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Alberta Upstream Petroleum

Research Fund



2025–26 ANNUAL REPORT

WORKING TOGETHER TO SOLVE SHARED CHALLENGES

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Message from the AUPRF Oversight Committee Chair

James Agate, Canadian Natural

For nearly two decades, the Alberta Upstream Petroleum Research Fund (AUPRF) has brought producers and regulators together to address shared environmental, operational, and regulatory challenges through collaborative, producer-prioritized research. That model continues to work because producers, researchers, regulators, governments, and technical experts contribute their time, insight, and practical experience to issues that matter to Alberta's upstream sector.

Throughout April 2025 to March 2026, Industry support for the program remained strong. Via the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER)-administered voluntary well levy, approximately **$3.7 million** was collected to support producer-prioritized research, with participation rates remaining consistent with previous years. This ongoing support reflects industry's continued confidence in the value of collaborative research and innovation.

During the reporting year, AUPRF continued to demonstrate the value of producer-funded research in addressing issues that affect Alberta's upstream oil and gas sector. Across five technical research portfolios, the program supported initiatives focused on emissions management, water stewardship, biodiversity, remediation and reclamation, and well decommissioning. The fund supported **47 active projects**, including **17 new projects launched**. Together, these projects represent nearly **$22 million in total value**, contributing to technical discussions, guidance development, industry best practices, and broader conversations related to environmental management and mature asset strategies in Alberta.

AUPRF's success depends on the many volunteers who contribute their expertise through the Oversight Committee and five technical committees. These individuals play a critical role in identifying priorities, evaluating proposals, guiding research activities, and keeping investments focused on creating value for producers. On behalf of the Oversight Committee, we thank all **81 committee members and technical champions**, many researchers and partners who contributed to the program's success this year.

The past year also marked continued evolution in how AUPRF delivers value. The program adopted a more focused and responsive approach to research planning, directing resources toward clearly defined industry knowledge gaps and practical decision-support tools that can be applied by producers and inform future regulatory discussions.
As we look ahead, AUPRF remains committed to collaborative innovation, effective knowledge transfer, and research that delivers measurable value for Alberta's upstream energy sector. Together, we will continue to advance practical solutions that support responsible development, informed decision-making, and the long-term competitiveness of Alberta's upstream energy sector.

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Why AUPRF Matters

Turning Producer Priorities into Industry Solutions

Alberta's upstream oil and gas sector faces complex environmental, operational, and regulatory challenges that often require shared investment, shared expertise, and shared solutions. Through producer-prioritized, industry-led research, AUPRF brings together producers, researchers, regulators, governments, and technology developers to address shared knowledge gaps and generate practical tools, technical evidence and actionable knowledge that can inform decisions across the sector.

By working collaboratively, producers can share the cost of addressing common research needs, reduce duplication of effort, and build a common technical foundation for addressing industry-wide challenges.

The AUPRF Model

AUPRF transforms producer priorities into collaborative research through an industry-led model:

Priorities Identified 1
Industry identifies shared research priorities with input from regulators and governments.

Research Defined 2
Targeted calls and RFPs translate priority knowledge gaps into defined research needs.

Projects Selected 3
Research is funded based on industry relevance, technical merit, and potential value.

Knowledge Generated 4
Projects generate data, tools, technologies, technical guidance, and other research outputs.

Results Reviewed 5
Research findings are reviewed and discussed with industry, regulators, governments, and technical experts, as appropriate.

Knowledge Shared 6
Results are shared with producers, regulators, governments, researchers, and practitioners through reports, workshops, forums, conferences, and technical committees.

Evidence Put to Work 7
Research provides technical evidence and tools that can inform industry practices, operational decisions, future research, and government and regulatory discussions.

AUPRF is more than a funding program—it is Alberta's collaborative platform for advancing research, innovation, and practical solutions for the upstream oil and gas sector.

Turning Industry Investment into Industry Impact

Between April 1, 2025, and March 31, 2026, AUPRF awarded more than **$1.5 million** in producer-prioritized research projects across five technical portfolios. Those projects attracted an additional **$7.5 million** in cash and in-kind contributions from industry, academic institutions, governments, and research partners, creating over **$9 million in total research activity**. This reflects a **5:1 leverage ratio**, with every AUPRF dollar attracting an additional **$5.00** in partner contributions.

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April 2025 – March 2026 By the Numbers

300+
producers funded the program

$3.7 million
collected through the voluntary well levy

$1.5 million
awarded to 17 new projects

$7.5 million
secured in additional cash and in-kind contributions

47
active projects valued at nearly $22 million

10
projects completed

5
technical research committees

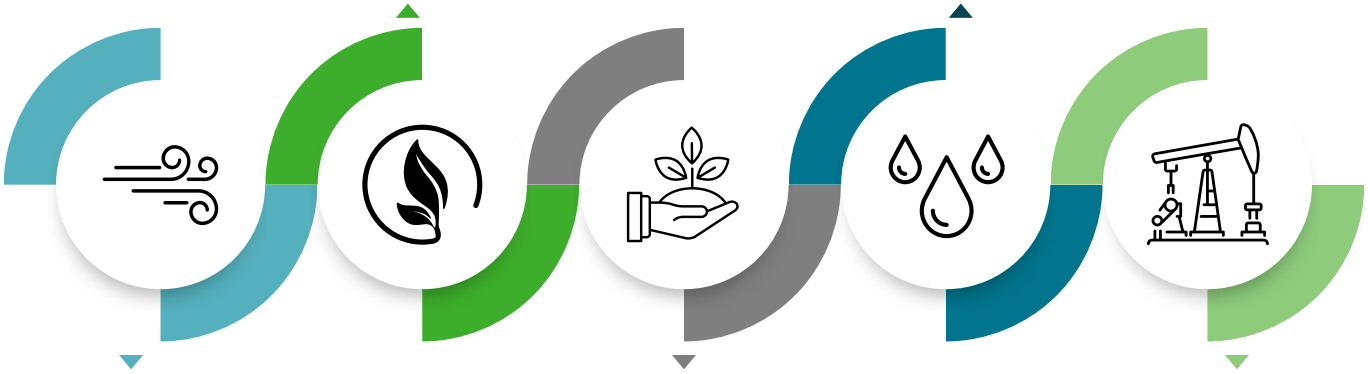
81
volunteers representing producers, regulators, and government

Research Across Five Technical Portfolios

Through five producer-prioritized research portfolios, AUPRF supports applied research addressing technical priorities across Alberta's upstream operations.

