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Environmental Law
Association
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Carbon Pricing and Energy Poverty

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Canadian Environmental Law Association

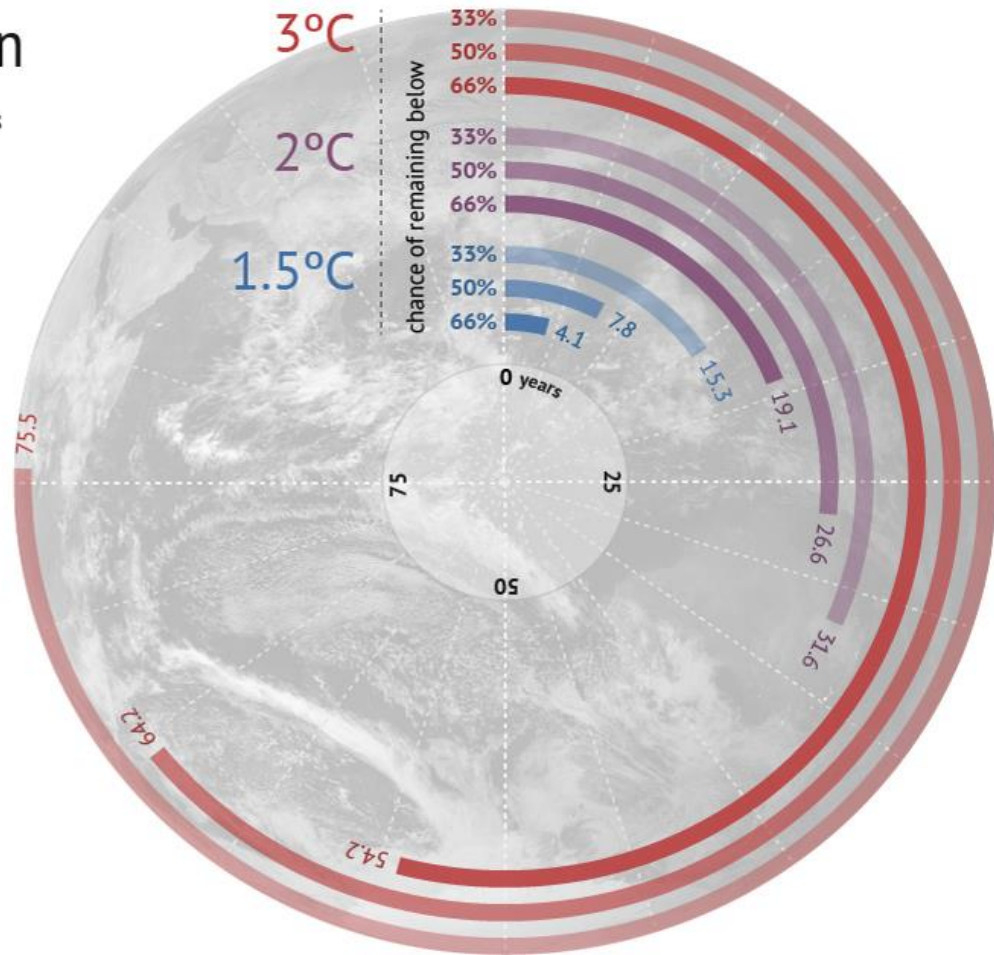
Ontario Climate Symposium

May 12, 2017

Urgency of Climate Change

Carbon Countdown

As of the start of 2017, how many years of current emissions would use up the IPCC's carbon budgets for different levels of warming?



