Climate Change Policy in Ontario: Evolution and Evaluation

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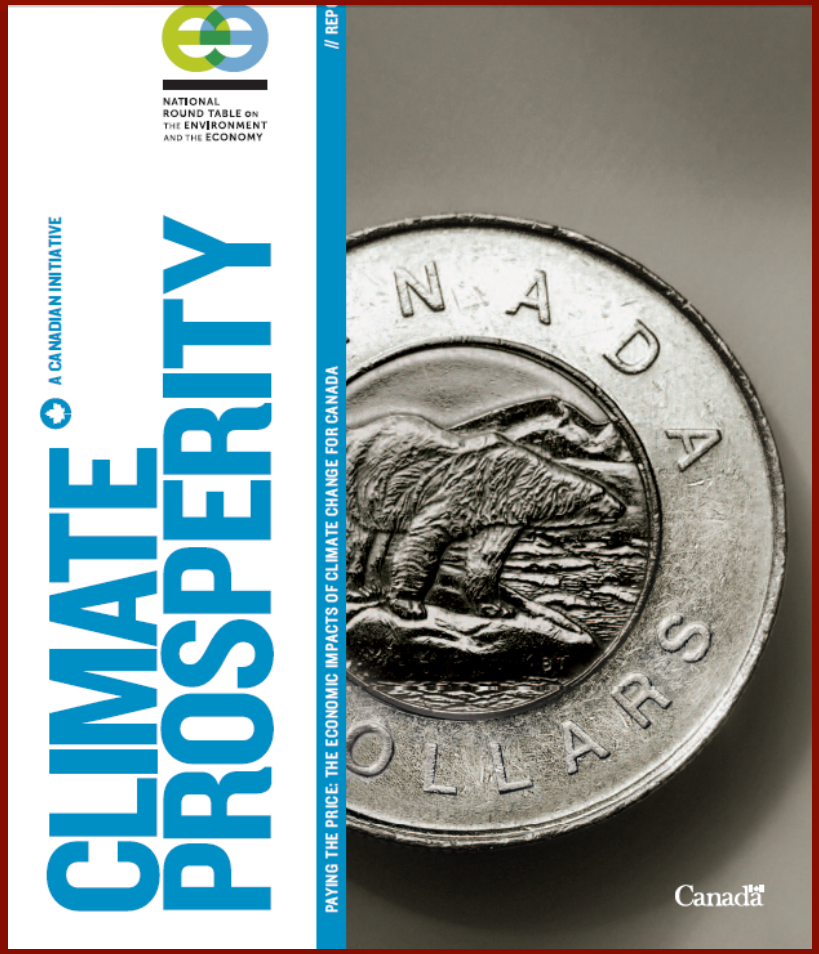
BLUE-GREEN PROVINCE
The Environment and the Political Economy of Ontario
MARK S. WINFIELD

