

The Alberta Oil Sands

Facts and Figures

As we have learned, the Alberta oil sands are vast deposits of bitumen, located in northeastern Alberta and northwestern Saskatchewan. The total area of the oil sands covers 146,000km² - that's the same as Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and P.E.I. combined. Although we have focused on the negative aspects of oil sands production, there are numerous positives as well.

Check out these facts...

1. Alberta's oil sands produce 2.3 million barrels of oil a day.
2. As of 2014, it is believed that Alberta has reserves of 166 billion barrels of oil.
3. The oil in Alberta is enough to meet Canada's demand for oil for the next 400 years.
4. Over 133,000 people in Alberta are directly or indirectly employed through the oil sands – that's 1 out of every 14 jobs in the province. 350,000 more people throughout Canada are employed indirectly to the oil sands.
5. By 2035, more than 950,000 people will be employed through the oil sands.
6. In 2014, Alberta's share of the royalties from the oil sands was \$5.2 billion.
7. Oil corporations have invested over \$200 billion in oil sands development.
8. It is estimated that the oil sands will create over \$440 billion in tax revenue across Canada over the next 25 years.
9. Oil corporations have planted over 7.5 million tree seedlings in efforts to reclaim land.
10. Only 20% of the oil sands are extracted through surface mining – the other 80% is extracted through **in-situ** methods, where the bitumen is separated from the sand underground and then pumped to the surface. This process does not create tailings ponds.

Source: The Government of Alberta

More Important Info:

- The Alberta Oil Sands refers to three distinct oil sands areas
 1. Athabasca Oil Sands
 2. Peace River Oil Sands
 3. Cold Lake Oil Sands
- Suncor, Syncrude and Shell Canada currently operate the three largest oil sands production areas.
- Currently, most of the oil is piped to the United States. Soon, oil pipelines will be built to transport the oil from Alberta to the coast of B.C., where it can then be shipped to overseas markets.
- In November, 2016, the ['Trans Mountain'](#) and ['Line 3'](#) oil pipelines were approved by the Federal Government and will be completed in the next few years.
- On January 24, 2017, Donald Trump initiated the process to build the controversial [Keystone XL Pipeline](#), which will bring 830,000 barrels of oil from Alberta to oil refiners in the southern United States.

