

## Federal Strategies and Plans Relating to the Environment and Climate Change

Dr. Ann Dale, Royal Roads University  
Kate Newman, Royal Roads University

Last updated: November 9, 2023

As part of our SSHRC research on new governance arrangements for a carbon neutral economy, [carbonneutrality.ca](https://carbonneutrality.ca), we have developed an illustrative inventory of the Federal Government's legislation, strategies and plans over a ten-year period, 2013 to 2023. Included in the inventory are critiques by climate organizations, non-governmental organizations and some quasi-governmental institutions and research institutes. We have not included critiques from groups that are opposed to climate change adaptation and mitigation as our basic assumption leading into the research is that the climate imperative is now more urgent than ever before and that transformative change in governments is urgently needed. As UNFCC Executive Secretary Christiana Figueres emphasized in 2015, it is all about political will and governments must step up immediate climate action.

This is an illustrative inventory, not an exhaustive list. Our intent is to simply show how much activity the federal government has been involved in and, if possible, to illuminate some of the tensions and barriers that are still impeding transformative change.

### Federal Environment and Climate Strategies

### Commentaries and Critiques

<p><b>Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change</b> (2016) <a href="https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2017/eccc/En4-294-2016-eng.pdf">https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2017/eccc/En4-294-2016-eng.pdf</a></p>	<p>Indigenous Climate Action (2021). Decolonizing Climate Policy in Canada: Report from Phase One. <a href="https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5e8e4b5ae8628564ab4bc44c/t/6061cb5926611066ba64a953/1617021791071/pcf_critique_FINAL.pdf">https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5e8e4b5ae8628564ab4bc44c/t/6061cb5926611066ba64a953/1617021791071/pcf_critique_FINAL.pdf</a></p> <p>Office of the Auditor General of Canada (2022). Just Transition to a Low-Carbon Economy [Report to Parliament]. <a href="https://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/parl_cesd_202204_01_e_44021.html">https://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/parl_cesd_202204_01_e_44021.html</a></p>
--	---

	Office of the Auditor General of Canada (2021). Lessons Learned from Canada’s Record on Climate Change [Report to Parliament]. <a href="https://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/parl_cesd_202111_05_e_43898.html">https://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/parl_cesd_202111_05_e_43898.html</a>
<p><b>National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan</b> (2016)  <a href="https://www.biodivcanada.ca/national-biodiversity-strategy-and-action-plan">https://www.biodivcanada.ca/national-biodiversity-strategy-and-action-plan</a></p>	<p>Office of the Auditor General of Canada (2018). Conserving Biodiversity [Report to Parliament]. <a href="https://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/parl_cesd_201804_03_e_42994.html">https://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/parl_cesd_201804_03_e_42994.html</a></p> <p>Ray, J. C., Grimm, J., &amp; Olive, A. (2021). The Biodiversity Crisis in Canada: Failures and Challenges of Federal and Sub-national Strategic and Legal Frameworks. Facets, 6(1), 1044-1068. <a href="https://www.facetsjournal.com/doi/pdf/10.1139/facets-2020-0075?download=true">https://www.facetsjournal.com/doi/pdf/10.1139/facets-2020-0075?download=true</a> [affiliated with Wildlife Conservation Society Canada]</p>
<p><b>Carbon Pollution Pricing</b> (2018) –  <a href="https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/weather/climatechange/climate-action/pricing-carbon-pollution.html">https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/weather/climatechange/climate-action/pricing-carbon-pollution.html</a></p> <p><b>Output-Based Pricing System</b>  <a href="https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2019-266/index.html">https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2019-266/index.html</a></p> <p><b>Federal Fuel Charge</b>  <a href="https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/excise-taxes-duties-levies/fuel-charge.html">https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/excise-taxes-duties-levies/fuel-charge.html</a></p>	<p>Office of the Auditor General of Canada (2022). Carbon Pricing [Report to Parliament]. <a href="https://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/parl_cesd_202204_05_e_44025.html">https://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/parl_cesd_202204_05_e_44025.html</a></p> <p>Canadian Institute for Climate Choices (2021). The State of Carbon Pricing in Canada: Key Findings and Recommendations.  <a href="https://climatechoices.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/State-of-carbon-pricing-report-English-FINAL.pdf">https://climatechoices.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/State-of-carbon-pricing-report-English-FINAL.pdf</a></p> <p>Canadian Climate Institute (2022). Aligning Canada’s oil and gas sector with net zero.  <a href="https://climateinstitute.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Aligning-Oil-Gas-with-net-zero.pdf">https://climateinstitute.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Aligning-Oil-Gas-with-net-zero.pdf</a></p> <p>Environmental Defence (2022). Buyer Beware: Fossil Fuels Subsidies and Carbon Capture Fairy Tales in Canada.  <a href="https://s3.documentcloud.org/documents/22125861/buyer-beware-ffs-in-2021-march-2022.pdf">https://s3.documentcloud.org/documents/22125861/buyer-beware-ffs-in-2021-march-2022.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>Arctic and Northern Policy Framework</b> (2019)  <a href="https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1560523306861/1560523330587">https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1560523306861/1560523330587</a></p>	<p>Kikkert, P., &amp; Lackenbauer, P. W. (2019). Canada’s Arctic and Northern policy framework: A roadmap for the future? [Briefing Note]. Arctic Yearbook 2019.  <a href="https://arcticyearbook.com/images/yearbook/2019/Briefing-Notes/9_AY2019_BN_Kikkert_Lackenbauer.pdf">https://arcticyearbook.com/images/yearbook/2019/Briefing-Notes/9_AY2019_BN_Kikkert_Lackenbauer.pdf</a></p>

