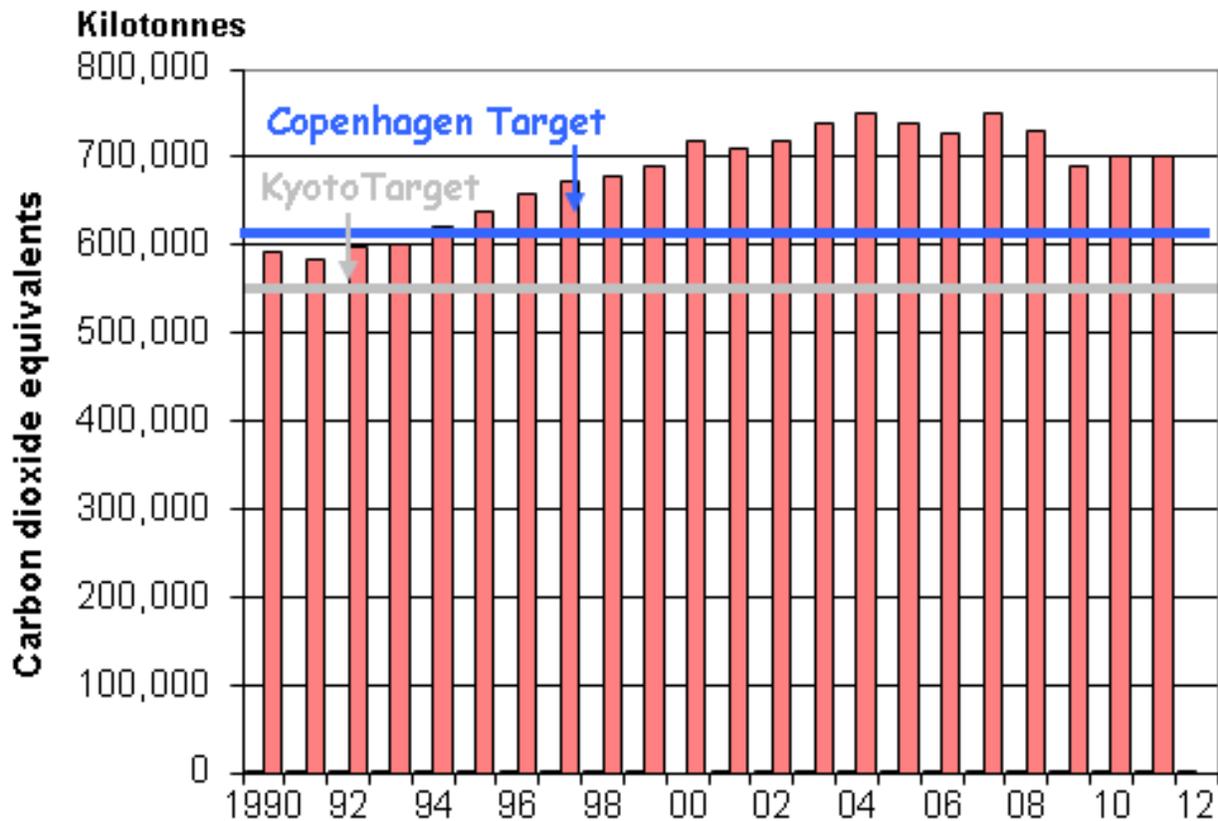


## Greenhouse Gas Releases for Canada



Data source: Environment Canada

### What is happening?

- This graph shows the annual changes in the release of greenhouse gases (expressed as the number of metric tonnes of carbon dioxide).
- In 2009 Canada signed the Copenhagen Accord, agreeing to reduce overall emissions to 17% below 2005 levels by 2020 (blue line on graph).
- Canada had previously ratified the Kyoto Protocol in 2002 and agreed to lower greenhouse gas emissions to a level 6 percent below the 1990 baseline (gray line on graph) between 2008-2012.
- Canada's greenhouse gas emissions rose steadily from 1990 until peaks in 2004 and 2007 and have remained steady during the last two reporting years. The level of emissions in 2011 was 16% above the Copenhagen target (26% above the old Kyoto target).

### Why is it happening?

- The release of greenhouse gases increases when we burn fossil fuels, change some

land practices such as clearing forests or allow gases, such as methane, to escape from landfills.

### Why is it important?

- Human activities that release greenhouse gases will contribute to global warming.
- The Borderlands study area has been experiencing significant warming in recent decades and this raises concerns about the future impacts of these changes in climate.

### Technical Notes

- "Escapement" refers to the number of salmon that reach a specific location. When escapement is used alone, it generally refers to the number of salmon that reach their spawning grounds.
- The data for 1971, 1976-84 and 1990 are estimates based on aerial surveys while the estimates in this graph up until 2012 were based on counts made at the Fishing Branch fish weir. The enumeration weir was closed in 2013 and managers now use sonar to detect the passage of salmon upstream.
- In most years the number estimated is based on the actual weir count plus a small number to account for late spawners that arrive after the weir is shut down for the season. An additional adjustment was made to the 2011 count to make up for fish that were not counted during a period when the weir was not operating because of flooding.

### See also:

- Yukon and NWT Greenhouse Gas Emissions

---

**Data added:** March 16, 2014.