Canada's Copenhagen Commitment: Where do we stand?

2014 CCRE Energy Leaders Roundtable



Paul Boothe Professor and Director Lawrence National Centre March 27, 2014 Orangeville, Ontario

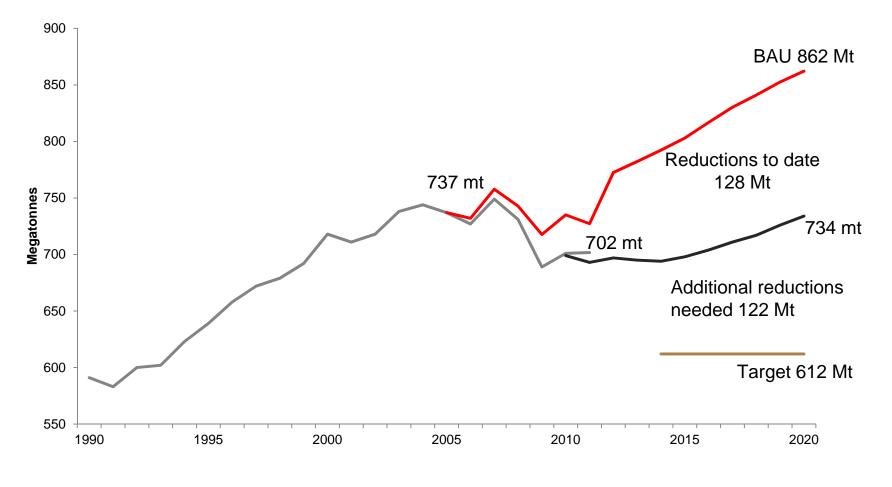


Background

- In 2009 in Copenhagen, PM Harper committed to reduce Canada's GHG emissions by 17% from 2005 levels by 2020
- A similar commitment was made by President Obama for the US
- This translates in a 2020 target of 612 Mt in 2020, 120 Mt below 2005 and 250 Mt (29%) below 2020 BAU



Progress towards target





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Canada's strategy

- Canada initially proposed to use a cap-and-trade system linked to the US, however the US system failed to pass Congress
- Canada then switched to a regulatory approach by sector and has regulated vehicle and coal-fired electricity emissions; oil and gas sector emissions are yet to be formulated

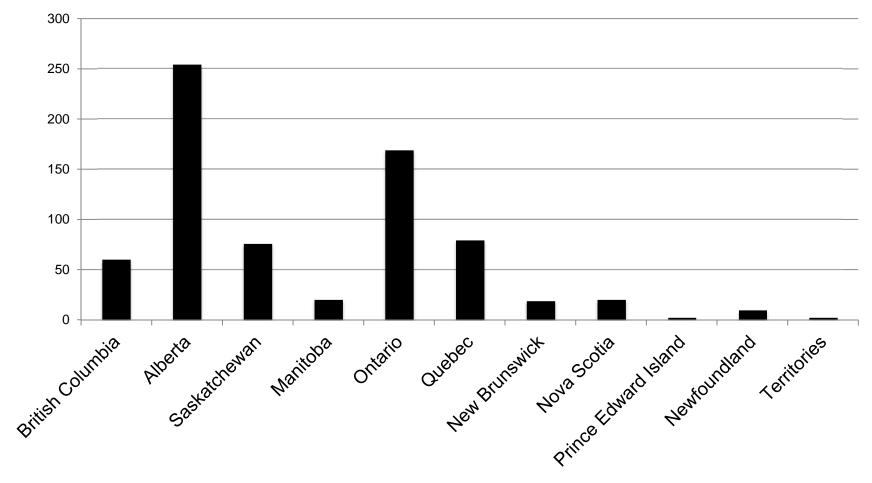


Provincial strategies

- Environment is a shared jurisdiction in Canada: most provinces have their own GHG strategies
- Provincial strategies include BC carbon tax, Alberta's SGER, Ontario coal plant closures and a suite of measures by Quebec
- Effectiveness of these strategies has been mixed

