

# GET GOVERNMENT TO CONFRONT THE CLIMATE CRISIS

What you  
can do.

**ORDER more pamphlets!** Make sure your co-workers, family, and neighbours know that these measures are possible and endorsed by environmental and energy groups across Canada. Contact [national@nupge.ca](mailto:national@nupge.ca) to order copies today, or visit our website for a paper-free version of the flyer - <http://www.nupge.ca/issues/environment.htm>.

**WRITE your Municipal Councillor!** They have a role to play in efficiency standards and policy, as well as energy projects throughout their region.

**WRITE your Provincial Representative!** Provinces can take part in the creation of a green energy grid, as well as regulating industry in your province.

**WRITE Prime Minister Stephen Harper** and the Minister of the Environment, Jim Prentice. They have a crucial leadership role to play. Highlight the top five actions in this pamphlet. Let them know that Canadians have the recipe and they're not being fooled by the rhetoric.



**national  
union**

## **NATIONAL UNION OF PUBLIC AND GENERAL EMPLOYEES**

- B. C. Government and Service Employees' Union
- Health Sciences Association of British Columbia
- Health Sciences Association of Alberta
- Saskatchewan Government and General Employees' Union
- Manitoba Government and General Employees' Union
- Ontario Public Service Employees Union
- Canadian Union of Brewery and General Workers
- New Brunswick Union of Public and Private Employees
- Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union
- PEI Union of Public Sector Employees
- Newfoundland & Labrador Association of Public and Private Employees

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The National Union of Public and General Employees is an affiliate of the Canadian Labour Congress and a member of the Public Services International



Get our  
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to

GO  
GREEN

NOW

TOP 5 WAYS TO GET  
GOVERNMENT TO  
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# 5 steps to Canadian action on climate change

Climate change is one of the greatest challenges facing humanity today. It is clear that greenhouse gases (GHGs), created through civilizations' burning of fossil fuels, are the cause of climate change. There are clear steps we can take to slow these emissions and stop global warming.

## We need to act now!

The National Union offers the top five actions our governments must take to make real reductions in our greenhouse gas emissions. If we act swiftly, Canada can once again be proud of its international contribution and cooperation on global issues.

## CREATE National Energy Efficiency Standards.

Dramatic reduction in our energy needs and greenhouse gas emissions could be attained through a planned escalation of energy efficiency standards. The Pembina Institute identifies six steps to energy efficiency:

1. Long-term goals for each sector providing a vision of what an efficient Canada will look like.
2. Short-term targets and milestones against which we can measure progress.
3. Federal and provincial efficiency legislation for appliances, lighting, vehicles, and building codes.
4. Continuous improvements that keep Canada the most efficient jurisdiction in North America, including investment in research and certification initiatives.
5. Federal leadership in the retrofitting of all Canadian homes, industrial buildings and institutions.
6. Federal and provincial policies that fully value energy efficiency in Canadian markets.

## BUILD a Green Power Grid.

Canada's energy needs can be met with a combination of the efficiency measures described above and renewable power sources without the need for coal or new and refurbished nuclear power.

A combination of wind, solar, geothermal, hydro-electric power and both large and small scale co-generation schemes can meet our power needs. A detailed plan, including timelines and funding, will accelerate the development of

these projects and the step by step integration of each source into the bigger picture. Our federal government needs to dramatically increase spending on projects and research and development to completely shift to renewable power.

## SLOW Oil Sands Development.

The deep mining and extraction of crude oil from the tar sands in Alberta has already generated a series of ecological threats. It is ranked the number one emitter of GHGs in Canada and still growing.

The Alberta government has to carefully apply the brakes on future oil sands development;

1. Stop giving out oil sands license like hotcakes.
2. Reject the idea of industry self-regulation when it comes to the environment.

The federal and provincial governments must insist on hard emissions caps, not 'intensity targets', which only set GHG limits per barrel of oil and fail to cover the expansion of production.

## ASSURE a Just Transition for Displaced Workers to New Green Jobs.

Each of the above steps can create quality jobs that are environmentally sound—retrofitting buildings to meet energy efficiency standards, environmental regulatory enforcement and clean-up, design, building, operating and maintenance of renewable energy sources.

Workers in some sectors will feel the negative impacts of regulation and climate change action, facing lay-offs and plant closures in the worst cases. But a net gain in jobs will be real

ized with careful planning and worker consultation.

The largest greenhouse gas emitters are primarily the oil and gas, electricity, mining and manufacturing sectors. Strategic plans will have to be made for each case to secure both a healthier environment and a just transition for workers and the community. Safeguards need to be in place to protect workers in these vulnerable sectors so, as their jobs are displaced, they are able to find other well paid secure jobs.

## SET True Hard Caps on Greenhouse Gas Emissions.

Canada's new plan for climate change uses fake caps—so-called "emissions intensity" targets. These intensity targets limit emissions per production unit. The result is an increase in energy efficiency, but continuing increases in greenhouse gas emissions as industrial production increases.

Hard caps limit absolutely the emissions a plant can have. Any increase in production cannot change the quantity of greenhouse gases emitted. Done properly, this effectively uncouples the economy from the burning of fossil fuels.

The federal government must put in place hard caps—regulations that dramatically reduce our overall greenhouse gas emissions-based on climate science and our Kyoto obligations. Mandatory standards for GHG emissions are required for industry and the energy sector to effectively reduce their emissions.