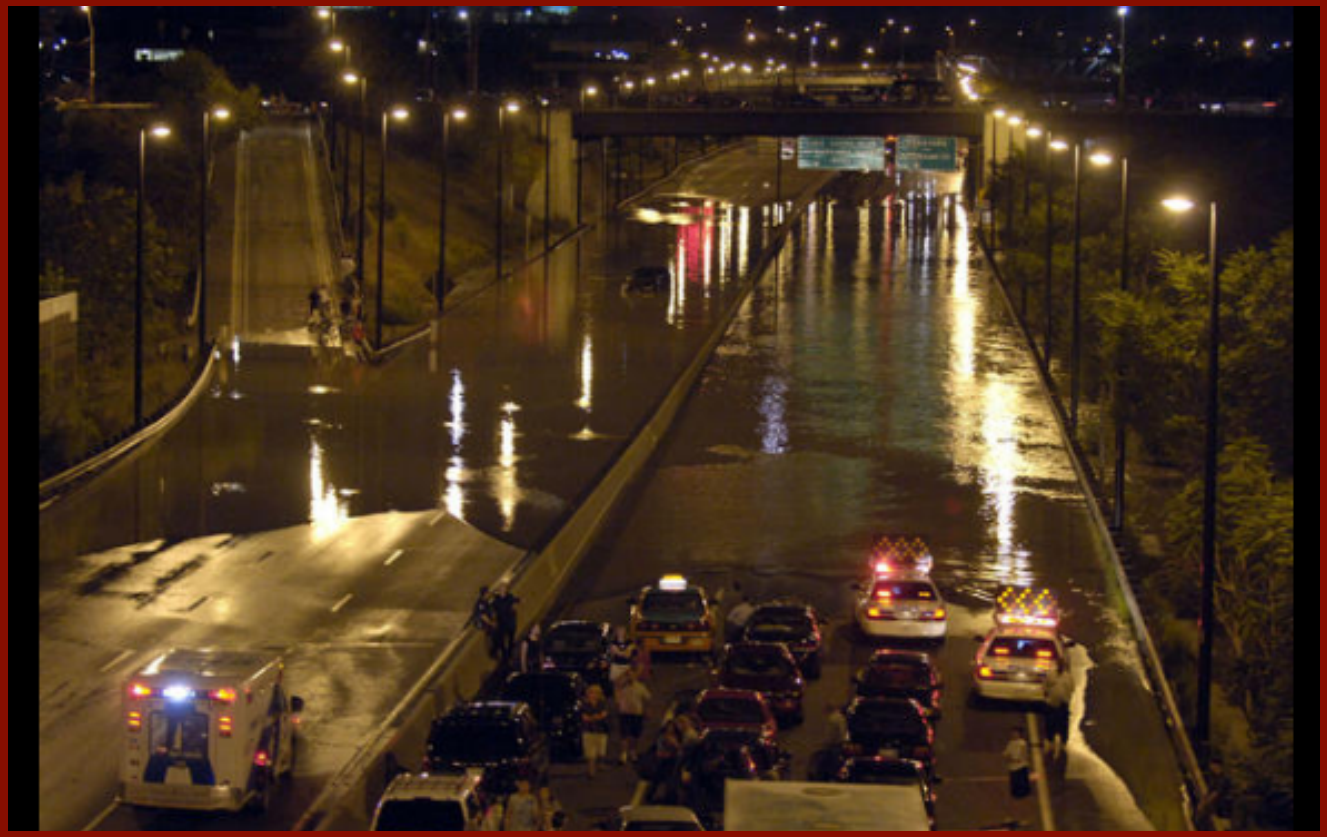
Climate Change Impacts: NRTEE

- Total impacts $21-$43 Billion Per year
  - (but could exceed $91 billion)
- Coastal areas, forests and cities most strongly impacted



Climate Change Impacts: Great Lakes Basin

- Climate instability and increased incidence of extreme weather



Toronto Star

Regional Climate Change Impacts

- Reductions in water supply from surface and groundwater sources

Cody Storm Cooper / for the Toronto Star file photo

Health Impacts

- Smog and heat episodes of increased frequency and intensity
- More severe impacts on human health and agriculture due to combined effects of heat and smog

Regional Climate Change Impacts

- Public health risks due to expanded ranges of disease vectors

Regional Climate Change Impacts

- Accelerated deterioration of infrastructure

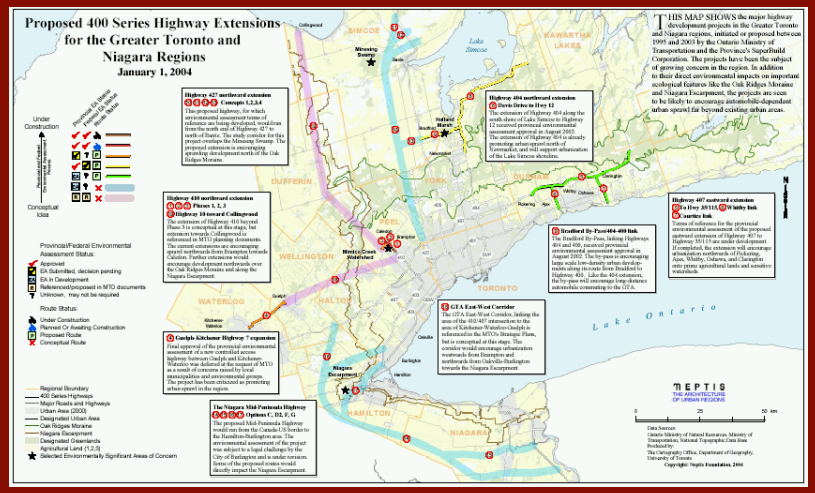
Toronto Star

Ontario Climate Change Policy: The Beginning

- June 1994 Commitment to stabilization (1990 levels) and 20% reduction relative to 1988 by 2005

