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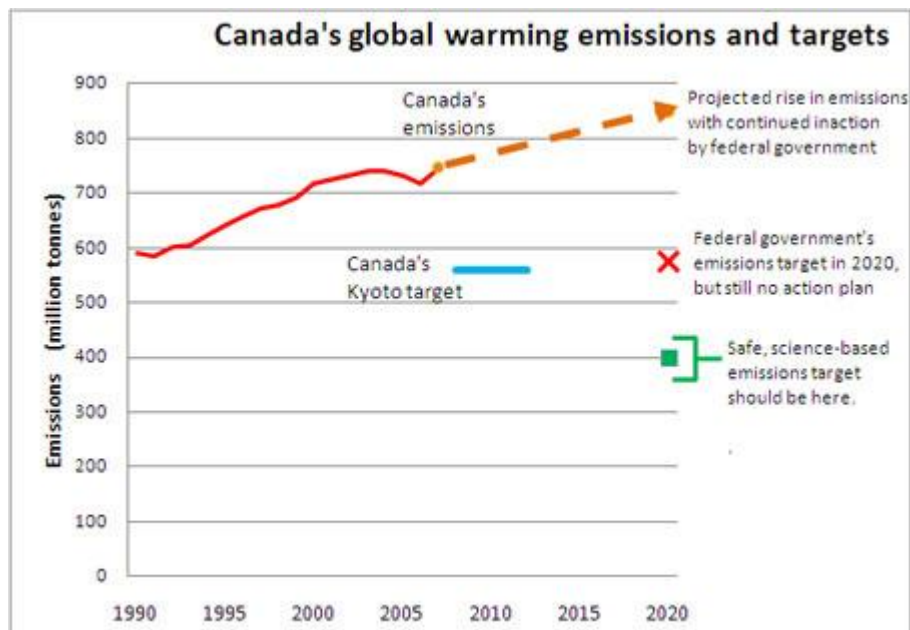
## ***Ambitious, fair and binding: Can we reach a climate agreement?***

We know climate change is the most serious threat to our prosperity and our future. But the greatest threat is our own inaction. Canada can contribute meaningfully to the UN climate summit by signing a strong, fair and binding agreement that centres on three core principles.

### **1. Reducing heat-trapping emissions**

As a rich nation, Canada needs to step up with a stronger commitment to reduce Canada's global warming pollution to safe, science-based levels — in line with what scientists say needs to be done and with what European nations are doing.

Science shows that emissions from industrialized countries such as Canada must be slashed by more than 40 per cent by 2020 (or cut by about half). Canada's current target is way too weak (a three per cent reduction) and it's not legally binding.



### **2. Putting a price on emissions and building the green economy**

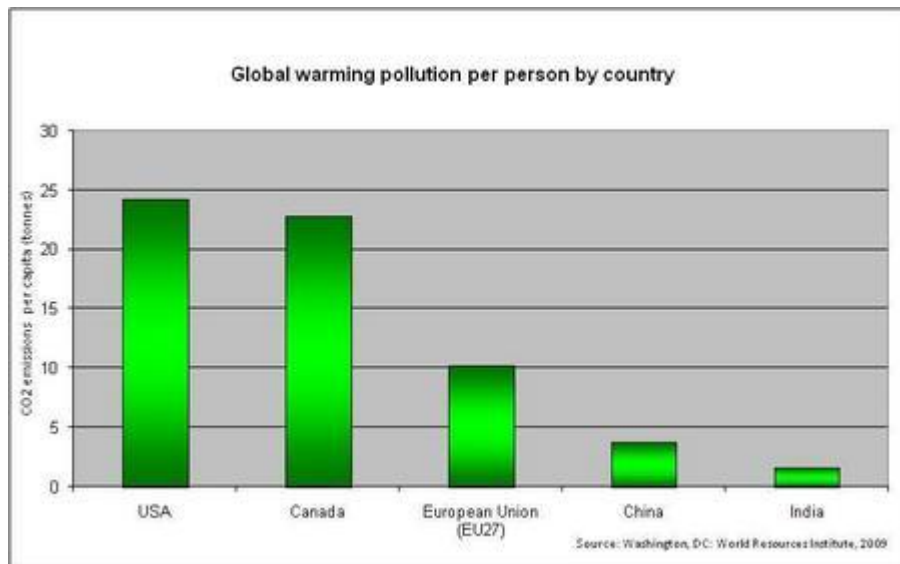
Canada must activate an effective and comprehensive climate change action plan that put a strong price on greenhouse gas emissions, invests in renewable energy solutions and jobs, and builds pedestrian and transit friendly communities.

Take the United States as an example: With the economic downturn, U.S. President Barack Obama has seized the opportunity to re-tool the American economy. As part of its stimulus plan, the U.S. is investing \$75 billion this year in renewable energy solutions — six times more per person than Canada. Other countries are also investing in their workforce and tapping into the ingenuity of their citizens. Today, Germany employs about a quarter of a million people in the renewable energy sector building solar and wind power.

### 3. Fairness and equality

The deal at the UN climate summit has to be fair with regard to rich nations — those most responsible for the problem — and the world's poorest countries. Rich, industrialized countries that make up one-fifth of the world's population are responsible for 75 per cent of the harmful build-up of heat-trapping carbon emissions. Industrialized countries like Canada are much more responsible for the problem because we consume far more resources and energy per person.

For instance, Canada emits six times more global warming pollution per person than China, and 14 times more pollution per person than India.



Canada, like other industrialized countries, also has many more resources to tackle the problem of global warming. This is why Canada, like other industrialized nations, needs to take the initial steps and reduce emissions first to show the world that we are serious about this problem.

### Making the investment

As part of a fair deal, Canada needs to step forward with financing for the world's poorest countries. This will help them adapt to the ongoing impacts of climate change and create investments in solutions that will help those countries reduce their own emissions.

Canada could invest in Canadian-made clean energy solutions in these countries. This effort will help the world's developing countries leap-frog polluting technologies, alleviate poverty and grow markets for clean-energy solutions worldwide. It will also create jobs here at home.

Canada must encourage and sign onto this kind of legally binding agreement because now more than ever, inaction on the part of any country is not an option.