

# 2011 Federal Election

## Environmental Report Card



Party Grade

<b>Green Party</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>NDP</b>	<b>C+</b>
<b>Bloc Québécois</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>Liberal Party</b>	<b>C-</b>
<b>Conservative Party</b>	<b>F</b>

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## GRADES

	Climate Change	Tar Sands	Parks and Protected Areas	Nuclear Power	Marine Areas	Home Energy Efficiency	Animal Welfare
<b>Green Party</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>A+</b>
<b>NDP</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>B+</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B-</b>	<b>C-</b>	<b>F</b>
<b>Bloc Québécois</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>D+</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>F</b>
<b>Liberal Party</b>	<b>B+</b>	<b>C-</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>D+</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>Conservative Party</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>F</b>

## GRADES (numerical)

	Climate Change	Tar Sands	Parks and Protected Areas	Nuclear Power	Marine Areas	Home Energy Efficiency	Animal Welfare	TOTAL SCORE	Mean Score (Total / 7)
<b>Green Party</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>98</b>	14.0
<b>NDP</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>66</b>	9.4
<b>Bloc Québécois</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>56</b>	8.0
<b>Liberal Party</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>52</b>	7.4
<b>Conservative Party</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>	1.9

## SCORING SYSTEM

15	A+
14	A
13	A-
12	B+
11	B
10	B-
9	C+
8	C
7	C-
6	D+
5	D
4	D-
0	F

Rounded Grade

<b>Green Party</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>NDP</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>C+</b>
<b>Bloc Québécois</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>Liberal Party</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>C-</b>
<b>Conservative Party</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>F</b>

## Grade

## Climate Change

<p><b>Conservative Party</b></p>	<p><b>F</b></p>	<p>The Conservatives have turned climate change policy into a public relations game in order to justify doing nothing. The present plan states Canada will reduce its emissions by 17% below 2005 levels. Until a year ago it was 20% below 2006 levels. They claim progress on car and truck emissions - both 2002 Liberal government promises. These would not be in effect without the United States applying the same regulations. They also claim that regulations for coal plants will come out soon. What they don't say is that the coal plant regulations will apply only to new coal plants and will not impact on existing plant emissions. Regulating Canada's largest greenhouse gas polluters was postponed by the Conservatives from 2008 to 2012 and abandoned all together in 2010. The party that repudiated the Kyoto Protocol demanding a "Made in Canada Plan" now says let's wait and see what happens in the United States. Internationally the Conservatives strongly support the Copenhagen Accord as a step forward for international negotiation. In truth it is step backwards. Kyoto's mandatory emissions reductions are replaced by non-binding 'aspirational' commitments. The unelected Conservatives in the Senate defeated the Climate Change Accountability Act that was passed twice by the House of Commons. On oil subsidies the 2011 budget set Canada on a path to eliminate subsidies to fossil fuel companies over a time span of decades.</p>
<p><b>Liberal Party</b></p>	<p><b>B+</b></p>	<p>The Liberals hit the main points for a climate plan: placing a cap on industrial emissions; increasing investments in clean energy and efficiency; continuing energy efficient home retrofits; and phase-out, albeit slowly, of subsidies to big oil. Liberals also support a cap and trade system and a comprehensive transportation strategy that includes high-speed rail.</p>
<p><b>NDP</b></p>	<p><b>A+</b></p>	<p>The NDP has a good basic climate change plan that would put Canada back on the track to leadership: scientific targets in the Climate Change Accountability Act (which it would pass again); would impose a cap on industrial greenhouse gas emissions that would allow emissions trading; would implement measures to assist communities already being impacted by climate change in Canada and developing countries; would invest in energy efficiency and implement conservation programs for home owners; would invest in a national public transportation strategy; take a leadership role in the international negotiations; eliminate oil subsidies.</p>
<p><b>Green Party</b></p>	<p><b>A+</b></p>	<p>The Green Party has the most developed climate change strategy, which contains all the elements necessary to put Canada back into world leadership role. It promises carbon pricing or a carbon tax to discourage the use of fossil fuels while reducing income and payroll taxes for Canadians. It calls for an expansion of energy efficiency renovations of homes and buildings. It's the only party with a specific plan to spend 180 million a year installing solar panels on roof tops across the country. It wants to create a low carbon national transportation strategy, invest in climate change impacted communities in Canada and developing countries. The Green Party sees its climate change plan as an economic engine creating jobs and new opportunities. The Green Party would eliminate oil subsidies immediately.</p>
<p><b>Bloc Québécois</b></p>	<p><b>A</b></p>	<p>The Bloc platform outlines a comprehensive set of climate change initiatives which include: commitment to 25% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2020; investing in public and commercial transit systems; encouraging rapid implementation of the electric car; phasing out heating oil in the residential, commercial and institutional sectors; energy labeling of cars and consume goods; investing in renewable energy ; and eliminating oil subsidies.</p>

