



Clean Energy. For Generations.

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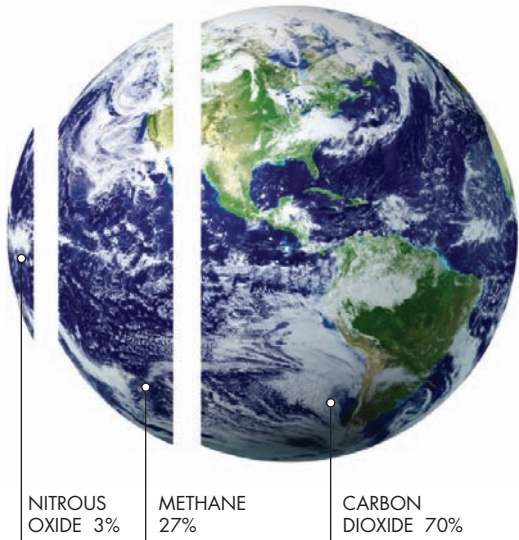


Global Warming

What is global warming?

Global warming refers to the gradual increase in the average temperatures of the earth's air and oceans. Many climate scientists are concluding that these increases are a direct result of human activities that release harmful greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) into the atmosphere, such as the burning of fossil fuels. Warmer temperatures in British Columbia have contributed to the spread of the mountain pine beetle, increases in forest fires, floods, and droughts.

CONTRIBUTION OF CURRENT GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS TO GLOBAL WARMING



What are greenhouse gas emissions?

Gases in the atmosphere trap the sun's energy, warming the earth's surface and creating what is known as the greenhouse effect. As a result, these greenhouse gases contribute to the rise in global surface temperatures. Some greenhouse gases are created naturally, while others are a result of harmful human activity. Those GHG emissions which are a byproduct of such activity as burning fossil fuels like coal, oil and natural gas, have been identified by the scientific community as the primary cause of global warming. These include gases such as carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide.

Recent statistics from Environment Canada show air pollution causes an estimated 5,000 premature deaths in Canada per year and thousands more suffer from adverse health effects.

Will harnessing wind power help fight against global warming?

The impetus behind wind power development has come from the urgent need to combat global climate change. Wind power is one of the few energy resources that releases absolutely no emissions during electricity generation, produces no air pollution during operation and does not contribute to global warming. Wind energy is clean, sustainable, and unlimited. By replacing fossil fuel power with renewable resources such as wind power, we can reduce GHG emissions and slow the current rate of global warming.

Will global warming have an impact on the economy?

Rising temperatures and erratic weather patterns have already had substantial economic costs in Canada and around the world.

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Dramatic changes in sea levels, rain fall and average temperatures affect industries such as agriculture, fisheries, tourism and outdoor recreation, among others. If unchecked, global warming could have a devastating impact on the world economy.

Many governments and business are beginning to recognize the economic opportunities that are also associated with fighting global warming. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions not only slows the melting of glaciers and rising of sea levels, but also spurs technological innovation and encourages environmentally conscious living.

Fighting global warming in BC:

In 2007, the provincial government announced one of the most ambitious climate change action plans in Canada. Some key targets and initiatives include:

- ✓ Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 33% from current levels by 2020
- ✓ \$25 million Innovative Clean Energy Fund to encourage alternative energy technologies
- ✓ Require 90% of all electricity come from clean energy sources
- ✓ Require all new electricity generation projects have net zero greenhouse gas emissions
- ✓ No nuclear power
- ✓ Conservation target of 50% of incremental energy resource needs

BC has also become a signatory of a North American climate change registry to monitor and measure greenhouse gas emissions. (www.theclimateregistry.org/)



The World Energy Council reported that global carbon dioxide emissions from burning fossil fuels rose 12% between 1990 and 1995. (www.eb.com:180)

The last two decades of the 20th Century were the hottest in 400 years and possibly the warmest in several millennia, according to a number of climate studies. The United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports that of the past 12 years, 11 have been among the warmest since 1850.

Average temperatures in Alaska, western Canada, and eastern Russia have risen at twice the global average, according to the multinational Arctic Climate Impact Assessment report.

18% of Canada's greenhouse gas emissions are created by burning fossil fuels to generate electricity. (Environment Canada)

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