

# THE CANADIAN CHALLENGE

Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chrétien has issued a challenge to every citizen in the industrialized world: to reduce your carbon dioxide emissions by one ton or more. It sounds like a lot. But as you will see, reducing global warming can be surprisingly easy. Here's how people around the world are making a difference. What will you do?

For the Toronto student who's finally living on her own. For the London punk. The retiree in San Diego who wants to shake up his routine. The urban environmentalist working two jobs in Tokyo. For the single mom in Hamburg who's looking to the future.

- Eat meat-free meals every other day. Vegetarian food requires much less energy to produce. CO<sub>2</sub> savings = 487 pounds
  - Park the car for 60 days this year. Walk, cycle, or take public transit. CO<sub>2</sub> savings = 917 pounds
  - Switch from hot to warm or cold water for every load of laundry. CO<sub>2</sub> savings = 600 pounds
- TOTAL = 2,004 pounds (one ton)**

For the whole extended family under a single roof in Seoul. The newlyweds in Chicago. The long-distance trucker coming home to pay the bills. For the small-town Finland doctor. For everyone in Hollywood.

- Switch two standard light bulbs to more efficient fluorescent bulbs. CO<sub>2</sub> savings = 1,000 pounds
  - Replace the current shower head with a low-flow model. CO<sub>2</sub> savings = 300 pounds
  - Turn the thermostat down two degrees for one year. CO<sub>2</sub> savings = 500 pounds
  - Cut vehicle fuel use by 10 gallons in 2003. CO<sub>2</sub> savings = 200 pounds
- TOTAL = 2,000 pounds (one ton)**

For the new grandfather in Dublin. The birdwatchers in Bern. The high school student trying to make her parents listen. For the Houston oil executive. And for armchair dreamers around the world.

- Replace the 20-year-old fridge with an energy-saver model. CO<sub>2</sub> savings = 3,000 pounds
  - Send out one fewer 30-gallon bag of garbage per week. CO<sub>2</sub> savings = 300 pounds
  - Leave the car at home two days per week this year. CO<sub>2</sub> savings = 1,590 pounds
  - Recycle aluminum cans, glass bottles, plastic, cardboard and newspapers. CO<sub>2</sub> savings = 850 pounds
- TOTAL = 5,740 pounds (almost three tons!)**

**CALCULATE YOUR OWN ONE TON PACKAGE!**  
[www.canadachallenge.org](http://www.canadachallenge.org)

# Canada

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JEAN CHRETIEN, PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA  
ADDRESS TO THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

January 15, 2003

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen.

Just four weeks ago, the Canadian Parliament ratified the Kyoto Protocol. It was an exciting day for me and for the people of Canada. By signing Kyoto, all the countries gathered here today are joining hands to ensure that our planet has a sustainable future. Of course, there are big challenges ahead. [look audience in eye] But we will overcome them. Together.

As the wealthiest and most fortunate nations of the earth, we have a responsibility to ourselves and to future generations to protect the environment. We all want peace and security for our children. We all want a good standard of living. We all want our economies to prosper. But what good are any of these if the very planet we inhabit turns against us, with extreme weather, rising temperatures and even rising ocean levels?

The time for talk is over.

So, you may be wondering: why I am standing here before you today, talking? [pause for laughter]

Back home in Canada, I have issued a challenge to every citizen to reduce his or her greenhouse gas emissions by one ton – at home, at work, and on the road. The Canadian people believe that actions speak louder than words. They're taking this challenge to heart, because they know how much is at stake. And I know they will make us all proud.

Today, it is my duty and my great honour to extend the Canadian Challenge to the citizens of the world. Join with us in this great legacy, and let us today be remembered not for what might have been, but for our inspiration to our children and grandchildren. This is a challenge that the industrialized countries cannot afford to ignore.

Now, one ton sounds like a big number – when my scientific advisors first showed it to me last April, I thought they were trying to fool me. [pause for laughter] But as with so much else in life, it is the little things that count. For some of you, meeting the Canadian Challenge will mean taking the bus or subway, or choosing a more fuel-efficient vehicle. For others, it will mean getting rid of that old refrigerator. In my own home in Ottawa, my wife Aline and I will take a leading role. You know that Ottawa is very cold, but . . .