

Statement

GREENPEACE

Alberta budget starts to usher in age of renewables, needs to ensure community ownership

14 April 2016 (Edmonton) – In reaction to environmental portions of the Government of Alberta’s 2016 budget, Mike Hudema, a Climate and Energy campaigner with Greenpeace Canada said:

“We’re glad to see the Alberta government starting to unleash the tremendous economic and job potential to be found through investments in renewables and energy efficiency. Both of the announced programs will not only help create jobs, but will diversify Alberta’s economy and improve the health of our communities.

“As the government implements these decisions, we need to see a prioritization of projects owned either directly or substantially by communities, municipalities, farmer associations and First Nation and Metis communities. Without these provisions, the benefits of Alberta’s renewable move may be held by just a few companies rather than allowing every Albertan to participate and benefit.

“We think more money will be needed in both energy efficiency spending and in supporting communities impacted by transition, especially coal communities and First Nation and Metis communities. Energy efficiency is one of the best and fastest ways for Alberta to create jobs and can provide substantial benefits to low-income communities as well.

“While we commend the Alberta government on the renewable and efficiency portions of this budget, we have continued concerns about the government’s promotion of pipelines that don’t make economic sense and don’t meet the demands of climate science or the government’s commitments to First Nation people’s and the UN Declaration of Indigenous Peoples.”

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For more information:

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