



Canada can tackle climate change with programs, policies and regulations that help reduce Canada's greenhouse gas emissions in our homes, businesses, schools and communities.

Part of the solution rests with changing the way we use energy to heat and light our homes and workplaces. Reducing the amount of fossil fuels we burn when we drive our cars and trucks is also important.

Consuming more energy means releasing more greenhouse gases. By becoming more energy-efficient – choosing more fuel-efficient automobiles, energy-efficient home appliances, and changing some wasteful daily habits – each one of us can reduce our individual energy footprint, cut Canada's greenhouse gas emissions, and help reduce climate change.

What can the federal government do to slow climate change?

The first step is for Canada to start putting the Kyoto Protocol to work. Then, our federal government can:

- **strengthen the emission reduction target** that Canadian industry must meet as part of the Large Final Emitters system
- **implement backstop legislation** for automakers in the event they do not meet the voluntary fuel efficiency standards
- **provide incentives** to promote the adoption of energy-efficient technologies and non-polluting, renewable electricity generation
- **set national building efficiency standards** and introduce and encourage building retrofit programs to conserve energy
- **use the Partnership Fund** to leverage action from the provinces and territories on the implementation of renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions

What can provincial and territorial governments do to slow climate change?

Provincial and territorial governments can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions by improving funding for urban transit, regulating and monitoring urban air quality, and tightening and enforcing existing air and water emission standards. They can also:

- **encourage renewable** and non-polluting energy technologies with grants and tax concessions at least equivalent to fossil energy subsidies, and legislate renewable electricity targets for electric utilities.
- **set higher standards** for energy efficiency in homes, businesses, utilities and industries, and encourage energy audits and efficiency plans
- **improve provincial building codes** to ensure lower energy use in buildings, and less energy-intensive building materials and techniques
- **implement land use regulations** that promote higher-density, livable cities with better transportation networks that limit urban sprawl
- **develop and implement** a climate change strategy that addresses all these issues within a coherent policy framework applicable to all levels of government

What can municipalities do to slow climate change?

- **improve public transit** including new light rail and shuttle bus routes
- **build and extend pedestrian paths** and bicycle routes and encourage shared and bicycle commuting through zoning and building permissions
- **change zoning bylaws** to encourage neighbourhoods with higher densities and more green spaces, with traffic-calming measures to slow traffic through residential areas
- **stop building automobile-dependent suburbs** that sprawl across agricultural land and eat into natural green spaces and wetlands
- **provide multiple-occupancy high-speed lanes** for public transit and ride sharing, and integrate major traffic flows to reduce “stop-start” travel
- **establish energy efficiency standards** for buildings and equipment, and develop retrofit programs that apply best available building practices
- **upgrade city vehicles, buildings and lighting** to higher energy standards, and buy “green power” for city buildings, street lighting and schools

What can businesses do to slow climate change?

Employers can reduce workplace greenhouse gas emissions by providing:

- **safe bicycle lockup facilities** for employees who ride bicycles to work
- **free, designated parking spaces** for employee car- or van-pool vehicles
- **transit pass subsidies** instead of free parking spaces for employees
- **telecommuting options** for employees to work at home, reducing urban commuter auto emissions, energy use and road congestion
- **energy efficiency** of computers, heating and lighting

What can individuals do to slow climate change?

Drive less: Transportation is the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. We can help improve air quality and reduce global warming by riding a bike, taking the bus or walking to work, setting up a car pool with co-workers, and generally cutting back on automobile use.

Become more energy efficient: We can reduce the energy needed to heat and light our homes and offices by replacing old windows, upgrading home insulation and sealing off drafts and leaks, installing light dimmers and timers to reduce electricity consumption, and running dishwashers and washing machines only when they are full. An Energuide for Houses audit can also help make our homes more energy efficient.

Consume wisely: Composting and recycling will reduce waste, save landfill space and avoid greenhouse gas emissions. Buying recycled or used goods saves the energy required to manufacture, package and ship a new product. We can replace old, inefficient appliances with high-efficiency units.



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