



## DID YOU KNOW?

The global “carbon budget” is the total greenhouse gasses (GHGs) that can be emitted before warming would increase more than 1.5°C above the pre-industrial level. The carbon budget<sup>1</sup> for a 67% chance of holding warming to 1.5°C was, as of March 22, 2021: 285 Gigatonnes (Gt).

WORLD CARBON BUDGET  
**285 Gt**

Canada unfairly pollutes much more than its population should account for. With Canada’s population about .5% of world population, Canada’s “equal shares” portion of the global carbon budget would be .5% of 285 Gt: 1.4 Gt. In actuality, Canada emits about 1.6% of global GHGs. The “current shares” portion of the global carbon budget would be 1.6% of 285 Gt: 4.6 Gt. Canada’s “fair share” of the carbon budget would be even less than the “equal shares” budget, to compensate for historically high emissions.

CANADA'S EQUAL SHARE BUDGET  
**1.4 Gt**

CANADA'S CURRENT SHARE BUDGET  
**4.6 Gt**

Canada has committed to net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. If there is a straight-line decline from current emissions of about 705 Megatonnes (Mt)/year to net-zero in 29 years, Canada will emit 10.2 Gt. That’s more than twice its “current shares” budget and over seven times its “equal shares” budget.

STRAIGHT LINE DECLINE TO 2050  
**10.2 Gt**

Canada’s weak 2030 target is 511 Mt/year; that’s above a straight-line decline! The Auditors General say Canada will miss that weak target<sup>2</sup>; we’re heading for emitting 577 Mt in 2030<sup>3</sup>. “Meeting Canada’s 2030 target will require substantial effort and actions beyond those currently planned or in place” (Auditors General, 2018)<sup>4</sup>.

On a straight-line decline, to stay within the “current shares” carbon budget, Canada would need to be net-zero in the year 2034.



## Canada’s per capita carbon budget:

The per capita share of the “equal shares” budget (285 Gt/7.5 billion people) would be: 38 t.

Looking at individual Canadians, 37.5 million people sharing Canada’s “current shares” budget of 4.6 Gt yields, per person: 123 tonnes (t)

Each Canadian, then, should only emit 38 tonnes of greenhouse gasses before we’ve transitioned completely to a post-carbon economy.

Canadian per capita emissions average about 20 t per year<sup>5</sup> (which includes 5 t from oil and gas mining and refining). At that rate, we’ll burn through the remaining “equal shares” budget in just two years. Then, we’ll be spending other people’s carbon budget and seriously degrading the prospects for the continuance of societies, as we know them, on the planet.



## WHAT CAN WE DO?

### Join the climate justice movement:

- Call for much stronger GHG reduction targets
- Call for yearly review and binding mechanisms to ensure government compliance
- Call for an end to fossil fuel subsidies
- Call for an immediate halt to the Coastal Gas Link LNG and Canadian Government TMX pipelines
- Call for a strong *Just Transition Act*
- Unprecedented climate activism means politicians are finally paying attention. Support the Indigenous-led resistance to expanding fossil fuel infrastructure.



### Talk about climate change:

- Talk with friends and family about climate change and share on social media; these can be powerful ways to raise awareness and create political pressure for change.
- Share good new stories. Share climate related art, music, dance, and literature.
- Connect with others. We're in a huge transformation, moving on equity, racism, Indigenous rights, and ecological integrity.



## TAKE ACTION NOW!

- *Communicate about climate change*
- *Encourage decision makers to take action*
- *Get involved with community initiatives*



### REFERENCES:

- <https://www.mcc-berlin.net/en/research/co2-budget.html>
- [https://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/parl\\_otp\\_201803\\_e\\_42883.html](https://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/parl_otp_201803_e_42883.html)
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- <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/climate-change/greenhouse-gas-emissions/sources-sinks-executive-summary-2020.html>

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