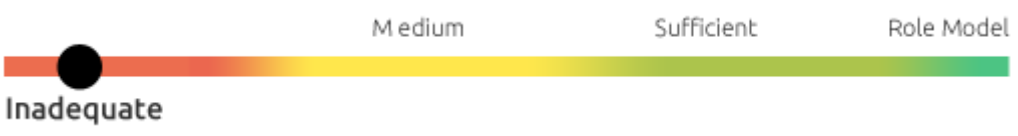
CLIMATE ACTION TRACKER

Canada

History: 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | 2011

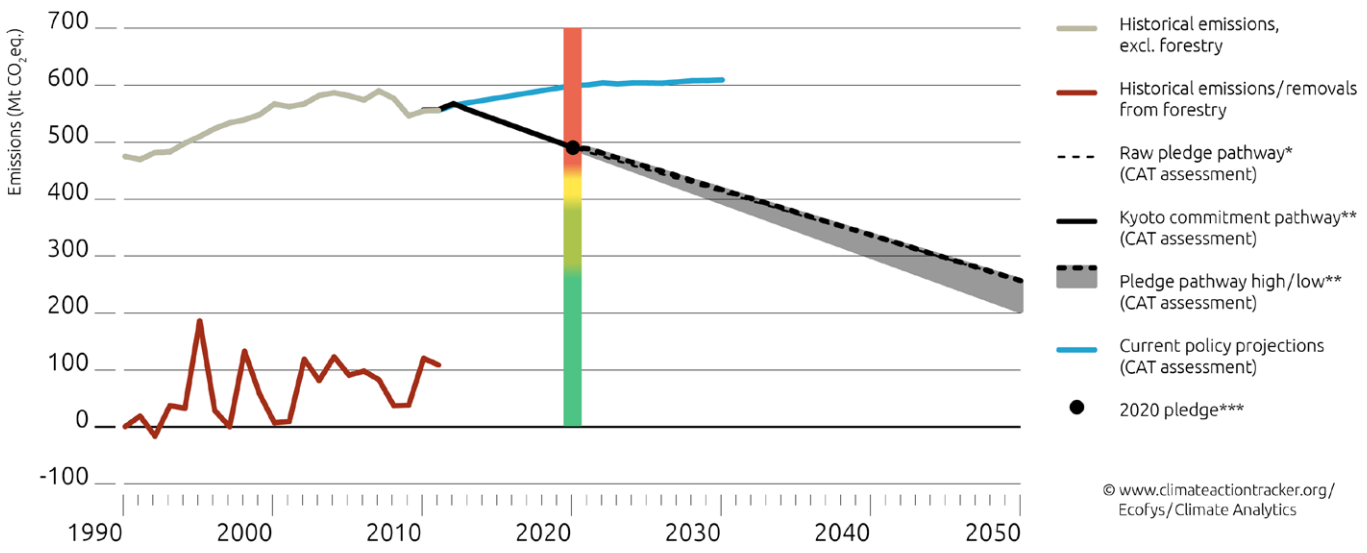
Page last updated: 20th November 2013

Rating



Assessment

Canada's commitment for 2020 is -17% relative to 2005 emission levels by 2020 which translates to +3% relative to 1990. With current policies in place, Canada is not on track to meet their pledge. Even taking into consideration the potentially considerable credits from LULUCF, the pledge would not be met.



* Excl. LULUCF credits and debits, excl. LULUCF base year emissions accounting rules and without application of historical threshold on emissions allowances in 2020 under the Doha decision.
** Incl. LULUCF credits and debits, incl. LULUCF base year emissions accounting rules and application of historical threshold on emissions allowances in 2020 under the Doha decision.
*** Emissions level in 2020 resulting from unconditional pledge. This differs from the Kyoto commitment pathway as it depicts final 2020 levels whereas the Kyoto pathway considers the average level of emissions over the second commitment period (2013-2020).

Pledge description

Canada's Kyoto Protocol target (2008-2012) was a reduction of 6% relative to 1990 emission levels. In December 2011, Canada withdrew from the Kyoto Protocol.

Canada's commitment under the Convention of -17% relative to 2005 emission levels by 2020 (+3% relative to 1990) weakens their previous Kyoto target. It also a weakens their initial pledge under the Copenhagen Accord to reduce emissions by 20% relative to 2006 emissions by 2020. The new target aligns Canada with the USA. Canada proposes to exclude emissions from natural disturbances from the base year and from the commitment period's cumulative emissions, and supports accounting for removals from harvested wood products. This could lead to higher credits (or lower debits).

In the long term, Canada has proposed to reduce emissions by -60 to -70% relative to 2006 by 2050.

Kyoto Protocol	
Member of KP CP1 (2008-2012)	withdrawn
Member of KP CP2 (2013-2020)	no
KP CP1 target (below base year)	-6%
KP CP2 target (below base year)	none
Convention	
Copenhagen pledge	-17%
Reference for pledge	2005 emissions
Conditions (for higher pledge level)	no range
National goals	
Long term goal(s)	-60% to -70% by 2050 below 2006 emissions

Current trend description

With currently implemented policies, Canada will reach emissions of 762 $MtCO_2e$ in 2020 (excluding emissions from Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry - LULUCF), reaching approximately 3.3% more than the 2005 value. According to Canada's own projections, LULUCF will decrease emissions by 28 $MtCO_2e$ in 2020. Even accounting for potential credits from LULUCF, it would still not be sufficient to reach the pledge (Environment Canada, 2013).

In comparison to previous Canadian emission projections from the year 2012 (Environment Canada, 2012), the current scenarios are higher, resulting from increased projections in most sectors. The only sector which shows a slight improvement in comparison to the previous projections is oil and gas production, but this is mainly due to changes in methodology. In comparison to 2005 levels, emissions from oil and gas production are still expected to increase significantly.

Canada has various policies in place to reduce emissions. It is important to note that no relevant new actions have been taken during the last year on federal level: Canada's Emission Trends 2013 contain the same list of policies as the report from 2012 (Partington 2013). Nevertheless, Canada has various policies in place to reduce emissions. Standards for light and heavy duty vehicles and the Federal Emissions Performance Standard for coal-fired electricity generation are aligned with regulations in the US. The standard for coal-fired power plants only applies to new power plants, and therefore implies no significant change against business as usual given the current situation of low gas prices. The second phase of the light duty vehicle standards, however, does have potential to reduce emissions. Furthermore, there are some promising activities on province level, especially Ontario's decision to phase out coal-fired power plants by 2014.

Date of pledge: January 2010

Assumptions

Pledge

Targets for 2020 were calculated from the most recent national inventory submissions (2012). We calculated Canada's LULUCF accounting quantities in 2020 for afforestation, reforestation and deforestation using the current Kyoto rules, and used a net-net approach with a projected reference level for 2013-2020 for forest management.

Current trend

We used the most recent GHG inventory for historic data (CRF 2013) and applied growth rates from projections from Environment Canada for projections for the current trends.

Sources

CRF (2013). UNFCCC AWG-KP Submissions 2013. Common Reporting Format.

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Government of Canada (2010). Canada's pledge to the Copenhagen Accord. Compiled in: Compilation of economy-wide emission reduction targets to be implemented by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention, UNFCCC (2011).

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