Ecology
Advancing research related to species at risk, habitat mapping, eDNA, remote sensing, and ecological decision-support tools.

Water
Advancing research and tools related to water reuse, treatment, transportation, storage, planning, and leak detection.



Air
Generating data, evaluating technologies, and developing approaches to inform emissions measurement, management, mitigation, reporting, and compliance.

Remediation & Reclamation
Building technical evidence and tools to inform site assessment, remediation, reclamation, and closure decisions.

Well Decommissioning
Developing evidence, tools, and approaches related to well integrity, methane emissions and migration, risk-based closure, and well decommissioning.

Why Producers Participate

AUPRF provides a collaborative mechanism for producers to:

- Share the cost of addressing common industry challenges
- Access leading research, technical expertise, data, and emerging tools
- Address shared knowledge gaps collectively
- Generate evidence to inform operational and technical decisions
- Contribute technical information to regulatory and government discussions
- Evaluate emerging technologies and approaches
- Share research findings and technical knowledge across the sector
- Generate benefits that extend across Alberta’s upstream sector

By working together through AUPRF, producers can pool resources and expertise to address shared technical questions that may be difficult or inefficient for individual organizations to investigate independently.

2025–26 Program Results: Collaborative Research in Action

AUPRF's 2025–26 portfolio demonstrates the scale and breadth of Alberta's collaborative upstream research model. Through nearly **$1.5 million in producer-funded research awards**, AUPRF-supported projects attracted an additional **$7.5 million in cash and in-kind contributions** from industry, academia, governments, and research partners.

Together, these investments created more than **$9 million in total project value**, representing an additional funding leverage ratio of approximately **5:1**. The funded research addresses shared technical priorities across emissions management, water management, ecological monitoring, remediation and reclamation, and well decommissioning.

2025 AUPRF Portfolio at a Glance

	New Projects Funded	AUPRF Funding Awarded	Total Value [1]	2025–26 Focus
Air	1	$ 110,000	$ 2,780,920	Methane measurement, inventories, emissions mitigation, compliance optimization
Water Innovation	4	$ 228,000	$ 228,000	Water reuse, recycling, treatment, planning tools, leak detection
Ecology	5	$ 515,000	$ 692,160	Habitat monitoring, species-at-risk tools, ecological decision support
Remediation & Reclamation	3	$ 204,000	$ 671,000	Closure efficiency, reclamation assessment, soil and vegetation management
Well Decommissioning	4	$ 466,000	$ 4,631,000	Methane migration, Surface Casing Vent Flow (SCVF), well integrity, risk-based closure

The following pages highlight selected research activities and achievements from AUPRF's five technical portfolios, illustrating how producer-funded collaborative research is generating technical evidence, tools, and knowledge relevant to shared industry challenges.

[1] Total Value includes AUPRF funding and leveraged cash and in-kind contributions.

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Air & Emissions Research: Advancing Practical Solutions for Emissions Management

The Air Research Planning Committee (ARPC) supports applied research to help producers better understand, measure, manage, and mitigate emissions while responding to evolving regulatory requirements. In 2025–26, the portfolio focused on generating data, evaluating technologies, and developing decision-support tools to improve emissions characterization and inform regulatory reporting, compliance, and mitigation decisions.

Collaboration with producers, researchers, regulators, governments, and organizations such as the Methane Emissions Research Collaborative (BC MERC) also strengthened coordination and knowledge sharing across methane research initiatives.

2025-26 Highlights

Connecting methane measurement with mitigation opportunities. Through methane mitigation technology development, the ARPC is examining how measurement data can be used to identify and inform practical mitigation strategies, helping producers move from emissions detection toward informed mitigation decisions.

Evaluating emerging methane mitigation technologies. Building on earlier AUPRF support, the Oxiperator technology continued to advance through research and development focused on methane slip from lean-burn engines. Earlier AUPRF investment also contributed to a broader multi-partner initiative involving industry and national funding organizations.

Improving understanding of challenging emissions sources. Research on unlit flares, gas-liquid separation technologies, and other methane sources continued to address knowledge gaps in emissions characterization and investigate potential mitigation opportunities.

Strengthening methane inventories with measured data. Cross-provincial collaboration continued to evaluate the incorporation of field measurements into methane inventories, improving the evidence available to characterize emissions and assess changes over time.

Producer Value

The Air Portfolio supports producers by generating research, data, and tools that can improve understanding of emissions sources, inform emissions-management decisions, support reporting and compliance activities, and help identify potential mitigation opportunities.

Why it matters

The portfolio supports:

- Improved emissions data and characterization
- Better understanding of emissions sources
- Evidence-based research to inform regulatory and compliance decision-making
- Evaluation of potential mitigation technologies and approaches
- Reduced uncertainty in emissions measurement and reporting
- More informed emissions-management decisions

> As someone working in air emissions management, I see significant value in research that helps improve our understanding of emissions and supports informed decision-making. Whether focused on methane, NOx, or emerging issues, this work helps advance the tools, technologies, and knowledge needed to better detect, measure, and manage emissions while focusing on efforts where they can have the greatest impact.
>
> One of AUPRF's greatest strengths is its collaborative approach. By bringing together industry, government, regulators, and researchers, AUPRF provides a valuable forum to discuss challenges, identify knowledge gaps, and develop a shared research agenda. As technologies and methodologies continue to evolve, this collaboration helps ensure we are learning together and generating practical solutions to real-world emissions challenges.

