



# Your Forest in a Changing Climate 2022

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# Overview

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- Global carbon budget: the atmospheric bathtub and a world called net zero
- Pace of change
- Canadian and provincial context
- Multiple demands, opportunities
- Forest values
- Discussion

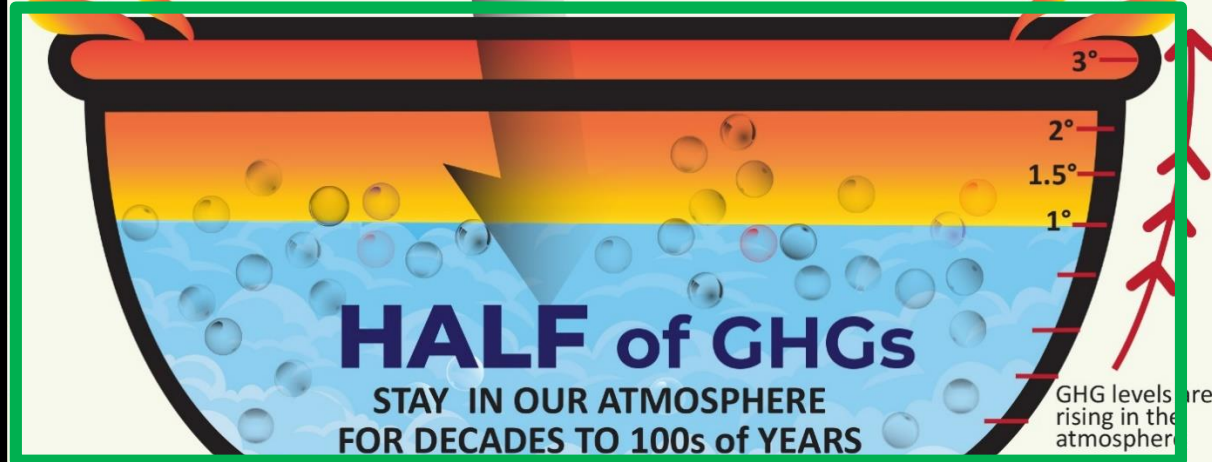
# Global carbon budget: The atmospheric bathtub and a world called net zero

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NET ZERO IS THE IDEA THAT WE STOP MAKING THINGS WORSE BY CUTTING CLIMATE ALTERING POLLUTION TO LEVELS NATURAL SYSTEMS CAN TAKE UP THROUGH THE CARBON CYCLE; WE ALSO NEED TO DRAW DOWN; NATURAL OR ENGINEERED?



Think of the atmosphere  
**Like a Bathtub**  
 It's filling up fast.



- Carbon Dioxide
- Methane
- Nitrous Oxide



What are the Solutions?

**Turn OFF the Tap**



**Widen the Drain**

Protect and grow healthy forests and soils



Louise Comeau, Stacy Howroyd for the Conservation Council of New Brunswick

# Because the global carbon budget is shrinking every tonne matters, including new Brunswick's

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UNEP EMISSIONS GAP REPORT 2021



DEEPER, FASTER CUTS ARE INEVITABLE

Government commitments (called Nationally Determined Contributions, NDCs)...only ...**take 7.5% off predicted 2030 greenhouse gas emissions**, compared to the 2015 Paris Agreement commitments.

Need **55 per cent global reductions in greenhouse gas emissions to avoid 1.5°C** global average warming

# Pace of climate action must quicken

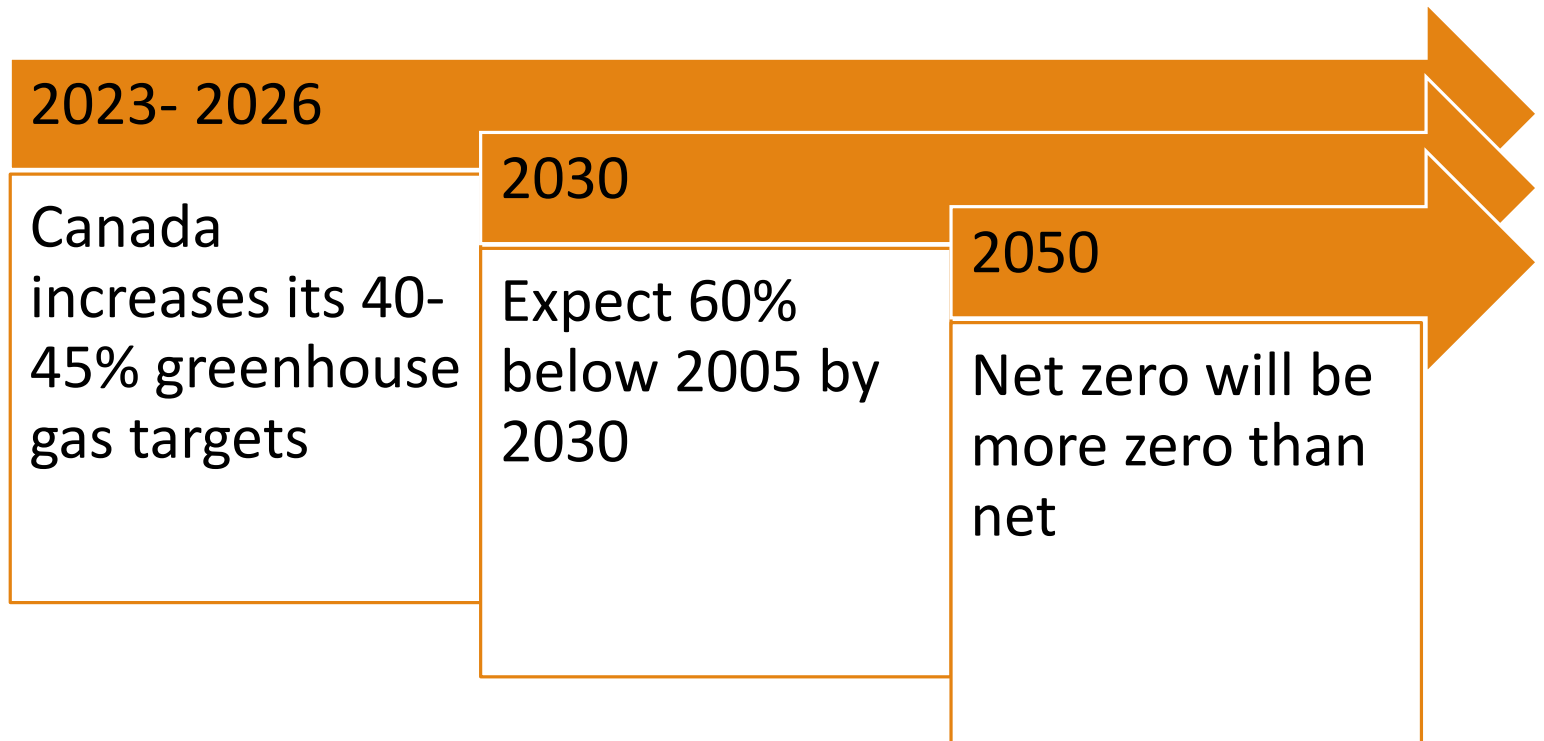
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BECAUSE THERE IS A GROWING UNDERSTANDING OF THE GLOBAL CARBON BUDGET

