

Canada's Energy - Related Environmental Commitments

Acid Rain

In 1985 the federal government committed itself to a comprehensive program, the Canadian Acid Rain Control Program. The plan's objective was to work with industries and the governments of the seven eastern-most provinces to reduce sulphur dioxide emissions to 50% of 1980 levels by 1994. This target will be met.

In the Green Plan the federal government committed to renegotiating agreements with the seven eastern provinces to cap SO₂ emissions at 1994 levels until the year 2000.

The Green Plan further committed the country to a permanent national cap of 3.2 million tonnes of SO₂ by the year 2000.

Urban Smog

The federal government has set a maximum acceptable concentration for ground level ozone (urban smog) of 82 parts per billion. A comprehensive, ten-year federal-provincial plan has been developed to address the problem of NO_x and VOC emissions, which lead to the formation of smog. The objective of the plan is to reduce NO_x and VOC emissions in problem areas by 40% by the year 2000, and to ensure that all of Canada's smog problems are fully solved by 2005.

Global Climate Change

Canada has pledged to stabilize emissions of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases not covered by the Montreal Protocol (which deals with CFCs) at 1990 levels by the year 2000.