Sean Hiebert Manager, Air Emissions Compliance
Environment & Regulatory - Air Emissions Management, Cenovus

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Water Innovation: Supporting Informed Water Management Across Alberta

Water management remains an important operational and environmental consideration for Alberta's upstream sector. The Water Innovation Planning Committee (WIPC) supports applied research focused on water reuse, treatment, transportation, storage, planning, and related regulatory considerations. In 2025–26, the portfolio placed particular emphasis on produced water management and water recycling opportunities, recognizing that optimal recycling rates depend on regional environmental, operational, and economic conditions. The portfolio also developed practical tools and information to support operational planning and decision-making.

2025-26 Highlights

Exploring opportunities to expand produced water recycling. A jurisdictional review of regulations and practices which enable economic water recycling in hydraulic fracturing examined practices in North American jurisdictions reporting produced-water recycling rates exceeding 80% and identified regulatory, operational, and economic conditions associated with higher recycling rates. Completed by WaterSMART, the study provides recommendations for consideration in evaluating opportunities to increase produced water reuse in Alberta.

Supporting water planning with accessible information. Continued support for the **Alberta Water Tool**, developed by Foundry Spatial, maintained producer access to a planning resource that brings together information on water availability, allocation, and watershed conditions to support water-management decisions.

Evaluating leak detection technologies. Research with **InnoTech Alberta** screened leak detection technologies for temporary surface pipelines and developed field-testing protocols to support further evaluation and future technology-selection decisions.

Building knowledge to support operational water decisions. Research on **surface water availability** optimization and **produced water treatment in H_2S** environments continued to investigate approaches and generate information that can support water-management planning and operational decision-making.

Producer Value

The Water Portfolio provides producers with research, tools, and technical information to support more informed water-management decisions. By addressing shared knowledge gaps, the portfolio helps producers evaluate water reuse and treatment opportunities, strengthen planning, better understand emerging technologies and approaches, and contribute technical evidence to regulatory discussions.

Why it matters

The portfolio supports:

- More informed water-use and management decisions
- Evaluation of produced water reuse opportunities
- Improved access to water-planning information
- Evaluation of emerging treatment and leak detection technologies
- Better understanding of regulatory and operational considerations
- Shared technical knowledge to inform industry planning

> Having been involved with the Water Innovation Planning Committee's portfolio, I appreciate its focus on addressing water management challenges through collaborative research. Recent work evaluating leak detection technologies for temporary surface pipelines and improving access to a web-portal providing water source information provides industry with tools that can improve operational efficiency, and support responsible water management

Guillaume Lafond, Sr. Water Stewardship Geologist, Ovintiv

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Ecological Research: Advancing Applied Science for Ecological Planning and Decision-Making

The Ecological Research Planning Committee (ERPC) supports applied research that builds knowledge, tools, and monitoring approaches to inform ecological planning and decision-making across Alberta's upstream sector. In 2025–26, the portfolio focused on species at risk, habitat utilization, environmental DNA (eDNA), remote sensing, and decision-support tools, bringing together research and emerging technologies to address shared ecological knowledge gaps.

2025-26 Highlights

Species at risk and habitat mapping — developing practical monitoring tools. The Pileated Woodpecker Cavity Detection and Monitoring Framework brought together the University of Alberta, Royal Alberta Museum, Canadian Natural, and Vertex to develop an integrated monitoring framework and mapping platform designed to support the identification and assessment of potential habitat suitability and features.

Habitat restoration — building evidence on wildlife response. Research examining wildlife response to seismic line restoration continued to generate information on wildlife use and response following restoration activities, contributing to the evidence available to assess habitat recovery and restoration approaches.

Environmental genomics — evaluating emerging monitoring methods. Research on **environmental genomics and eDNA** examines opportunities, barriers, and considerations associated with the use of genomic methods and data by regulatory bodies and management agencies, helping build understanding of their potential application in environmental monitoring and decision-making.

Producer Value

The Ecological Portfolio provides producers with research, data, and emerging **decision-support tools** to better understand ecological conditions and evaluate approaches to species, habitat, and environmental monitoring. By addressing shared knowledge gaps, the portfolio supports evidence-informed planning, evaluation of emerging monitoring technologies and methods, and technical discussions among industry, regulators, governments, and practitioners.

Why it matters

The portfolio supports:

- Species-at-risk and habitat assessment
- Habitat mapping and monitoring approaches
- Evaluation of eDNA and other emerging monitoring methods
- Evaluation of remote sensing technologies
- Development of ecological data and decision-support tools
- Shared technical evidence to inform industry, regulator, and government discussions

> The ERPC combines government and industry subject matter experts to advance research priorities, where outcomes provide support for workable solutions on complex ecological challenges - balancing operational outcomes with environmental objectives of regulatory conditions.

Devon Versnick-Brown, Regulatory Coordinator, Canadian Natural

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Remediation & Reclamation Research: Advancing Applied Science for Remediation, Reclamation and Closure

The Remediation & Reclamation Research Committee (RRRC) supports applied research that builds the technical knowledge, tools, and decision-support approaches needed to address complex remediation, reclamation, and site closure challenges across Alberta's upstream sector. In 2025–26, the portfolio focused on reclamation assessment and certification, peatland and soil assessment for remediation and reclamation, site closure, and decision-support frameworks, with research addressing shared technical questions relevant to producers, regulators, policy makers, and reclamation practitioners.

2025-26 Highlights



Reclamation certification — evaluating emerging assessment approaches. The Remote Sensing for Reclamation Criteria and Wildlife Monitoring project continued to evaluate the potential application of satellite, aerial, and drone technologies to reclamation assessment and certification, helping build the technical evidence needed to understand where and how these approaches could complement existing assessment methods.



