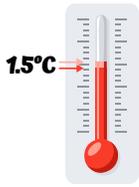


Working Together to Combat Climate Change



1.5°C This might not seem like a very big number, but for our climate, it is! Climate scientists from around the world agree that if global annual temperatures get any higher than 1.5°C, we'll see major changes to our climate that will negatively impact all life on Earth¹! What is causing our temperatures to rise? We are. It's the direct result of all of our actions and activities that release carbon and other greenhouse gases (GHGs) into the atmosphere. The good news is that there are many actions that we can all take to help protect life on Earth from the negative impacts of climate change.

A Bold Commitment to Reduce Emissions by 2030



In 2015, Canada joined 196 countries to sign the Paris Agreement. This was a BIG win in the fight against climate change because it meant all 196 countries committed to reducing their GHG emissions. As part of the Paris Agreement, each country needed to set a goal for the amount of emissions they would aim to cut by a certain year.

Canada has specifically committed to reducing its GHG emissions by at least 40% by the year 2030². Canada will be looking at making more energy-efficient homes and buildings, investing in clean power and transportation, and encouraging more businesses to make low-carbon goods and services. Plus, they're going to plant 2 billion trees.

These are just a few of the items in the federal government's climate action plan. You can learn more by reading [A Healthy Environment and a Healthy Economy](#), but you might want to have an adult nearby to help you if you have any questions.



Net-Zero Emissions by 2050

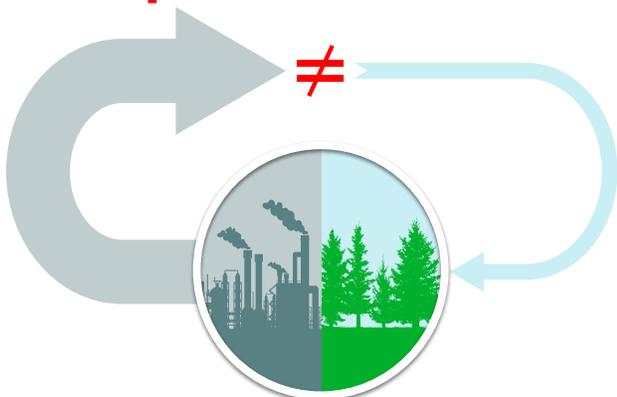
The Paris Agreement is just one part of the federal government's plan to fight climate change. They've also set a goal of reaching net-zero emissions by 2050.

What does 'net-zero emissions' mean?

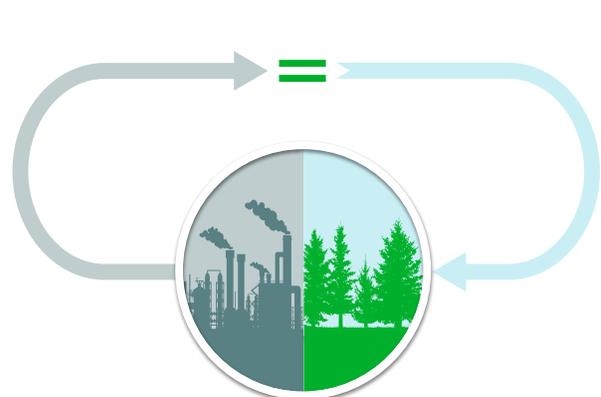
When you add up all the emissions we release into the atmosphere, then subtract the emissions we remove, it should be zero. That's right. We can remove emissions from the atmosphere!

Remember how the federal government plans to plant 2 billion trees as part of its climate action plan? Trees and plants are really good at absorbing, or sequestering, carbon (a big-time GHG). This will go a long way to helping Canada reach its net-zero goal, and we need it. Right now, Canada emits more GHGs than we sequester, making us net-positive in terms of emissions.

Net **positive** emissions



Net **zero** emissions



Sources:

¹ [Special Report: Global Warming of 1.5C. 2018](#)

² [Prime Minister Trudeau announces increased climate ambition. April 22, 2021](#)