



## Election Report Card

*Measuring the 2021 federal election platforms against the Green Economy Network's climate plan*



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9/15/2021

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## Executive Summary

In 2016, the Green Economy Network (GEN) developed its [10 Policies for a Green Economy](#) plan. This document covers 5 major themes that GEN feels are essential to pave the way for the green economy of the future: energy, transportation, retrofits, just transition, and financing. The plan remains a core component of our vision for a transformative, green economic model. In consideration of Canada's upcoming federal election, we've reviewed each major party platform and have compared it against our plan.

This report should be viewed as an informational guide, not an endorsement of any party. Readers are encouraged to form their own opinions about the degree to which each party's agenda aligns with their own. Moreover, it should be emphasized that platforms are not binding documents, and gaps between political rhetoric on the campaign trail and party performance once in government are common, especially when it comes to climate issues.

What follows is a brief summary of some of the core differences between the party platforms insofar as they relate to GEN's mandate. The rest of the report provides a breakdown and evaluation of the major party platforms in relation to each of GEN's 10 policy proposals. For each proposal, parties are given a rating from between A to F based on how much their platform aligns with GEN's.

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**Energy:** While all parties have included renewable energy solutions in their platforms, the Greens have the most ambitious target, and are explicit in their call for a 100 percent renewable energy system. The Greens, Liberals, and NDP each call for an end to fossil fuel subsidies. However, the NDP platform more closely aligns with GEN's mandate since it calls for these funds to be redirected to low-carbon solutions.

**Transportation:** The Greens, Liberals, and NDP each have a plan for expanding public transit, as well as plans to de-carbonize this sector. The NDP platform more closely aligns with GEN's mandate because it sets explicit targets for greening Canada's transit system. The Greens, Liberals, and NDP are each supportive of speed/frequency rail projects, although none of the parties are supportive of a plan as expansive as what GEN has proposed.

**Retrofits:** All four parties have residential and commercial retrofitting programs to some degree, although the Conservative platform is distinct insofar as it is more interested in providing private sector incentives and technological fixes than direct federal funding.

**Just Transition:** The Greens and Liberals have the strongest platforms regarding a Just Transition Act (JTA). Both parties call for Just Transition legislation and are committed to targeted funding for affected communities. The Liberal government is currently undergoing a Just Transition consultation, although they have been criticized for its timing after a lack of action on this front since 2019. While the NDP has called for the passing of a JTA as recently as this year, the party's platform makes no explicit mention of such legislation, although it mentions tying its job creation plan to climate targets. The Liberal, Green, and NDP platforms are also strongest on the Just Transition Fund front, as they call for funding to retrain affected energy workers.

**How to pay for it:** The Greens, Liberals, and NDP are in favour of ratcheting up the carbon price to a level that exceeds what GEN originally proposed 5 years ago. The Conservatives are also in favour of a carbon price but will only pursue the targets set by the current government if the US and EU follow suite. No party has promised to move from a revenue neutral model to one that uses carbon price revenues to invest in climate programs. The Liberals have promised to introduce a Green Bonds program to promote green investment, while the NDP propose the establishment of a Canadian Climate Bank.

## Energy

### 1. Renewable Energy Development Strategy

The federal government must establish a **Renewable Energy Development Strategy**. The Strategy will stimulate the development of renewable energy sources in every part of the country with an emphasis on wind, solar, geothermal and tidal power.

Conservative Party of Canada	Green Party of Canada	Liberal Party of Canada	New Democratic Party
Develop a National Clean Energy Strategy: strengthen Canada's energy grid, boost Environmental, Social and Governance leadership, build a hydrogen power future, and increase liquid natural gas exports. ( <a href="#">CPC platform 2021</a> )	End new pipeline construction, fracking and oil and gas exploration projects. Ensure 100 percent of Canadian electricity is produced from renewable energy sources by 2030. ( <a href="#">GPC platform 2021</a> )	Achieve a net-zero emitting electricity system by 2035. Develop additional tax credits for renewable energy and battery storage solutions. Promote infrastructure investments, smart grids, grid integration, and electricity sector innovation with the goal of making Canada the most reliable, cost-effective, and carbon-free electricity producer in the world. ( <a href="#">LPC platform 2021</a> )	Boost investment in renewable energy, energy efficiency and low-carbon technology, support provinces interested in inter-connecting their power grids and implementing smart grid technology and support made-in-Canada manufacturing of renewable energy components and technology to scale up Canada's clean energy industry. ( <a href="#">NDP platform 2021</a> )
C	A	B	B

### 2. Withdraw subsidies to fossil fuel sector

The federal government must **immediately withdraw annual subsidies from the fossil fuel sector** to fund alternative, green investments, including renewable energy projects.