Soil assessment — strengthening the evidence available for selenium management. Work continued on **selenium guideline development,** building the scientific evidence available to assess selenium in soil and inform risk-based approaches to remediation and closure decisions.



Peatland assessment — addressing complex soil and assessment challenges. Research examining **analytical methodologies and interpretation of results in peat** is building understanding of how conventional analytical approaches apply in peat environments and identifying technical considerations relevant to remediation and reclamation assessment.



Site reclamation and closure — addressing persistent technical knowledge gaps. Research related to **weed management, site closure, hydrocarbon management levels, and chloride and salinity management** continued to build evidence and technical knowledge around challenges encountered by reclamation practitioners and site closure specialists.

Producer Value

The Remediation & Reclamation Portfolio provides producers with research, technical evidence, and emerging decision-support tools to inform remediation, reclamation, and closure decisions. By addressing shared knowledge gaps, the portfolio supports more consistent assessment approaches, strengthens the technical information available for site management, and contributes evidence to discussions among industry, regulators, policy makers, and practitioners.

Why it matters

The portfolio supports:

- Research resulting in technical evidence to inform closure and reclamation decisions
- Evaluation of approaches to reclamation assessment and certification
- Improved understanding of peatland and soil assessment considerations

> As a reclamation and remediation practitioner, I see significant value in PTAC-funded research that improves scientific environmental decision-making in Alberta. As an example, the Selenium Soil Guideline Development project provides important evidence that can help ensure selenium management and remediation requirements are aligned with actual ecological risk. This work has the potential to benefit both industry and regulators by supporting more practical, defensible, and environmentally focused decisions, while reducing unnecessary remediation and land disturbance on low-risk sites."

Jason Desilets, Remediation & Reclamation Specialist, Cenovus

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Well Decommissioning Innovation: Improving Risk-Based Well Closure and Emissions Management

The Well Decommissioning Research Portfolio focuses on one of Alberta's most significant long-term challenges: ensuring inactive and end-of-life wells can be permanently decommissioned in a safe, reliable, and cost-effective manner. Guided by producers, regulators, and technical experts, the portfolio develops evidence, tools, and approaches to better understand well integrity, surface casing vent flows and gas migration, remediation, and closure.

In 2025–26, the portfolio continued to build on several years of coordinated industry research focused on risk-based closure approaches, well emissions characterization, leak detection and pathways, barrier materials, and well integrity assessment. This work is building the technical evidence needed to evaluate emerging approaches and inform well decommissioning decisions across Alberta's inventory of inactive and legacy wells.

2025-26 Highlights



Risk-based closure — developing tools to support site prioritization. Work continued on the **Well Emissions Risk Tool – Site Prioritization and Emission Closure Guidelines**, building a framework to assess methane emissions and support risk-informed monitoring, remediation, and closure prioritization.



Methane characterization — understanding how emissions can vary over time. Research examining the **temporal variability of methane and air emissions from abandoned, inactive, and suspended wells** continued to generate data on how measured emissions change over time, contributing evidence to inform monitoring and risk-assessment approaches.



Leak pathways and well integrity — building evidence to inform remediation. Research examining **surface casing vent flows and gas migration pathways from inactive wells** continued to investigate how emissions may migrate and where well emissions originate, strengthening the technical information available to evaluate well integrity and potential remediation approaches.

Producer Value

The Well Decommissioning Portfolio provides producers with research, data, and decision-support tools to better understand methane and air emissions and migration, assess well integrity, prioritize sites based on risk, and evaluate monitoring, remediation, and closure approaches. By addressing shared technical knowledge gaps, the portfolio supports evidence-informed decisions and contributes technical information to industry, regulator, and government discussions related to well decommissioning and long-term asset management.

Why it matters

The portfolio supports:

- Risk-informed well closure and site prioritization
- Improved understanding of well emissions and migration pathways
- Evidence to inform monitoring and remediation decisions
- Evaluation of well integrity and barrier technologies
- Development of practical decision-support tools
- Shared technical knowledge to inform industry, regulator, and government discussion

> Having collaborated on this portfolio for a few years, I value its commitment to sound science and practical application. The risk-based framework provides a consistent and defensible method for assessing well emissions and closure priorities, helping ensure remediation resources are directed to the sites that need them most. This work has the potential to improve both environmental outcomes and the efficiency of site closure activities. Together with other projects across AUPRF's Well Decommissioning portfolio, this highlights the value of industry-driven research in developing practical solutions to complex environmental challenges.

Shawn Forster, Staff Well Abandonment Geologist, Asset Retirement, Well Delivery, Cenovus Energy

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Knowledge Sharing and Industry Outreach

Turning Research into Industry Impact

AUPRF's value extends beyond funding research. An important part of the program is ensuring that findings, tools, and technical knowledge reach the producers, regulators, researchers, and practitioners who can apply them.

Throughout 2025–26, AUPRF supported knowledge transfer through technical committee discussions, project presentations, industry conferences, technical forums, workshops, and direct stakeholder engagement. These activities create opportunities to share emerging findings, test research against field experience, identify opportunities for application, and inform future research priorities.

Connecting Research with Industry

RemTech 2025 – October 15, 2025, Banff

PTAC's Remediation & Reclamation Research Committee hosted a half-day technical session attended by more than 160 delegates. The session showcased applied AUPRF-funded research addressing selenium and sulphate ecotoxicology, chloride plume delineation, salinity assessment, chloride water-quality guidance, risk-based weed management, and other remediation and reclamation challenges. By bringing researchers together with producers, regulators, and practitioners, the session demonstrated how collaborative research can help advance practical, science-based approaches to site assessment, remediation, reclamation, and closure.



