



## Political Action for the Climate Crisis

Governments are a huge part of the solution to climate change. Citizens of all outlooks need to be clear with our elected officials that the climate crisis needs to be addressed in a bold and decisive manner.

Canadians entrust our government with a vast amount of money and accord it great authority. In return, our government is obliged to see to the welfare of all Canadians, and to promote, through international diplomacy, the welfare of the people of the world. There is no greater issue of general welfare than the environment in which we live — it transcends all other issues as it is the house within which these other issues exist.

**Therefore, the most urgent action required is to make your demands regarding the climate emergency known.**

We've included some ideas from the *People's Climate Plan for Canada* below. Feel free to communicate points that you feel strongly about to your political incumbents and candidates.

Email, text or send a letter to your MP and tell them your concern and what you would like them to commit to doing.

Call your local MP constituency office and tell them of your concern and what you would like them to commit to doing.

Make an appointment and visit your MP and discuss in person your concern and what you would like them to commit to doing.

Use these strategies with all candidates in your riding for your upcoming federal election.

Use these strategies at all levels of government, municipal and provincial, as well as federal. All levels of government must work on the urgent changes needed to address the climate crisis.

During elections raise your concerns at all-candidates meetings and with candidates at your door.

MP Contacts: <https://www.ourcommons.ca/Parliamentarians/en/constituencies/FindMP>.

MPP Contacts: <https://voterinformationservice.elections.on.ca/en/election/search?mode=postalCode>

## IDEAS FROM PEOPLE'S CLIMATE PLAN FOR CANADA



**1) Make the climate emergency declaration meaningful. Set and commit to targets and actions that correspond to this declaration and have the best chance to keep warming below 1.5°C.**



- Reach net-zero emissions well before 2050. Climate Action Network suggests that Canada needs to double its 2030 targets and increase international climate financing to do its fair share.
- Elements like thawing permafrost, ocean acidification and growing reliance on largely uncertain carbon draw down techniques, make the need to get to net-zero even more urgent. Suggested net-zero targets

range between 2025-2040. Basically, we are in a climate emergency and need to move as rapidly as possible.

**2) Stop spending public money to subsidize fossil fuel energy sources and infrastructure immediately. Divest of any fossil fuel energy holdings. Align oil and gas industry plans with net-zero goals.**

- Commit to and invest in 100% renewable electricity by 2030.
- Ban fracking.
- Redirect fossil fuel subsidies to carbon free energy and helping people make the transition.
- Mandate an account of climate-related risk by financial companies (i.e. pensions, investors) as this will help shift funds away from destructive industry.
- Also, consider other emissions i.e. ban consumption of fluorinated gases, found in products like refrigerators, by 2026.
- Eliminate methane emissions from oil and gas industry by 2030.

**3) Significantly accelerate the transition to renewables and clean industry. Invest in renewable energy installations and companies, increase incentives to solar, wind, geothermal/heat pumps and energy saving building retrofits.**

- Use feed-in tariffs and installation cost tax rebates, they have been shown to be the most effective methods to boost renewable energy sources.
- Account for the social cost of carbon with a carbon fee and dividend system to fund green initiatives.
- Use a spectrum of tactics, like de-risked financing, redress from companies responsible for emissions (legal strategy) and corporate tax reform to fund clean industry and other climate-related initiatives.
- Have building codes require net-zero builds by 2030. All buildings retrofit to carbon neutral by 2030.

**4) Ensure Canada's long-term prosperity by aggressively creating training programs to help skilled workers in construction, manufacturing and transportation secure long-term employment in clean tech, rather than in CO2 emitting fossil-fuel dependent industries.**

- Support the call for Canada's Green New Deal, a massive job creation plan in green and low-carbon jobs focused on both climate-related action and a just transition. Promote local initiatives such as community-based energy systems and act to ensure that the most vulnerable are protected.
- Extend mandate of the Task Force on Just Transition to all fossil fuel dependent industries.

**5) Ensure green transportation choices are accessible and affordable for Canadians including reliable low-carbon public transportation, electric vehicles, electrical grid systems, and safe, active options like walking and cycling.**

- Focus on building compact, complete communities.
- Connect all areas of Canada with electric light rail and buses.
- Support hydrogen vehicle and other research i.e. on alternatives for lithium batteries and for aviation.
- Make public transit free, or move decidedly in this direction. Start with low income.
- Mandate that all new cars be electric 2030. All internal combustion engines replaced by electric by 2040.

**6) Conserve and develop wilderness and green spaces to protect and increase our most effective CO2 reduction sinks as well as address the biodiversity crisis.**

- Recent reports show that 30-70% of our natural spaces (land, freshwater & ocean) need to be conserved using high quality protection methods.
- Old growth forests must be conserved and well-managed, cut backs restored, species protection increased and habitats preserved including grasslands and wetlands.
- Lead in a global effort to restore carbon sinks.