<p><b>Emergency Management Strategy for Canada: Toward a Resilient 2030</b> (2019)  <a href="https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/pblctns/mrgncy-mngmnt-strtgty/mrgncy-mngmnt-strtgty-en.pdf">https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/pblctns/mrgncy-mngmnt-strtgty/mrgncy-mngmnt-strtgty-en.pdf</a></p>	<p>Council of Canadian Academies (2022). Building a Resilient Canada: The Expert Panel on Disaster Resilience in a Changing Climate. <a href="https://www.cca-reports.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Building-a-Resilient-Canada-web-EN.pdf">https://www.cca-reports.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Building-a-Resilient-Canada-web-EN.pdf</a></p> <p>March of Dimes Canada (2020). Ensuring No One is Left Behind: The Inclusion of People with Disabilities in Climate Emergency Preparedness and Response. <a href="https://www.ourcommons.ca/Content/Committee/421/FINA/Brief/BR10596350/br-external/MarchOf%20DimesCanada-e.pdf">https://www.ourcommons.ca/Content/Committee/421/FINA/Brief/BR10596350/br-external/MarchOf%20DimesCanada-e.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>Greening Government Strategy: A Government of Canada Directive</b> (2020)  <a href="https://www.canada.ca/en/treasury-board-secretariat/services/innovation/greening-government/strategy.html">https://www.canada.ca/en/treasury-board-secretariat/services/innovation/greening-government/strategy.html</a></p>	<p>Office of the Auditor General of Canada (2022). Greening Government Strategy [Report to Parliament]. <a href="https://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/parl_cesd_202204_02_e_44022.html">https://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/parl_cesd_202204_02_e_44022.html</a></p>
<p><b>Hydrogen Strategy for Canada</b> (2020)  <a href="https://natural-resources.canada.ca/climate-change-adapting-impacts-and-reducing-emissions/canadas-green-future/the-hydrogen-strategy/23080">https://natural-resources.canada.ca/climate-change-adapting-impacts-and-reducing-emissions/canadas-green-future/the-hydrogen-strategy/23080</a></p>	<p>Office of the Auditor General of Canada (2022). Hydrogen’s Potential to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions [Report to Parliament]. <a href="https://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/parl_cesd_202204_03_e_44023.html">https://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/parl_cesd_202204_03_e_44023.html</a></p> <p>Environmental Defence (2022). Buyer Beware: Fossil Fuels Subsidies and Carbon Capture Fairy Tales in Canada. <a href="https://s3.documentcloud.org/documents/22125861/buyer-beware-ffs-in-2021-march-2022.pdf">https://s3.documentcloud.org/documents/22125861/buyer-beware-ffs-in-2021-march-2022.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>Canada’s Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act</b> (2021)  <a href="https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/weather/climatechange/climate-plan/net-zero-emissions-2050/canadian-net-zero-emissions-accountability-act.html">https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/weather/climatechange/climate-plan/net-zero-emissions-2050/canadian-net-zero-emissions-accountability-act.html</a></p>	<p>Linden-Fraser, Ross (2023). Happy birthday, Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act! [Canadian Climate Institute]. <a href="https://440megatonnes.ca/insight/happy-birthday-canadian-net-zero-emissions-accountability-act/">https://440megatonnes.ca/insight/happy-birthday-canadian-net-zero-emissions-accountability-act/</a></p> <p>Canadian Climate Institute (2021). Canada’s Net-Zero Future: Finding out Way in the Global Transition. <a href="https://climatechoices.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Canadas-Net-Zero-Future_FINAL-2.pdf">https://climatechoices.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Canadas-Net-Zero-Future_FINAL-2.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>Canada’s 2030 Agenda National Strategy – Moving Forward Together</b> (2021)</p>	<p>Office of the Auditor General of Canada (2021). Implementing the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals [Report to Parliament]. <a href="https://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/parl_cesd_202104_01_e_43805.html">https://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/parl_cesd_202104_01_e_43805.html</a></p>

