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Policies and Initiatives

Though policies and initiatives are not legally binding, they can exert considerable influence. They often take the form of a *plan of action* or system of guidance aimed at a desired outcome. In the oil sands region of Alberta, the dominant environmental policy, supported by a powerful Act, is to protect, or even enhance, the aquatic environment.

Relevant policies include those concerning [Habitat Management](#) (and the [No Net Loss Policy](#)), [Water Management](#), [Waste Management](#), [Wetland Restoration/ Compensation](#) and [Sustainability](#). Within these topic areas we discuss provincial, federal, and regional/sub-regional policies and initiatives. We also describe the [Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment \(CCME\)](#), a key organization in the proposal of environmental policies and initiatives in Canada.

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Source: Stuart Masterman

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