
NEWS RELEASE



Government of Canada announces \$9.6 million for climate change projects

Ottawa, November 16, 1999 – A number of innovative new projects will enable individual Canadians, researchers and businesses across the country to better understand their role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the challenge of climate change. Environment Minister David Anderson and Natural Resources Canada Minister Ralph Goodale today announced funding of \$9.6 million for 59 projects under the Government of Canada's Climate Change Action Fund (CCAF). Projects will focus on Public Education and Outreach (PEO); Technology Early Action Measures (TEAM); and Science, Impacts and Adaptation (SIA).

Helping Canadians to take action at home, at work and on the road is the focus of 33 Public Education or PEO projects for which \$4.1 million is being committed. Projects range from home energy audits to educational support materials for elementary and secondary school teachers, to programs for retailers, employers, farmers and foresters. In support of these community-based initiatives both Ministers also unveiled a new climate change newspaper insert aimed at consumers that will be delivered to Canadian homes this coming weekend.

The technological opportunities associated with addressing climate change were also highlighted in the CCAF contribution of \$3.7 million to Canadian industries for six technology TEAM projects. Through TEAM the Government of Canada helps industry develop and deploy cost-effective new technologies that may lead to significant greenhouse gas reductions. The initiatives announced today range from an innovative test that involves injecting carbon dioxide deep into Alberta coal beds to the development of 'green diesel' in Ontario.

Ministers also underscored the important role science and research plays in more fully understanding the climate system, the impacts of climate change and the global need to respond and adapt by also announcing funding of \$1.8 million for 20 Science, Impacts and Adaptation projects. Universities from coast to coast will be involved in some of these science projects.

“Tackling the climate change issue requires the involvement and cooperation of every Canadian,” said Minister Anderson. “The implications for our environment, our health and our lifestyles could be dramatic unless individuals, governments, businesses and the scientific community work together towards the common goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change.”

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“We are going to see dual benefits from taking up the climate change challenge -- an improved environment and economic opportunities from the solutions we devise,” said Minister Goodale. “Canadian companies are creating jobs at home by bringing world-class innovative technology to the international marketplace and our researchers are at the forefront of investigating climate change, its impacts and ways to adapt.”

The three-year \$150 million CCAF was introduced in the 1998-99 federal budget and is built into the existing fiscal framework. To date, the Government of Canada, through the CCAF, has committed nearly \$74.9 million to 234 CCAF projects.

This initiative is part of the Government of Canada’s commitment to strengthen environmental protection, protect human health and ensure that we maintain and enhance the quality of life for all Canadians as outlined in the 1999 Speech from the Throne.

- 30 -

For more information, members of the media may contact:

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Backgrounders on these projects and on the Climate Change Action Fund are available on the Government of Canada climate change Web site at <http://www.climatechange.gc.ca>

(Également offert en français)