AUPRFest 2025 – October 29, 2025, Calgary

PTAC hosted the inaugural AUPRFest, bringing together AUPRF contributors, committee members, researchers, regulators, and collaborators to recognize program achievements and the partnerships behind producer-prioritized research. The event provided an opportunity to showcase AUPRF's collaborative research model, strengthen relationships across the program, and discuss emerging priorities and opportunities. Building on the inaugural event, AUPRFest is becoming an annual forum for contributor engagement and knowledge sharing.



Well Integrity Technical Forum – November 26–27, 2025, Calgary

PTAC brought together producers, service providers, researchers, and other technical experts for two days focused on well decommissioning and integrity. The program shared research and emerging approaches related to closure prioritization, cement alternatives, squeeze-cementing performance, methane-emissions mitigation, barrier materials, and other well-integrity technologies. The forum also highlighted collaboration among AUPRF, universities, researchers, and industry partners working to advance practical solutions to well decommissioning challenges.



CLRA Alberta Conference – March 3–5, 2026, Edmonton

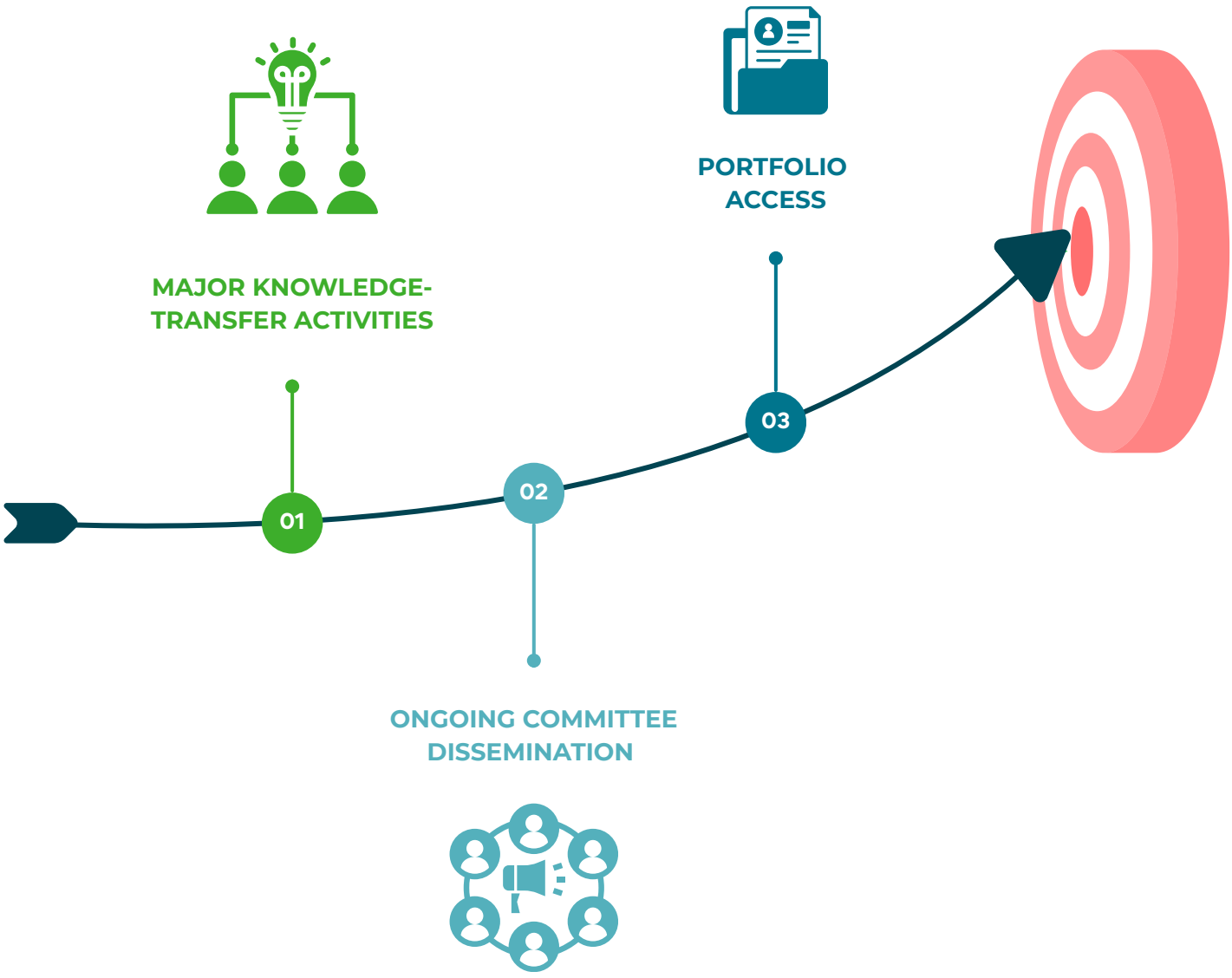
PTAC participated in the Canadian Land Reclamation Association (CLRA) Alberta Conference through a dedicated PTAC-COSIA Industry Collaboration session highlighting applied research supporting reclamation and ecological management. The session showcased work in remote sensing, wildlife monitoring, and related environmental research while demonstrating how collaborative research can address shared industry priorities. Participation also strengthened connections with Alberta's reclamation community and created opportunities for continued collaboration and engagement on emerging AUPRF research priorities.



Extending the Reach of AUPRF Research

Knowledge sharing also occurs throughout the year through AUPRF's five technical committees. Committee members help connect researchers with industry experience, regulatory perspectives, and technical expertise throughout project development and delivery. Project presentations, technical discussions, final reports, workshops, and other dissemination activities help ensure that research does not end with a final deliverable, but is positioned to inform operational decisions, technical guidance, regulatory discussions, and future research.

This annual report highlights selected examples from the 2025–26 portfolio. Full project information and additional research outcomes are shared through AUPRF and PTAC communication channels as projects progress and results become available.



For a complete list of knowledge sharing opportunities, visit the PTAC website.