Pace of climate  
action is  
quickenning

## Prepare for Business Unusual

“Key to global carbon  
budget is to prevent  
emissions rather than  
compensating them,”  
(Trottier, Canadian Energy Outlook  
2021, p.196)



# Federal drivers that turn the tap

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1. Net zero homes building code by 2024 for 2025; all buildings net zero by 2050; EnerGuide labeling of buildings (Green Construction through Wood)
2. Rising price on carbon pollution (\$15t/year to \$170/t in 2030)
3. Coal phase-out “as swiftly as possible” and no later than 2030
4. Clean electricity standard to “achieve a net-zero clean electricity grid by 2035 and achieve 100% net zero emitting electricity future”; Advance Atlantic Loop
5. Regulated sales mandate of 50% of new light duty vehicles zero emissions by 2030; 100% non-emitting vehicle sales by 2035; 100% of medium-and-heavy-duty vehicles sales zero emission by 2040



# Federal drivers that turn the tap

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Province must comply with stronger federal regulations:

- Federal decision: no to Belledune equivalency agreement; coal phase-out by 2030
- Industrial emissions exposed to carbon pricing to increase each year
- Clean Fuel standard to drive demand for renewable biofuels, renewable gas
- Credit trading allows for offsets that neutralize industrial emissions

**Regulations apply regardless of where NB is on greenhouse gas target**

# Federal drivers that widen the drain

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## Nature-based solutions initiatives:

- Conserving 25% of land and oceans by 2025
- Conserving 30% of land and oceans by 2030
- 2 billion trees planted by 2030; NBFWO is participating
- Natural infrastructure solutions to adapt to climate change effects
- Establishing 10 new national parks and 10 new national marine conservation areas (NMCAs) in the next 5 years—doubling the size of the existing national parks and NMCA system in Canada.
- Establish at least one new national urban park in every province and territory, with a target of establishing 15 national urban parks by 2030.

# Federal, NB governments updating climate plans

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## NEW BRUNSWICK

Legislative hearings just finished

The public can submit thoughts on how to update the plan:

[https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/elg/environment/content/climate\\_change/content/action-plan-renewal.html](https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/elg/environment/content/climate_change/content/action-plan-renewal.html)

Please share your thoughts on three priorities from your point of view

## FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Must produce a plan that meets its new target and prepares for deeper targets in line with the global carbon budget

Shifting from fossil to bio and electricity driven economy

Indigenous reconciliation; nature protection agenda

# How to manage demands from multiple climate and biodiversity agendas?

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## • FEEDING THE BIO-ECONOMY:

- Wood pellets at Belledune or for heating buildings, district energy systems
- Biofuels, renewable gas for blending, own use
- Increased Wood content in construction
- Other wood products; non-timber forest products

## HOW TO PRIORITIZE?

- Carbon offsets that neutralize industrial emissions
- Conservation for Carbon sequestration
- Conservation for nature's sake; biodiversity

# Words of wisdom

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“Interesting times are coming. It’s not your grandfather’s forest.”

“Managing your woodlot in the way that we used to manage it isn’t necessarily going to bring the best return at this point in time.”

“Going to require a lot of change, not only in mindset, not only of landowners but also of personnel who make criteria and promote thinning criteria.”

“A matter of shifting your strategy toward climate change adaption versus maximizing softwood timber supply.”

Anne MacKnight, Gareth Davies



# All values can be respected in managing woodlots in ways that turn off the tap and widen the drain

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Keep in view:

- The need to stabilize and then drastically lower the levels of greenhouse gases in the atmospheric bathtub, while considering your management options.
- Lots of way to participate:
  - Nature protection-biodiversity; protecting natural systems for their own sake
  - Resource management for climate resilience
  - Responsible suppliers to the bio-economy

# Discussion

PLEASE GET IN TOUCH. WE ARE HAPPY TO TALK MORE ABOUT OUR RESEARCH AND OUR WORK. I HAVE MORE THAN 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE WORKING ON CLIMATE CHANGE AS AN EDUCATOR, RESEARCHER AND CAMPAIGNER

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