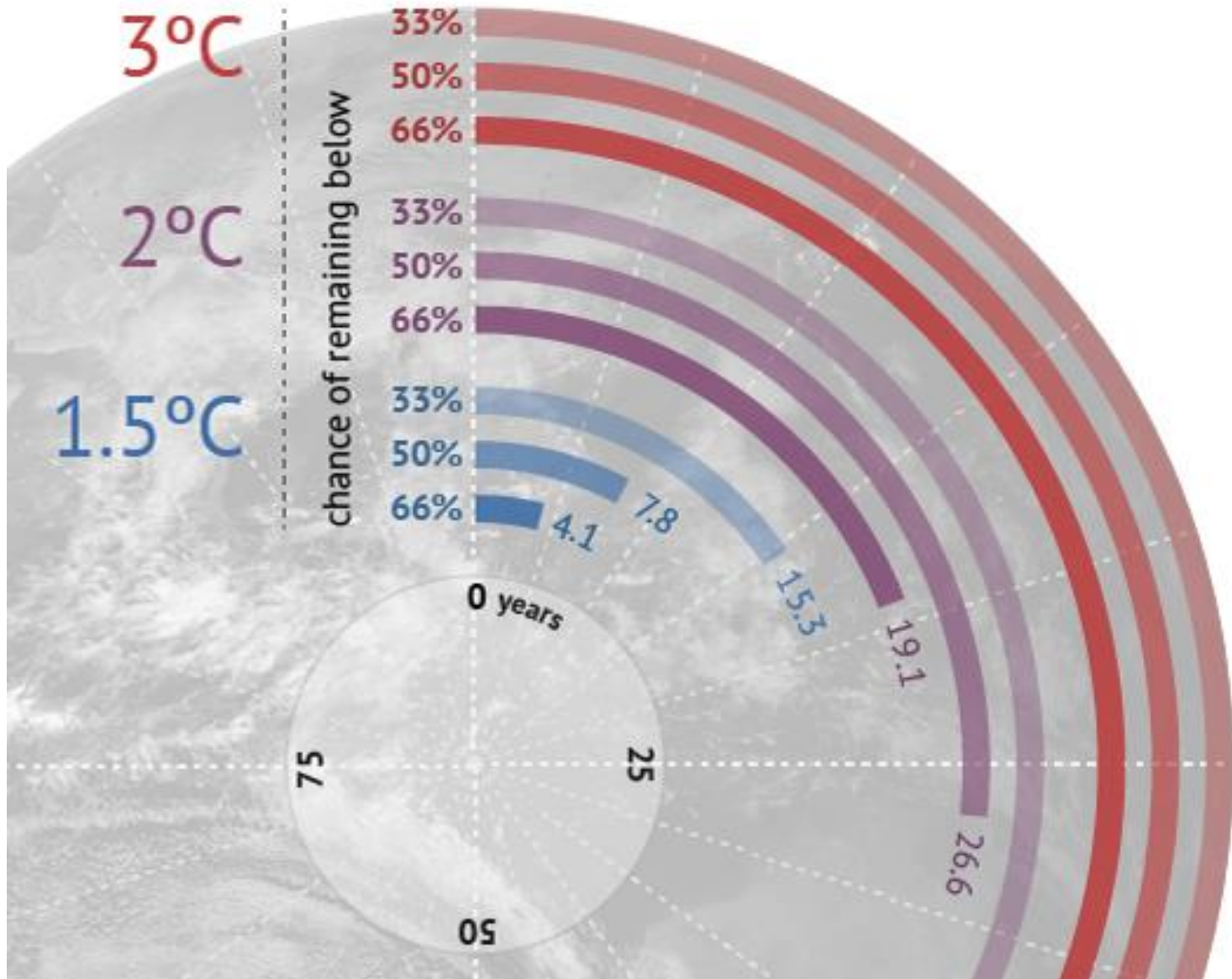
CarbonBrief
CLEAR ON CLIMATE

Photo: NASA Goddard Space Flight Center
Stopwatch icon: T-Kot/Shutterstock.com



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Climate policy, or climate acknowledgment?

→ Is it effective?

→ Is it just?

