The Climate Policy Landscape in Alberta

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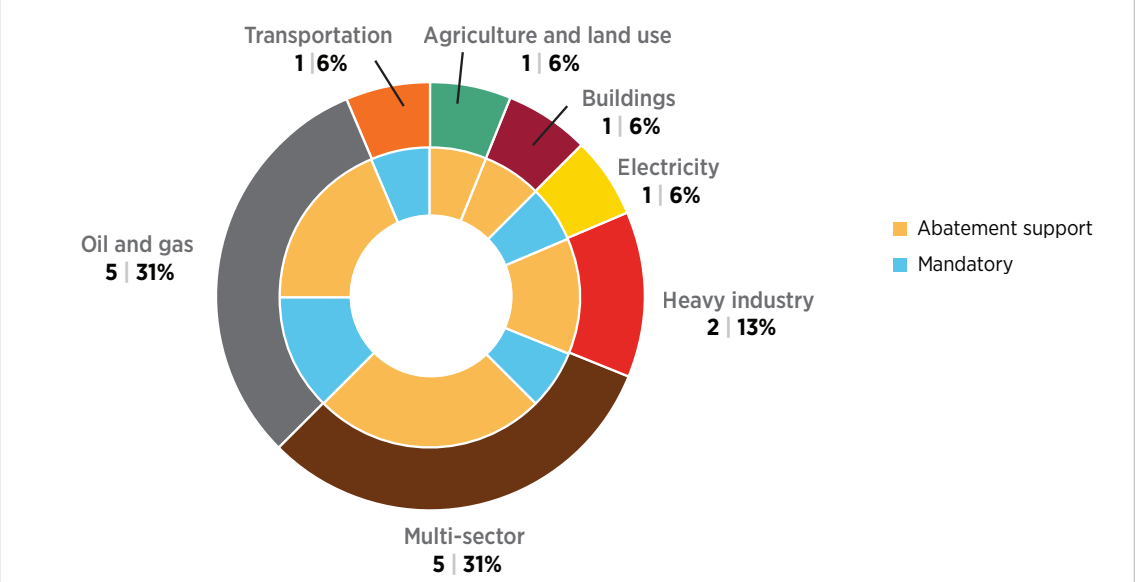
Of the 359 total emissions-reduction policies in the **Canadian Climate Policy Inventory**, Alberta has 16 active policies (4.5 per cent) and three inactive policies. The Government of Canada has the largest number (74 active policies).

Figure 1 shows the active policy instruments employed by the Government of Alberta, categorizing them by sector. The inner ring highlights the share of instrument types — abatement support, indirect or mandatory — by sector, while the outer ring indicates the percentage of total policies targeting each sector.

Policies are classified by instrument type based on how they reduce emissions: mandatory, abatement support, and indirect. Mandatory policies impose a compulsory requirement on regulated parties (e.g., regulation). Abatement support policies incentivize voluntary adoption or development of lower emissions processes or products (e.g., consumer subsidies). Indirect policies do not require or directly incentivize abatement but nevertheless contribute to emissions abatement (e.g., enabling legislation and information). Mandatory policies are generally considered to be more effective in reducing emissions than opt-in abatement support or indirect policies. Active policies are those currently requiring compliance or providing support, including policies that are proposed or announced. This category also includes abatement support policies (e.g., consumer subsidies) that are fully subscribed but still have ongoing projects. Inactive policies are those that have concluded as scheduled, or have been suspended or cancelled.

Figure 1: Policy Instruments Employed by the Government of Alberta by Sector



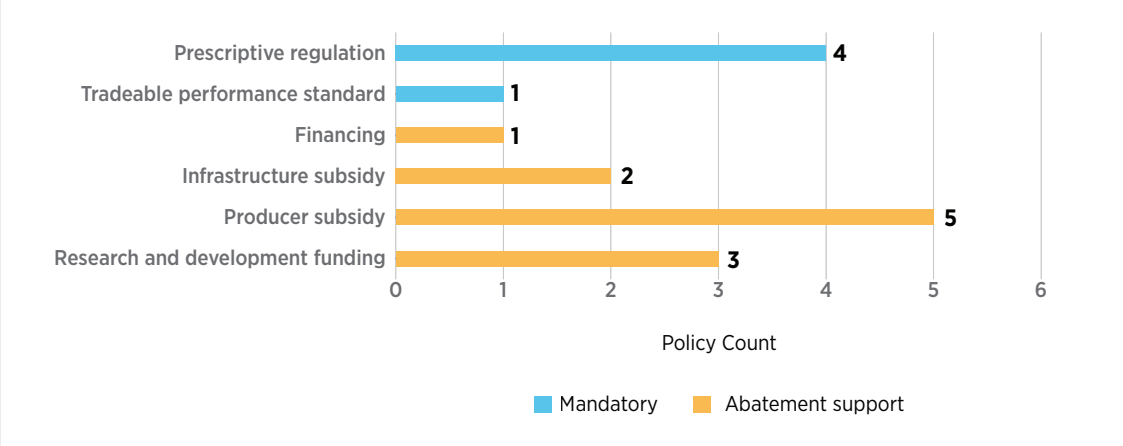
Source: Canadian Climate Policy Inventory, Version 6.
Note: This figure does not include inactive (cancelled, concluded, or suspended) policies.

KEY FACTS

- In Alberta, carrots (abatement support) dominate instrument type when compared with sticks (mandatory action). Carrots: e.g., Alberta Carbon Capture Incentive Program. Sticks: e.g., the *Renewable Electricity Act*. Notably, Alberta has no indirect policies.
- There are 12 implemented policies and one announced policy in Alberta. Two policies have their funding allocated.
- Since publication of the first version of the C2P2 database in **August 2024**, three policies have changed from implemented to funding allocated, and three policies have concluded. One new policy has been added.
- There are 67 active federal policies that apply in Alberta (eight mandatory, 55 abatement support, and four indirect policies).
- Most policies reduce emissions through energy source decarbonization.
- Policies targeting the oil and gas sector or multiple sectors account for most emissions-reduction policies (e.g., the *Oil Sands Emissions Limit Act*).
- Broadly applied sector-specific policies are common (e.g., the *Methane Emissions Reduction Regulation*).
- Notably, Alberta does not have any policies exclusively targeting waste.
- Only three policies are narrowly scoped (e.g., Alberta Carbon Capture Incentive Program), which are technology or project-specific.

Figure 2 displays the number of policies by the policy instrument applied to mitigate emissions.

Figure 2: Number of Policies by Instrument



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ABOUT C2P2

The Canadian Climate Policy Partnership (C2P2), led by **Dr. Jennifer Winter**, provides publicly accessible information on Canadian climate policies, supporting effective strategies to adapt and mitigate climate change, improving resilience, and helping Canada meet its net-zero emissions target.

Partners and funders include the Alberta Real Estate Foundation, the Canadian Climate Institute, CIRANO (Centre Interuniversitaire de Recherche en Analyse des Organisations), the Government of British Columbia, the Government of Canada's Environmental Damages Fund, Mitacs, Quebec Net Positive, Royal Roads University, the Smart Prosperity Institute, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, the Office of the Vice-President (Research) at the University of Calgary, and the School of Public Policy at the University of Calgary.