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Governance, Committees, and Volunteer Recognition

Industry-Led, Collaborative Governance

AUPRF is built on an industry-led, collaborative governance model that keeps research investments aligned with the priorities and technical needs of Alberta's upstream oil and gas sector, while creating an important forum for collaboration with regulators and governments.

The **AUPRF Oversight Committee (AOC)** provides overall program oversight and strategic direction, while five technical committees guide research priorities and investments within their respective portfolios. Producers determine industry research priorities and funding decisions for industry research needs. Regulators, government representatives, industry associations, and technical experts contribute perspectives that help strengthen the relevance, technical credibility, and potential application of the research.

From Industry Priorities to Collaborative Research

AUPRF's technical committees play a central role in turning shared industry challenges and knowledge gaps into focused research. Committee members identify and prioritize research needs, help define project objectives, evaluate proposals, provide technical guidance throughout project delivery, and support the transfer of results back to industry.

Regulator and government participation is an important part of this model. Their involvement provides early insight into technical and regulatory considerations, helps researchers understand broader environmental and regulatory contexts, and creates opportunities for dialogue as research progresses. This engagement can help ensure research is relevant and credible and that results are positioned to contribute to future technical guidance, regulatory discussions, and evidence-based decision-making where appropriate.

Together, this involvement helps ensure AUPRF investments remain:

Producer-prioritized: focused on shared challenges and opportunities identified by industry.

Technically credible: strengthened by the experience of producers, regulators, governments, researchers, and subject-matter experts.

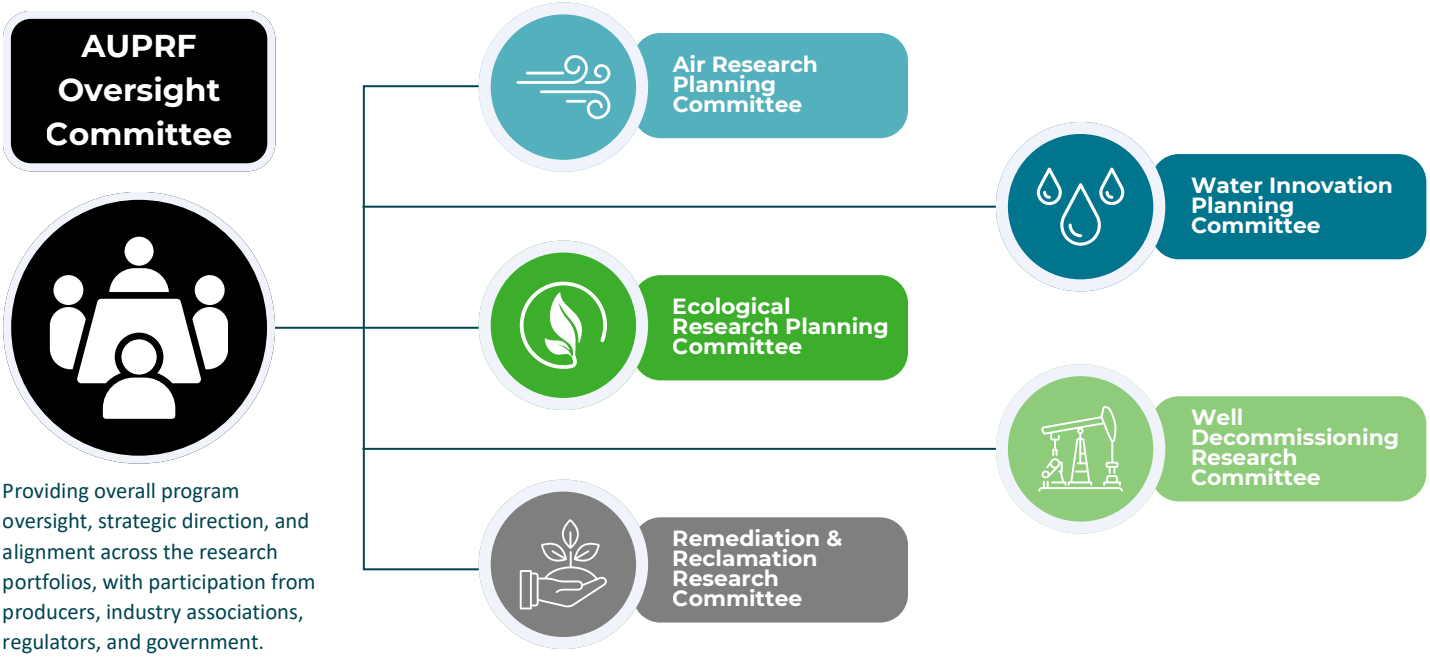
Practical & applicable: designed to generate knowledge, tools, and solutions that can support real-world decisions.

Collaborative: creating a forum for industry, regulators, and governments to build a shared understanding of complex technical challenges.

Forward-looking: helping identify emerging knowledge gaps and research needs before they become barriers to effective environmental or operational decision-making.

A Collaborative Network

AUPRF's governance structure includes:



Providing overall program oversight, strategic direction, and alignment across the research portfolios, with participation from producers, industry associations, regulators, and government.

80+ volunteers

Representing producers, regulators, provincial and federal governments, industry associations, and other technical perspectives.

Recognizing Our Volunteers and Partners

AUPRF's success depends on the expertise, time, and leadership contributed by its committee members and technical champions. Throughout 2025–26, these volunteers helped identify priorities, evaluate research opportunities, guide projects, connect researchers with industry and regulatory expertise, and ensure research remained focused on meaningful technical needs.

The participation of regulators and government representatives alongside producers is particularly valuable, creating opportunities to exchange technical perspectives, improve mutual understanding of complex challenges, and consider research findings within both operational and regulatory contexts. This collaborative environment helps bridge the space between research, industry practice, and regulatory understanding while maintaining AUPRF's producer-prioritized mandate.

By bringing these perspectives together, AUPRF transforms individual challenges into shared research priorities and shared research into credible knowledge and practical solutions that can benefit Alberta's broader upstream sector.

