



Summary Report 2008-09

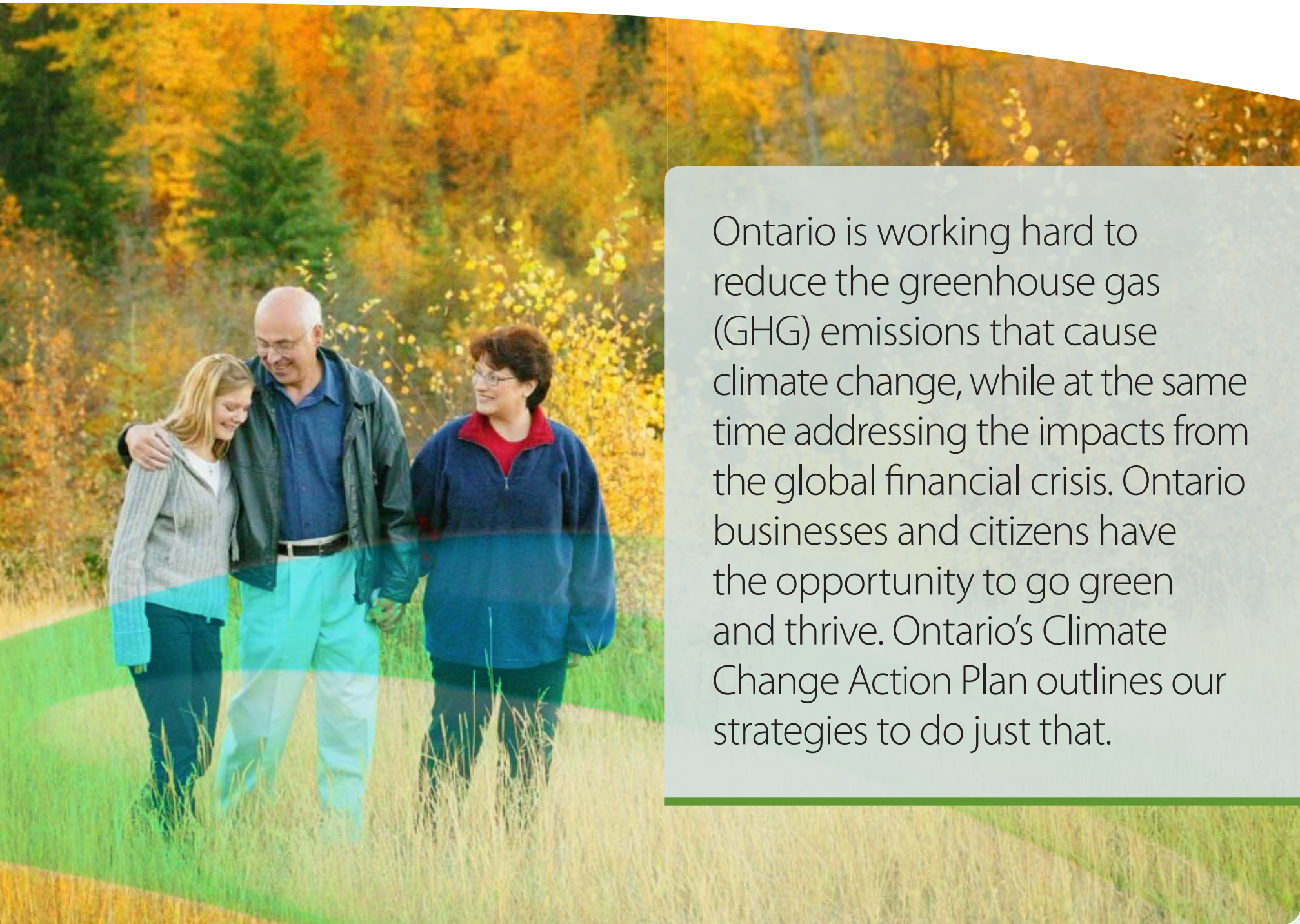
Climate Change **ACTION PLAN**



Protecting our environment.



Ontario



Ontario is working hard to reduce the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that cause climate change, while at the same time addressing the impacts from the global financial crisis. Ontario businesses and citizens have the opportunity to go green and thrive. Ontario's Climate Change Action Plan outlines our strategies to do just that.

We're making progress. Our plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions was launched by Premier Dalton McGuinty in June 2007.

Together, we're taking steps toward meeting the province's tough targets for reducing greenhouse gases:



Reaching our 2020 target means that by then, the environmental footprint of each Ontarian – from heating our homes, getting to work or school, washing our clothes or cutting the grass, will be about 10 tonnes: that may still sound like a lot, but in fact, it would be less than half of today's national average.

Better still, the investments we are making in clean energy and public transit are modernizing Ontario's economy and creating jobs and opportunity.

Climate change is not a future threat – it is here and now. Its effects will be felt much more dramatically by the next generation unless all of us – government, industry and individuals act together.

Ontario can't solve climate change on its own. But we can be a leader. That's why Ontario is working with governments and sectors at all levels. We want to do our part to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions within the next decade.

