Oil Sands Alliance

Canada's oil sands

There is a vital need to ensure greater security and stability for the world's energy supply. It's important that energy demand is met by stable, democratic countries that are committed to environmental performance, regulatory standards, health and safety, and gainful employment.

Photo location: NAIT

About us

We're Oil Sands Alliance, five of Canada's largest oil sands companies working together to strengthen our country while advancing environmental innovation.

With its vast oil and gas resources and strong track record for innovation, Canada has an opportunity, through Oil Sands Alliance, to help support energy security.

Canadian Natural

cenovus ENERGY

ConocoPhillips Canada

Imperial

SUNCOR

Photo: Christina Lake Project, Cenovus Energy

Canada has 170 billion barrels of oil that can be recovered economically with today's technology.[1] Of that, 165 billion barrels are in the oil sands.[2]

Canada's oil sands by the numbers

4th largest[3]

Canada has the fourth-largest oil reserves in the world.

97% of Canada's oil resources are located in the oil sands.[4]

62%[5]

In 2024, Canada was the source of 62% of crude oil imported to the U.S.

Canada has long been the number one supplier of imported oil to the U.S. and is a significant and increasingly critical source of heavy oil feedstock for Gulf Coast and Midwest refineries.

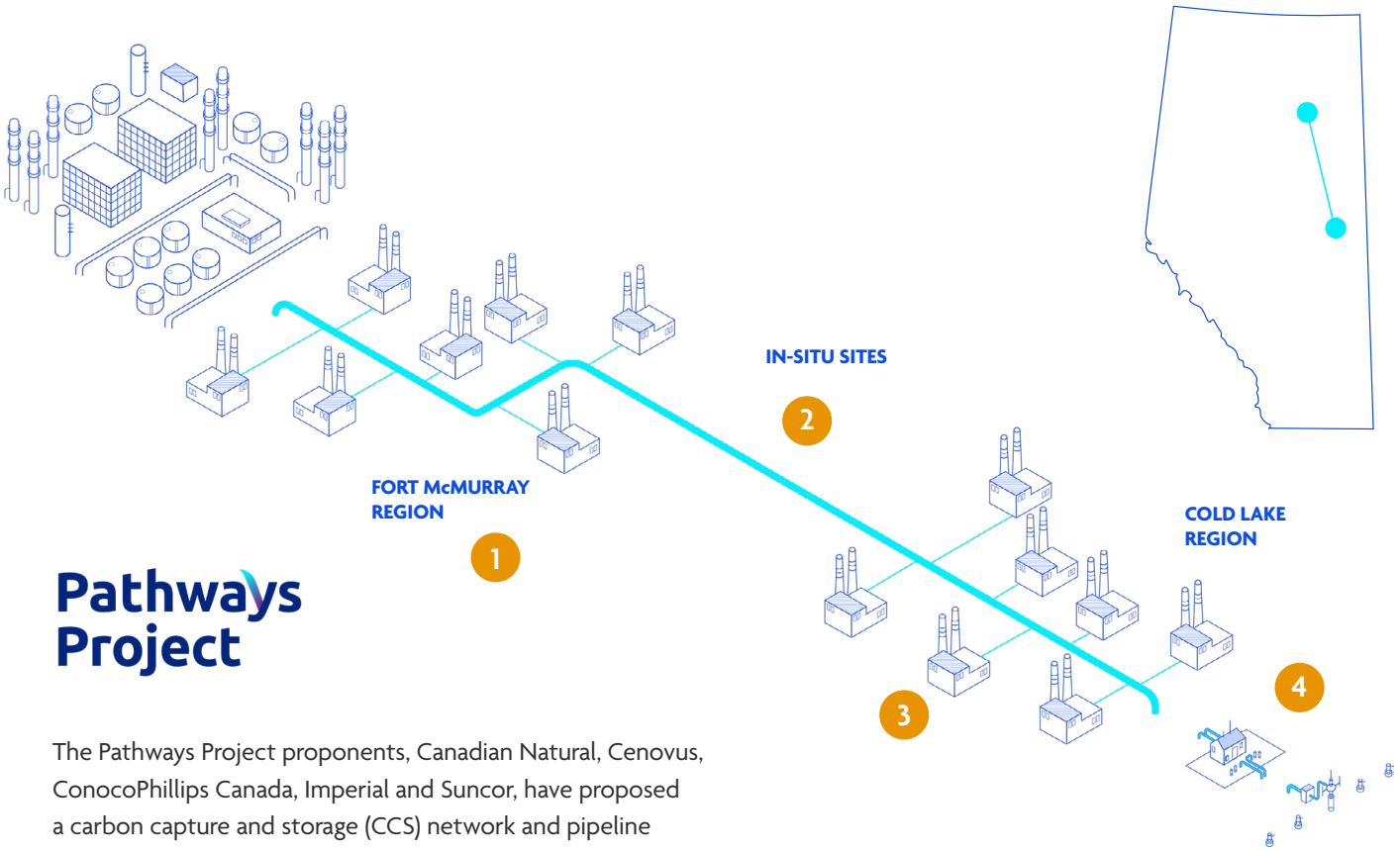
165 billion[6]

Canada's oil sands have 165 billion recoverable barrels.

The Canada Energy Regulator reports that the oil sands produced **3.5 million barrels** per day in 2025.[7]

Currently, 80% of recoverable reserves will need to be extracted by drilling (in situ), while 20% are recoverable by mining.

[1-6] Energy Fact Book 2025-2026, Natural Resources Canada. 2026.
[7] Estimated Production of Canadian Crude Oil and Equivalent. Canada Energy Regulator. (2026).



Pathways Project

The Pathways Project proponents, Canadian Natural, Cenovus, ConocoPhillips Canada, Imperial and Suncor, have proposed a carbon capture and storage (CCS) network and pipeline that, when operational, will have the capacity to transport captured CO_2 from multiple oil sands facilities to a hub in the Cold Lake area of Alberta for permanent underground storage. The line could be made available to other oil producers and industries in the region interested in capturing CO_2 emissions. Advocacy to government is taking place for the appropriate fiscal support and regulatory approvals that will be necessary to make this project a reality.

Engineers and technical experts from the project proponents are advancing engineering and environmental work for the project application, refining carbon capture technology and engaging Indigenous and other local communities along the proposed pipeline route.

1. Oil sands upgraders, mining and in-situ area
2. 650+ km CO_2 transportation network
3. Oil sands in-situ recovery area
4. Joint carbon storage hub

Facility

CO_2 transportation network

Part of the solution

Global organizations such as the International Energy Agency and the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change have clearly stated that widespread CCS must be part of the solution to mitigate climate change. Our industry has shown leadership in implementing technologies that have led to commercial-scale emission-reduction projects in Canada and around the world.

As Canada's oil sands industry works to help meet global energy demand, it is also accelerating environmental innovation.

COSIA

COSIA is the innovation arm of Oil Sands Alliance. Since 2012, COSIA has been focused on collaborative action and innovation in oil sands environmental technology.

COSIA brings together academics, researchers, innovators and others to collaborate on solutions with the potential to produce incremental or big improvements in four priority areas: tailings, water, land and greenhouse gases.

Learn more at
OilSandsAlliance.ca or reach us at
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