CPC	GPC	LPC	NDP
--	End all subsidies to the fossil fuel sector. ( <a href="#">GPC platform 2021</a> )	Develop a plan to phase-out public financing of the fossil fuel sector, including from Crown corporations, consistent with our commitment to reach net-zero emissions by 2050. ( <a href="#">LPC platform 2021</a> )	Eliminate fossil fuel subsidies and redirect funds to low carbon initiatives. ( <a href="#">NDP platform 2021</a> )
F	B	B	A

## Transportation

### 3. Develop and Expand Public Transit Systems

The federal government must **invest in the development and expansion of public transit systems** in urban centres across the country.

CPC	GPC	LPC	NDP
--	Introduce a permanent, dedicated federal public transit fund of \$3.4b annually starting in 2026-27, once the current program expires. Ensure access to zero-carbon public transit. ( <a href="#">GPC platform 2021</a> )	\$14.9bn over 8 years for Permanent Public Transit fund. Support the switch to zero-emissions buses. ( <a href="#">LPC platform 2021</a> )	Modernize and expand public transit within and between communities across Canada and ensure that federal transit funding flows with an emphasis on scaling up low carbon transit projects like zero-emissions buses and electric trains with the goal of electrifying transit and other municipal fleets by 2030. ( <a href="#">NDP platform 2021</a> )
F	A	B	A

### 4. Develop High-Speed Rail Systems

The federal government must **invest in the development of high-speed rail systems** in urban corridors: the Québec City – Montréal – Toronto – Windsor highspeed corridor; Calgary and Edmonton; and Vancouver and Seattle.

CPC	GPC	LPC	NDP
--	Build electrified, 200 km/h or faster, high-speed rail in the Toronto-Ottawa-Montreal-Quebec City triangle and the Calgary-Edmonton corridor. ( <a href="#">GPC platform 2021</a> )	\$500m over six years for “Next Step Towards High Frequency Rail in the Toronto-Quebec City Corridor.” ( <a href="#">Federal Budget 2021</a> ) ( <a href="#">LPC platform 2021</a> )	Generally supportive of Liberal plan; wants fixed capital inputs to be made in Canada. ( <a href="#">Toronto Star, 2021</a> ) ( <a href="#">NDP platform 2021</a> )
F	B	B	B

## Retrofits

### 5. Green Homes Program

The federal government must create a **Green Homes Program** designed to retrofit 40% of Canadian residential buildings with a goal of increasing energy efficiency (and reducing energy costs) by 30% in each home. This program would include low-income housing grants, property tax financing, on-bill repayments, renovator training, mandatory labelling and retrofit standards as part of an improved building code.

CPC	GPC	LPC	NDP
Develop new technologies and solutions to low the cost and speed up the pace of residential retrofits ( <a href="#">CPC platform 2021</a> )	Create and implement a national green retrofit of existing residential, commercial, institutional and industrial buildings. ( <a href="#">GPC platform 2021</a> )	\$2.6bn over seven years to help homeowners improve their home energy efficiency. ( <a href="#">Federal Budget 2021</a> ) ( <a href="#">LPC platform 2021</a> )	Offer low-interest loans to households making energy-efficient improvements, with targeted supports for low-income households and renters ( <a href="#">NDP platform 2021</a> )
B	A	A	A

### 6. Green Buildings Program

The federal government must create a **Green Buildings Program** designed to improve the technical and operational efficiency of all non-residential buildings across Canada by 50% over the next ten years and require all new buildings to be net zero by 2030.

CPC	GPC	LPC	NDP
Incentivize private sector to retrofit buildings. Continue updating building codes to support net-zero goals. Provide building trades training. ( <a href="#">CPC platform 2021</a> )	See #5.	\$2bn to invest in large-scale building retrofits through Canada Infrastructure Bank. ( <a href="#">Federal Budget 2021</a> ) ( <a href="#">LPC platform 2021</a> )	Retrofit all buildings in Canada by 2050. Update the National Building Code to ensure that by 2025, every new building in Canada is net-zero. ( <a href="#">NDP platform 2021</a> )
B	A	A	A

## Just Transition

### 7. Climate Change, Jobs, and Just Transition Act

Canada must adopt a **Climate Change, Jobs and Just Transition Act**. This Act would include a legally binding framework to reduce domestic GHG emissions in line with our international commitments; clear objectives and commitments to create green jobs; and clear commitments to implement Just Transition policies where they're needed most.

