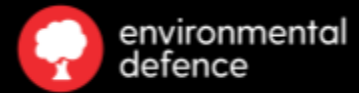


COP30: Background on Expectations for Canada

**MEDIA
BACKGROUNDER**
November 2025



Background

The 2025 United Nations climate negotiations will take place in Belém, Brazil from November 10th to 21st. Delegates from nearly 200 countries will participate in COP30 to advance global efforts to mitigate the dangerous impacts of climate change. These United Nations climate negotiations are a bedrock of global progress on climate change. They host the difficult discussions about how to cut climate pollution in a way that meets the different interests of nations around the globe, in particular how to keep global temperature levels to the safer threshold of below 1.5-degrees.

[Carbon dioxide](#) emissions continue to reach new global highs, and climate-related disasters continue to worsen as a result.. The damages caused by natural disasters, supercharged by climate change, are set to exceed [USD \\$145 billion](#) globally for 2025. In [Canada](#) alone, climate-related damages broke records at CAD \$8.5 billion for 2024, directly impacting the cost of food, insurance, and the health of Canadians.

As the climate crisis worsens, progress is being made - renewable energy is rapidly replacing fossil fuels—both because it's necessary for our planet's health and because it's becoming the best option economically. Renewables remain the [cheapest](#) source of new electricity in 2024, with enormous growth in renewable capacity expected to continue through the rest of this decade. The [exponential growth of solar power](#) exceeded all expectations. The International Energy Agency (IEA) has forecasted the demand [for all fossil fuels to peak by 2030](#) as the global energy transition accelerates. During COP30, the Brazilian environment minister aims to advance negotiations on a [fossil fuel phaseout](#), a concept that has received support from the [European Commission](#).

Stubborn fossil fuel executives are working hard to keep this progress from happening. Oil and gas companies are [planning to expand their production](#), despite the IEA having stated in 2021 that no new oil and gas fields are necessary to meet oil and gas demand in a 1.5°C world. Two years ago at COP28, [at least 2456 fossil fuel lobbyists](#) were granted access to the COP28 summit in Dubai and [35 lobbyists with ties to the fossil fuel sector were given Party badges by Canada](#). At COP29 in Baku, [1773 fossil fuel lobbyists](#) attended. Only three countries had delegations that were larger in size than the collective group of fossil fuel lobbyists – the COP29 host Azerbaijan (2,229), the COP30 host Brazil (1,914), and Turkey (1,862) – while all other countries had fewer boots on the ground than the fossil fuel industry. For the first time, stakeholders at COP30 are being asked to disclose their funding sources to increase transparency about who attends the negotiations on behalf of the fossil fuel industry.

Canada is burdened by a trade war with the United States, and is resolving how to buoy our economy and position it for the future by building trade relationships with global partners across Europe and Asia. Addressing short-term economic turmoil with an overarching commitment to decarbonization and global collaboration is in the best interest of workers, families, and communities across the country.

Building off of recent COPs - What was secured:

COP30 marks a number of anniversaries: 80-years since the founding of the United Nations, 30-years since the first COP in Berlin in 1995, 20-years since the first ever treaty to lower climate pollution came into effect, and 10-years since the historic Paris Agreement where countries agreed to keep warming below 1.5-degrees.

These events are impressive demonstrations of global collaboration. Before the Paris Agreement was signed, the world was on track for over 4-degrees of warming, and the big goal and global collaboration from the treaty has been essential in setting the planet on an improved trajectory. While polluting oil, gas, and coal are still being produced and used too much, clean energy costs have fallen faster and to a greater extent than predicted, and their deployment has skyrocketed. Yet global climate pollution [continues to rise](#), and the world is on track to warm by [2.8-degrees](#) not the agreed-upon 1.5-degrees..

Despite significant challenges in meeting global climate targets, recent years have shown encouraging momentum with several breakthrough developments:

- The final outcome of [COP28](#), often referred to as the UAE Consensus, called on countries:
 - To “transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems, in a just, orderly and equitable manner, accelerating action in this critical decade”
 - To advance the “tripling renewable energy capacity globally and double the global average of annual rate of energy efficiency improvements by 2030.”
- At COP27 and COP28, countries agreed to the establishment of a fund for loss and damage, which is now in operation. Countries made small initial contributions, including \$16 million from Canada. Loss and damage refers to the climate-related impacts experienced in the Global South that cannot be avoided or adapted to, for example the loss of lives, livelihoods and species, the damage to vital infrastructure that needs to be repaired after climate disasters, and the costs of unavoidable relocation.
- At COP29, countries committed to a new global quantified goal (referred to as the NCQG) – an agreement for global climate financing. This agreement builds off a previous one in 2009, resulting in a commitment for countries to work together to dedicate USD \$1.3 trillion of climate finance globally by 2035. The agreement left some details to be planned over the past year, with the “Baku to Belém Roadmap” report sharing this month the next steps forward.

What COP30 must deliver: Accountability and people-centered results

1. **Limit warming to the safer threshold of 1.5-degrees:** The Paris Agreement set a global temperature warming limit of 1.5-degrees celsius. This threshold was recently reaffirmed as an essential guide for global and domestic climate action by the [International Court of Justice](#) (ICJ).
2. **Phase out fossil fuels and subsidies:** While COP28’s “Global Stocktake” named the need to transition away from fossil fuels and phase out “inefficient subsidies” (paragraph 28), this is not yet on track with the IEA’s recognition that no more fossil fuels are needed to keep us within the safer temperature limit. Expanded commitments to transition away from fossil fuels and an agreement to no new oil, gas, or coal projects are a concrete way to build off past progress. Furthermore, the ICJ’s recent [advisory](#)

[opinion](#) states that continued fossil fuel subsidies may breach international law.

