



Climate Change: A Canadian Perspective

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SF₆ Conference (Scottsdale, Arizona)
December 2, 2004

Overview

- Historical Perspective
- The Climate Change Plan for Canada
- Recent Commitments
- More Holistic Long-term Perspective
- Activities on SF₆

Canada's involvement on climate change has been extensive...

- Canada ratified UNFCCC on Dec. 4, 1992 and active in the negotiations since then;
- In 1995, created the National Action Plan on Climate Change. Flagship program was VCR;
- Canada signed the Kyoto Protocol in 1998:
 - began the National Climate Change process to engage provincial jurisdictions;
 - conduct analysis of options for achieving the Kyoto target;
- Process resulted in First National Business Plan on Climate Change;
- Release of Action Plan 2000, other investments in Budget 2003, total at present is \$3.7B
- October 2002, release of the Climate Change Plan for Canada, followed by ratification of Kyoto Protocol (Dec. 17, 2002)

...and the Climate Change Plan for Canada moves us forward on implementation

- Development of Large Final Emitters emissions trading system combined with an offsets system;
- Targeted measures to reduce emissions (e.g. expansion of energy efficiency programs);
- Commitments to accountability and tracking of results
- “Plan, by necessity, will remain a work in progress”

Now we are moving forward to develop a new national equitable plan

- We recognize that:
 - Addressing climate change is essential to Canada`s long-term competitiveness
 - requires the participation of all jurisdictions and sectors to be successful;
 - Canada needs to play a leadership role in the evolution of a new international agreement post-Kyoto
- Guided by three fundamental principles:
 - A collaborative approach
 - A long-term vision
 - Demonstrable and immediate domestic action to achieve emission reductions in all timeframes

The new plan would build on a new competitiveness and environmental sustainability framework

- It will have the following objectives:
 - To address the long-term challenge of climate change while respecting Canada's commitments to implement the Kyoto Protocol;
 - Provincial, territorial and industrial agreed to long-term targets (i.e. 2020/2030); and
 - the overall goal would be to decouple Canada's economic growth from growth in GHG emissions
- This will require:
 - details of the Large Final Emitter system;
 - how new vehicle fuel efficiency improvements will be implemented;
 - key new measures to achieve emission reductions in the Kyoto timeframe as well as the medium and long term;
 - a plan on science and adaptation; and
 - a partnering plan with provinces

Our activities on SF₆ include

- Our national GHG inventory uses a Tier 3 method for emissions from magnesium smelting;
- Surveying magnesium casters for their use of SF₆;
- Participating in international study on alternative cover gases;
- Have reporting of SF₆ as part of our National Pollutant Release Inventory;
- Through this, some collection of SF₆ emissions data from provincial power utilities
 - not enough data gathered to create a full inventory
 - separate study underway looking at gathering data from SF₆ distributors and Canadian Electricity Association
- Looking to create a new tool for performing emission projections for non-energy emissions;
 - will replace current ad hoc methodologies;
 - allow us to identify new emission reduction opportunities

In Summary

- Climate change policy in Canada continuing to evolve with focus on environmental sustainability and competitiveness;
- Importance of this transition has reached government cabinet level with creation of Ad hoc Cabinet Committee on Sustainability and the Environment (chaired by Minister of Industry)
- Will allow decisions on climate change policy to be made more efficiently by Cabinet;
- Increased effort on inventorying SF₆ and developing projections should allow more active policy development in this area.

Websites

- Climate Change Plan for Canada

- http://climatechange.gc.ca/plan_for_canada/index.html

- National GHG Inventory

- http://www.ec.gc.ca/pdb/ghg/1990_02_report/toc_e.cfm

- Competitiveness and Environmental Sustainability Framework

- http://www.ec.gc.ca/minister/speeches/2004/040910_s_e.htm
- http://www.ec.gc.ca/minister/speeches/2004/041027_s_e.htm

- Cabinet Committees

- http://www.pco-bcp.gc.ca/default.asp?Language=E&Page=informationresources&sub=ministry&doc=committee_e.htm