

# Climate Change: Planning for the Future

The issues affecting climate change are global and cannot be successfully addressed by any single nation or small group of nations acting in isolation. We have seen the important role that Canada's forests appear to play in affecting the Earth's atmosphere and in many of the issues relating to global climate change. People also generally agree that climate change is happening and that we must act to address the extent and severity of the changes it might bring about.

The scope and complexity of this issue requires work on many fronts. In Canada, national, provincial, territorial and regional organizations participate in the research and development of sustainable forest management practices dealing with climate change. Some of these organizations and partnerships are listed here.

International initiatives such as the **Kyôto Protocol** (to reduce greenhouse gas emissions), and the **Montreal Protocol**, (to control ozone-depleting chemicals such as CFCs and related gases), are described on page 36.

## **Canada Forest Accord and National Forest Strategy**

Signed by national, territorial and provincial ministers responsible for forests and representatives of 15 non-government organizations, the Canada Forest Accord states:

*"Our goal is to maintain and enhance the long-term health of our forest ecosystems, for the benefit of all living things both nationally and globally, while providing environmental, economic, social and cultural opportunities for the benefit of present and future generations."*

The National Forest Strategy, which identifies various means of achieving such objectives, is in turn applied to provincial and local forest strategies.

<http://nfsc.forest.ca/home.html>

## **The Ontario Forest Accord**

An example of one provincial approach is the Ontario Forest Accord, which is an important component of Ontario's Living Legacy. The Ontario Forest Accord is an innovative partnership of government, industry and environmental organizations, working together to promote the long-term health and sustainable use of the province's natural resources.

This partnership made it possible to establish a series of new parks and protected areas in the province. The new parks and protected areas will help maintain biodiversity and provide study areas to monitor the affects of climate change in Ontario.

[www.ontarioslivinglegacy.com](http://www.ontarioslivinglegacy.com)

## **Canadian Forest Service Research Centres**

The Canadian Forest Service (CFS) is Canada's largest forest organization. Although the management of Canada's forests is a provincial responsibility, the CFS plays an essential role in undertaking and supporting forest science and technology research. The CFS, with its Head Office in Ottawa, has five forest research centres working together on different aspects of research for sustainable forest management in Canada.

As part of its work, the CFS has a national climate change research program looking at the forest carbon cycle, climate change impacts on forest ecosystems, fire and insect disturbance regimes, and forest-related socio-economics. The mission of this program is to provide "...leading-edge, Canadian expertise related to climate change impacts on forests and forest ecosystems..."

<http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/cfs-scf/>



## Canada's Model Forest Network

MODEL FOREST  
NETWORK

RÉSEAU DE  
FORÊTS MODÈLES

Initiated in 1992  
by the Canadian  
Forest Service,  
Canada's network

of model forests stretches from the temperate rainforests of British Columbia to the boreal forests of Newfoundland and Labrador. There are 11 model forests covering over 22 million acres of land and representing all of Canada's forest regions:

- Long Beach Model Forest, BC
- McGregor Model Forest, BC
- Foothills Model Forest, AB
- Prince Albert Model Forest, SK
- Manitoba Model Forest, MB
- Lake Abitibi Model Forest, ON
- Eastern Ontario Model Forest, ON
- Waswanipi Cree Model Forest, QC
- Bas-Saint-Laurent Model Forest, QC
- Fundy Model Forest and Nova Forest Alliance, NB/NS
- Western Newfoundland Model Forest, NF

The Model Forests work toward sustainable forest management involving a wide range of partnerships. Two articles, *Ice Storm Sparks Further Partnership in the Eastern Ontario Model Forest*, and *The Natural Role of Fire*, appear in this booklet (see pages 12 and 19).

[www.modelforest.net](http://www.modelforest.net)

## ECOLEAP

### Extended Collaboration for Linking Ecophysiology and Forest Productivity

ECOLEAP is a multi-disciplinary project of the CFS, involving its three research centres in Eastern Canada, and work at sites in Quebec, Ontario and the Atlantic provinces. The goal is to identify the effects of environmental factors including temperature and fertility on physiological processes such as photosynthesis and respiration, and to link such factors to forest productivity. [www.cfl.forestry.ca/ECOLEAP/home.html](http://www.cfl.forestry.ca/ECOLEAP/home.html)

## BOREAS

### Boreal Ecosystem-Atmosphere Study

BOREAS is a large, international co-operative research program established to conduct scientific research on the inter-relationship between the boreal forest ecosystem and global climate change. Between 1994 and 1997 a multi-disciplinary team of 300 scientists from five countries conducted research on two large tracts in Canada: a southern site near Prince Albert National Park, Saskatchewan, and a northern site west of Thompson, Manitoba. Because of the vast tracts of land involved in this study, remote sensing via satellite played an important role. To learn more about the BOREAS project and the ongoing analysis of its research visit the NASA web site.

[http://www-eosdis.ornl.gov/BOREAS/bhs/BOREAS\\_Home.html](http://www-eosdis.ornl.gov/BOREAS/bhs/BOREAS_Home.html)

## Other Organizations

Since climate change is one of the most critical environmental issues facing us today, there are a large number of organizations dealing with various aspects of the issue. The Government of Canada has an official climate change website <[www.climatechange.gc.ca](http://www.climatechange.gc.ca)>. The federal government also distributes information through several of its departments including Environment Canada's Green Lane <[www.ec.gc.ca](http://www.ec.gc.ca)>. Be sure to check out these Internet links.

Many non-government organizations and environment groups address climate change in different ways. Some are involved in advocacy, while others work to counter the effects of climate change through tree planting and school yard naturalization projects. Others focus their activities on public education. All are working towards a common goal of reducing the harmful effects of climate change.