# FRIENDS of CACOR[[1]](#footnote-1) calls on federal government to use science and technology to inform policy to reduce emissions

Canada’s record during three decades demonstrates that our federal governments have not known how to set targets that Canada could actually hit. They did not know that science and technology matter. They do.

In Kyoto and Copenhagen, our governments adopted aspirational goals. Canada missed both of these formal international commitments by wide margins. It is now way above its Paris target, going the wrong way.

The track to the Paris target has become impossibly steep. Canada’s emissions have risen on Mr. Trudeau’s watch, not declined. For Mr. Trudeau to now propose to reduce emissions by at least 40% in nine years is simply nonsense.

*Graphic by John Hollins inspired by CACOR’s Pathways study.*



*All data from Canada’s annual reports to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (delivered 15 months after the end of a calendar year).*

CACOR’s Pathways study, informed by examining a very wide range of technological options and the known plans of governments, shows without doubt that Canada will hit neither 30% nor 40% targets. Current leaders are spitting in the wind.

Canada needs at least one leader who understands that Canada’s emissions are the result of a century and a half of technologies that produce and burn fossil fuels. The policy goal must be supported by measures to deliver it. The performance of those measures must be monitored every year so that adjustments can be made. For example, if electric vehicles were part of the recipe, the number sold would be reported every year and the program adjusted accordingly.

Canada has been committed to reducing emissions since 1992, when it signed the United Nations Framework on Climate Change. Science matters. It is high time for Canada to set targets that it could actually hit!

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1. Canadian Association for the Club of Rome, <https://canadiancor.com/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)