

attachment: <http://kanata-forum.ca/MOE-progress-report.pdf>

Jim Bradley, Minister
Ministry of the Environment

Attached for your interest is a critique of the report "Climate Vision" (Climate Change Progress Report). The critique is critical of the Report so if the Ministry would like to issue a rebuttal I would be happy to distribute the rebuttal along with the critique, which is intended to stimulate new ideas.

Regards,

Ron Tolmie
Kanata
editor, <http://sustainability-journal.ca>

Dear Mr. Tolmie,

Thank you for your email and the attached analysis of our December 3, 2102 climate change progress report. I am pleased to respond on behalf of the Minister.

The Province of Ontario has stated its commitment to provide leadership in fighting climate change. Through cooperation and collaboration with its partners, the province has developed a range of mitigation initiatives and adaptation strategies that will have clear benefits for the environment and economy. While progress has been made, the Ministry of the Environment recognizes that success will take ongoing effort.

Ontario is making significant progress in reducing emissions, including phasing out coal-fired electricity generation by the end of 2014 and shifting its energy supply to clean, renewable energy sources. As a result of the coal replacement strategy and related policies, 2011 coal-fired generation was nearly 90% lower than 2003 levels, with a corresponding reduction in greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions.

In addition, Ontario is developing a GHG emissions reduction program which includes working with partners in the Western Climate Initiative and stakeholders to develop a regional emissions trading program—a program that provides the greatest environmental benefit while maintaining Ontario's competitiveness. This program, when implemented, could be an important next step in helping to achieve our reduction targets.

For 2011, Ontario's total GHG emissions are expected to be below 1990 levels, and forecasts show that current initiatives will bring the province about 90% of the way to its 2014 GHG emissions reduction target. Further, according to the National Inventory Report 1990–2010: Greenhouse Gas Sources and Sinks in Canada (Environment Canada, April 2012), from 2005 to 2010, emissions decreased by 48 megatonnes across Canada. In this same period, emissions in Ontario decreased by 34 megatonnes, significantly more than in any other province.

Ontario believes a national approach to reduce GHG emissions is integral to achieving broader progress in fighting climate change. Collaboration between the federal, provincial and territorial governments is critical if Ontario is to develop a long-term approach to address the threat that climate change poses to our quality of life and future generations.

Ontario will need to continue to find new and innovative methods to reduce emissions. More work needs to be done, and the province is committed to further reduce our emissions over the long term.

Sincerely,

Adam Redish

Director

Air Policy and Climate Change Branch