

***Climate Change and
the Canadian's Response:
A Critique of Evident Behaviour***

**Low Carbon Society Research Network
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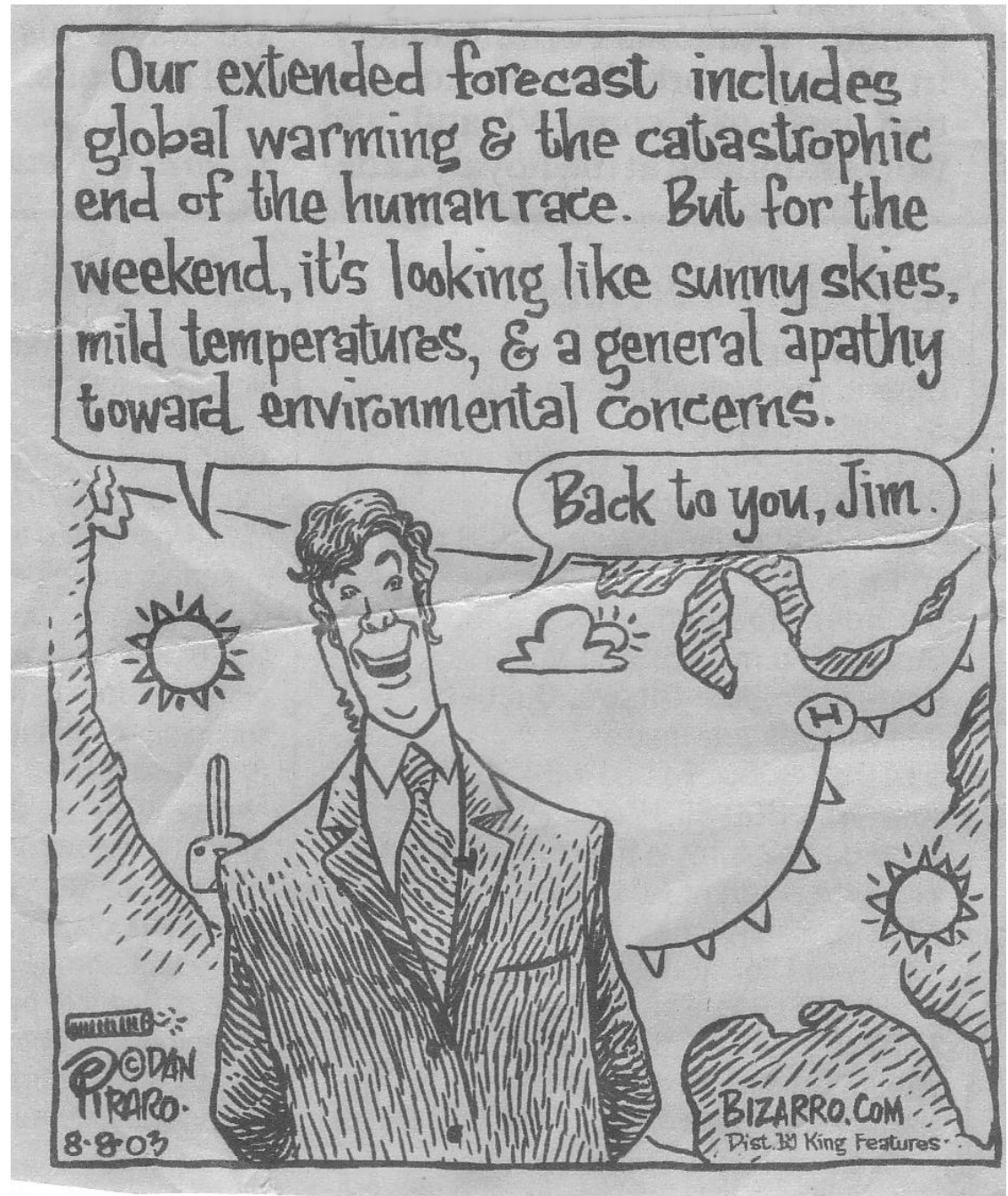
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Forecast for
our future?





How do we know?

Sources to understand Canadian attitudes and responses to Climate Change issues:

- Media – What is the Canadian media pulse?
- Polls – What do we say about ourselves?
- Political action – What do we see our leaders do?
- Action – What does the evidence indicate?
- What then shall we do?

What do the Media say?