## Grade

## Tar Sands

<p><b>Conservative Party</b></p>	<p><b>F</b></p>	<p>The conservatives have been very clear that while in power they will do all that they can to see the tar sands as a key piece of our energy and economic future. Throughout their last term they ignored requests by First Nations to see federal efforts taken to ensure their treaty rights are protected, undermined the federal committee tasked with gathering information on environmental impacts of the project, and used government resources to lobby in Copenhagen, the USA and the EU on behalf of tar sands interests. In the Conservatives most recent presentation of their climate change platform, they admitted that they will continue to offer tax breaks and subsidies to tar sands companies, while completely ignoring the issues relating to the tar sands, like the controversial proposals for the Enbridge and Keystone XL pipelines and the oil tankers off BC that would transport tar sands oil overseas.</p>
<p><b>Liberal Party</b></p>	<p><b>C-</b></p>	<p>Liberal Party leader Michael Ignatieff has repeatedly defended the tar sands as a necessary part of Canada's economic future. Despite rhetoric around making Canada a 'green energy superpower', the Liberal party has not committed to ensuring there will be efforts to ensure a speedy transition away from tar sands and rather have defended it for its economic benefits despite the range of environmental and social costs. That said, the Liberals did release a report in August of last year calling for sweeping reforms of tar sands operations, including increased monitoring and regulation - with a focus particularly on health impacts, water quality and air emissions. They have also agreed to a tanker ban on the coast of BC, which would undermine the controversial pipeline projects from the tar sands to the BC coast.</p>
<p><b>NDP</b></p>	<p><b>B+</b></p>	<p>The NDP have come out loud and clear that there need to be reforms to tar sands operations, and during the last federal election some candidates urgently demanded a full shut-down of operations. This year we have not seen the same strong call to action, but the NDP has committed that they will end subsidies to oil and gas companies (which includes the tar sands) and ensure a tanker ban off the coast of BC. Lone Alberta NDP candidate Linda Duncan has been a loud champion, raising concerns about the operations at a federal level.</p>
<p><b>Green Party</b></p>	<p><b>A+</b></p>	<p>Committed to tanker ban. Only party committed to a moratorium on new tar sands development. In favor of: capping withdrawals from the Athabasca River based on assessment of instream flow needs; ensuring oil sands developers deal responsibly with polluted waters in storage ponds (largest man-made structures on Earth); and placing a moratorium on further oil sands development (i.e. increases in annual production).</p>
<p><b>Bloc Québécois</b></p>	<p><b>B</b></p>	<p>The Bloc don't call for a moratorium on new tar sands development, but they do acknowledge the urgency of preventing further GHGs and environmental harm and call for a withdrawal of subsidies and other monies to the industry. Thus they are very much committed to addressing the issue of climate change and acknowledge that tar sands pose a major threat to this end. They also acknowledge the federal responsibility in addressing the Treaty Rights of First Nations in the area.</p>