Mitigation - Efforts to reduce or prevent the emission of greenhouse gases

Adaptation - Building resilience to the adverse impacts of climate change

United Nations Environment Programme, www.unep.org



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Impacts on Low-income and Vulnerable Communities

Human health - range of vector-borne diseases

- extreme heat
- air pollution

Food security - crop failure

- changing growing conditions

Water security - quantity and quality

Infrastructure damage due to extreme weather, melting of permafrost

Employment - farming

- forestry (forest fires, invasive species)
- guiding jobs



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Energy Poverty in Ontario

- Housing, including utilities - 30% of household income
 - Energy costs no more than 6-8% of household income
- Factors: poverty, health, disability, low income, type of heating system, and energy performance of the housing stock, time spent at home
- Energy poverty exacerbates health impacts
- Prevalent in rural Ontario
 - Higher unemployment
 - Lower earned income
- Electric heat - \$600-\$1000 per month



Ontario Carbon Pricing

Provincial emission reduction targets:
(1990 baseline)

- 15% by 2020
- 37% by 2030
- 80% by 2050

Cap and Trade

- Program covers emitters over 25 000 tonnes CO₂e
 - Large industrial, commercial and institutional emitters
 - Electricity imports, natural gas distributors, and petroleum suppliers
 - Complimentary measures funded by Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund - **Climate Change Action Plan**
- Price per tonne is too low
- Too many free allowances shifting the burden



Ontario Cap and Trade - Is it Just?

- No legislated commitment to support low-income and vulnerable communities
 - Such commitments are standard across jurisdictions with carbon pricing
 - California legislated 25% of revenue to fund projects that benefit disadvantaged communities
 - AB, BC, QC all allow for funding for low income communities
- Climate Change Action Plan:
 - Retrofit social housing apartments
 - Promote low-carbon energy in homes
 - Public transportation

→ Availability of programs

→ Downloading cost to residents

Ontario Energy Rate Mitigation Programs

- 8% subsidy (HST rebate) for residential electricity bills
- Rural or Remote Rate Protection (RRRP) - enhanced
- Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI)
- Ontario Trillium Benefit
 - Northern Ontario Energy Credit
 - Ontario Energy and Property Tax Credit
 - (Ontario Sales Tax Credit)
- Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP) - enhanced by 50%
- Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP)
- First Nations On-Reserve Delivery Credit (part of Fair Hydro Plan)
- Affordability Fund (part of Fair Hydro Plan)
- Energy Conservation programs
 - saveONenergy Home Assistance Program (HAP) - electric utilities
 - Targeted DSM for Low-Income Customers - gas utilities



Way Forward

- More research needed
 - statistical invisibility
- Comprehensive strategy to address energy insecurity in Ontario
- **Bold** but deliberate action

Our Website

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA). The header features the CELA logo on the left, which consists of four icons: a red leaf with a white 'C', a yellow sun with a white 'e', a green house with a white 'L', and a blue water drop with a white 'a'. To the right of the logo is the text "Canadian Environmental Law Association" in a large, dark red font, with the tagline "EQUITY. JUSTICE. HEALTH." in a smaller, dark red font below it. In the top right corner, there is a search bar with a "Search" button and a "Subscribe to our mailing list" section with a text input field and a "Subscribe" button. Below the search bar are social media icons for Twitter and Facebook. A horizontal navigation menu is located below the header, with links for "HOME", "ABOUT CELA", "BLOG", "E-BULLETIN", "FRANÇAIS", "LIBRARY", and "CONTACT US". The main content area is divided into three columns. The left column contains a vertical list of links: "News", "Publications", "Our Services", "Frequently Asked Questions", "CELA in the Courts", "Access to Environmental Justice". The middle column features a large grey box with text about CELA's mission: "CELA works to protect human health and our environment by seeking justice for those harmed by pollution and by working to change policies to prevent such problems in the first place. For 40 years, CELA has used legal tools to increase environmental protection and safeguard communities. As a **Legal Aid Clinic**, our top priority is to represent low income individuals and communities and to speak out for those with less influence and who...". Below this is a "Staff Blog" section with a link to "The Alternative Fuels Environmental Three-Step: One Step Forward, Two Steps Back" by Joseph F. Castrilli, dated "8 weeks 4 days ago". The right column contains a "CELA's Lawyer Referral List" and a "News and Events" section with a link to "Public Hearing on Leaking Landfill to Conclude with Parties' Final Argument" dated "Jun 16 2015".

Contact Us

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