CITIZEN DIALOGUES
ON CANADA’S ENERGY FUTURE

Getting to 2050
> Citizen Recommendations
About Aut

Why a Citizens’ Dialogue on Canada’s Energy Future?

Energy has the most profound implications in each of our lives and those of the people who surround us, from heating our homes, to creating jobs, to producing emissions that alter our environment. When we talk about energy we talk about our way of life, our identity as a people, and our hopes and fears for the future that our children will inherit.

When grappling with a complex and profound question like the future of energy, all too often we shout at each other instead of speaking with each other. We are separated by vast geographical distances and it can be challenging to imagine what it is like to be from a place we may never have even visited.

The Citizen Dialogues on Canada’s Energy Future marks the first time ever that randomly selected citizens met and deliberated across Canada to advise the federal government on energy policy. Coming from different hometowns, perspectives and backgrounds, these participants sat down at the same table to learn about each other’s lives, ideas and aspirations.

Together, participants created recommendations to help inform Canada’s energy future, supported by the best evidence-based information available and the spirit of curiosity. They worked hard to imagine themselves in the shoes of their elected representatives with all the constraints and trade-offs this entails. In doing so, the participants provided a critical reference point for government to understand the values and interests of citizens in future policy decisions.

About the SFU Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue

Simon Fraser University’s Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue seeks to foster understanding and positive action through dialogue and engagement, working across sectors and borders to support communities locally, nationally and internationally. As a trusted convener, we create a space for respectful conversations between diverse stakeholders, where mutual curiosity and collaborative inquiry act as alternatives to adversarial approaches.

About this document

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the results from the Citizen Dialogues on Canada’s Energy Future launched in September 2017 and culminating in a pan-Canadian Dialogue in Winnipeg in October 2017. The contents do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Simon Fraser University, Natural Resources Canada or the authors.

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Building on the results of five regional dialogues, 35 of these citizens met in Winnipeg to develop a plan they could all support. This report summarizes the results of their efforts. For the final technical report and further project details, visit www.canadaenergyfuture.ca

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Who Participated in the Dialogues?


Participants were recruited in a two-stage process. First, random digit dialing was used to create a pool of almost 4,000 interested Canadians. Second, the final 145 participants were selected from this pool to reflect the diversity of Canadians. The selection criteria included geographic representation, demographic information, and attitudinal diversity as determined through a baseline public opinion poll. A minimum of two participants were recruited from each province and territory for the regional dialogues, with at least one participant from each province and territory attending the pan-Canadian dialogue. Tables 1-5 show how participants at the regional and pan-Canadian dialogues reflected diversity among Canadians at large.1

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1 Due to a last-minute participant cancellation, only one individual from Nunavut attended the Toronto dialogue.
2 For a description of the full participant recruitment methodology, results for all 15 selection criteria and breakdown by regional dialogues, see the report by Forum Research, which is publicly available at www.canadaenergyfuture.ca. Note that due to the small sample size of each of the dialogues, unplanned participant attrition and the interaction among various criteria, it is not possible to recruit a group of participants who match Canadian population data 1:1.
3 Note: For the regional dialogues, participants were sampled to reflect the geography of the provinces and territories covered at each session rather than the national population figures. For a detailed geographic breakdown of each regional dialogue, see the report by Forum Research available at www.canadaenergyfuture.ca.
Regional Dialogues

The five regional dialogues produced substantial agreement on elements of Canada’s energy future. Most participants support an energy transition that results in a cleaner and healthier natural environment or reduces greenhouse gas emissions, with 42 out of 61 proposed actions explicitly supporting these goals, and nine additional actions involving infrastructure or information that would likely support such a transition. Governance, clean tech innovation, incentives, regulations, infrastructure investments and addressing impacts for Canadians were the dominant themes raised by participants.

Over the course of each regional dialogue, participants:

1. Received a discussion guide in the mail to learn about energy issues.
2. Explored how energy impacts their lives and the lives of other Canadians.
3. Reviewed evidence-based information about Canada’s energy profile and explored diverse perspectives about potential approaches to Canada’s energy future.
4. Developed potential visions for Canada’s energy future and voted on the criteria that should guide Canadians in shaping this energy future.
5. Worked in small groups to recommend three key actions to create an energy future that is in the best interest of Canada as a whole.

For more detailed results from the regional sessions, see the survey data on pp. 16–19 as well as the Regional Summary Report available at www.canadaenergyfuture.ca
At the pan-Canadian dialogue in Winnipeg participants reached consensus on the following principles to guide Canada’s Energy Future:

**Principle #1**

Canadians seek an energy future by 2050 that achieves a more sustainable and clean environment while continuing to provide employment and affordable energy. Effective and transparent government, as well as innovation, will help to enable this transition.

