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Introduction

The world's climate is changing. Canada, like countries throughout the world, is concentrating on how to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that are accumulating in the atmosphere to address climate change and adapt to the degree of change that is projected.

Our task is complicated by the fact that Canada is a vast country, with enormous distances separating many of our cities and extreme temperatures in both winter and summer. A growing population, an expanding and energy-intensive economy, and an increase in exports also play a role in our emissions.

In 1998, Canada's greenhouse gas emissions were 13 percent above 1990 levels. However, the growth in emissions is slowing. In the mid-1990s, our greenhouse gas emissions were growing at about 3 percent per year. In 1997, the rate slowed to 1.8 percent and in 1998, the last year for which complete data are available, the rate was 1 percent. In 1998, Canada's economy grew 4.4 percent.

Canada has also made significant gains in energy efficiency in many sectors of the economy over the past decade. Overall energy efficiency improved by 6.2 percent between 1990 and 1997, with an annual reduction of greenhouse gas emissions of 24 megatonnes from what would otherwise have been the case.

Many of these gains in energy efficiency are the result of investments made by Canadian businesses and industry in processes and technologies that reduce emissions while increasing economic competitiveness. For example, Canada's pulp and paper industry reduced its emissions by 12 percent between 1990 and 1997, while increasing its production volume by 21 percent over the same period.

Canada's federal, provincial, territorial and municipal governments have been addressing the challenge of climate change for more than a decade. They have developed and carried out their own programs and provided support to projects of private sector and non-governmental organizations. These activities, along with voluntary actions undertaken by the private sector, are projected to reduce Canada's greenhouse gas emissions by 60 megatonnes from where they would otherwise have been by 2010. Without these initiatives, our projected emissions would be about 8 percent higher in 2010.





Canada's governments are fundamentally in agreement about how to respond to climate change and are taking action in a flexible way that respects jurisdictional authorities while facilitating cooperation among jurisdictions. Initiatives such as the Climate Change Action Fund, an initiative of the Government of Canada, and Climate Change Central, an initiative of the Government of Alberta, have brought together all partners in the climate change process to help develop solutions that reduce emissions while creating opportunities for Canadians.

This compendium showcases Canadian climate change initiatives by all levels of government across Canada. They are grouped into the following five categories, which parallel Canada's National Implementation Strategy on Climate Change and First National Climate Change Business Plan:

- Encouraging Action
- Promoting Technology Development and Innovation
- Enhancing Awareness and Understanding
- Governments Leading by Example
- Investing in Knowledge and Building the Foundation

An index of programs by jurisdiction can be found at the end of this compendium.

The compendium is not intended to be a complete listing of climate change programs and initiatives in Canada. Many municipal governments, institutions, businesses and non-governmental organizations have also dedicated resources to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The Government of Canada climate change Web site (www.climatechange.gc.ca) provides links to these organizations' sites and to other climate change sites in Canada and throughout the world.

