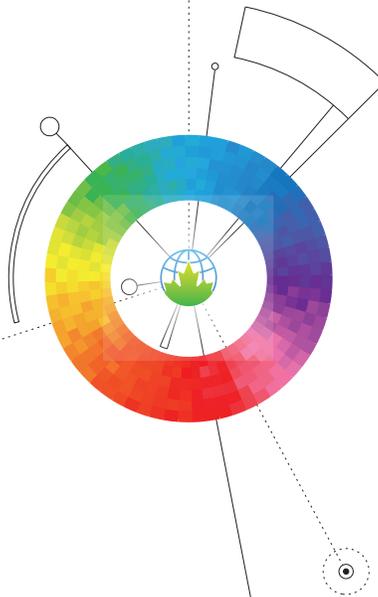


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GUEST EDITORIAL:
**BRITISH
HIGH
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British
High Commission
Ottawa

Low-Carbon Ambition in a Post-Brexit World

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British High Commissioner to Canada

I am delighted to contribute to the 2017 edition of the Canadian Clean Technology Industry Report, which covers this growing and increasingly vital sector. The trends highlighted herein are part of an exciting narrative in which businesses, households, and governments are leading the inevitable transition to a low-carbon economy.

In the shuffle of other events, the United Kingdom's pathway to a low-carbon economy has unfortunately received less attention. Consider this: Since June 2016, we have legislated our Fifth Carbon Budget (2028–2031); ratified the Paris Agreement; pressed ahead with doubling spending on energy innovation to £400 million (CAD\$653m) per year by 2021; and announced £390 million (CAD\$637m) for ultra-low emissions vehicles, renewable fuels, and driverless cars.

In January of this year, the Prime Minister unveiled Building our Industrial Strategy, a draft plan for steering the British economy toward a stronger, cleaner, diversified, and globally connected future. The strategy is underpinned by ten pillars, chosen for their demonstrated ability to drive growth. Among them are delivering affordable energy and clean growth, and investing in science, research, and innovation. This includes plans to invest in smart grids, electric vehicles, and energy storage to reduce costs and increase their deployment; develop British expertise in these emerging technologies; and position industries for international export. In short, Britain does not see a contradiction between reducing carbon emissions and growing the economy, and in this way we are continuing on a pathway that we have been travelling for nearly a decade.

The evidence shows that this approach is working. From 1990 to 2014, UK greenhouse gas emissions steadily decreased by 35 percent, while GDP grew by 60 percent. Today, the low-carbon sector is a key part of our economy. According to the Office of National Statistics, in 2015 Britain's low-carbon economy generated £42.2 billion (CAD\$68.9b) in sales and employed 233,000 full-time equivalent employees.

The past twelve months have been eventful, characterised by surprise and tremendous change. But that should not cause us to lose sight of the urgency of decarbonization. The challenge is greater than ever, and there are opportunities for those quick enough to seize them.



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