

Description and Objectives

Symposium 2016

Moving Towards Sustainable Energy

Overview

The ***Canadian Climate Forum*** provides an important platform for meaningful discussion between policy makers and industry, with input from scientists, academics, economists, analysts, NGOs, behaviouralists and others – working together to move the climate agenda forward. The primary objective of Symposium 2016 is to stimulate a vigorous conversation on the potential we have to create a national, low-emissions, safer, and more sustainable energy strategy that will meet Canada’s needs in the 21st century. Symposium 2016 will break down silos and foster open discussion across a range of issues, with a diversity of stakeholders from the public and private sectors. Constructive dialogue and debate will be central to the desired outcome: to drive innovative and achievable Canadian energy policy for 2017 and beyond.

Target Audiences

Our primary target audiences are government/policy (all levels), industry (sustainability leaders) and industry associations, and energy researchers and innovators. We expect between 230-300 participants who will hear from world-class speakers representing national, northern and international perspectives. Symposium 2016 will offer this audience a unique opportunity to share knowledge and lessons to help advance evidence-based decision making for more sustainable and innovative Canadian energy policy.

Four Main Themes & Speaker Guidelines

We place emphasis on evidence-based decision-making, and expect all presentations to be heavily weighted on applied, practical strategies, case studies and solutions. Below are the guidelines speakers have been asked to incorporate into their presentations:

- Address challenges, opportunities and solutions
- Delivers a national perspective, from coast to coast to coast
- Delivers an international perspective that is relevant (in some aspects) to Canada
- Delivers a unique northern Canada/Arctic perspective

Symposium 2016 follows four broad themes, and builds on the themes outlined in the 2015 Canadian Energy Strategy, published in July 2015 by the Council of the Federation – Canada’s Premiers. Themes and topics are summarized below.

1. Mobilizing the Canadian Public to Act

- Community acceptance of changes to purchases and behaviours
- Role of government and industry in these changes
- International perspectives on reaching climate targets
- What's happening in energy policy/strategies in Canada's North?

2. Sustainability and Conservation/Efficiency

- Carbon pricing – implications for all Canadians, with regional perspectives
- Environmental, social, economic and health impacts of moving to sustainable energy
- Buildings and incorporating renewable energy and efficiency
- Alternative heat options
- Transportation and low carbon fuel options

3. Technology and Innovation

- Partnerships in innovation
- Energy storage in 2016 - challenges and benefits
- The role of green procurement policies
- Financing structures that can be used to spur innovation and technological development
- The nuclear debate and its role in low carbon provision

4. Delivering Energy to People

- How can we more effectively deliver energy through our transmission grids?
- The roles of decentralized energy and distributed generation
- East-west integrated electricity grid – challenges and opportunities

Format

The full two-day event includes the following features:

- Plenary sessions each day on current topics
- Twelve targeted sessions on a range of integrated topics offering a variety of formats including: daily plenaries; moderated panel discussions; presentations; debates; and publication (i.e. book or report) presentations, with all formats offering Q&A discussions
- Hill Times Live event (see last year's event on Climate Policy [here](#) at [Symposium 2015](#))
- Banquet dinner October 20th with keynote address by energy economist Mark Jaccard
- Excellent opportunities for networking (meals, long breaks, cocktail reception, and the Hill Times Live event)