**Principle #2**

We believe that by being among the leading countries and implementing lessons from abroad we will inspire international action to address climate change, and will ensure that Canada is competitive in tomorrow’s energy economy. We are willing to accept the risks of taking measured steps to reduce greenhouse gases.

**Principle #3**

The urgency to transition our energy economy is paired with an urgency to support fossil fuel producing communities during this transition, and to mitigate impacts on those most affected including: low-income peoples, rural areas, northern communities and trade-exposed industries.

**Principle #4**

The federal government should play a leadership role in partnership with provinces, territories, indigenous peoples, local government and citizens in shaping and advancing a shared Canadian vision for energy. The use of independent, non-partisan agencies will ensure that government programs are effective, evidence-based and efficient. This will increase continuity beyond election cycles, hold governments to account, and inspire public confidence.

**Principle #5**

A successful and timely energy transition requires both immediate action using available technologies, as well as research and development to reduce long-term costs and impacts. This process should include learning and evaluation to focus efforts on those solutions that show the most promise at any point in time.
**Citizens’ top 5 criteria to shape decisions on Canada’s energy future:**

1. Sustainable & clean environment
2. Effective & transparent government
3. Innovation
4. Jobs
5. Affordability

Note: The order in which pillars and sub-actions are presented does not indicate priority.
Recommendations

CITIZEN DIALOGUES
ON CANADA’S ENERGY FUTURE

Building on the outcomes of the regional dialogues, participants reached agreement on recommendations for Canada’s energy future:

1. The Federal government, in partnership with provincial, territorial, local and Indigenous governments will develop a National Energy Plan – a well-communicated Pan-Canadian vision to guide Canada’s transition to an energy future that achieves a more sustainable and clean environment, while continuing to provide employment and affordable energy.

2. An independent, non-partisan body will be set up to provide oversight. Appointments to this body will be based on merit and competence. It will have a legal foundation and its orientation will be to preserve Canada’s long-term commitments.

3. This plan has four pillars: 7
   a. A Transition Plan for Vulnerable Communities. The transition plan will be developed in consultation with affected communities that include remote and Northern communities and fossil fuel dependent communities. Attention will be focused on vulnerable people, sectors and small businesses. The transition plan should address economic development, job retraining, community self-sufficiency and long-term energy access and affordability.
   b. Investment in Infrastructure. Four key investments are essential to ensure Canada’s energy accessibility and security, increase international competitiveness and modernize our transportation system. These include:
      i. A two-way electric grid from coast-to-coast-to-coast that includes distributed energy
      ii. An EV Highway with high-speed electric charging stations
      iii. A high-speed rail system
      iv. Value-added oil and gas production and distribution, including pipelines
   c. Incentives to Support Clean Technology and Clean Energy. Innovation is key to Canada’s energy future and global competitiveness. It is also key to supporting citizens, consumers, businesses and communities to take action. Incentives will be designed to support the greening of conventional energy, the development of renewable and alternative energy sources, energy efficiency in buildings and residences and other innovative technologies that reduce GHG emissions.
   d. Regulations. Regulations that provide strict standards with clear accountability and enforcement is key to creating healthy and livable communities and protecting our environment and resources for future generations. Regulations that reduce GHGs, target polluters, safeguard our health and protect our natural environment and wildlife, must be accompanied by monitoring and enforcement.

4. There are two key enablers that will ensure that the plan is implemented:
   i. Education and Engagement. Canadians need to be well-informed and fully engaged in the energy transition. Curriculum for K–12 and post-secondary needs to evolve to provide the educational foundation for the transition. Young people need to be trained for the future labour market, mature workers need retraining and education and remote communities need to understand their energy options.
   ii. Resources. Participants recognize their recommended actions require financial resources and are willing to contribute their share. They highlighted funding mechanisms that:
      • Raise revenue from the private sector in addition to existing government funds
      • Ensure all new revenue is spent directly on supporting the energy transition
      • Follow a polluter-pays principle
      • Mitigate cost impacts on vulnerable individuals and sectors
      • Ensure full transparency of cost impacts and spending decisions

In their exit surveys, 50% of participants expressed a clear willingness to contribute a share of their income toward the transition to clean energy, compared to 16% clearly opposed. Eighty-eight percent supported “a carbon price that grows progressively higher […] to discourage GHG emissions” (9% opposed).

Participant Perspectives on Pipelines

The final participant recommendations include a specific mention of pipelines in the context of infrastructure investments to support greener, value-added oil and gas products. However, participants had differing views on what this consensus statement meant and what the appropriate role for pipelines should be. Participants also expressed sometimes conflicting desires related to pipelines and oil and gas production in their exit surveys, which may reflect the reality that there was limited ability to work through information and trade-offs related to pipelines in the context of the larger dialogue. In the exit surveys, 63% percent of participants expressed support for the idea of “diversify[ing] oil and gas export markets […] by building new infrastructure such as pipelines” compared to 29% opposed. On the other hand, only 45% of participants supported “ban[ning] new investments in the extraction and movement of fossil fuels, compared to 37% opposed to such a ban. 40% supported “maximizing the development of oil and gas reserves” compared to 46% opposed.