## Grade

## Parks and Protected Areas

<p><b>Conservative Party</b></p>	<p><b>C</b></p>	<p>The Conservative Party platform states that the party will: establish a national conservation plan to facilitate the creation of new protected areas, national parks, and national marine conservation areas; make the land between protected areas more permeable to wildlife and restore degraded ecosystems; invest in the creation of Mealy Mountains National Park; and work towards an agreement to establish a new national park in the Rouge Valley.</p>
<p><b>Liberal Party</b></p>	<p><b>B</b></p>	<p>The Liberal Party's platform document states that the party will: work with the provinces, territories, First Nations and conservation groups to protect more of Canada's intact wilderness areas; emphasize an ecosystem-wide approach to conservation, so that national and provincial parks and other conservation areas, including parts of our boreal forest, are connected through protected "eco-corridors" that allow species to move from one protected area to another; expand Canada's marine protected areas network and ensure that this network is accompanied by a more effective approach to ocean management; advance integrated oceans management and ocean zoning, with the same rigour as land-use planning; build and strengthen the Arctic's multilateral institutions in order to advance cooperation on environmental stewardship. Priorities would include a joint mapping exercise of Arctic lands and waters to help establish international protection for lands, oceans, fisheries and wildlife, and sacred indigenous sites.</p>
<p><b>NDP</b></p>	<p><b>C</b></p>	<p>There was no mention of parks and protected areas in the 2011 NDP platform document. However, in response to a Sierra Club 2006 election survey, the NDP said it would: complete the national parks system and protect the ecological integrity of existing national parks. In response to a 2008 Greenpeace election survey, the party said it would: complete the National Parks system; establish a nationally representative system of Marine Protected areas and complete the Integrated Management Plans of our three oceans; ensure that the integrity of parks and protected areas is not compromised by industrial activity or inappropriate development; and establish a conservation fund to preserve important natural wildlife habitat.</p>
<p><b>Green Party</b></p>	<p><b>A</b></p>	<p>No mention of parks and protected areas in the 2011 Green platform document. However, in the party's comprehensive policy document, "Green Vision", the party says it will: establish an annual budget of \$500 million to complete the National Parks system by 2020; provide the funding necessary to protect the Parks' ecological integrity; fast-track the establishment of "no-take" marine protected areas; increase staff and monitoring efforts; protect at least half of Canada's boreal forest in a network of large interconnected protected areas and use ecosystem-based management and stewardship on the remaining landscape; preserve critically threatened habitats, keystone species, endangered species, species of commercial or cultural value, and interconnected tracts of habitat for wide-range migrating species; and promote the creation of an internationally-recognized Arctic Protected Zone where no mineral exploration will be permitted by any country.</p>
<p><b>Bloc Québécois</b></p>	<p><b>F</b></p>	<p>There was no specific mention of parks and protected areas in either the Bloc's platform or its policy statement.</p>

## Grade

## Nuclear Power

<p><b>Conservative Party</b></p>	<p><b>F</b></p>	<p>Would not state whether or not they oppose taxpayer subsidies for new nuclear reactors in Ontario.</p>
<p><b>Liberal Party</b></p>	<p><b>F</b></p>	<p>Say they'll lift the commercial contract restrictions on AECL "so that it can generate new business and stay afloat without the help of taxpayers' money."</p>
<p><b>NDP</b></p>	<p><b>A</b></p>	<p>Opposes taxpayer subsidies for new nuclear reactors in Ontario or anywhere else in Canada. According to NDP leader Jack Layton, New Democrats believe in "halting nuclear expansion and upgrading the safety and security of current nuclear energy and waste management facilities". While there may be a need for government support for nuclear research, Layton says "New Democrats do not see the need for government subsidies of a mature industry just as we oppose subsidies for the tar sands."</p>
<p><b>Green Party</b></p>	<p><b>A</b></p>	<p>Strongly opposes taxpayer subsidies for new nuclear reactors in Ontario.</p>
<p><b>Bloc Québécois</b></p>	<p><b>A</b></p>	<p>Opposes taxpayer subsidies for new nuclear reactors in Ontario. According to the Bloc Quebecois, it is opposed to the federal government supporting this energy system in any way and believes that nuclear waste should be managed locally and Quebec should not bear the costs of Ontario's energy choices.</p>