<a href="https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/esdc-edsc/documents/programs/agenda-2030/ESDC-PUB-050-2030Agenda-EN-v9.pdf">https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/esdc-edsc/documents/programs/agenda-2030/ESDC-PUB-050-2030Agenda-EN-v9.pdf</a>	
<p><b>National Active Transportation Strategy 2021-2026</b> (2021)</p> <a href="https://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/alt-format/pdf/nats-snta/nats-strat-snta-en.pdf">https://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/alt-format/pdf/nats-snta/nats-strat-snta-en.pdf</a>	
<p><b>Federal Sustainable Development Strategy, 2022-2026</b> (2022)</p> <a href="https://www.fsds-sfdd.ca/en#/en/goals/">https://www.fsds-sfdd.ca/en#/en/goals/</a>	<p>Office of the Auditor General of Canada (2022). Comments on the Draft 2022–2026 Federal Sustainable Development Strategy. <a href="https://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/esd_fs_e_43324.html">https://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/esd_fs_e_43324.html</a></p>
<p><b>Faster and Further: Canada’s Methane Strategy</b> (2022)</p> <a href="https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2022/eccc/En4-491-2022-eng.pdf">https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2022/eccc/En4-491-2022-eng.pdf</a>	<p>Office of the Auditor General of Canada (2023). Emission Reductions Through Greenhouse Gas Regulations [Report to Parliament]. <a href="https://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/parl_cesd_202304_05_e_44243.html">https://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/parl_cesd_202304_05_e_44243.html</a></p>
<p><b>Canada’s National Adaptation Strategy: Building Resilient Communities and a Strong Economy</b> (2023)</p> <a href="https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/weather/climatechange/climate-plan/national-adaptation-strategy/full-strategy.html">https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/weather/climatechange/climate-plan/national-adaptation-strategy/full-strategy.html</a>	<p>Canadian Climate Institute (2022). Toward a Safer and More Resilient Canada: An independent assessment of the draft National Adaptation Strategy. <a href="https://climateinstitute.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Toward-a-safer-and-more-resilient-canada.pdf">https://climateinstitute.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Toward-a-safer-and-more-resilient-canada.pdf</a></p> <p>Canadian Climate Institute (2022). Expert assessment recommends improvements to National Adaptation Strategy [News Release]. <a href="https://climateinstitute.ca/news/expert-assessment-national-adaptation-strategy/">https://climateinstitute.ca/news/expert-assessment-national-adaptation-strategy/</a></p> <p>Miller, S. &amp; Ness, R. – Canadian Climate Institute (2022). Closing Canada’s adaptation gap: Key elements of a National Adaptation Strategy [Discussion Paper]. <a href="https://climateinstitute.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/closing-canada-s-adaptation-gap.pdf">https://climateinstitute.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/closing-canada-s-adaptation-gap.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>Clean Fuel Regulations</b> (2023)</p> <a href="https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2022-140/index.html">https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2022-140/index.html</a>	<p>Office of the Auditor General of Canada (2023). Emission Reductions Through Greenhouse Gas Regulations [Report to Parliament]. <a href="https://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/parl_cesd_202304_05_e_44243.html">https://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/parl_cesd_202304_05_e_44243.html</a></p>

<p><b>Inefficient Fossil Fuel Subsidies Framework</b> (2023)  <a href="https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/weather/climatechange/climate-plan/inefficient-fossil-fuel-subsidies/guidelines.html#">https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/weather/climatechange/climate-plan/inefficient-fossil-fuel-subsidies/guidelines.html#</a></p>	<p>Environmental Defence (2022). Buyer Beware: Fossil Fuels Subsidies and Carbon Capture Fairy Tales in Canada.  <a href="https://s3.documentcloud.org/documents/22125861/buyer-beware-ffs-in-2021-march-2022.pdf">https://s3.documentcloud.org/documents/22125861/buyer-beware-ffs-in-2021-march-2022.pdf</a></p> <p>International Institute for Sustainable Development and Équiterre (2022). Identifying Inefficient Fossil Fuel Subsidies in Canada [Policy Brief].  <a href="https://www.iisd.org/system/files/2022-07/inefficient-fossil-fuel-subsidies-canada-en.pdf">https://www.iisd.org/system/files/2022-07/inefficient-fossil-fuel-subsidies-canada-en.pdf</a></p>
---	--