Ron Bull / Toronto Star file photo

Climate Change and the 'Common Sense Revolution'



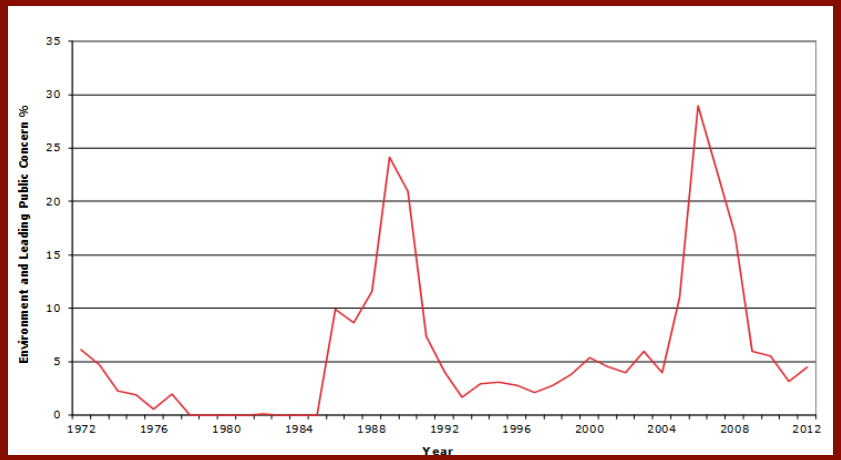
- Major increases in GHG emissions:
  - NAOP
  - Transportation/ sprawl
- Disengaged/ unhelpful in intergovernmental negotiations

Ontario Reengages

- Coal-phase out commitment
- Engagement in bilateral negotiations/ agreement with federal government

The New Federal Regime

- Need for defensive engagement by Ontario
- Political opportunity
- Multilateral-subnational response
  - WCI
  - RGGI
  - MCCI