7 The order in which pillars and sub-actions are presented does not indicate priority.
Participants explored a number of trade-offs that Canada faces when it comes to shaping its energy future, such as questions around speed, costs, jurisdiction and international leadership. Exit survey results demonstrate clear preferences by the majority of participants on how to balance several trade-offs, including: a desire for federal leadership in collaboration with other levels of government; a willingness to shoulder direct financial impacts to support the transition to clean energy; a belief that action is necessary to limit climate change to a 1.5 degree temperature increase; a desire to lead by example on climate action internationally; and a preference to take action using present-day technologies rather than depending on new technologies that may or may not emerge.

Trade-offs

Trade-off 1: Leadership, Collaboration & Jurisdiction

The federal government should take leadership in collaboration with other levels of government & communities to create a national energy plan.

Trade-off 2: Paying for the Transition

I don't want to pay any additional taxes or fees to transition to clean energy.

Trade-off 3: Environmental & Health Impacts of Climate Change

I am willing to accept the environmental & health impacts of burning fossil fuels & emitting green house gases (GHGs).

Trade-off 4: Creating Certainty & Taking Risks

I want to ensure that we have studied critical energy issues and are certain of what we should do before we act.

Trade-off 5: Impacts on Fossil-Fuel Dependent Communities

I am not willing to accept that fossil fuel dependent communities & sectors will suffer economic hardship & job loss caused by a rapid transition to clean energy.

Trade-off 6: Pace of Transition

If we move towards low-carbon energy options, it must be a careful & gradual transition.

Trade-off 7: Canada's Global Role & Impact

We are only 2% of the GHG global problem & we need to wait for large emitters before we act.

Trade-off 8: Viability of Technology Solutions

I trust that technologies will evolve to solve the GHG problem in time.
Table 6: Participants’ Support for Actions to Shape the Future of Energy in Canada

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Invest in research and development of low-carbon technologies and provide incentives for innovation and low-carbon energy start-ups</strong></td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Support local power production for Indigenous peoples and rural communities to promote energy sovereignty and create economic opportunities</strong></td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fund strategic national infrastructure projects such as building out the east-west electricity grid and electric vehicle charging stations</strong></td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subsidize and support the early adoption of low-carbon technologies, for example, through electric vehicle rebates and green bonds</strong></td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Create a jobs program with a focus on equity and retraining for the low-carbon economy</strong></td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Invest in liveable cities through expanded public transit, shared energy systems and people-centered urban planning</strong></td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>97%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Table 6 continued: Participants’ Support for Actions to Shape the Future of Energy in Canada

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Provide financing to retrofit existing homes and buildings for energy efficiency</strong></td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Set progressively stronger energy efficiency standards for vehicles, appliances and buildings</strong></td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Use revenues from oil and gas to invest in a prosperity fund for future generations or to pay for the transition to a low-carbon economy</strong></td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Set progressively stronger greenhouse gas emissions intensity standards for the energy sector and other industrial sectors (e.g. emissions per barrel of oil produced)</strong></td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Finance research into potential new technologies that remove existing greenhouse gasses from the atmosphere to make products such as carbon neutral cement</strong></td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Institute a carbon price that grows progressively higher in order to discourage greenhouse gas emissions</strong></td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Citizens were asked to indicate their personal attitudes towards a list of possible actions in exit surveys. Table 6 lists results from all six dialogue sessions, sorted by the level of support expressed by participants of the pan-Canadian dialogue.
## Table 6 continued: Participants’ Support for Actions to Shape the Future of Energy in Canada

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mandate hard greenhouse gas emissions caps on the energy sector and other industrial sectors</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invest in carbon capture and storage and other technologies that allow the use of fossil fuels to continue with far fewer emissions than we see today</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandate rapid and legally binding caps on Canada’s greenhouse gas emissions</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase out industries with the highest greenhouse gas emissions</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remove subsidies on fossil fuels to ensure a level playing field for all industries and technologies</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diversify oil and gas export markets beyond the US to Asia and beyond by building new infrastructure such as pipelines</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximize the export of uranium and Canada nuclear technology</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### Support for Possible Actions

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monitor compliance toward domestic and international climate obligations but don’t lock into costly choices until our close trading partners do the same</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ban new investments in the extraction and movement of fossil fuels</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintain fossil fuel subsidies to keep Canada’s oil and gas industry competitive</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximize the development of oil and gas reserves</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>