

The Pembina Foundation for Environmental Research and Education

Annual Report 2007



About the Pembina Foundation

The Pembina Foundation for Environmental Research and Education supports innovative environmental research and education initiatives. We seek to increase understanding of the way society produces and consumes energy, the impact of these choices on the environment as well as the consequences for communities, and options for the more sustainable use of energy natural resources.

The Pembina Foundation is a national registered charitable organization. The foundation contracts non-profit organizations and qualified personnel engaged in energy and environmental issues to deliver on its work.

The Pembina Foundation's program areas include:

- Youth Environmental Education
- Conventional Energy Research and Education
- Climate Change Research and Education
- Sustainable Energy Research and Education
- Sustainable Communities
- Environmental Capacity Building
- Public Resource Library



2007 Pembina Foundation Board Members

David King, President • Donn Baker, Secretary • Janet Peace, Treasurer

Directors: Rick Breen, Carol-Ann Brown, Peter Dickey, Janice McDougall, Barry Worbets

Your Donations at Work

Through the generous support of donors in 2007, the Pembina Foundation helped strengthen awareness of environmental and global issues affecting Canadians and delivered resources to help individuals, communities and decision makers adopt more sustainable practices. The Pembina Foundation's projects were carried out through service agreements with the Pembina Institute and other organizations. Using the expertise of these organizations, the foundation addressed a range of timely issues and engaged youth and community members in educational activities. The following are some of the many projects and activities supported by the Pembina Foundation in 2007.

Growing Green Buildings

From construction to operation, from use of natural resources to greenhouse gas emissions, buildings have a big impact on the environment. With funding from Chris Corps, the Pembina Foundation contracted with the Light House Sustainable Building Centre, an enterprising non-profit society dedicated to advancing and catalyzing sustainability in British Columbia's built environment. The organization's Growing Green project aims to remove barriers to sustainable building practices, with a focus on education and training. Launched in October 2006, Growing Green established a volunteer-driven public outreach and training program for green building in British Columbia. The project has already leveraged over 2,000 volunteer hours and provided green building education to over 8,000 individuals at public events, workshops and at the Light House Sustainable Building Resource Centre in Vancouver. For more information about Light House, visit www.sustainablebuildingcentre.com

Photo: Light House Sustainable Building Centre



▲ Light House Sustainable Building Centre offers public tours of "green" buildings to raise awareness about sustainable building practices.

Examining Oil Sands Subsidies

The Pembina Foundation supported the research and writing of *Thinking Like an Owner: Overhauling the Royalty and Tax Treatment of Alberta's Oil Sands*. The Pembina Institute report examined the tax treatment granted to the oil sands sector by the Government of Canada in the form of an Accelerated Capital Cost Allowance (ACCA). By making oil sands projects more attractive than they would be otherwise, the ACCA serves to accelerate the pace of oil sands development, contributing to negative environmental impacts while hindering the development of more environmentally friendly energy alternatives. *Thinking Like an Owner* concluded that the ACCA was no longer required and could be eliminated. The Pembina Institute was invited to present its findings before the federal government's Standing Committee on Finance in February 2007. ([The formal submission and speaking notes can be downloaded here.](#)) Sound research on the issue proved to be persuasive. The Government of Canada announced in March 2007 that it would immediately begin phasing out the ACCA for oil sands projects. We would like to thank the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation for its support of this important work.

Pembina Communications Capacity and Enhancement Project

Thanks to Suncor Energy Foundation's generous contribution to the Pembina Foundation, sustainable energy solutions are now more accessible to Canadians and the world at large. Suncor's contribution enabled the Pembina Institute to dramatically change the structure, function and design of several of its websites, which serve as the institute's primary avenue for disseminating rigorous, technical and balanced information about sustainable energy solutions. The Pembina Foundation is proud to be part of such a worthwhile and constructive partnership. The visionary support of the Suncor Energy Foundation is very much appreciated.