Ontario

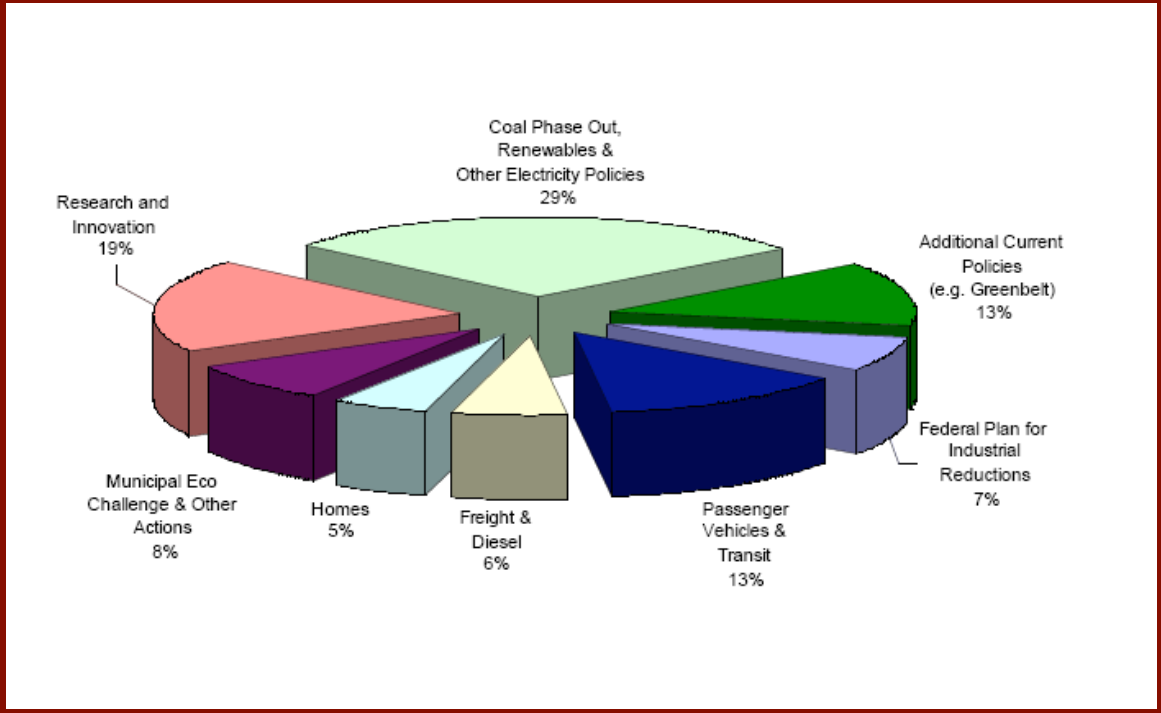
Go Green

Ontario's Action Plan
On Climate Change

August 2007

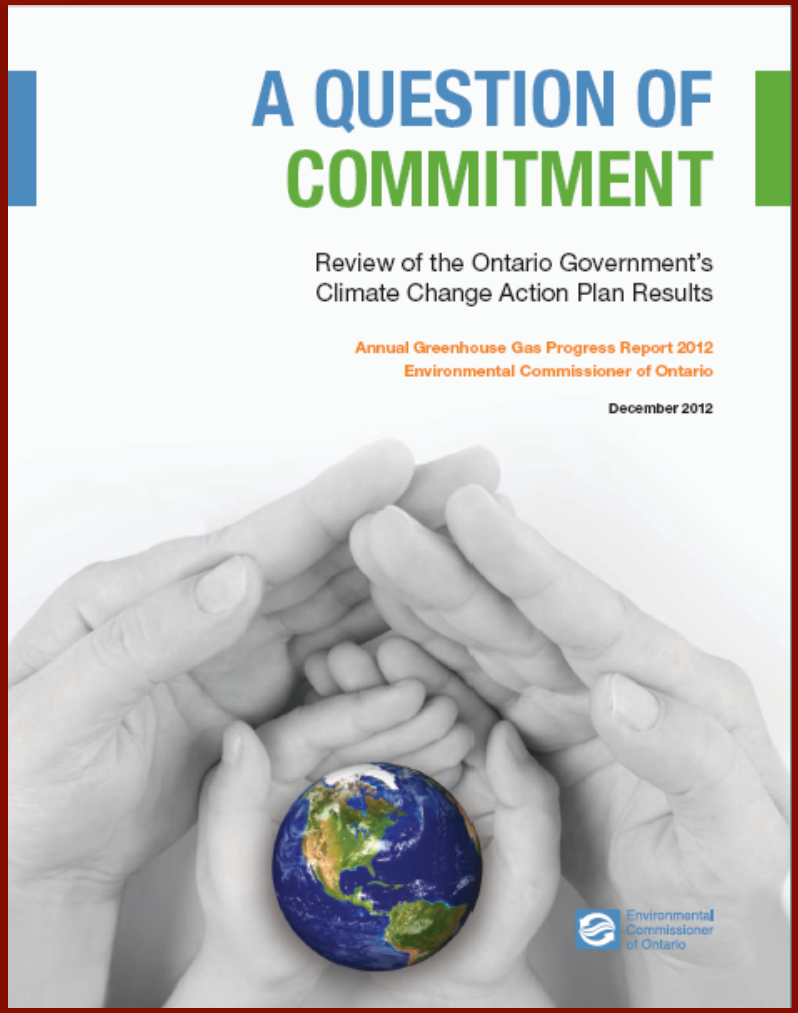
2007 - Going Green

- Targets
  - 6% < 1990 by 2014
  - 15% < 1990 by 2020
  - -80% < 1990 by 2050

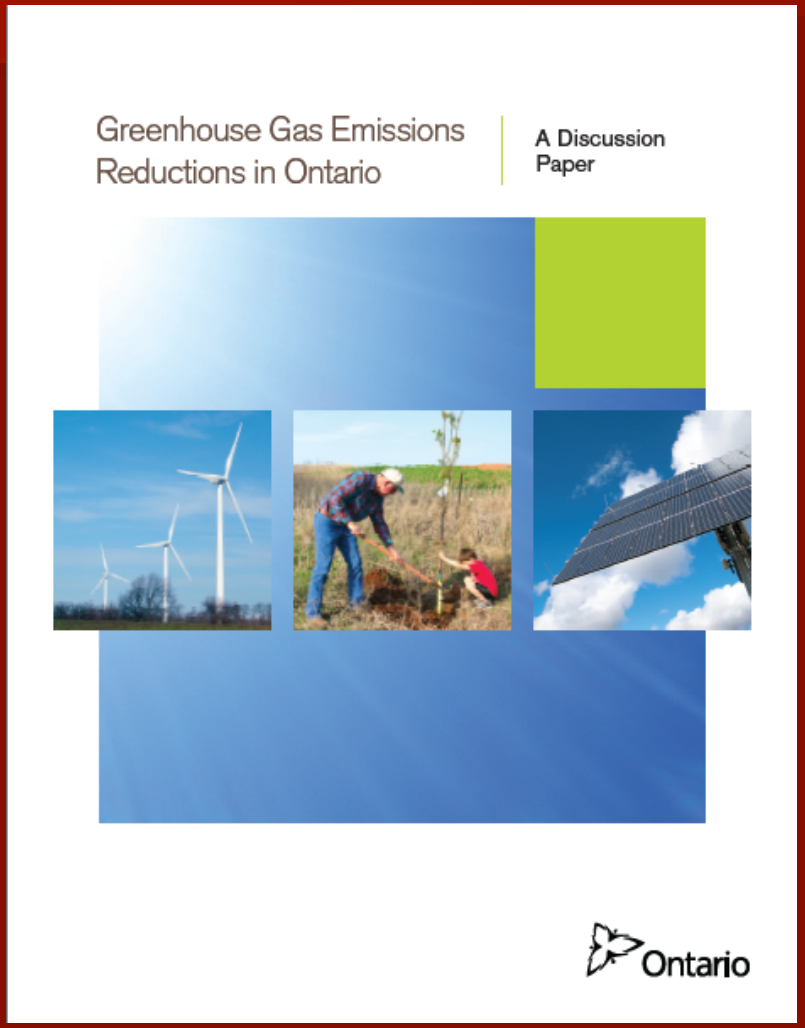


The Decline of Ontario's Climate Change Strategy

