**Canadian energy policy: challenges to meeting the 2050 greenhouse gas emissions reduction target**

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# Abstract

To achieve its goal of ‘net zero’ carbon emissions by 2050, Canada needs consistent energy and environment policies that dramatically decrease the consumption of fossil fuel, phase out coal plants, increase reliance on renewable energy, improve energy efficiency, and promote use of electric vehicles. Since some 82% of Canada’s greenhouse gas emissions come from energy, environmental policies need to be focused primarily on energy. The challenges of transitioning to net zero are enormous, but they also provide opportunities for Canada to create new technologies, industries, and employment in the energy sector. Our study examines the policy options, economic solutions, and short-term goals that Canada might need to implement to achieve its 2050 target. Although our study focuses primarily on national environmental and energy policies and their potential impacts, we also examine the impact that such policies would have on the agricultural sector.

**Key words**: Energy policy; electricity; renewable energy; climate change; agriculture