

2017-8 Reducing Emissions

Mover: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives - Manitoba

Whereas: Climate change is a defining issue of our time, imposing high and escalating costs on society over the coming decades and centuries. It requires clear, effective, and decisive action to reduce emissions. The OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) estimates that every dollar the industrialized world fails to invest in clean energy today will cost more than four dollars down the road.

Whereas: Manitoba is not reducing emissions. Our GHG emissions are approximately 15% higher today than they were in 1990, and 22.3% above the level to comply with the Kyoto Protocol and Manitoba's Bill 15, The Climate Change and Emissions Reduction Act (2014 numbers, Climate Change Connection).

Whereas: Imposing a price on carbon is only one policy mechanism by which to reduce carbon emissions. Many experts, including economist Mark Jaccard, prefer strong regulations that set clear and realistic guidelines for various industries.

Whereas: Notwithstanding the above, Prime Minister Trudeau has aggressively stated that if provinces don't impose a price on carbon, the federal government will impose its own price by 2018. A variety of other jurisdictions around the world have already imposed a price on carbon.

Whereas: Each province has a unique emissions profile and therefore each province must (a) decide what kind of policy it will implement, and (b) how the collected funds will be used. Manitoba's largest sources of emissions include transportation, agriculture, and buildings.

Whereas: While a cap-and-trade system and a carbon tax each have their benefits and drawbacks, a carbon levy (ie. tax) is a flexible, simple, immediate, and scalable tool for the government to put a price on carbon.

Whereas: Revenues collected through a carbon pricing system must be recycled in a way that (a) reduces costs for low-income earners through direct transfers or tax credits, and; (b) helps to deploy existing technology and best practices for emissions reduction; and (c) assists with adaptation, including urban densification strategies, the adoption of consumer electric vehicles, the improvement of best agricultural management practices, and more effective waste management.

Whereas: Emissions reduction presents opportunities to reduce social costs not only in the private sector through waste remediation, but also through inclusive employment and social enterprise.

Be It Resolved That: CCEDNet – Manitoba work with Transition Winnipeg to urge the Province of Manitoba to:

- a. Consider imposing a carbon levy with a floor of \$30/tonne based on British Columbia's successful model, rising to \$200 over time;**
- b. Complement the carbon tax with a strong set of regulations to reduce emissions from agriculture and transportation;**
- c. Establish a carbon tax credit for Manitobans below the low-income cut-off;**
- d. Recycle the remainder of revenues to deploy low-carbon technology and energy systems that make it easier for the public to reduce their reliance on fossil fuels; and**
- e. Give special attention to opportunities for social enterprises (for example, BUILD and Aki Energy) where dollars spent have a higher social impact by making employment more inclusive.**