

Highlights of a Liberal plan for the environment, climate change and clean energy jobs

“These are the steps we can take right now – to change course, to restore Canada’s place in the world, and to build a cleaner, more prosperous economy.”

– Michael Ignatieff

Our Climate Change Commitment

“I would have hoped to see Canada accept our responsibility to reduce carbon pollution, in line with other developed countries... Unfortunately, Canada will do none of that in Copenhagen.”

A Liberal government would fight for a firm international agreement to reduce emissions and contain global warming to within two degrees Celsius. We’ll set 1990 – not 2006 – as our base year and explore differentiated targets for developing countries.

Cap and Trade System

A Liberal government would create a cap-and-trade system that is both verifiable and binding, with hard caps that lead to absolute reductions. A Canadian cap-and-trade system must respect certain broad principles:

- Be equitable to all regions;
- Emissions targets must not punish early-adopters who have already taken action to reduce emissions;
- It must cover all industries with no exceptions;
- It must be compatible with a U.S. cap-and-trade and other systems in the world; and,
- It must put a price on carbon by permitting credits to be auctioned and traded in international markets.

Clean Economy Jobs & Energy Efficiency

“Energy is at the heart of the climate change issue: the energy we produce, the energy we save, and the energy we’ll need”

A Liberal government would make the most significant investment in clean energy and energy efficiency in our nation’s history. In partnership with the provinces, we will set an ambitious target of quadrupling Canada’s production of renewable energy from sources such as solar and wind, by Canada’s 150th birthday in 2017.

A Liberal government would:

- Invest in renewable energy production such as solar, wind, geothermal and biomass;
- Promote energy efficiency by investing in new transit systems, high-speed rail, “smart” meters for our homes and “smart” electrical grids; and,
- Create the conditions that will allow companies to develop and manufacture new products and materials increasing our energy efficiency.

“It’s time to set ourselves a new national project—one that brings together our economy, our environment and our best ideas to create the jobs and prosperity of tomorrow.”
—Michael Ignatieff

Our Natural Environment

“We will protect our air, our water, our forests, our Arctic – for us, and for future generations.”

A Liberal government will:

- Implement a National Water Strategy that will address the problems of dwindling water resources and water pollution, and clean up areas of the Great Lakes, St. Lawrence Seaway and Lake Winnipeg;
- Create new maritime protected areas off of Canada’s Atlantic and Pacific coasts to protect Canada’s marine ecosystems and fisheries;
- Work with provinces to reach their goals of protecting 50 percent of their boreal forests; and,
- Defend Canadian sovereignty over the Northwest Passage and work towards an international treaty to govern the protection of the Arctic.

Clean Energy Act

A Liberal government would bring together existing legislation on energy and the environment into a single Clean Energy Act that would, if passed:

- Adopt the toughest vehicle emissions standards in North America;
- Set mandatory clean energy federal procurement standards;
- Streamline environmental assessments for clean energy projects; and,
- Require the federal government to report annually to Canadians on the state of the environment.