**Andrew Scheer’s Climate Plan Will Strip Households in Five Provinces of Thousands of Dollars in Rebates, Removes the Best Tool We Have to Address Climate Change**

Andrew Scheer’s environmental plan, to be announced today, removes the most essential tool we have in the fight against climate change – a carbon tax and rebate.  Without a carbon tax, Scheer’s plan has to rely on more costly regulations that will require significant government intervention in the economy, while increasing costs for families.

A carbon tax and rebate is [known to be the lowest cost](https://ecofiscal.ca/carbon-pricing/fast-facts/cost-effectiveness/), and most pro-growth means of reducing carbon emissions. Any serious plan to fight climate change must include a strong price on carbon pollution.

While Andrew Scheer has claimed the carbon tax increases household costs, a recent study by the [Parliamentary Budget Office](https://www.pbo-dpb.gc.ca/web/default/files/Documents/Reports/2019/Federal%20Carbon/Federal_carbon_pricing_EN.pdf), found that 8 out of 10 families will receive back more in rebates than they pay in added costs.  Only the wealthiest 20% would pay more, and their cost would be about $4 per month.

By removing the carbon tax, Scheer’s plan eliminates thousands in rebates that could have helped families reduce their carbon footprint.  A family of 4 in Ontario, for example, will now lose [over $2475](https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/climate-change/pricing-pollution-how-it-will-work/ontario.html) they would’ve received in carbon rebates between 2020 and 2023, the term of the next government.

Further, Andrew Scheer’s claim that the carbon tax hurts the economy runs contrary to the facts.  British Columbia has had a price on carbon for a decade and currently enjoys the fastest growing economy in Canada. Since announcing the plan to price carbon, Canada has seen a 60% increase in foreign direct investment, and the unemployment rate has fallen to the lowest rate since 1976.

The measures that Scheer is proposing according to media reports, such as a technology fund that gives subsidies to large polluters, will be more costly, and less effective than putting a price on carbon. Measures like these have been proposed by Premier Doug Ford in Ontario, whose [plan would cost twice](http://www.ontarioclimateplan.ca) as much as the federal government’s carbon tax and rebate. A similar technology was attempted in Australia, where it has consistently failed to reduce emissions.

Andrew Scheer’s suggestion to rely on emissions reductions from abroad is unproven and unlikely to succeed, as [experts have already noted](https://ecofiscal.ca/2019/06/17/no-canada-cannot-get-credit-low-carbon-exports/), since countries where those emissions reductions occur will almost surely claim those reductions on their own. A similar effort under the Kyoto Accord’s Clean Development Mechanism is widely considered by the [research community to have been a failure.](https://ec.europa.eu/clima/sites/clima/files/ets/docs/clean_dev_mechanism_en.pdf)

“By repealing the carbon tax, Andrew Scheer is taking away the best and lowest cost way to fight climate change.  It’s like trying to build a house without a hammer,” said **Michael Bernstein, Executive Director of Canadians for Clean Prosperity.** “Any credible plan to tackle climate change would include a carbon tax.  Instead, Andrew Scheer’s plan is going to cost Canadians more and take away the rebates that help families cope”

“We strongly encourage Andrew Scheer to reconsider his plans to rely on emissions reductions from abroad.  Why would he send Canadian money to other countries when we can get these reductions at home through a carbon tax, and then return the money right to families?”

Quick Facts:

* A family of four in Ontario this year was entitled to a $307 carbon rebate, by 2022, the rebate for that family will grow to $718
* The [Parliamentary Budget Office](https://www.pbo-dpb.gc.ca/web/default/files/Documents/Reports/2019/Federal%20Carbon/Federal_carbon_pricing_EN.pdf) has projected that 80% of households covered by the federal carbon tax will receive more back in rebates than they pay in carbon tax costs.  Only the wealthiest 20% will pay more
* Doug Ford’s proposed plan to cut emissions, which relies on regulations similar to the Andrew Scheer plan, would cost Ontario twice as much to achieve the same reductions under the federal backstop. For more, see [https://ontarioclimateplan.ca](https://ontarioclimateplan.ca/)

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