PTAC and the AUPRF Oversight Committee thank all committee members, technical champions, regulators, government representatives, and industry partners for their continued leadership and contribution to the program.

A complete list of 2025–26 AUPRF Oversight and Technical Committee members is provided in the Appendix.

Looking Ahead: 2026-2027

As Alberta's upstream sector continues to navigate evolving environmental, operational, and regulatory priorities, AUPRF is positioning its 2026–27 research portfolio to deliver practical, producer-focused solutions that address emerging challenges while building on the success of current initiatives. Guided by industry-defined knowledge gaps and strengthened through collaboration with producers, regulators, researchers, and technical experts, the program is adopting a more targeted research approach focused on accelerating project delivery and maximizing industry value.

Looking ahead, AUPRF's technical committees have identified several priority areas that will shape future investments and research activities.

Air Research Portfolio

The Air Research Planning Committee is expanding its focus beyond methane measurement to address broader emissions-management challenges, including regulatory compliance and operational efficiency. Planned investments include research on alternative engine emissions testing methodologies and data-driven approaches to optimizing compliance under the Multi-Sector Air Pollutants Regulations (MSAPR). At the same time, the committee continues to identify future opportunities for methane-related research as regulatory frameworks evolve, and new industry priorities emerge.

2026–27 Priorities

- Alternative NOx emissions testing methodologies
- MSAPR compliance optimization
- Future methane mitigation and emissions-reduction research
- Continued collaboration with regulators and methane research initiatives



Water Innovation Portfolio

Water management remains a growing strategic priority as producers seek to increase water reuse, improve long-term planning, and respond to changing regulatory requirements. Building on current research, the Water Innovation Planning Committee is advancing projects focused on drought preparedness, produced-water transport and storage, water-storage performance, and operational planning tools. These initiatives aim to provide producers with practical decision-support resources that improve water-management efficiency and reduce uncertainty.

2026–27 Priorities

- Drought and water-availability planning tools
- Produced-water transport and storage assessments
- Long-term above-ground water storage guidance
- Water-storage freeboard requirements
- Continued enhancement of the Alberta Water Tool
- Produced-water management and reuse opportunities



Ecological Research Portfolio

The Ecological Research Planning Committee continues to support the development of science-based tools that improve environmental planning and habitat-related outcomes. Future work will focus on the use of remote sensing and digital technologies to assess landscape disturbance and recovery, while maintaining alignment with broader policy discussions related to species-at-risk and habitat restoration. The committee is also exploring future opportunities to support outcome-based approaches to habitat enhancement and ecological monitoring.

2026–27 Priorities

- Disturbance monitoring and recovery assessment
- Remote sensing and digital environmental monitoring tools
- Habitat enhancement and restoration support
- Improved ecological decision-support frameworks
- Enhanced integration of environmental data into planning processes



Remediation & Reclamation Research Portfolio

The Remediation & Reclamation Research Committee is shifting increased attention toward improving site closure efficiency and addressing persistent challenges associated with soil and site management. Planned projects will strengthen understanding of closure pathways, support the application of emerging technologies, and identify opportunities to improve decision-making for reclamation practitioners. The committee also continues to advance future work related to hydrocarbon management and chloride and salinity management, reflecting ongoing industry and regulatory interest in these topics.

2026–27 Priorities

- Contaminated-site closure efficiency
- Drilling-fluids knowledge and information tools
- Hydrocarbon management research
- Chloride and salinity management
- Practical tools to support reclamation and closure decision-making
- Remote sensing applications for site assessment and certification support



Well Decommissioning Research Portfolio

The Well Decommissioning Research Committee is advancing a coordinated research agenda focused on improving risk-based closure decisions, emissions management, and well-integrity assessment. Future projects will validate and expand decision-support tools, improve understanding of leak pathways, evaluate remediation effectiveness, and strengthen industry confidence in closure outcomes. These initiatives reflect industry's emphasis on focusing resources where they will have the greatest impact on environmental performance and long-term liability reduction.

2026–27 Priorities

- Ground-truthing and validation of emissions-risk assessment tools
- Decision-support software for well decommissioning
- Source and leak-pathway identification technologies
- Surface casing vent flow (SCVF) and gas migration remediation verification
- Risk-based well closure approaches
- Improved emissions-management strategies for inactive and non-producing wells



Strengthening the Foundation of AUPRF

Alongside its research activities, AUPRF will continue to strengthen the governance and collaboration model that underpins the program. In 2026–27, key efforts include renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between CAPP, EPAC, and PTAC, ensuring continued alignment on program governance, industry leadership, and long-term research priorities. The program is also working to improve knowledge sharing, enhance access to project outcomes, and strengthen communications with governments and regulators. This is intended to support science-based, practical regulatory decisions, and further demonstrate the value of producer-funded collaborative research through initiatives such as the independent value-added study currently being completed by the Canada West Foundation.

Looking Forward

As AUPRF approaches its next phase of growth, the program remains focused on delivering practical, evidence-based solutions that help Alberta producers address shared challenges more effectively than any single organization could alone. Through continued collaboration, targeted investments, and producer-driven priorities, AUPRF will continue to support innovation, informed decision-making, environmental performance, and the long-term competitiveness of Alberta's upstream oil and gas sector.

Financials

Detailed below are the financial results for the last five program years. These are based on the audited financial statements for PTAC. The differences in revenue and expense actuals are due to timing differences and accruals.