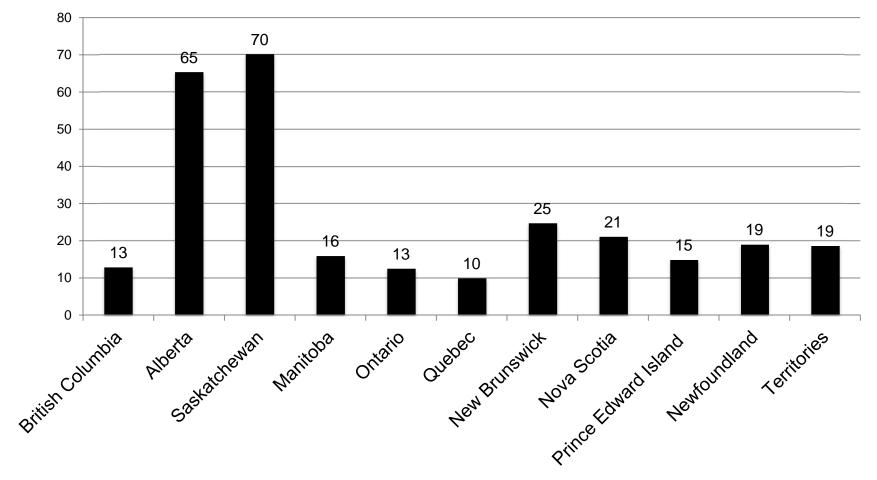


Provincial emissions



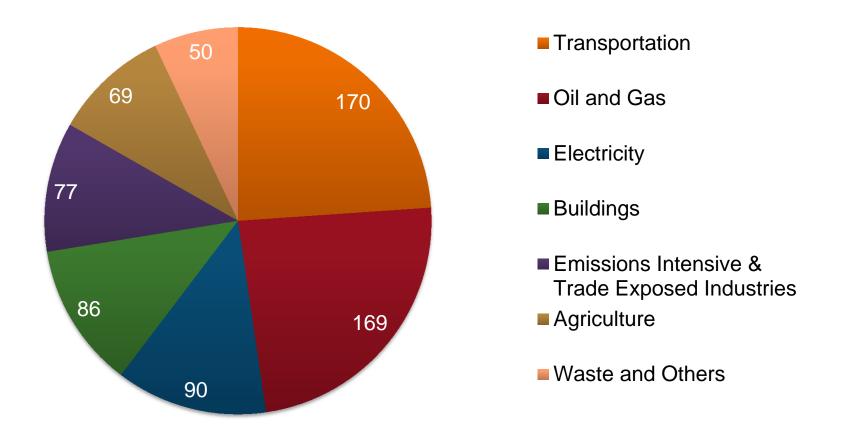


Per capita provincial emissions





2012 emissions by sector



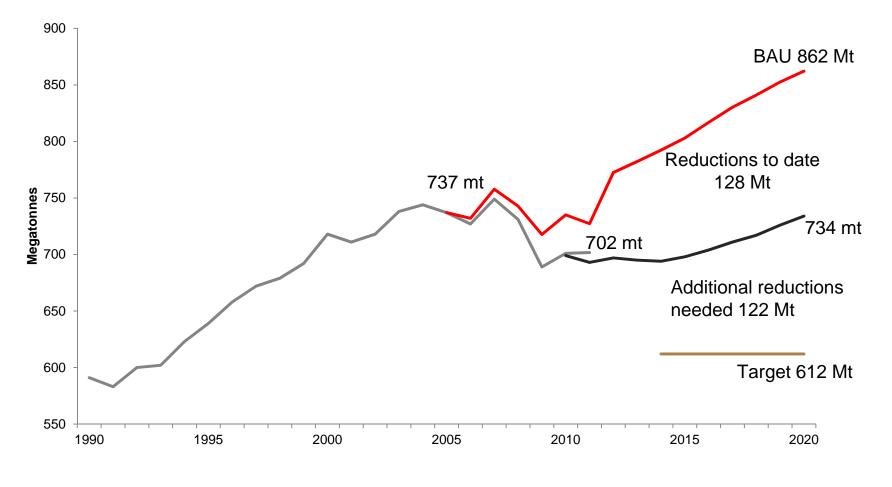


Looking ahead

- Only one major sector left to regulate: oil and gas
- Aggressive regulation would have the sector reduce 29% from BAU in 2020, reducing emissions by about 60 mt.
- Such reductions only possible with ability to use lower cost offsets from elsewhere in economy
- Still leaves 60 mt left to find to achieve target
- US likely to meet its commitment without economy-wide cap and trade as a result of slower growth, transition from coal to gas and EPA air quality regulation



Progress towards target





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Summary

- Canada is in danger of failing, yet again, to meet its international GHG commitments
- Impact will be future depreciation of Canada's already damaged environmental brand – increased pressure from abroad (European fuel quality directive, Keystone XL) and loss of social license at home (Gateway)
- Need immediate, aggressive action on oil and gas regulation and significant additional measures immediately to achieve target