Watching Canada on the World Stage

In December 2007, nations gathered in Bali, Indonesia, for the annual United Nations Climate Change Conference. The meeting launched a two-year negotiation process on a second (post-2012) phase of the Kyoto Protocol. The Pembina Institute's climate change team was there to provide an objective analysis of Canada's positions and statements. Although Canada initially opposed the proposed emissions reduction range for industrialized countries, the government ultimately agreed not to block the consensus position. The two-week conference culminated with participating governments adopting the Bali Road Map, which will guide ongoing negotiations, and agreeing that "Kyoto II" must be guided by scientific analysis of the deeper emission reductions needed to avoid dangerous climate change.

We are very grateful for the exceptional support of the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, which made this and other critical projects possible in 2007.

In December 2007, the United Nations climate conference in Bali, Indonesia, launched make-or-break negotiations on stepping up the fight against global warming.



Photo: David Dodge, The Pembina Institute

Photo: Matthew Bramley, The Pembina Institute



▲ *The Athabasca River, above, is part of the Arctic Ocean Drainage Basin, which could be affected by the extraction of oil and gas resources. The Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation provided support for research on energy and water issues facing Alberta and Canada's North.*

Protecting Water, Producing Energy

The intensity of oil and gas activity in Alberta is increasing. Companies are drilling more and more wells each year searching for smaller and smaller pockets of oil and gas. At the same time, renewed interest in Northern Canada's hydrocarbon resources is threatening to create a dramatic explosion of new industrial development. In 2007, the Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation funded extensive research and education work on energy issues facing Alberta and Canada's North. The projects, which were carried out by the Pembina Institute, focused on protecting water resources, raising awareness of the environmental and social impacts of oil and gas and oil sands development, land use planning, cumulative effects management, and development of renewable energy alternatives.

The research conducted on these issues resulted in the following publications in 2007: *Alberta by Design*, *Curing Environmental Dis-Integration* and *Protecting Water, Producing Gas*. Research results were shared through a series of Northern Oil and Gas and the Environment workshops, participation in conferences, presentations to stakeholders, and meetings with key contacts within the Alberta government. In addition, media interviews on water and energy issues were given throughout the year, and reporters were provided with background information on energy-related issues in Alberta.

We are very grateful to the Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation for making this work possible.

Clearing the Air on Nuclear Power

A comprehensive research project on the environmental impacts of nuclear energy use for electricity generation in Canada was funded by the EJLB Foundation and the Kiessling/Isaak Family Foundation at the Toronto Community Foundation. The report, *Nuclear Power in Canada: An Examination of Risks, Impacts and Sustainability*, concluded that the use of nuclear power for energy would generate a range of conventional pollutants and waste streams — including heavy metals, smog and acid rain precursors — as well as extremely large volumes of radioactive wastes, which would require care and management over hundreds of thousands of years. Although proponents often claim that energy from nuclear power does not emit greenhouse gases, the report also found that in reality greenhouse gases are released at each stage of the nuclear energy cycle.

Calgary's Challenge: Sustainability or Sprawl?

In coming years, the future of Calgary will be shaped by decisions about neighbourhoods, roads and transit. In 2007, a new website — www.creatingcalgary.ca — was created to stimulate discussion about the built environment in Calgary. Funded in part by the Calgary Foundation and the Alberta Ecotrust Foundation, the website aims to overcome barriers to more socially, environmentally and economically sustainable development in Calgary. What will it take to build a more sustainable city, with healthy, liveable neighbourhoods and convenient, environmentally friendly transit? Creating Calgary allows a wide range of stakeholders, including the general public, the City of Calgary and the development industry, to engage in the discussion and work towards solutions.



▲ The Creating Calgary website serves as a centre for discussion on development in Calgary.

Photo: David Dodge, The Pembina Institute



▲ Members of the GreenLearning team with the 2007 Alberta Emerald Award. From left to right: Marlo Reynolds, Gordon Harrison, Kathy Worobec, Nadine Reynolds, and Johan Stroman.

