Making a positive environmental, social and economic impact

It is important to Suncor to responsibly develop the oil sands resource and address climate change challenges. As Canada’s leading integrated energy company and one of the largest electricity generators in the province, we are continually looking at ways to lower the environmental impact of our operations. One opportunity recently sanctioned is the Coke Boiler Replacement Project. This project will replace aging coke boilers at Suncor’s Base Plant with high efficiency natural gas cogeneration units.

Cogeneration

The energy and utilities facilities at Suncor’s Oil Sands Base Plant supplies steam, electricity, boiler feed water, and hot water to run operations. Currently, much of this energy comes from the petroleum coke-fired boilers, which will be replaced with cogeneration units that produce both power and steam from the combustion of thermally efficient natural gas.

Cogeneration means the simultaneous creation of heat and power. The heat is used to create steam for oil processing units, while the electricity is supplied to the Alberta Interconnected Electrical System.
Looking at the bigger environmental picture
Suncor believes our energy system is evolving to adapt to change. Globally, we’re moving towards a lower carbon economy. We will be part of the solution by continuing to invest in best-in-class assets (i.e. cogeneration). We will also continue to address the environmental impacts of our operations, improve environmental performance and implement new technology and innovations.

Project benefits
Suncor’s Coke Boiler Replacement project will produce a number of benefits including:

Support our emissions reduction plan
The project represents a measurable environmental contribution in support of government climate change strategy. The project is also expected to reduce our air emissions, including sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and particulate matter.

Reliable electricity for the Province
The project is expected to provide a reliable and stable power source with the 24/7 nature of Suncor’s Base Plant operations.

No additional disturbance
The proposed Coke Boiler Replacement Project will be located on the pre-disturbed operating footprint to minimize land disturbance.

Responsible development means community involvement
As Suncor prepares for the future, community input continues to be an important part of responsible development. We will continue to work with Indigenous groups and interested community members as we proceed with the Project.

Next steps
Construction on the project is targeted to begin this fall, with commissioning of the cogeneration units expected to begin by 2023.

Contact information
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