Other important actions related to conserving natural spaces and carbon sinks:

- Encourage agricultural best practices i.e. maintaining carbon absorbing soils.
- Net-zero agriculture and land use by 2040 at latest.
- Mandate the right to a healthy environment (including safe air, clean water, healthy soil).

**7) Create a plan that is SMART - Specific, Measurable, Accountable, Relevant and Timebound - including ongoing meaningful public consultation i.e. a working group composed of scientists, citizens and city representatives.**

- Climate change should be the central lens for government decision-making, spending & regulating.
- Create a cross-party climate cabinet.
- Establish an independent, expert panel to assess progress and make recommendations.
- Legislate long-term targets. Legislate short-term targets (or carbon budgets) that fall within the current term of Parliament.
- Ramp up targets according to science. We must quickly reduce all types of emissions (and also plan to draw carbon out of the atmosphere).

**8) Enforce environmental protections for waste and toxin management.**

- Legally mandate and enforce the responsibility of companies for full product lifecycle. This includes any associated social and environmental costs i.e. clean-up.
- Ban single-use plastics.
- Create policies and incentives so that companies use sustainable, non-polluting products.
- Ban food waste going to landfill by 2025.
- Strengthen laws and bans for toxic substances and mandate safe alternatives on a rapid timetable. This includes bans on all neonicotinoid pesticides.

**9) In all undertakings, fully commit to and uphold the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People and the Protection of Aboriginal and Treaty Rights (section 35 Canadian Constitution).**

- Respect indigenous wisdom and traditional knowledge
- Uphold the right to Free Prior and Informed Consent.

**Selected Background References for People's Climate Plan**

Greenpeace UK Emergency Report.

Environmental Platform Expectations, Environmental Defence.

The Pact for a Green New Deal.

Call for Emergency Justice Plan.

Climate Action Network - Getting Real about Canada's Climate Plan.

More information online at: [www.climatefast.ca/kitchen-table-conversations](http://www.climatefast.ca/kitchen-table-conversations)

## Personal Actions

The average Canadian footprint is about 11-15T/CO<sub>2</sub> per person and for a low-carbon future, needs to drop to about 2T/CO<sub>2</sub>.

### Ecological Footprint:

- Evaluate, make a plan to reduce emissions permanently & track your results
- Offset emissions by planting trees or contributing to conservation efforts

### Reduce Fossil Fuel Use:

#### Transportation:

1. Car pool or drive small car
2. Drive electric vehicle or hybrid
3. Take transit, cycle, walk, tele-Commute

#### Flying:

1. Buy certified carbon offset credits
2. Short plane trip or minimize flights (1/2 as often; 1/2 as far)
3. Don't fly

#### Home:

1. Lower thermostat, LED bulbs, use A/C only when required
2. Living with someone else or improving energy efficiency
3. Using renewable energy (eg. solar, heat pump, electric heat)

#### Divest:

1. Your own portfolio
2. Push for your pension to divest
3. Ask your bank to divest

#### Reduce Waste:

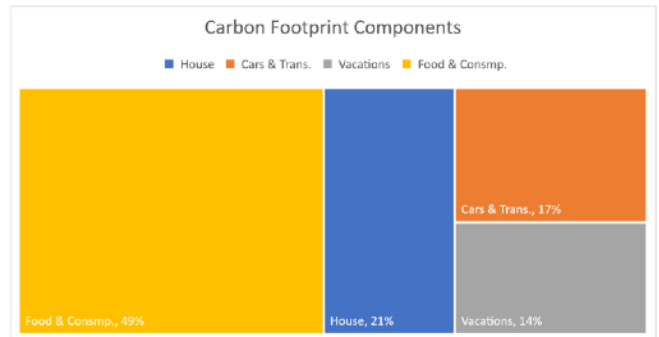
1. Recycle; compost; reduce plastics & packaging
2. Reuse, restore/repair
3. Buy less stuff

#### Change Food Habits:

1. Eat less meat (especially beef) & more meatless meals
2. Eat out less, opt for local/organic, grow your own food if possible
3. Eat plant-based diet (vegetarian/vegan)

### Practise Citizen Engagement:

- Talk to friends, families, co-workers, share solutions & encourage them to take action too.
- Sign petitions, write letters, demonstrate and participate in the growing non-violent civil disobedience movement to help speed the ecological transition on a local, business and government level.
- Join local groups like [ClimateFast](#), [Toronto350](#) or [Extinction Rebellion](#)! For a further list of climate groups see: <https://myclimatechange.home.blog/what-can-i-do-about-climate-change/> or <https://climatepledgecollective.org/2019/03/18/toronto-climate-action-review-yelp-for-activists/>
- Participate in public comment sessions on climate-related topics. Or, go in person as a deputant or inter-venor. e.g. Ontario's Environmental Registry, Natural Resources Canada, [toronto.ca](https://toronto.ca).
- Submit op-eds & letters to editor, call talk-back lines & tweet in response to climate-related articles & news.
- Support and encourage candidates that make climate action a true priority, and make sure to vote!



Sample Canadian Individual Footprint  
14.4 tons CO<sub>2</sub>