Canadians journalists are clear on their position but offer no consensus, perhaps reflecting the highly variant view of Canadians:

- Depending on newspaper (or media type), two diametrically opposed views with apparently little overlap
- Indicates a significant split in views and actions in Canadian society
- Views of media, context of articles has an impact on public perception (?)
 - CC article 2x that of the world and 3x that of US (i.e., deemed an important issue), polls often mimic frequency (increase in articles < > increase in public concern).
 - Solutions to CC were discussed in less than 5% of articles
 - Science focus strong and shifting from “controversy over” to “evidence for” CC



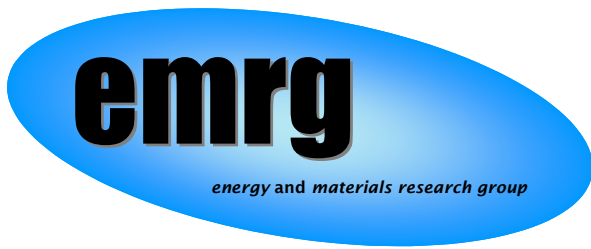
What do the Polls say?

Canadians are in favour of doing something about Climate Change:

- 2007 poll looking at effort (HSBC):
 - 37% will spend extra time to avoid CC
 - 20% will spend extra money
 - 55% felt the gov't should spend more on RE

- 2008 poll (McAllister)
 - 83% – Canada should commit to **STRONG ACTION**
 - 78% – Targets based on mitigation, realizing this would entail some costs

- 2009 poll (Ipsos Reid)
 - 45% – strong action **AFTER** recession
 - 71% – focus on jobs
 - 85% – doing their fair share, 70% were doing more than most
 - 66% – would pay more for EE, but 45% said less likely than last year



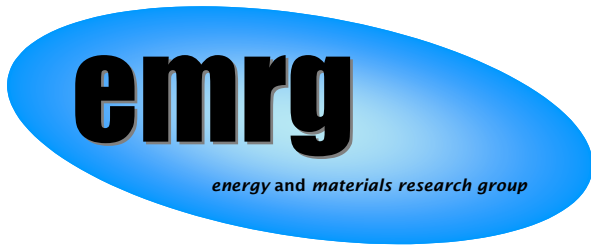
What do the Leaders say?

All leaders extol their progress but few will reach their proclaimed targets:

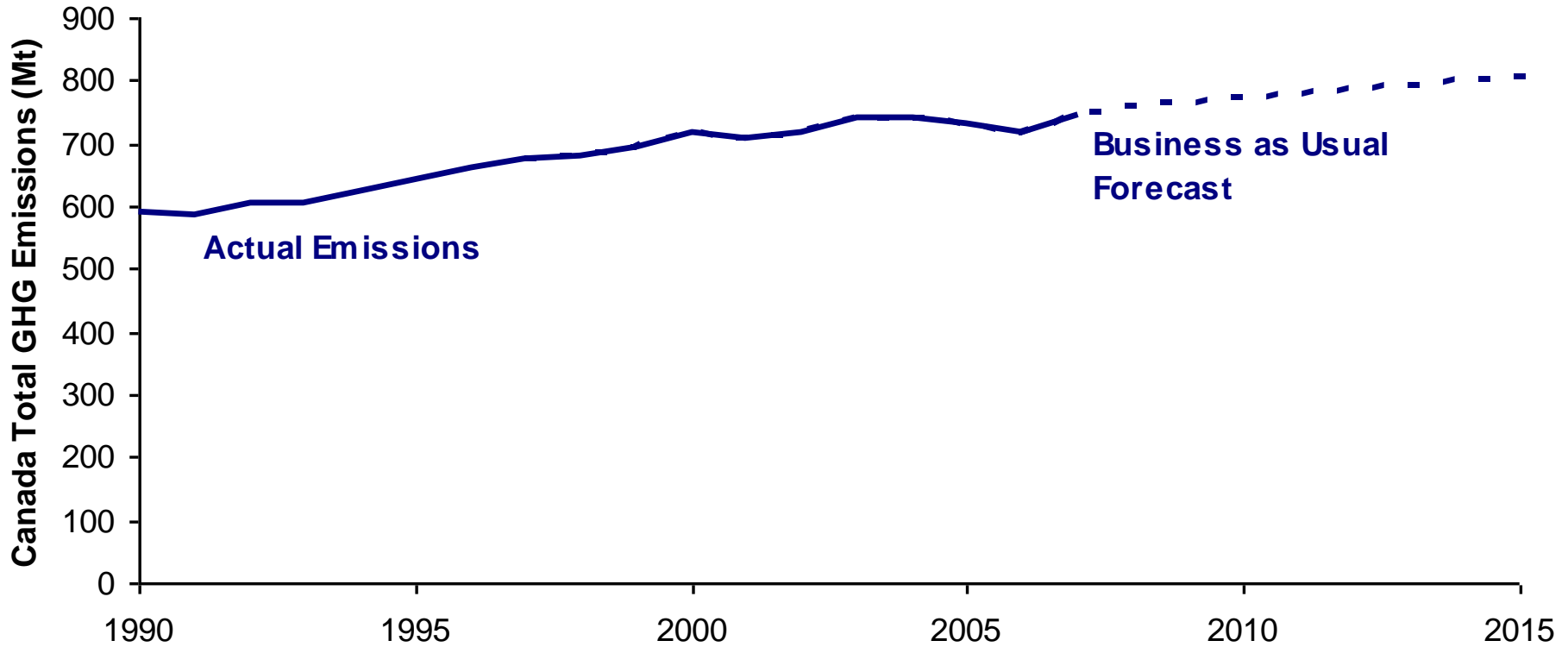
- Federal:
 - Many plans, most recent not yet implemented (“Turning the Corner”)
 - Low impact, rank is 8th in the G8 (Allianz / WWF G8 Climate Scorecards)
 - Will not reach their Kyoto target, more distant targets highly unlikely