		2025/26		2024/25		2023/24		2022/23	
		AUPRF	Leveraged*	AUPRF	Leveraged*	AUPRF	Leveraged*	AUPRF	Leveraged*
Air Emissions	ARPC	$ 653,676	$ 2,670,920	$ 793,755	$ 2,618,900	$ 974,514	$ 5,031,840	$ 728,793	$ 870,000
Ecological	ERPC	$ 225,405	$ 177,160	$ 273,708	$ 1,283,956	$ 336,039	$ 287,746	$ 427,223	$ 3,386,854
Reclamation	RRRC	$ 383,189	$ 467,000	$ 465,305	$ 727,391	$ 571,267	$ 983,500	$ 753,924	$ 66,500
Water	WIPC	$ 112,703	$ -	$ 136,855	$ -	$ 168,020	$ -	$ 125,654	$ -
Wells	WCRC	$ 1,494,781	$ 4,165,000	$ 1,815,104	$ 2,608,200	$ 2,228,451	$ 1,417,000	$ 477,485	$ 2,100,000
		$ 2,869,754	$ 7,480,080	$ 3,484,728	$ 7,238,447	$ 4,278,291	$ 7,720,086	$ 2,513,078	$ 6,423,354
	% of Well Levy Contributions	63%		60%		60%		60%	
	Revenue	$ 2,869,754		$ 3,484,728		$ 4,278,291		$ 2,513,078	
	Expense	$ 2,203,022		$ 3,507,070		$ 4,361,919		$ 2,608,201	

Appendix

AUPRF Funding Recipients

Carleton University

ecosis

FOUNDRY SPATIAL

fRI Research

InnoTech ALBERTA
A SUBSIDIARY OF ALBERTA INNOVATES

LGL

MILLENNIUM
EMS Solutions Ltd.

NAIT

Onterris

silvacom™

SLR

University of Windsor

A Hazen Company
waterSMART
Water Management Solutions

Appendix

Volunteers, Oversight and Technical Committee Members

Alberta Upstream Petroleum Research Fund (AUPRF) Oversight Committee (AOC)
James Agate, Canadian Natural **(Chair)**
Leah Davies, Imperial Oil **(Vice-Chair)**
Sharla Howard, Cenovus
Kellen Forman, Ovintiv
Mike Fulsom, Explorers and Producers Association of Canada
Scott Volk, Tourmaline **(Past Chair)**
Alexandra Robertson, Alberta Energy Regulator
Jason Brunet, Alberta Energy Regulator
Lisa Fairweather, Alberta Environment and Protected Areas
Susan McGillivray, Alberta Environment and Protected Areas
Caroline Thomson, Alberta Environment and Protected Areas
Tara Payment, Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers

Technical Committee Reps
ARPC – Sean Hiebert, Cenovus
ERPC – Mark Boulton, Suncor
RRRC – Jason Desilets, Cenovus
WIPC – Tara Payment, CAPP
WDRC – Shawn Forster, Cenovus

Air Research Planning Committee (ARPC)
Ajeev Ramnauth, Alberta Environment and Protected Areas
Andrea Zabloski, Canadian Natural
Andrew Cattran, NuVista Energy Ltd.
Carolyn Ussher, Alberta Energy Regulator
Dan Li, Whitecap
Eamonn Irvine, Tourmaline
Gerald Palanca, Alberta Energy Regulator
Graham Noble, Government of Saskatchewan
Jacob Bayda, Government of Saskatchewan
Lindsay Campbell, Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers
Marie Johnson, NRCan
Randy Dobko, Alberta Environment and Protected Areas
Sean Hiebert, Cenovus **(Chair)**
Sean Smith, Environment and Climate Change Canada
Yaomin Jin, BC Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation

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Volunteers, Oversight and Technical Committee Members

Ecological Research Planning Committee (ERPC)
Charmaine Leidal, Alberta Energy Regulator
Angela Waite, Alberta Environment and Protected Areas
Ben Hale, Cenovus
Devon Versnick-Brown, Canadian Natural
Jeremy Reid, Canadian Natural
Julianne Hayes, Alberta Environment and Protected Areas
Krista Phillips, Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers
Lindsay Clothier, Pathways Alliance
Mark Boulton, Suncor **(Chair)**
Sherry Becker, Imperial Oil
Tara Bernat, Ovintiv

Remediation & Reclamation Research Committee (RRRC)
Adam Blair, Canadian Natural
Brett Reynolds, Shell
Cassandra Atkins, Canadian Natural
Deanna Cottrell, Shell
Devin Scheck, BCER
Dianne Stuart, Canadian Natural
Erin High, Ember Resources
Jason Desilets, Cenovus **(Chair)**
Jeff Mills, Orphan Well Association
Jonas Fenn, Whitecap
Linda Eastcott, Imperial Oil
Lisa Warren, Cenovus
Lori Neufeld, Imperial Oil
Robin Turri, Imperial Oil
Sara Blacklaws, Alberta Energy Regulator
Shawn Glessing, Cenovus
Sheldon Exner, Veren
Steve Kullman, Canadian Natural
Tyrel Hemsley, Alberta Environment and Protected Areas **(Vice-Chair)**

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Volunteers, Oversight and Technical Committee Members

Well Decommissioning Research Committee (WDRC)
Andrew Robinson, Alberta Energy Regulator
Barkim Demirdal, Canadian Natural
Christian Montoya, Imperial Oil
Claudette Panei, Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers
Dave Samuelson, Cenovus
Leah Davies, Imperial Oil
Mitch Kosior, Crescent Point Energy
Rajan Varughese, Alberta Energy Regulator
Richard Wong, Cenovus
Ryan McDowell, Veren
Shanna Nolan, Shell
Shawn Forster, Cenovus **(Chair)**
Wade Hartzell, Canadian Natural

Water Innovation Planning Committee (WIPC)
Deanna Cottrell, Shell
Geoff Webb, Canadian Natural
Guillaume Lafond, Ovintiv
Julia Fletcher, Shell
Matt Mclean, Cenovus
Michael Bevan, Alberta Energy Regulator
Natasha Rowden, MEG Energy
Sarah Belak, Tourmaline Oil
Scott Hillier, Cenovus **(Chair)**
Susan Satterthwaite, Alberta Environment and Protected Areas
Tara Payment, Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers

PTAC

Alberta Upstream Petroleum
Research Fund

Thank You

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