

NATURAL CLIMATE SOLUTIONS FOR CANADA

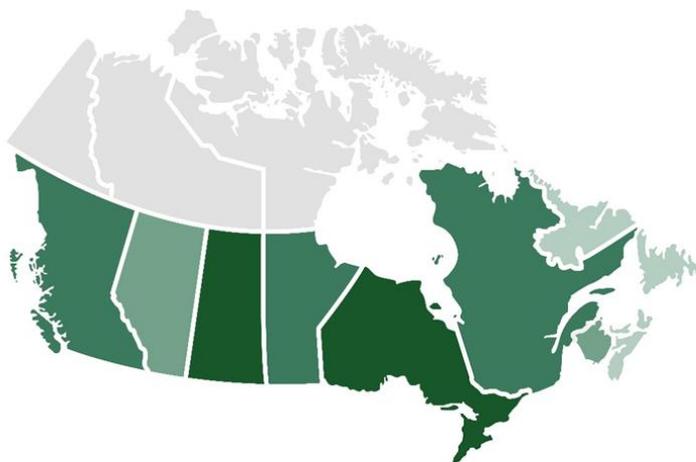
FACTSHEET: MITIGATION POTENTIAL BY PROVINCE

A landmark study led by Nature United reveals that nature can deliver immediate impact in Canada’s fight to tackle the climate crisis.

By protecting, better managing, and restoring nature, Canada can drastically reduce its greenhouse gas emissions, concludes Nature United’s ground-breaking [Natural Climate Solutions for Canada](#). The new study published in [Science Advances](#) shows that Natural Climate Solutions can help Canada cut up to 78 megatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (Mt CO₂e) annually in 2030—an amount equal to the current greenhouse gas emissions from powering every home in Canada for about three years.

Natural Climate Solutions for Canada examined four land types (agricultural lands, forests, wetlands, grasslands) and 24 pathways.

Where provincial-scale spatial data were available for the area of implementation opportunity, the study estimated the annual mitigation potential in 2030 by province of Natural Climate Solutions for 15 of the 24 pathways. For the remaining pathways, estimates were made at the national scale.



Saskatchewan	15.4
Ontario	10.3
Quebec	8.4
British Columbia	6.8
Manitoba	5.4
New Brunswick	5.0
Alberta	3.8
Nova Scotia	1.7
PEI	0.3
Newfoundland	0.04

Numbers reflect Mt CO₂e/yr potential in 2030. Data not available for all jurisdictions or pathways.

The pathways included in these provincial estimates are: improved forest management; restoration of forest cover; cover crops; biochar; nutrient management; tree intercropping; silvopasture; reduced tillage; riparian tree planting; avoided conversion of shelterbelts; avoided grassland conversion; riparian grassland restoration; salt marsh restoration; avoided conversion of freshwater mineral wetlands; and, restoration of freshwater mineral wetlands.

Provincial highlights include:

British Columbia can deliver **6.8 Mt CO₂e per year** in 2030. The province's greatest potential is in improved forest management, including protecting carbon-rich old growth forests, avoiding conversion of other forests, and restoring previously lost forests.

Alberta can deliver **3.8 Mt CO₂e per year** in 2030. The largest opportunities lie in climate-smart and economically efficient agricultural practices, followed by conserving and restoring grasslands, forests, and wetlands.

Saskatchewan can deliver **15.4 Mt CO₂e per year** in 2030. Key pathways include encouraging the widespread planting of cover crops to keep soil healthy, nutrient management such as implementing efficient use of fertilizers, and protecting grasslands and wetlands.

Manitoba can deliver **5.4 Mt CO₂e per year** in 2030. Like other prairie provinces, the greatest potential comes from the widespread planting of cover crops to keep soil healthy, as well as restoring peatlands and grasslands.

Ontario can deliver **10.3 Mt CO₂e per year** in 2030. Key pathways include planting trees, restoring previously lost forests, and conserving and restoring grasslands.

Quebec can deliver **8.4 Mt CO₂e per year** in 2030. Key pathways include improved forest management, planting trees in cities, and protecting grasslands.

Atlantic Canada can deliver **7.1 Mt CO₂e per year** in 2030. Significant potential lies in improved forest management, which is heavily concentrated in New Brunswick, as well as salt marsh restoration.

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