

Appendix: Action areas for the Council of Canadians “Climate Justice: Take Action for People and the Planet” campaign



The Council of Canadians will develop further analysis and campaign strategies in these action areas.

We will demand the repayment of climate debt. This includes:

- Global North countries such as Canada committing to short-term emission cuts of at least 40 per cent below 1990 levels by 2020.
- Continuing to expose and challenge the Canadian government’s commitment to an export-oriented energy sector, in particular the ongoing development of the tar sands, as a barrier to needed emission reductions.
- Demanding significant contributions to climate financing for the global South. Estimates for long-term climate mitigation and adaptation in the global South range from \$195 billion up to \$400 billion needed yearly. Canada’s share has been projected at three to four per cent of the global total.

Based on a “system change not climate change” analysis, we will expose false solutions to the climate crisis including:

- Demanding an end to offsets in national and international climate agreements. Offsets are a false, market-based solution to the climate crisis. Internationally, carbon offsets under the Kyoto Protocol have allowed a “business as usual” approach to reign. Offsets have provided global North countries a loophole to avoid needed domestic emission reductions by purchasing carbon credits generated in the global South – credits that have failed to bring about significant additional emission reductions (reductions that would not have happened otherwise).
- Demanding that climate debt repayment be managed in accordance with democratic and equitable principles, not through international financial institutions such as the World Bank, which has a track record of imposing harmful conditions on global South countries including forced deregulation and privatization.
- Rejecting carbon trading, including cap and trade systems, as a false solution. There is good reason to be skeptical of the market’s ability to produce real emission reductions. Market volatility, “gaming” and corporate influence put needed climate action in a precarious state. We will challenge the ongoing push for a North American cap and trade system, which, if based on the current U.S. model, will feature some of the worst aspects of this system including weak caps, free allocation of carbon permits and carbon offsets.

We will advocate real solutions to the climate crisis including continuing to:

- Demand a Canadian Energy Strategy requiring governments to ensure planning to meet basic energy needs and prioritizing the transition off of fossil fuels to more sustainable energy production and consumption.
- Build on the *Green Decent and Public* report, produced by the Council of Canadians and the Canadian Labour Congress, in identifying opportunities and supporting the expansion of renewable energy in the electricity sector under public and community ownership.

We also support real solutions on a local, national and international levels including:

Keeping fossil fuels in the ground: Deep emission reductions are incompatible with the expansion of fossil fuel production.

Ending fossil fuel subsidies and increasing royalties on fossil fuels: This action can work as an incentive to transition away from fossil fuels, as well as provide revenues for climate action.

“Polluter pays” principle: There are a number of innovative proposals to realize the polluter pays principle including examples such as taxing fossil fuel exports and levies on aviation and marine sectors.

The cleanest energy is the energy we don't use: Conservation and energy efficiency measures hold great potential for both reducing emissions and generating "green jobs." It is very clear that addressing the climate crisis will require significant changes to consumption and trade patterns.

Rapid expansion of renewable energy: Renewable energy will play a key role in the transition to a zero carbon future and should be democratically governed and include opportunities for public and community ownership, and mechanisms for accountability to local populations.

Sustainable transportation: Investment in mass transit infrastructure and non-fossil fuel based forms of transportation will reduce emissions and provide substantial economic growth and job creation opportunities.

Just transition: There is a need for programs to support workers and communities negatively impacted by the transition off of fossil fuel dependence.

Rights-based resource conservation: Conservation must enforce Indigenous land rights and promote peoples' sovereignty over energy, forests, land and water.

Supporting sustainable family farming and fishing, and peoples' food sovereignty: While big business agriculture and the global food industry are major sources of greenhouse gas emissions, small-scale forms of agriculture reduce climate impacts, enhance food security and reduce deforestation.