

# News release

GREENPEACE

## Renewable energy is our future – why aren't Canadian politicians talking about it?

**20 September 2015 (Toronto)** – A new international report says the costs of creating a 100% renewable energy system by 2050, as called for in *The Leap Manifesto* released in Canada last week, would be more than covered by future savings in fuel costs. Produced by Greenpeace International in collaboration with the German Aerospace Centre (DLR), *The Energy [R]evolution Scenario 2015* report (1) also found that investing in renewables would create more jobs in the energy sector than continuing to invest in fossil fuels.

“Making the leap to a renewable energy future isn't as scary as some of our politicians would have you believe,” said Keith Stewart, head of Greenpeace Canada's climate and energy campaign. “We hope this report will get candidates from all parties in the federal election finally talking about the benefits to Canada of taking real action on climate change.”

The report shows that within 15 years, renewables' share of electricity worldwide could triple from 21% today to 64%. Almost two-thirds of electricity could come from renewable energy. Even with the rapid development of countries like Brazil, China and India, CO2 emissions could fall from the current 30 gigatonnes a year to 20 gigatonnes by 2030.

In jobs, the solar PV industry could employ 9.7 million people by 2030, more than 10 times as many as it does today. Jobs in wind power could grow to 7.8 million over the same period.

“The solar and wind industries have come of age, and are cost-competitive with coal,” said Greenpeace's Sven Teske, the lead author of the report. “It is very likely they will overtake the coal industry in terms of jobs and energy supplied within the next decade. It's the responsibility of the fossil fuel industry to prepare for these changes in the labour market and make provisions. Governments need to manage the dismantling of the fossil fuel industry, which is moving rapidly into irrelevance as every dollar invested in new fossil fuel projects is high risk capital that might end up as stranded investment.”

The average additional investment needed in renewables until 2050 is about \$1 trillion a year. Because renewables don't require fuel, the savings over the same period are \$1.07 trillion a year, more than offsetting the costs of the required investment, with the cross-over point happening between 2025 and 2030.

Kumi Naidoo, the Executive Director of Greenpeace International, said: “We must not let lobbying by vested interests in the fossil fuel industry stand in the way of a switch to renewable energy, the most effective and fairest way to deliver a clean and safe energy future. I would urge all those who say ‘it can't be done’ to read this report and recognize that it can be done, it must be done and it will be for the benefit of everyone if it is done.”

In less than three months, the Paris climate summit will offer global leaders the opportunity to take the necessary and critical steps to fight climate change, by accelerating the steady transformation of the world's energy sector away from fossil fuels and towards 100% renewable energy by mid-century.

“With this Greenpeace scenario, the Paris climate agreement must deliver a long term vision for phasing out coal, oil, gas and nuclear energy by mid-century, reaching the goal of 100% renewables with energy access for all,” said Naidoo.

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[1] <http://www.greenpeace.org/international/en/publications/Campaign-reports/Climate-Reports/Energy-Revolution-2015/>