For information about other 2007 projects, please do not hesitate to contact the Pembina Foundation.

2007 Emerald Award Honours

The Emerald Awards are granted each year by the Alberta Emerald Foundation to celebrate environmental excellence and enhance environmental awareness. This year the Pembina Foundation is proud to have close ties to two Emerald Award winners.

The Pembina Foundation's **GreenLearning™** education program received a 2007 Alberta Emerald Award for Environmental Excellence. GreenLearning is an innovative education program that seeks to empower youth with knowledge, tools and appreciation for an array of challenges and opportunities related to energy and the environment. Its educational approach emphasizes hands-on, investigational, out-of-classroom and student-directed programs.

For more information about GreenLearning, including specific projects and sponsors, please visit www.greenlearning.ca

Peter Dickey, President of the Pembina Foundation from 2002 to 2006, received the 2007 Emerald Award for Corporate or Institutional Leadership. The following is an excerpt from the Emerald Award website:

Peter's contribution to sustainable development is evident in the range of projects and initiatives he has led and participated in over the years, both at home in Alberta and across the rest of Canada. Most importantly, Peter's influence continues to extend through the network of thought leaders on sustainable development that he mentored and shaped throughout his professional career. Peter is widely credited for his work in energy and climate change, and his involvement with the creation and/or sustainability of organizations such as: International Institute for Sustainable Development, Climate Change Central, Shell Canada Ltd., Engaged Group of Companies, Economic Instruments Collaborative, Pembina Foundation, National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy, Alberta Clean Air Strategic Alliance. Peter has been an unwavering mentor and coach to other professionals with whom he imparts his knowledge and instils his passion for the environment and sustainable development.

The Pembina Foundation is very fortunate to have individuals like Peter volunteer their time to serve as members of the Board of Directors.



▲ Peter Dickey, President of the Pembina Foundation from 2002 to 2006, received the 2007 Emerald Award for Corporate or Institutional Leadership.

Photo: David Dodge, The Pembina Institute

2007 Financials

The Pembina Foundation for Environmental Research and Education

REVENUE

Membership Fees	\$220
Individual Donations	110,699
Corporate Donations	204,272
Foundation Donations/Grants	1,270,489
Contract Revenue	25,091
Interest Revenue	21,271

TOTAL REVENUE **\$1,632,041**

EXPENSES

Program Costs under Agency Agreements	\$1,549,327
Wages and Wage Costs	25,124
Professional Fees	5,500
Program Costs	4,900
Insurance	2,260
Bank Charges	1,507
Advertising and Promotion	338
Unrecoverable GST	178
Amortization	79
Office	0

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$1,589,213**

EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES **\$42,828**

This statement is an excerpt from the audited financial statements prepared for the Pembina Foundation and excludes the audit report, other pertinent statements and notes to the financial statements. Users are cautioned that this statement alone may be inappropriate for their purposes.

For more information, contact:

Barb Bundt, Executive Director
The Pembina Foundation
780-542-6272



Supporters

The support of Pembina Foundation donors enables us to fund innovative environmental education, research and outreach programs. Donors choose one-time giving, monthly giving, memorial and tribute gifts, gifts of securities, bequests, sponsorship or participation in the Energy Watchers program.

The Pembina Foundation thanks the following individuals, organizations and companies for their generous support in 2007:

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Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation

\$50,000–\$99,999

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\$10,000–\$19,999

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** With assistance from the Kiessling/Isaak Family Foundation at the Toronto Community Foundation.



Photo: National Renewable Energy Laboratory

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The Pembina Foundation for Environmental Research and Education

Box 7558
Drayton Valley, Alberta
T7A 1S7 Canada

Barb Bundt, Executive Director
Phone: 780-542-6272
Fax: 780-542-6464
Email: barbb@pembinafoundation.org

www.pembinafoundation.org