We can succeed. Our actions are working and by showing leadership we encourage others. Together, we can make the changes we need so that our grandchildren will know we seized the moment today to give them the tomorrow they deserve.

In this summary you can read about what Ontario has been doing in the past year to fight climate change. You can find out more about **Ontario's Climate Change Action Plan**, including our **Second Annual Report**, by visiting our website: www.ontario.ca/environment.

Ontario is committed to leadership on the environment and the economy

One of the ways government can demonstrate leadership is to get its own house in order. The Ontario government is one of the largest employers in the province with some 68,000 staff in ministries, agencies, boards and commissions. We have set targets for cutting greenhouse gases in government operations, as well as targets for cutting our use of paper, energy and travel. The lessons we learn will also be useful in promoting emission reduction efforts in Ontario schools, colleges, universities, long-term care homes, hospitals and justice facilities.

It's a journey. We still have a long way to go, but we have moved ahead since last year. We're working with other governments, locally, globally, and with you.



Green Energy

In May 2009, the Ontario Legislature passed the Green Energy Act. The new law is a key agent of change: it will spur the rapid development of clean, renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, hydro, biomass and biogas and help create a culture of conservation in Ontario.

The Green Energy Act will create as many as 50,000 direct and indirect jobs in its first three years. It will help our province bring in a 21st century infrastructure – a “smart” power grid to bring these renewable energy projects online.

It lays the groundwork for Ontario to develop and use new technologies such as electric cars.

And it includes an important “feed-in tariff” program, guaranteeing long-term, stable prices for renewable energy projects developed by businesses, farmers, co-ops and other organizations.

The new legislation will speed up changes that have already been taking place. In 2009, Ontario has reached installed capacity of more than 1,100 megawatts of electricity from wind, enough to supply 300,000 homes. That’s up from a mere 15 megawatts in 2003. Wind energy represents an ultra-clean source of power, since it emits no GHGs while in operation.

Ontario is the only jurisdiction in North America to have passed a regulation requiring a complete phase-out of coal-fired electricity. We have already cut emissions from coal-fired electricity generation by one-third and we are on track to a complete phase-out of coal by the end of 2014.

We took some important steps in 2009 to move us toward our goals. In September, we announced the early closure of four coal-fired power units in the coming year.



HOME ENERGY AUDIT SAVINGS PROGRAM

The Ontario Home Energy Savings program is an energy conservation program from the Government of Ontario. A Home Energy Audit shows you how your home uses energy and where it is being leaked. It identifies improvements you can make to your home’s heating, cooling, hot water heating and other energy uses that could result in hundreds of dollars in energy savings each year. The Government of Ontario will pay 50 per cent of your Home Energy Audit, up to \$150.

For information on getting started, booking your audit and getting a rebate, please visit: www.homeenergyontario.ca

For general inquiries and comments about the Ontario Home Energy Savings Program please call 1-888-668-4636.

MoveOntario 2020

The great transportation and transit transformation has begun.

Since its launch in 2007, MoveOntario 2020 has been gathering momentum. Over the next several years, Ontario will invest \$11.5 billion in public transit projects in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton area (GTHA). This is perhaps the most comprehensive environmental and economic overhaul ever of the way people in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Areas get around – a shift from high-carbon congested traffic to a low-carbon, train and transit-based infrastructure.

To implement these important changes, Metrolinx and GO Transit merged in 2009 and a new regulation to streamline assessments for transit projects came into force. Projects are moving forward through this process for a rail link between Toronto's Union Station and Pearson International Airport through Georgetown, and for other elements of the 902-kilometre MoveOntario plan.

Metrolinx estimates that its plans may reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Ontario by between 3.3 and 3.7 megatonnes per year by 2031 equivalent to about more than half a tonne for every person in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Areas.



Grow Green

Ontario's Greenbelt, and Places to Grow ...

The Southern Ontario Greenbelt Plan already protects 1.8 million acres of environmentally sensitive areas and farmland from development – an area larger than Prince Edward Island.

...the province is setting more conditions for sustainable growth and a low-carbon future.

And through Ontario's Places to Grow Act, passed in 2006, the province is setting more conditions for sustainable growth and a low-carbon future. In 2009, Ontario built on its Places to Grow plan and the Lake Simcoe Protection Act, releasing *Simcoe Area: A Strategic Vision for Growth*. This vision calls for curbing urban sprawl protecting more green areas and protecting and enhancing Lake Simcoe's water quality, while anticipating an additional 73,000 jobs in the area by 2030.

In June 2009 Ontario took an important step with the introduction of the proposed Far North Act toward the permanent protection of at least half of the province's Far North region – an area three times the size of Lake Superior and containing more than 40 per cent of Ontario's land. This proposed legislation would protect at least 225,000 square kilometres of Ontario's Far North through a network of conservation areas. It would also conserve essential habitat for species such as woodland caribou and Ontario's only populations of polar bears and snow geese. It would help slow the pace of climate change by ensuring that Ontario's Far North boreal landscape maintains its capacity to be North America's largest carbon sink.