- Declining threat of federal action
  - Kyoto Withdrawal
- Decline of possibility of US federal action with trade measures
- Partial disintegration of WCI
  - Only Quebec and California implement Cap and Trade



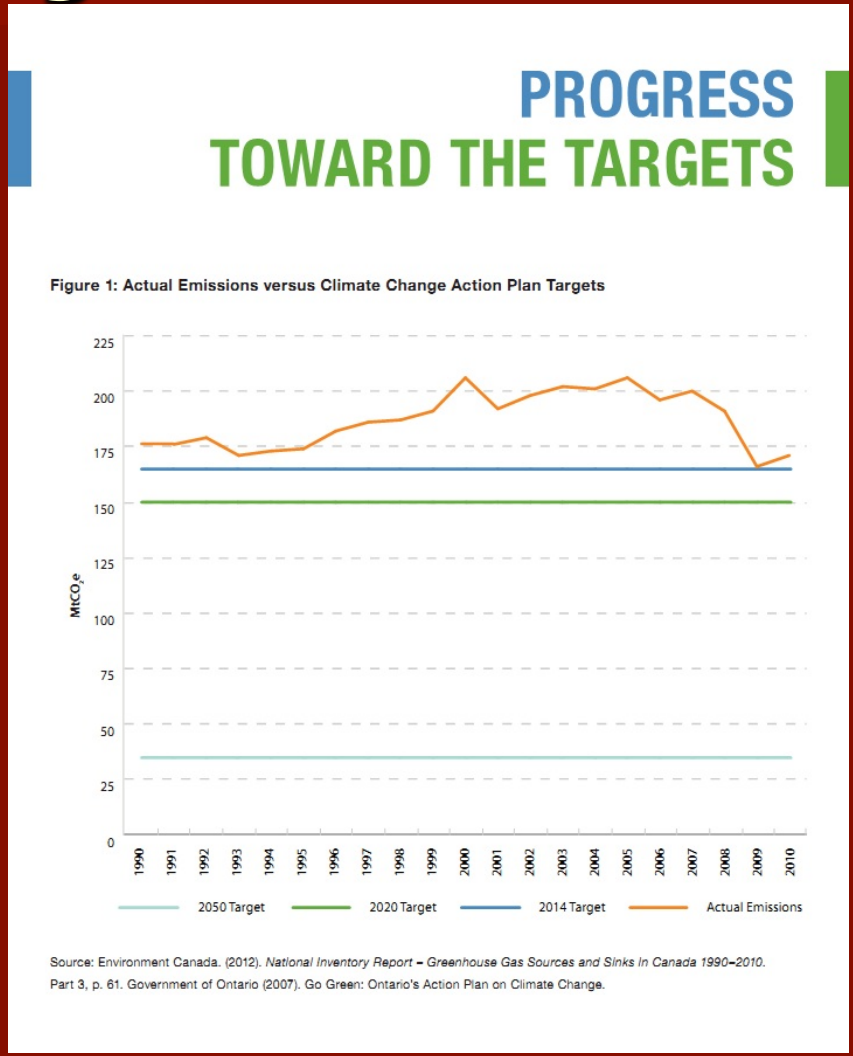
The Decline of Ontario's Climate Change Strategy



