

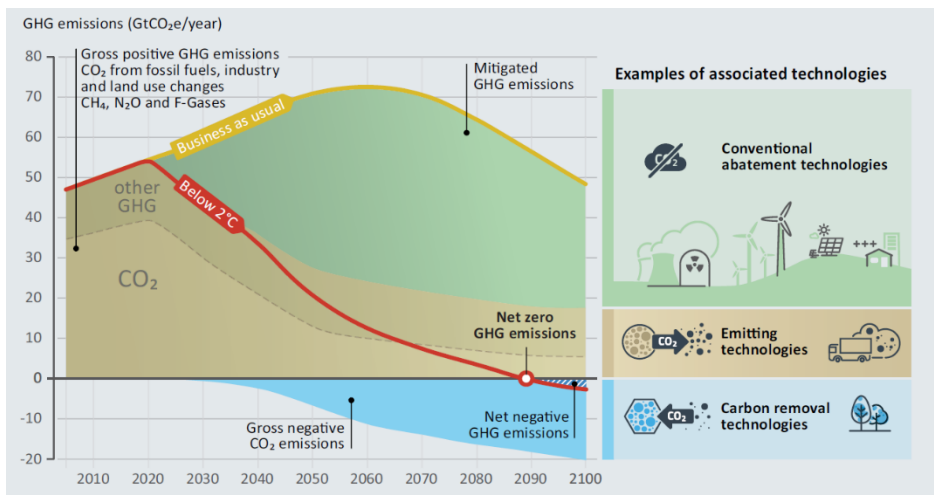
Canadian Climate Policy in the Headwinds: Can we still achieve Net Zero? Lecture Notes, September 30, 2022

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- Climate Change is NOT a “slow-moving crisis”

<h4 style="color: #e67e22;">Ecological impacts are intensifying</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Changes to hydrological cycle as glaciers retreat - water availability and quality + Up to 50% of species migrating to poles or higher elevations + Large-scale species loss due to high temps, drought, land changes + Loss of ocean life due to warmer temps, acidification + Loss of tree cover 	<h4 style="color: #e67e22;">Economic Costs are mounting</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Damages to climate-exposed sectors: agriculture, fishery, forestry, tourism, etc. + Declining <u>labour</u> productivity + Damages to infrastructure, settlements, homes + Increased demand for energy 	<h4 style="color: #e67e22;">Human costs are escalating</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Mortality from extreme heat events + Food and water-borne diseases + Infectious diseases + Increased food and water insecurity → migration + Respiratory illness and mortality increasing + Mental health impacts
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- ‘Net Zero’ is not ‘Real Zero’



- Canada’s climate policy approach:

Carbon pricing

Large-scale green investments

- + Infrastructure, e.g., public transit
- + Technology, e.g., electrification, hydrogen, carbon capture

Regulation of specific pollutants, e.g., vehicle emissions, methane
Strengthened legal frameworks, e.g., *Net Zero Emissions Accountability Act*
International cooperation

- Four Headwinds:

Economic fallout, government debt
Rise of affective polarization, “us vs. them” mentality
Complicated Canada-US Relations
Geopolitical tensions (War in Ukraine, Chinese imperialism)

- Four Tailwinds... gaining strength?:

Green technologies (e.g., electrification) are spreading
Youth climate activism is becoming firmly entrenched
Indigenous environmental knowledge offers solutions
Scientific consensus is broad and deep

- Call to Action!

Get trustworthy sources of information
Engage politically - speak out, question political officials (and make them answer), vote!
Think about what you can do in your own life to recognize ecological limits

A few sources of information:

Sam Fankhauser et al. (2022), “The meaning of Net Zero and how to get it right” *Nature Climate Change*, 12, pp.15-21. Available at: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41558-021-01245-w>

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IISD (2021), “Canadian Youth Look to Move Mountains for the Climate Crisis”
<https://www.iisd.org/articles/canadian-youth-climate-crisis>

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Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2021), *AR6 – Working Group II Report. Summary for Policy Makers*.
https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGII_SummaryForPolicymakers.pdf

Jessica Zheng (2021), "Not so nice after all: Growing polarization in Canadian politics" *Blog: Democratic Erosion*, posted May 12. Available at: <https://www.democratic-erosion.com/2021/05/12/not-so-nice-after-all-growing-polarization-in-canadian-politics/>