

CANADA'S RAILWAYS: ***PART OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE SOLUTION***



Railway Association
of Canada



Canada has committed to reducing its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 40-45% below 2005 levels by 2030 and reach net-zero by 2050. Freight and passenger railways have played, and will continue to play, a key role in achieving the country's climate goals through their exceptional fuel efficiency and longstanding commitment to emissions reductions.

RAIL IS GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE



Railways are a highly efficient and low emission mode of transportation. A locomotive can move one tonne of freight 200km on a single litre of fuel. Despite moving tens of millions of passengers and close to 70 per cent of all intercity freight each year, our railways produce just 1.1 per cent of our country's GHG emissions, and only 3.8 per cent of Canada's transportation GHG emissions.

44% REDUCTION IN GHG

EMISSIONS INTENSITY SINCE 1990



Canada's railways have a long track record of reducing emissions. Through a memorandum of understanding with the federal government, Canada's freight railways have voluntarily reduced their GHG emissions intensity (kg CO₂e per 1,000 revenue tonne-kilometres) by 44.4 per cent since 1990.

20-25% REINVESTMENT



Railways invest between 20 and 25% of their revenues into their infrastructure each year — including investments to make their network more efficient and sustainable. From engine retrofits to anti-idling devices, railways are investing in the technologies and operational changes needed to reduce their carbon footprint.



***10% SHIFT TO RAIL=
REDUCTION OF 4.1
MEGATONNES OF CO₂e***

The Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change has recognized modal shift as a credible solution to achieve Canada's climate change objectives. Railways are three to four times more fuel efficient than trucks, and three times more fuel efficient than cars. Shifting just 10 per cent of freight from trucks to rail would reduce GHG emissions by 4.1 megatonnes of CO₂e equivalent.



Governments should recognize the important role that railways can play in reducing Canada's GHG emissions. By incentivizing a shift from other transportation modes to rail, and by identifying opportunities to invest in railway infrastructure, governments can take concrete action in the fight against climate change.

