



## COMPENDIUM OF CANADA'S ENGAGEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS AND INSTRUMENTS

### *Powering Past Coal Alliance (PPCA)*

**SUBJECT CATEGORY:**

Climate Change

**TYPE OF AGREEMENT / INSTRUMENT:**

Multilateral

**FORM:**

Voluntary international instrument

**STATUS:**

Canada co-launched the PPCA with the United Kingdom in November 2017, and is currently the co-chair.

**LEAD & PARTNER DEPARTMENTS:**

**Lead:** Environment and Climate Change Canada

**Partners:** Natural Resources Canada; UK Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy; PPCA Secretariat (hosted by E3G and the Pembina Institute)

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:****Web Links:**

- [Powering Past Coal Alliance](#) web site
- [Canada's International Action on Climate Change](#) web site

**Contacts:**

[ECCC Inquiry Centre](#)

**COMPENDIUM EDITION:**

January 2020

**PLAIN LANGUAGE SUMMARY**

Canada co-leads the Powering Past Coal Alliance (PPCA) alongside the UK, with the goal of accelerating clean growth and climate protection through the rapid phase-out of traditional coal power. Coal-fired electricity accounts for almost 40 percent of the world's power, but is one of the most greenhouse gas-intensive energy sources in the world, producing approximately 30% of the world's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Phasing out traditional coal power is the single most important step governments and organizations can take to tackle climate change—without which Canada and other nations will not meet Paris Agreement climate goals. Global momentum is building, with 97 governments and organizations (as of December 2019) having joined the PPCA, committed to achieve this phase-out in a sustainable and economically inclusive way.

**OBJECTIVE**

To co-lead a global alliance of national and sub-national governments, businesses and organisations, to advance the transition away from traditional coal-fired electricity.

**KEY ELEMENTS**

PPCA members are united in taking action to accelerate clean growth and climate protection through the rapid phase-out of traditional coal power. More specifically:

- **Government members commit to phasing out existing traditional coal power generation** and to a moratorium on any new coal power stations without operational carbon capture and storage, within their jurisdictions;
- **Business and other non-government members commit to powering their operations without coal;** and
- **All members commit to supporting clean power generation through their policies** (whether public or corporate, as appropriate) and investments, and to restricting financing for traditional coal power generation. Members also commit to achieving the phase-out in a sustainable and economically inclusive way, while providing appropriate support for workers and communities.

## EXPECTED RESULTS

PPCA members recognise that shifting away from traditional coal power generation is essential for clean air, healthy communities, sustainable economic growth, and a safe climate. Expected results of the PPCA include:

- Encouraging more governments and organisations to support the phase-out of traditional coal power in a timeframe compatible with the Paris Agreement temperature goal;
- Sharing best practices and showcasing successful efforts in transitioning away from coal power; and
- Promoting the importance of a Just Transition while moving to cleaner sources of energy.

## CANADA'S INVOLVEMENT

Canada and the United Kingdom co-founded and launched the PPCA at the 23<sup>rd</sup> session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 23) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in November 2017. The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, is a co-chair of the PPCA, and Canada continues to provide strategic direction and leadership to the PPCA's efforts.

## RESULTS / PROGRESS

### *Activities*

Knowledge sharing: since its launch, Canada has supported the PPCA in hosting 14 high-profile events at international climate and energy meetings – including COP23-25, the UN Climate Action Summit, and the Clean Energy Ministerial – to share PPCA members' experiences and lessons learned, and to engage in discussions with governments and organizations that may be in the early stages of their transition away from coal. The PPCA also facilitates direct exchanges between

members; for example, Canada shared its expertise in developing regulations to phase out coal with Finland.

Coal diplomacy: Canada is working with PPCA members to engage with countries that currently use coal-fired electricity, or are considering adding it to their energy mix, to convey the urgent need to phase out coal-fired electricity. By sharing its expertise and leadership, Canada is seeking to accelerate the global transition away from coal.

Taskforces: to increase its ability to share expertise and provide assistance to those governments and organizations working to phase out coal-fired electricity, the PPCA has launched three thematic Taskforces on Utilities, Just Transition, and Finance. These Taskforces convene PPCA members and other expert stakeholders to develop best practices and recommendations on their respective topics.

Partnerships: Canada and the PPCA have established partnerships with 10 influential organizations from civil society (Bloomberg Philanthropies, Carbon Tracker, E3G, the Pembina Institute, and the Rocky Mountain Institute) and the financial sector (BloombergNEF, Ceres, the Institutional Investors Group on Climate Change, the Local Authority Pension Fund Forum, and the UN Principles for Responsible Investment). Through these partnerships, the PPCA is working to increase the networks and resources available to support its members.

### *Results*

Since its launch at COP23, the PPCA has grown from 27 to 97 members (as of December 2019), including 33 national governments, 27 sub-national governments, and 37 businesses and organisations who are committed to supporting unabated coal power phase-out. The phase-out commitments made by PPCA members represent approximately 35% of the OECD's total coal capacity or about 20% of the world's coal capacity (outside of China).