- Seeking 'equivalency'
- Waffling on LFE targets, hard caps vs. intensity base
- Rejection of carbon tax
- No strategy beyond coal-phase out

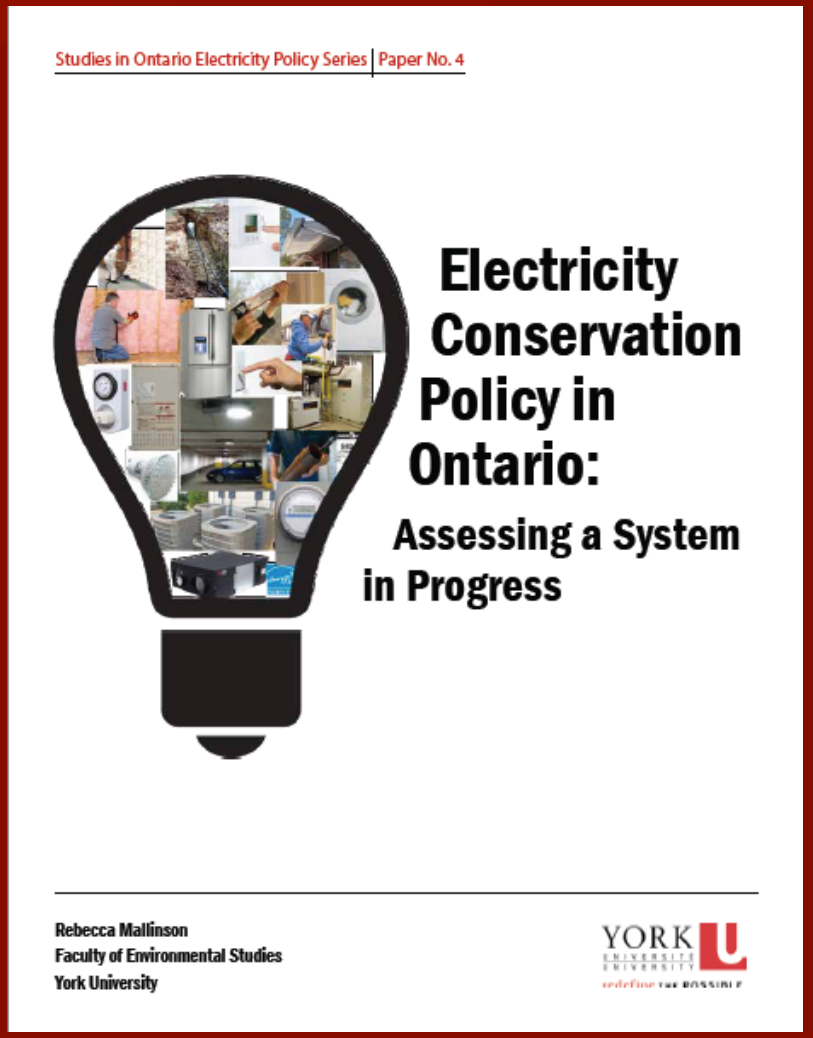
Where now?: LFEs and Carbon Pricing

- Join WCI C&T system for LFEs
  - Hard caps per provincial targets
  - 10,000 tonne/yr threshold
  - $43.61 floor price
- Carbon tax for rest of economy
  - Recycle revenues into transit?



Energy Policy

- Phase-out Clean Energy Benefit
- Implement aggressive strategy on energy conservation
- Clarify electricity direction re: nuclear and renewables



Transportation, Boreal Conservation, CC Adaptation

- Transportation
  - Transit funding
  - Land-use transportation linkages
  - Goods movement
- Boreal Conservation
- Adaptation Strategy

faculty of environmental studies

Faculty of Environmental Studies Sustainable Energy Initiative (FES-SEI)

http://sei.info.yorku.ca/

Challenge what is. Imagine what could be.

