The safety of people, and protection of the environment, is our top priority at Enbridge. Whether we’re planning, building, maintaining, or operating a pipeline, we take special care to minimize our impact on the surrounding environment.

Our commitment to the environment

Are there environmental rules around energy infrastructure?
Regulatory oversight in this area is extensive. We work closely with all appropriate environmental agencies to provide the environmental protection that communities expect and deserve.

Do you follow environmental best practices?
From wildlife protection strategies, to Horizontal Directional Drilling, to using pre-existing corridors of activity, to habitat restoration, we work hard to minimize our long-term impact to land along our pipeline routes.

What are you doing about climate change?
This is a legitimate concern, and we’re taking action. While we’re not a large emitter of GHGs, we’re reducing our own footprint, aiming to expand our C$7.8 billion renewable energy portfolio, and integrating sustainability priorities across our company.
Planning projects with care
When we plan a pipeline project, we take care to curtail our potential impact on the environment in a variety of ways. We communicate continuously with the appropriate regulatory agencies, and incorporate environmental evaluations into construction planning. Depending on the nature of the project, we may also:

• Use environmental field survey crews to evaluate and potentially reroute around significant environmentally sensitive areas
• Draw up wildlife protection strategies, including wildlife baseline studies, remote camera monitoring, and winter track surveys
• Plan a route along pre-existing corridors of activity, including current pipeline rights-of-way, logging roads, or cut lines
• Consult with Indigenous groups to potentially reroute around sensitive corridors
• Comply with all environmental regulations and permits, with oversight from trained, experienced environmental inspectors and resource specialists

Limiting the construction footprint
During the construction phase of projects, we also take precautions to limit our footprint. In the case of large rivers or certain sensitive crossings, Enbridge uses Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) technology whenever possible to install underground pipelines. HDD projects can be completed in a way that minimizes impact to people and the environment, even in sensitive areas. During construction, we work closely with the appropriate environmental agencies, and may also put into action the following strategies:

• Using existing access routes to and from construction sites
• Using minimal ground disturbance practices
• Minimizing the amount of temporary workspace
• Wildlife protection initiatives; and
• Restricting access to project areas

Our post-construction commitment
Enbridge’s environmental obligations and commitments don’t end with construction. We work hard to minimize our long-term impact to land along our pipeline routes. After a line is constructed and put into service, we follow up with:

• Environmental monitoring programs
• Landowner consultations with respect to restoration requirements and expectations; and
• Habitat restoration techniques including tree planting and seeding

A suite of safety measures
The overall safety and reliability of our pipelines represents another facet of our commitment to the environment. Our multi-layered approach to safety includes rigorous design and construction standards, exacting specifications for pipe steel, robust pipeline maintenance, inline inspections, leak detection, valve placement, 24/7 system monitoring, and emergency response.

Over the past decade, through 2019, we’ve transported more than 27.2 billion barrels of crude oil and liquids, with a safe delivery record of 99.99976%. But we know that’s not good enough. Our goal—simply, unequivocally—will always be zero incidents.

Sustainability initiatives
Concerns about climate change are legitimate, and we share those concerns. While Enbridge is not a large emitter, we’re reducing our own carbon footprint. As the world transitions to lower-carbon energy sources, we’re leveraging all our assets to play a leadership role in climate change issues, while also satisfying the world’s growing energy demands.

Since 2002, we’ve committed a total of $7.8 billion in capital to renewable energy and power transmission projects currently in operation or under construction. Together, our operating projects have a net generation capacity of about 1,750 megawatts, enough zero-emission energy to meet the electricity needs of nearly 700,000 homes.

We’re also growing our natural gas business as a bridge fuel to a lower-carbon energy mix. Natural gas has great potential as a lower-carbon alternative for power generation; it complements the growth of renewables by addressing intermittency issues; and it’s a superior solution for low emissions from medium- and heavy-duty vehicles, including trucks, buses and trains.

Sustainability is an important concept at Enbridge. Our commitment to sustainability underpins our long-term vision: to be the leading energy infrastructure company in North America. To us, that means we’re delivering the energy people need and want: we’re putting safety first, we’re protecting our environment and we’re making the transition with society to a lower carbon energy future.