## Grade

## Marine Areas

<p><b>Conservative Party</b></p>	<p><b>F</b></p>	<p>On fixing Canadian fisheries management: Conservatives launched a commission of inquiry into decline of Sockeye Salmon in the Fraser River and agree to assess damage of dragging before going into new fishing areas in the Northwest Atlantic. Areas of concern: The Eastern Scotian Shelf Integrated Management (ESSIM) continues to languish after 3 years; DFO scientists are gagged; and Conservatives would cut DFO's budget by \$57 million by 2014 and decrease the role of Environmental Assessment in protecting marine and fresh water systems. On protecting new areas and endangered species: progress has been slow under Conservatives, but there has been some improvement and new areas have been protected; Conservatives would create a national conservation plan; and would require pelagic longliners to have gear on board to unhook sea turtles. Areas of Concern: Conservatives did not list marine endangered populations (e.g. cod in the Gulf of St. Lawrence) in the Species at Risk Act (SARA); allow the only directed fishery for endangered porbeagle shark; and internationally fought against endangered species protection (unless it's a species not caught very often in our waters). On restoring fisheries and fishing communities: Conservatives reduced quotas for shrimp and crab and committed to invest in small craft harbours and get rid of capital gains tax for fishers. Areas of Concern: Conservatives fought a precautionary catch limit for Bluefin tuna; allow fishing in cod spawning areas; and are allowing an "experimental" hunt for seals in the Gulf to see if groundfish rebound (instead of conservation-based management). On offshore oil and gas regulation: Conservatives failed to stop deep-water drilling in wake of Gulf of Mexico spill; failed to review offshore regulators; would allow offshore oil and gas development in the Gulf of St. Lawrence; and would allow oil tankers off BC's North Coast. On freshwater systems: did include some wastewater treatment in infrastructure money and rejected a mine project in BC because of damage to fish habitat (Fish Lake). Areas of Concern: downgraded protection of fresh water in Navigable Waters Act; continue to allow lakes and rivers to be listed as waste dumps for mines; favour the Lower Churchill mega-hydro project; have not stepped up to the plate on hydraulic fracturing ("fracking"); and have no plan to provide safe, clean drinking water on First Nation reserves.</p>
<p><b>Liberal Party</b></p>	<p><b>D+</b></p>	<p>On fixing Canadian fisheries management: Liberals recognizes there are fisheries in crisis and would advance integrated management and ocean zoning. On protecting new areas and endangered species: Liberals would increase protected areas (although no specific commitment outlined). On restoring fisheries and fishing communities: Liberals would give retirement training and buy out over-capacity fishers; and would ensure Pacific salmon are protected. On offshore oil and gas regulation: would place a moratorium on Arctic oil and gas developed and conduct an independent review; would not allow tankers off BC's North Coast; would review all offshore regulatory boards; and would remove liability limits for oil companies in the case of a spill (currently \$40 million in the Arctic and \$30 million off NL and NS). On freshwater systems: would develop a Canadian fresh water strategy (100 million Year-1 and 125 million Year-2) to protect degraded areas of the Great Lakes; would help restore Lake Winnipeg; and would fight/do research on fresh water invasive species like zebra mussel. Liberals were in power when Fisheries Act regulations were modified to allow mines to turn lakes and rivers into mine waste dumps.</p>
<p><b>NDP</b></p>	<p><b>B-</b></p>	<p>On fixing Canadian fisheries management: NDP would create cumulative impact assessments and environmental regulations for fisheries and transboundary waters. On protecting new areas and endangered species: not mentioned in platform. On restoring fisheries and fishing communities: NDP would create a Canadian Food Strategy (which presumably would include fisheries) that incorporates environmental goals and local food components. On offshore oil and gas regulation: NDP would do cumulative impact assessment and environmental regulation in transboundary waters (which would put a pause to oil and gas development in the Gulf of St. Lawrence) and northern BC tankers would be stopped. On freshwater systems: NDP actively opposed the designation of lakes and rivers as mining dump sites and would improve drinking water systems in First Nation communities. NDP are also against oil tanker traffic in BC.</p>
<p><b>Green Party</b></p>	<p><b>B</b></p>	<p>On fixing Canadian fisheries management: Green Party would re-invest \$15 million in government science, some of which would be oceans related. In their 'Vision' document, the GP commit to protecting new marine areas and endangered species. On restoring fisheries and fishing communities: GP would end dragging and would invest \$24 million in wild fisheries and rivers. On offshore oil and gas regulation: GP would stop northern BC tanker traffic and begin process to stop traffic in southern B.C. On freshwater systems: GP would invest \$600 million in water and waste-water infrastructure; implement a toxics tax to help keep waters clean; and invest in safe drinking water infrastructure in indigenous communities.</p>
<p><b>Bloc Québécois</b></p>	<p><b>D+</b></p>	<p>On fixing Canadian fisheries management: Bloc would reform the 133 year old Fisheries Act in order to support historic fishing areas and respect sustainable fisheries; and would take an integrated management approach to the development on the St. Lawrence Seaway (makes a particular reference to hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking"). On protecting new areas and endangered species: not mentioned in platform. On restoring fisheries and fishing communities: Bloc would ask for more compensation for coastal areas impacted by climate change; would give support for small craft harbours; and would make numerous changes to benefit fishers (especially in crab, lobster and shrimp fisheries). On offshore oil and gas regulation: Bloc would sign an offshore Accord for oil in the Gulf; would create conditions for proceeding with oil and gas development in the Gulf. On freshwater systems: Bloc would take an integrated management approach to shale gas development around the St. Lawrence.</p>