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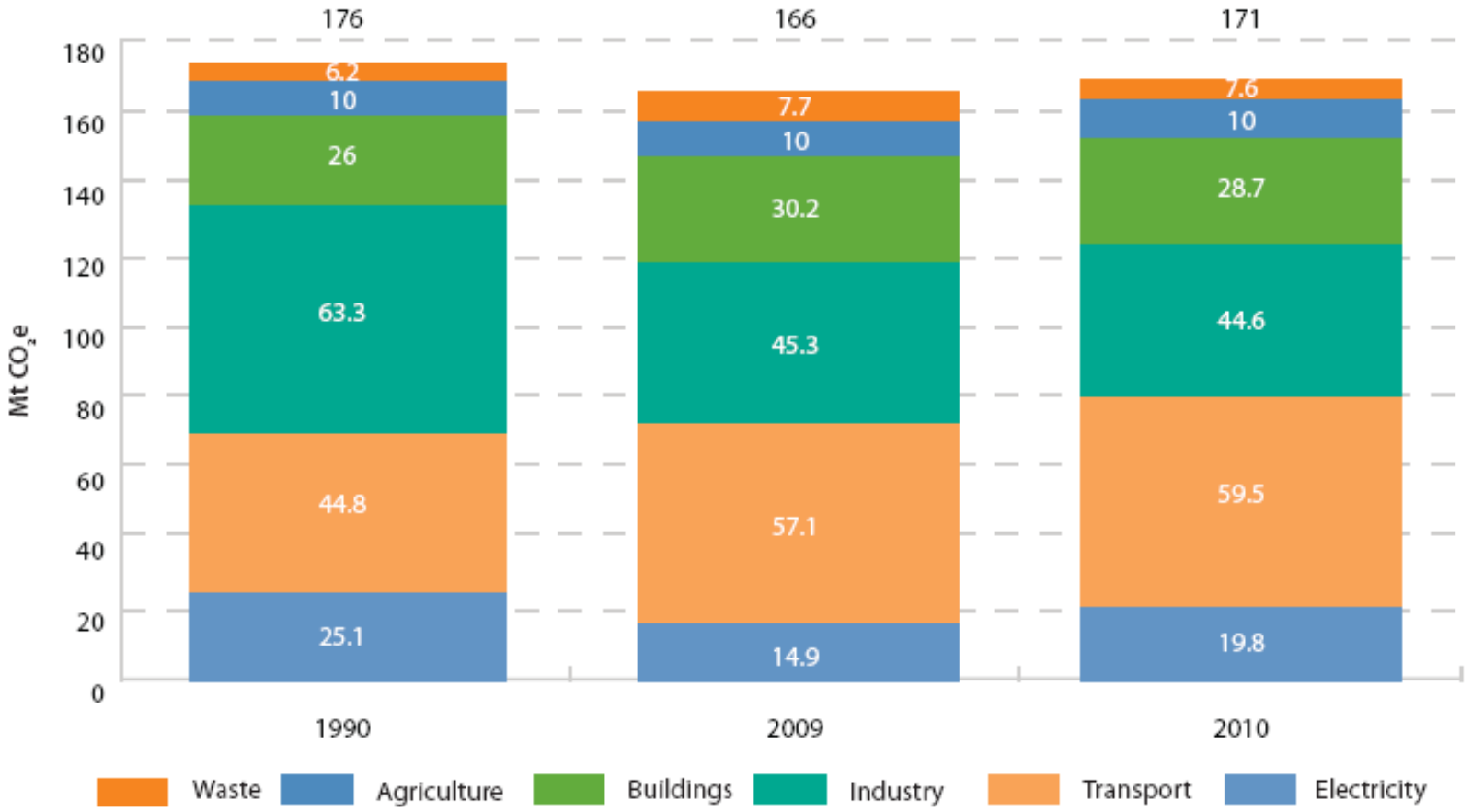
redefine THE POSSIBLE.

Figure 2: Emissions by Sector, 1990, 2009 and 2010 in Megatonnes



Source: Environment Canada. (2012). *National Inventory Report – Greenhouse Gas Sources and Sinks in Canada 1990–2010.* Part 3, p. 61.