

would have to be reduced by more than half to achieve the long-term objective of stabilizing the atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide, insofar as that concentration is a function of human activity. Given that commercial energy use in developing countries today is often at extremely low levels and that these countries will experience substantial increases in future energy use as part of their efforts to raise levels of economic activity and improve standards of living, it is incumbent on undustrialized countries like Canada to make even greater reductions in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to offset increases that will occur in most developing countries. Longer-term targets for even lower emissions in Canada are therefore necessary. The May 1990 Bergen Conference report, entitled *Action for a Common Future*, observes that a reduction of 60–80% in current CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is ultimately required. A 50% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by the year 2020, compared with the level of 1988 emissions, has been discussed as a second-phase target for Canada; the Committee believes that the federal government should seriously consider adopting this longer-term target.

- 2. The Committee recommends that the Toronto target of a 20% reduction in human-sourced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by the year 2005, compared to the 1988 level of emissions, be adopted by the federal government as its minimum interim objective in reducing Canadian CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.**
- 3. Among other initiatives, the Committee recommends that Canada adopt the target of reducing the intensity of energy use in the Canadian economy by 2% annually, until our emissions of carbon dioxide are reduced to a level which does not contribute to the further accumulation of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere.**

Although there is not a strict one-to-one correspondence between the intensity of energy use in Canada and emissions of carbon dioxide, the Committee's research indicates that the relationship is strong. When the other policy elements of fuel substitution and technological improvements in carbon-fuel use are added to this objective of using energy with increasing efficiency in the Canadian economy, the relationship between energy intensity and carbon dioxide emissions could be substantially improved upon.

If Canadians are going to accept far-reaching changes in the patterns of energy use that policies to combat global climate change will require over time, they must be well informed about the need for these changes and the benefits that can accrue from such policies. Communicating information to the public is a vital element of federal policy-making. But public information and education are not ends in themselves. The Committee has noted that public opinion is often well in advance of government policy. A better informed populace can become a strong advocate of new policy and can pressure governments to make changes that they might otherwise be reluctant to carry forward.