

What was promised by leaders at the recent COP26 meetings?

In July, Canada formally committed to **reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 40 to 45 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030.**



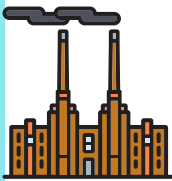
**Declaration on Forest and Land Use:** 137 countries **including Canada** pledged to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030.



**The Global Methane Pledge:** 108 nations **including Canada** have signed the global methane pledge, which aims to reduce human-caused methane emissions by 30% between 2020 and 2030.



**Global Coal to Clean Power Transition Statement:** 46 nations **including Canada** have joined this initiative to phase out coal power at different rates.



**Declaration on Accelerating the Transition to 100% Zero Emission Cars and Vans:** 22 countries **including Canada** have signed a pledge to reach a 100% share of sales of new cars and vans being zero emission by 2035 for leading markets and 2040 for other regions.



**The Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance** (to stop drilling for oil) aimed at phasing out oil and gas production was formalized at COP26. This Alliance is led by Costa Rica and Denmark and **includes Quebec** (committed to ending new exploration permits).

**Declaration to End International Fossil Fuel Financing:** More than 31 countries **including Canada** and institutions have signed a declaration to end overseas fossil fuel funding to 2022 from 2035.



**Low-Carbon, Climate-Resilient Health Systems:** Governments of 50 countries **including Canada** have pledged to develop low-carbon climate resilient health structures.



How does this impact our world and your health?

**A livable climate requires that global warming not exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius.** Currently, the world has warmed up to 1.1 degrees Celsius.

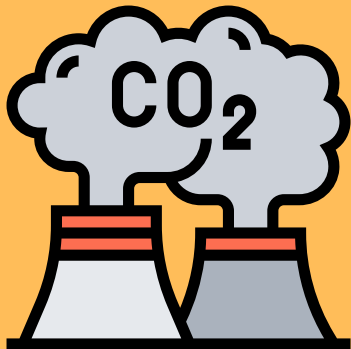
**Trees produce the oxygen we breathe and sequester carbon dioxide** (remove and absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere). Studies also show that **nature helps our mental health**—for example, helping to decrease stress, rumination, hostility, fatigue and anxiety. Spending short amounts of time in forests can **additionally help our physical health** including our immune and cardiovascular health. **1**

According to scientists, by cutting methane emissions by 30% by 2030, the world can avoid 0.3 degrees Celsius of warming by 2040. **Methane is a potent greenhouse gas, and a precursor of surface ozone—a toxic air pollutant that can contribute to respiratory problems. 2, 3**

**Burning coal releases toxic mercury** into the air that enters bodies of water through rain and can find its way into our food chain. **Coal-fired power plants are also a source of sulfur dioxide** which contributes to the production of acid rain.

**Electric vehicle adoption alongside active mobility such as walking and biking and increased investments in electrified mass transportation,** will not only reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but also reduce air pollution and support healthier communities.

By 2050, scientists have found that in order to have a 50 percent chance of **achieving the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, 58 percent of known oil reserves, 59 percent of natural gas reserves, and 89 percent of coal reserves cannot be extracted. 4**



**Healthcare structures have committed to reducing their emissions, alongside building systems that are resilient to the impacts of epidemics, pandemics, extreme weather events** and the increasing burden of various diseases linked to air pollution and global warming. **5**

**References:**

1) Why Trees Can Make You Happier | Greater Good Magazine

2) COP26: The Biggest Announcements Coming Out of the UN Climate Conference | Global Citizen

3) KeyCOP26 pledges could put world 9% closer to 1.5C pathway | Cop26 | The Guardian

4) Unextractable fossil fuels in a 1.5 °C world | Nature

5) Countries commit to develop climate-smart health care at COP26 UN climate conference | WHO