## Grade

## Home Energy Efficiency

<p><b>Conservative Party</b></p>	<p><b>D-</b></p>	<p>The Conservative Party will renew the ecoEnergy program for just one year, spending \$400 million. After that, they will scrap it altogether. No other pledges. Total investment: \$400 million for 1 year. \$400 million over five years.</p>
<p><b>Liberal Party</b></p>	<p><b>B</b></p>	<p>The Liberals will introduce a \$400 million green renovation tax credit providing up to \$13,500 per home for green home renovations such as installing new windows, doors and roofing. They will also cover 50% of the cost of the home energy audits that are required in advance of the renovation, targeting 1 million homes by 2017. Total investment: \$400 million a year. \$2 billion over five years.</p>
<p><b>NDP</b></p>	<p><b>C-</b></p>	<p>The NDP will spend \$200 million a year on Energy Efficient Housing Rehabilitation. They will also spend \$1.45 billion over five years on exempting the HST on home heating bills, which, paradoxically, will make home heating energy cheaper, reducing the incentive for people to invest in efficiency. Total investment: \$200 million a year. \$1 billion over five years.</p>
<p><b>Green Party</b></p>	<p><b>A</b></p>	<p>The Green Party will spend \$400 million on EcoEnergy home energy retrofit grants, increasing to \$600 million after year one. They will also spend \$150 million a year on energy retrofits for low income housing; \$200 million a year on energy retrofits for municipal, university, schools and hospitals; and \$180 million a year on a national solar roof program. Their long term vision lays out a very detailed program of energy efficiency measures with the goal of retrofitting 100% of Canada's buildings to a high level of energy efficiency by 2025. Total investment: \$970 million a year. \$4.85 billion over five years.</p>
<p><b>Bloc Québécois</b></p>	<p><b>C-</b></p>	<p>The Bloc Québécois is committed to proposing measures to reduce Québec's dependence on oil: tax incentives to help families convert their home heating system and undertake energy efficiency retrofits in their homes; measures to promote electric cars; support for the development of biofuels from agricultural, household and forestry waste; renewable energy development assistance; support for companies that switch to more energy-efficient patterns of production.</p>

## Grade

## Animal Welfare

<b>Conservative Party</b>	<b>F</b>	Does not support a buyout or an end to the commercial seal slaughter. Recently announced the highest seal quota in history at over 400,000 seals despite the fact that climate change is causing the sea ice, which harp seals depend on, to almost completely disappear. Supports Canada's WTO challenge to the EU's decision to ban its trade in seal products.
<b>Liberal Party</b>	<b>D</b>	Does not currently support a buyout or an end to the commercial seal slaughter. However, a couple of Liberal MPs have spoken out on the issue and Michael Ignatieff was quoted as saying he'd consider a federal buyout if that's what sealers want.
<b>NDP</b>	<b>F</b>	Does not currently support a buyout or an end to the commercial seal slaughter. Supports Canada's WTO challenge to the EU's decision to ban its trade in seal products.
<b>Green Party</b>	<b>A+</b>	Supports a federal buyout of sealing licenses and an end to the commercial seal slaughter. Will work with other levels of government to find sustainable economic alternatives for sealers and their communities, and provide full compensation to sealers for lost income.
<b>Bloc Québécois</b>	<b>F</b>	Bloc do not have a policy for ending the commercial seal hunt. Bloc strongly support sealers in the Magdalen Islands. Leader Gilles Duceppe has been a vocal supporter of the seal slaughter.