CPC	GPC	LPC	NDP
--	Introduce a Just Transition Act before the end of 2021 that takes care of communities during the transition. Replace every high paying fossil fuel sector job with a high paying green sector job. ( <a href="#">GPC platform 2021</a> )	Move forward with Just Transition Legislation, guided by the feedback we receive from workers, unions, Indigenous peoples, communities, and provinces and territories. \$2b Futures Fund for Alberta, Saskatchewan, Newfoundland and Labrador to fund local economic diversification. ( <a href="#">LPC platform 2021</a> )	Create one million jobs while making the changes needed to succeed in a low carbon economy. Supportive of Just Transition legislation. Critical of lack of legislative action on the part of the LPC. ( <a href="#">2021 NDP statement</a> ) ( <a href="#">NDP platform 2021</a> )
F	B	B	B

### 8. Just Transition Fund

The federal government must establish a **Just Transition Fund** to assist workers affected by climate change initiatives. The fund should support workers upgrading their skills for other employment, including employment in renewable energy production, energy efficiency and public transit. These Just Transition measures must also ensure that workers in marginalized urban and rural communities have new employment and training opportunities in these and other industries.

CPC	GPC	LPC	NDP
--	Invest in retraining programs to prepare workers for jobs in renewable energy sector. Create jobs cleaning up "orphaned" oil wells. Create framework that recognizes the unique circumstances of each region. Ramp up renewable energy development in FN communities while respecting self-governing rights. ( <a href="#">GPC platform 2021</a> )	Launch a Clean Jobs Training Centre to help industrial, skill and trade workers across sectors to upgrade or gain new skills to be on the leading edge of zero carbon industry. ( <a href="#">LPC platform 2021</a> )	Re-training and job placement services, ensuring companies retain and redeploy their workers when in transition, and ensuring that workers nearing retirement have the retirement security they have worked their whole lives for, without penalties to their pensions if they retire early. ( <a href="#">NDP platform 2021</a> )
F	B	B	B

## How to pay for it

### 9. Enhance carbon pricing regulations

The federal government must **enhance the long-term ambition of national carbon pricing regulations**. All carbon pricing revenues collected by provincial governments should be redirected toward climate and just transition program spending.

CPC	GPC	LPC	NDP
Start a \$20/tonne and increase to \$50/tonne but no further. Tie Canada's industrial carbon price to that of the European Union and the United States, and based on their progress towards meeting Paris targets, be prepared to set industrial carbon prices on a path to \$170/tonne by 2030. ( <a href="#">CPC platform 2021</a> )	Accelerate the increase in carbon taxes: beginning in 2022 and up to 2030, increase carbon taxes by \$25/tonne each year. ( <a href="#">GPC platform 2021</a> )	Increase carbon price by \$15/tonne per year starting in 2023, until it reaches \$170 in 2030. Revenue neutral. ( <a href="#">Federal Budget 2021</a> ) ( <a href="#">LPC platform 2021</a> )	Generally supportive of Liberal targets. Wants to continue with carbon pricing while making it fairer and rolling back loopholes this Liberal government has given to big polluters. ( <a href="#">NDP platform 2021</a> )
C	B	B	B

### 10. Green Bonds

Governments at all levels should **offer green bonds to raise funds for specific green economy projects**. Both large-scale and community-centred renewable energy projects can be supported in this way, as well as public transit initiatives and home and building retrofits.

CPC	GPC	LPC	NDP
--	--	The government will publish a green bond framework in the coming months in advance of issuing its inaugural federal green bond in 2021-22, with an issuance target of \$5 billion, subject to market conditions. ( <a href="#">Federal Budget 2021</a> ) ( <a href="#">LPC platform 2021</a> )	Establish a new Canadian Climate Bank that will help boost investment in renewable energy, energy efficiency and low carbon technology across the country. ( <a href="#">NDP platform 2021</a> )
F	F	A	A