

The Canadian Nuclear Industry

“Nuclear Power accounted for the greater part of the lowering of carbon intensity of the energy economies of the OECD countries over the last 25 years.”
*Executive Director
 International Energy Agency
 of the OECD, 1997*

Economic Benefits through Industrial Innovation

According to an Ernst and Young study in 1993, the Canadian nuclear industry has produced substantial economic benefits for Canada. The industry directly employs 26,000 people,

“Canada needs irradiation facilities of its own to provide support for the needs of the power reactor industry, supplying energy to industrial and domestic customers.”

“The Needs and Options Study of Irradiation Requirements in Canada” by R.D. Page and J.E.S. Stevens (COG-91-148) 1991

contributes a \$6 billion annual stimulus to Canada's gross domestic product and, in 1996, produced Canada's single-largest (\$2 billion) export order.

At the same time, CANDUs have provided a safe and reliable source of electricity to industry and to the populations of three Canadian provinces, while also contributing through exports to the strength of the Canadian economy. Domestic CANDUs produce more than 50 per cent of Ontario's electricity, and 17 per cent nation-wide.

Nuclear Energy—Key to Climate Change Initiatives

Nuclear energy contributes to air quality by displacing fossil fuel burning. CANDU power reactors provide safe, clean, environmentally-sound electricity on four continents.



In Canada, by partially replacing fossil fuel with CANDU nuclear power, the Canadian nuclear industry has avoided the release of more than one billion tonnes of carbon dioxide into the environment. With the Kyoto Accord in 1997, continuing availability of an electricity generator such as CANDU—which does not produce greenhouse gases—is of critical strategic importance.

C A N D U C h r o n o l o g i c a l

1945	1947	1957	1962	1973
The ZEEP research reactor at Chalk River sustains the first controlled nuclear chain reaction outside the U.S.A.	The NRX research reactor begins operation—the most powerful reactor of its time.	The NRU research reactor starts up.	The Province of Ontario receives nuclear-generated electricity for the first time from the NPD station at Rolphton.	The Pickering station is completed, producing more electricity than any nuclear power station in the world at that time.