3. **Just transition:** The proposed “Belém Action Mechanism” (BAM) aims to practically deliver the principles of an equal and just transition. While “just transition” has become a common global term, COP30 should agree on fundamental principles of a just transition, and require these principles be delivered through national climate plans.
4. **Delivering finance for climate action across vulnerable nations:** The USD 1.3 trillion per year by 2035 agreed to at COP29, called the [new collective quantified goal on climate finance](#) (NCQG), replaced the previous financial goal of USD \$100 billion per year set in 2009. With historically high-emitting Global North countries continuously providing less than is needed by the more climate-vulnerable Global South countries, agreements on finance have continuously broken trust in climate negotiations. Countries negotiated further progress during the past year through the “Baku to Belém Roadmap”, and COP30 is an opportunity to demonstrate finance for reducing emissions and adapting to damages in a way that meets real needs.

The Canadian context

- Canada [ranks last](#) in the G7 in terms of progress on emissions reductions.
- Canada has amongst the [worst emissions per capita](#) in the G20.
- Canada is among the top four countries that have [increased oil and gas production](#) by nearly 40 per cent in the past ten-years since the Paris Agreement was signed.
- Canada is on track to be the [world’s second largest developer](#) of new oil and gas extraction projects between 2023 and 2050. Canada alone could be responsible for 10 per cent of planned expansion globally.
- Since 2020, Canada is the [largest public financier](#) for fossil fuels amongst the G20 countries.
- Canada continues to add [less solar and wind generation](#) than other countries in the G7, G20, or OECD.
- The Government of Canada’s current commitment to reduce emissions by 40 - 45 per cent from 2005 levels by 2030 falls far short of Canada’s fair share target: a 60 per cent reduction by 2030. Yet, [the Government of Canada is still not on track](#) to meet even its current insufficient climate targets.
- Canadian banks are [the largest financiers](#) of fossil fuels globally, financing fossil fuel production and expansion both at home and abroad.

What Canada needs to deliver at COP30

- 1. A clear climate plan that aligns with 1.5-degrees and keeps Canadians safe from the worst damages of climate change.** Canada's 2025 Budget and "Climate Competitiveness Strategy" suggests over-reliance on capturing pollution through ineffective technologies in the future instead of mitigating it today. Current policies will not achieve Canada's climate commitment to reach net-zero by 2050 – nor the recommendation of Canada's Net-Zero Advisory Board to reduce emissions by 50-55% by 2035. Going into COP30 the Canadian government has failed to affirm its commitment to maintain the 2030 and 2035 targets to reduce emissions.
- 2. End fossil fuel subsidies and commit to phasing out fossil fuels.** Canada still provides significant domestic subsidies for fossil fuels, including from within Budget 2025. Last year in 2024, Canada provided nearly [\\$30 billion in fossil fuel subsidies](#). These subsidies contravene recent guidance on international law: in July 2025 the [International Court of Justice](#) issued an Advisory Opinion clarifying that states have binding obligations under international law to address climate change, and that countries could be held legally responsible for harm if they continue to provide fossil fuel subsidies. At COP30, Canada should support agreements to transition away from fossil fuels and to end any expansion.
- 3. Deliver a just transition through domestic policies and global collaboration.** During the negotiations, Canada must support the BAM and the further development of a robust Just Transition Work Programme. Canada must build on the domestic leadership demonstrated by the Sustainable Jobs Act by implementing and sufficiently resourcing the Sustainable Jobs Action Plan and additional programs required to meet its goals. The [Sustainable Jobs Act was a win](#), and acknowledged the imperative of including workers, Indigenous rights holders, and businesses and climate movement stakeholders in Canada's energy transition. However, in order to truly deliver a just transition domestically, the Canadian government must do more to facilitate transforming our energy infrastructure, transitioning to a clean economy, and ensuring communities and the public benefit from these transitions.
- 4. Contribute global climate finance.** Canada is due to announce its climate finance pledge for the next five-years. To meet Canada's fair share of climate

finance, this should be a tripling of the [current pledge to \\$15.9 billion](#). Best practice recommends this is allocated 40 per cent to mitigation, 40 per cent to adaptation, and 20 per cent to loss and damages – with at least 60 per cent of the funds being provided as grants instead of as investments. Moreover, ensuring the whole financial system transitions away from fossil fuels (through Article 2.1(c)) is essential, including within international and multilateral financial institutions.

Canadian Presence at COP30

Canadian politicians will attend COP30 in Belém, including the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, and the Government of Canada's formal negotiating team. Although leaders from our global peers have confirmed their attendance (including from Germany, UK and France), it has not yet been confirmed whether Prime Minister Mark Carney will be in Belém.



environmental
defence

ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENCE: Environmental Defence is a leading Canadian environmental advocacy organization that works with government, industry and individuals to defend clean water, a safe climate and healthy communities. Visit environmentaldefence.ca for more information.

For more information or to request an interview, please contact: media@environmentaldefence.ca