### Federal Environment and Climate Change Plans

<p><b>Investing in Canada Plan</b> (2016)  <a href="https://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/plan/about-invest-apropos-eng.html">https://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/plan/about-invest-apropos-eng.html</a></p>	<p>Office of the Auditor General of Canada (2021). Investing in Canada Plan [Report to Parliament]. <a href="https://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/parl_oag_202103_04_e_43786.html">https://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/parl_oag_202103_04_e_43786.html</a></p>
<p><b>A Healthy Environment and a Healthy Economy: Canada's strengthened climate plan to create jobs and support people, communities and the planet</b> (2020)  <a href="https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/weather/climatechange/climate-plan/climate-plan-overview/healthy-environment-healthy-economy.html">https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/weather/climatechange/climate-plan/climate-plan-overview/healthy-environment-healthy-economy.html</a></p>	<p>Indigenous Climate Action (2021). Decolonizing Climate Policy in Canada: Report from Phase One.  <a href="https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5e8e4b5ae8628564ab4bc44c/t/6061cb5926611066ba64a953/1617021791071/pcf_critique_FINAL.pdf">https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5e8e4b5ae8628564ab4bc44c/t/6061cb5926611066ba64a953/1617021791071/pcf_critique_FINAL.pdf</a></p> <p>Clean Prosperity (2023). Achieving net-zero pathways for Canada: What progress are we on track to make by 2050? <a href="https://cleanprosperity.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Achieving-net-zero-pathways-June-2023-Clean-Prosperty.pdf">https://cleanprosperity.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Achieving-net-zero-pathways-June-2023-Clean-Prosperty.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>Canada's 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan</b> (2022)  <a href="https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2022/eccc/En4-460-2022-eng.pdf">https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2022/eccc/En4-460-2022-eng.pdf</a></p>	<p>Net-Zero Advisory Body (2023). Compete and Succeed in a Net Zero Future: First Annual Report to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change.  <a href="https://nzab2050.ca/34957/widgets/143543/documents/96483">https://nzab2050.ca/34957/widgets/143543/documents/96483</a></p>

	<p>Canadian Climate Institute (2022). Independent Assessment: 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan. <a href="https://climateinstitute.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/ERP-Volume-2-FINAL.pdf">https://climateinstitute.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/ERP-Volume-2-FINAL.pdf</a></p> <p>Climate Action Tracker: Canada (2022). <a href="https://climateactiontracker.org/countries/canada/">https://climateactiontracker.org/countries/canada/</a></p> <p>C.D. Howe Institute (2022). Canada's 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan: What's Realistic? [Policy Seminar Summary]. <a href="https://www.cdhowe.org/sites/default/files/2022-07/CR_Reduction_2022_1.pdf">https://www.cdhowe.org/sites/default/files/2022-07/CR_Reduction_2022_1.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>Canada's Aviation Climate Action Plan 2022-2030</b> (2022)</p> <p><a href="https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2023/tc/T42-29-2022-eng.pdf">https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2023/tc/T42-29-2022-eng.pdf</a></p>	
<p><b>Government of Canada Adaptation Action Plan</b> (2023)</p>	<p>Canadian Climate Institute (2022). Toward a Safer and More Resilient Canada: An independent assessment of the draft National Adaptation Strategy. <a href="https://climateinstitute.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Toward-a-safer-and-more-resilient-canada.pdf">https://climateinstitute.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Toward-a-safer-and-more-resilient-canada.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>Sustainable Jobs Plan</b> (2023)</p> <p><a href="https://www.canada.ca/en/services/jobs/training/initiatives/sustainable-jobs/plan.html">https://www.canada.ca/en/services/jobs/training/initiatives/sustainable-jobs/plan.html</a></p>	<p>Smart Prosperity Institute (2022). Jobs and Skills in the Transition to a Net-Zero Economy: A Foresight Exercise. <a href="https://institute.smartprosperity.ca/sites/default/files/Jobs_and_Skills_in_the_Transition_to_a_Net-Zero_Economy.pdf">https://institute.smartprosperity.ca/sites/default/files/Jobs and Skills in the Transition to a Net-Zero Economy.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>Clean Electricity Vision</b> (2023)</p> <p><a href="https://natural-resources.canada.ca/our-natural-resources/energy-sources-distribution/electricity-infrastructure/powering-canada-forward-building-clean-affordable-and-reliable-electricity-system-for/25259">https://natural-resources.canada.ca/our-natural-resources/energy-sources-distribution/electricity-infrastructure/powering-canada-forward-building-clean-affordable-and-reliable-electricity-system-for/25259</a></p>	<p>Canadian Climate Institute (2023). Clean Electricity, Affordable Energy. <a href="https://climateinstitute.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Clean-Electricity-Affordable-Energy.pdf">https://climateinstitute.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Clean-Electricity-Affordable-Energy.pdf</a></p>

## Strategies and Plans in Development

**Clean Electricity Regulations** (proposed for 2024)

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/weather/climatechange/climate-plan/clean-electricity-regulation.html>

**Canada's 2030 Biodiversity Strategy** (proposed for 2024)

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/wildlife-plants-species/biodiversity/2030-biodiversity-strategy-canada.html>