiency strategies and technologies, the rationale for a carbon tax could potentially be eliminated.

The Energy Efficiency Taskforce is comprised of individuals with technical expertise in the area of energy conservation. The mandate of the Energy Efficiency Taskforce is to create a series of recommendations to advance the implementation of energy efficiency measures as the first step toward reducing carbon emissions.

A final report containing a list of policy recommendations will be communicated to the appropriate levels of government starting in the summer of 2017.

For more information on the Energy Efficiency Taskforce or the Federal Carbon Pricing Backstop Plan, please contact:

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