

SCAN! Report

Overview

The Liberal Climate Action Formula - A Recipe for Failure "The Healthy Environment and a Healthy Economy"

In December 2020, the government released its report, "The Healthy Environment and a Healthy Economy" claiming that its programs and initiatives would result in Canada's exceeding its Paris Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission reduction targets. "The Liberal Climate Action Formula: A Recipe for Failure", a report by SCAN! provides a critical assessment of the federal government's "strengthened climate plan".

The SCAN! report argues that after failing to meet the last nine climate targets, we will not attain the most important one, Paris 2030. The report reviews a number of the government's most prominent programs:

- home retrofits
- zero emission vehicles
- tree planting

These initiatives are:

- too little too late
- not ambitious enough
- suffer from poor conception and design
- decoupled from the actual goal of reducing GHG emissions.

In reviewing the numbers and the modelling the government has provided, the SCAN! report suggests that achieving the emission reduction numbers in the climate plan will be more a product of what the government has called "accounting contributions" than actual GHG reductions.

Further shortfalls

In addition to some creative accounting, the government's plan is remarkable for its glaring omissions when it comes to support for clean renewables, such as solar energy and wind power.

The SCAN! report also reviews the government's carbon price system which is seriously flawed. In particular, the Output Based Pricing System (OBPS) is in place for the biggest emitters. There are 1700 large emitters, responsible for 40% of Canada's GHG. The system the government has crafted will allow too many of them to "game" the system, escaping their emission reduction responsibilities.

Fossil First vs. Climate First The SCAN! report argues that the so-called strengthened climate plan is more an economic plan whose goal is to throw a lifeline to the fossil fuel industry than a climate plan to address the climate emergency. The government is staking our future on its goal of becoming a fossil fuel hydrogen superpower. In a

remarkably short time, the hydrogen lobby has secured the political will to launch Canada on a multi-decade, misguided energy strategy.

The SCAN! report exposes and explores the "Fossil First" climate action formula that informs the Liberal Government's plan.

Here is the fossil first formula:

Carbon Pricing + Hydrogen + CCUS (carbon storage) + Nuclear = Paris 2030 and beyond.

In reviewing each element of the formula, the SCAN! report raises a number of troubling questions, concluding that we are on a path to climate failure. The federal government's plan for Canada's energy future is to preserve the reign of oil and gas for as long as possible, to develop fossil fuel hydrogen combined with carbon storage; and to promote the application of modular nuclear reactors. The price tag to the Canadian public will be astronomical and the cost to the planet immeasurable.

The government's plan ignores the seriousness of the climate emergency, the urgency with which we need to act. They risk pushing us past climate red lines.

The SCAN! report argues for a much different starting point. It presents a "Climate First" climate action formula.

Here is the Climate First formula:

Fossil Fuel Phase-out + Hard Caps + Renewables + Electrification = Paris 2030 and system change.

The choice is clear.