



Senators for Climate Solutions

Countdown to COP26: Canada's Nationally Determined Contribution

Background

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are climate action plans that arose from the Paris Agreement in 2015, which required national governments to develop [increasingly ambitious](#) NDCs every 5 years. Each NDC describes measures that will be implemented domestically, leading to [collective action](#) against climate change globally.

Canada's first "intended" NDC, submitted in May 2015, aimed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by [30% below 2005 levels by 2030](#). Canada stated it could achieve this through existing legislation and future [regulatory action](#) in each sector. In 2017, Canada maintained the same target, but [updated the NDC](#) to reflect the development of the [Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change](#).

Updated 2021 NDC Submission

Canada's new target is to [reduce emissions by 40-45% below 2005 levels by 2030](#), based on its updated NDC, submitted July 12, 2021. This NDC includes measures from [Budget 2021](#) and other "green recovery" policies developed since October 2020, totaling \$53.6 billion in investments ([p.3](#)). However, with Canada's existing policies, we are projected to achieve an emissions reduction of only 36% below 2005 levels by 2030 (see [Figure, p.8](#)). To bring Canada from 36% to its new target of 40-45%, further action will be needed.

Independent Evaluation

- [G7 Research Group](#): Canada is the "only G7 member whose emissions have risen" since the Paris Agreement; continued development of fossil fuels poses "a real risk that the positive movement on other fronts will be cancelled out."
- [International Institute for Sustainable Development](#): Canada's new target is "not in line with the ambition necessary to incent rapid decarbonization [...] Canada still lacks clear sectoral pathways and carbon budgets for high-emitting sectors."
- [Climate Action Tracker](#): Canada "does not have sufficient policies in place to meet its updated domestic target and will need to adopt further measures," including increased funding and support for developing countries.

International Comparisons

Comparison to the Rest of G7: Canada has the least ambitious target of the G7.

Country	Current Target	Previous Target
Canada	40-45% below 2005 levels by 2030; net-zero by 2050.	30% below 2005 levels by 2030; net-zero by 2050.
US	50-52% below 2005 levels by 2030.	26-28% below 2005 levels by 2030.
UK	68% below 1990 levels (equivalent to 63.3% below 2005 levels in 2030).	40% below 1990 levels (equivalent to 35.3% below 2005 levels in 2030).
EU (including France, Germany, and Italy)	55% below 1990 levels (equivalent to 51.5% below 2005 levels in 2030).	40% below 1990 levels (equivalent to 35.3% below 2005 levels in 2030).
Japan	46% below 2013 levels by 2030; net-zero by 2050.	26% below 2013 levels by 2030.

(Source for data in table, unless otherwise hyperlinked: [p.6-7](#)).

Take Away

Canada's updated NDC target is a strong step in the right direction, but requires equally strong action on a number of fronts to meet this goal. Further, Canada and other industrialized countries must follow through on their commitment to provide developing countries with [\\$100 billion \(USD\) per year](#), to enable investments in mitigating and adapting to climate change. Canada has committed to doubling its financing to [\\$5.3 billion](#) over the next 5 years, and is co-leading the creation of an [international climate finance plan](#) to encourage action among its allies as well.

To avoid overshooting 1.5°C of warming, global emissions must **fall 45%** from the 2010 level by 2030, but current NDCs will lead global emissions to **increase by 16%** instead ([p. 5-6](#)). Canada and the G7's leadership is invaluable in the fight against climate change.

Coming Up

[Countdown to COP26 Briefing](#) – Meet Steven Kuhn, Canada's Director General Multilateral Affairs and Chief Negotiator for Climate Change, Environment and Climate Change Canada / October 26th at 2pm EDT.

For more information, please contact: jess.mace@sen.parl.gc.ca.

Pathways to Net Zero – What it means globally and for Canada - Dr. Fatih Birol,
Executive Director of International Energy Agency / November 8th at 11am EST.

For more information, please contact: jess.mace@sen.parl.gc.ca.