Trees Trees Trees

Under Ontario's 50 Million Tree program, approximately 3.6 million trees have been planted in the first two years – the program is on track to be complete by 2020.

Trees clean the air. They also absorb greenhouse gases. Planting 50 million trees will result in the storage of about 3.8 million tonnes of carbon dioxide by 2054.

Over time, the number of trees planted each year will grow. There's an additional planting program, the Urban Greening Initiative, for smaller-scale community planting in publicly accessible green spaces. This initiative has planted 100,000 trees and shrubs in 2008 and 2009 in Ontario communities.

Green Jobs

It's no secret that the worldwide economy took a beating in 2009. And Ontario was not immune. But there's also a consensus that the route to recovery involves creating new, green-collar jobs, and Ontario is on the right track.

Here's what we're doing: over the next two years, Ontario is investing billions of dollars to renew, expand and enhance the public infrastructure that underpins the provincial economy, to create and protect more than 300,000 jobs. With an additional significant contribution from the federal government this two-year infrastructure investment will be the largest in Ontario history.

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Green Industry

The Green Energy Act is bringing far-reaching changes to the way Ontario industries produce, use, and conserve power. The new Ontario feed-in tariff program makes renewable energy economically viable, the smart power grid will provide the means to deliver it, and new incentives for conservation make saving energy more cost-effective than ever.

In 2009, the government also introduced proposed enabling legislation to support the development of a cap-and-trade program that can link to other emerging systems. Cap-and-trade is the approach favoured in Europe, by legislators in the United States.

Cap-and-trade distributes “allowances” that limit the amount of greenhouse gases companies can emit. Companies that reduce their emissions below their cap have “surplus” allowances they can either sell or save for future use.

Companies that do not have enough allowances must either reduce their emissions, buy allowances from companies with surplus allowances or purchase credits from an approved emissions offset project for reductions outside of the cap and trade program.

The Ontario government is working closely with other North American jurisdictions to develop a common approach to cap-and-trade.

Adapting to Climate Change

Even though Ontario is working to actively cut its greenhouse gas emissions, the greenhouse gases already in the atmosphere will affect our climate. This means that in addition to trying to slow the pace of change, we are going to have to adapt to it too. In December 2007, the Minister of the Environment appointed the Expert Panel on Climate Change Adaptation with 11 experts to provide advice on how best to plan and prepare for the impacts of climate change. The Panel’s advice culminated in a report with over 50 recommendations for various ministries.



Working With Others

Ontario continues to be on the frontlines in our efforts to combat climate change and that means working with other governments, in Canada, across the border and internationally.

We're participating in the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 15) in **Copenhagen** in December 2009, and working closely with like-minded provinces including Quebec, British Columbia, Manitoba and the Atlantic Provinces, through the **Council of the Federation** and informally as well. Together with Quebec, for example, we are working to develop and implement a cap-and-trade system.

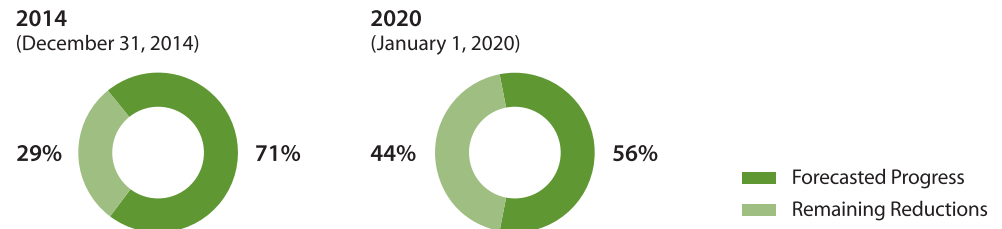
We're also in communication with the federal government, and with legislators at the local, state and national government levels in the United States, where cap-and-trade legislation has passed the US House of Representatives and is being considered by the US Senate, and where US President Barack Obama has called for action on climate change. In addition, Ontario is a member of the **Western Climate Initiative**, working together with a number of provinces as well as US states to develop a regional cap-and-trade system.

We also belong to **The Climate Registry**, and we're working with the United States and Mexico on many climate change fronts. And we support non-governmental organizations whose projects help Ontarians reduce their carbon footprint.

Measuring Our Progress

Ontario's Climate Change Action Plan commitments will bring us 71 per cent of the way toward our 2014 greenhouse gas reductions targets and 56 per cent toward our 2020 targets. This progress

Forecasted Progress Towards the 2014 and 2020 Targets



puts the province in a good position to go the rest of the way using other tools such as an emissions cap-and-trade program.

For more information go to: www.ontario.ca/environment.

All of us can make a difference. All our actions add up.

Find out how **you** can take advantage of Ontario's climate change programs – including rebates and rewards.
Find out what you can do at work and at home.
Visit www.additupontario.ca and www.ontario.ca/environment

Protecting our environment.  Ontario