- Provincial:
 - Highly variant approaches from (next to) nothing to graduated tax
 - Jurisdictional issues, few are likely to meet specified targets

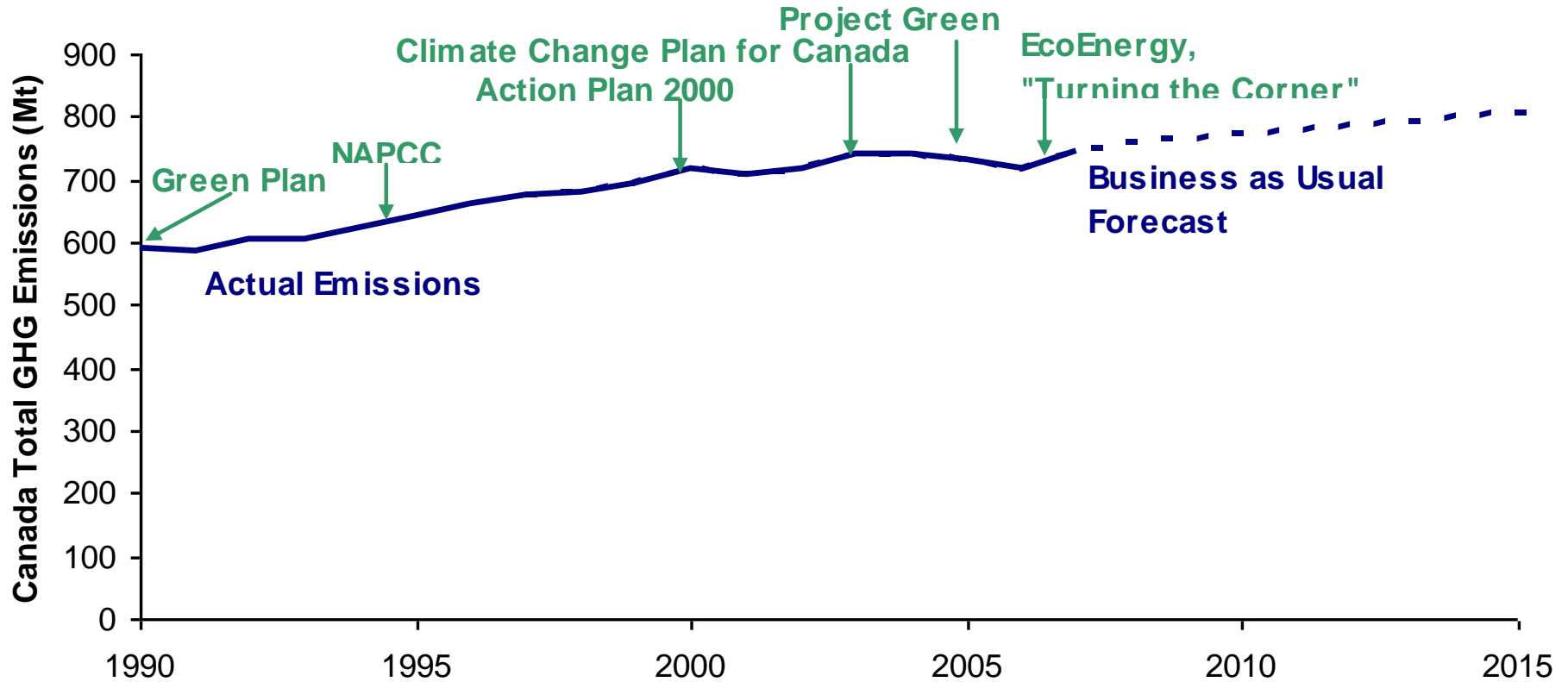
- Regional (local or municipal).
 - Jurisdiction issues, often voluntary (working in a political vacuum)
 - Significant levels of activities, increasing levels of participation
 - Economically irrational, limited capability



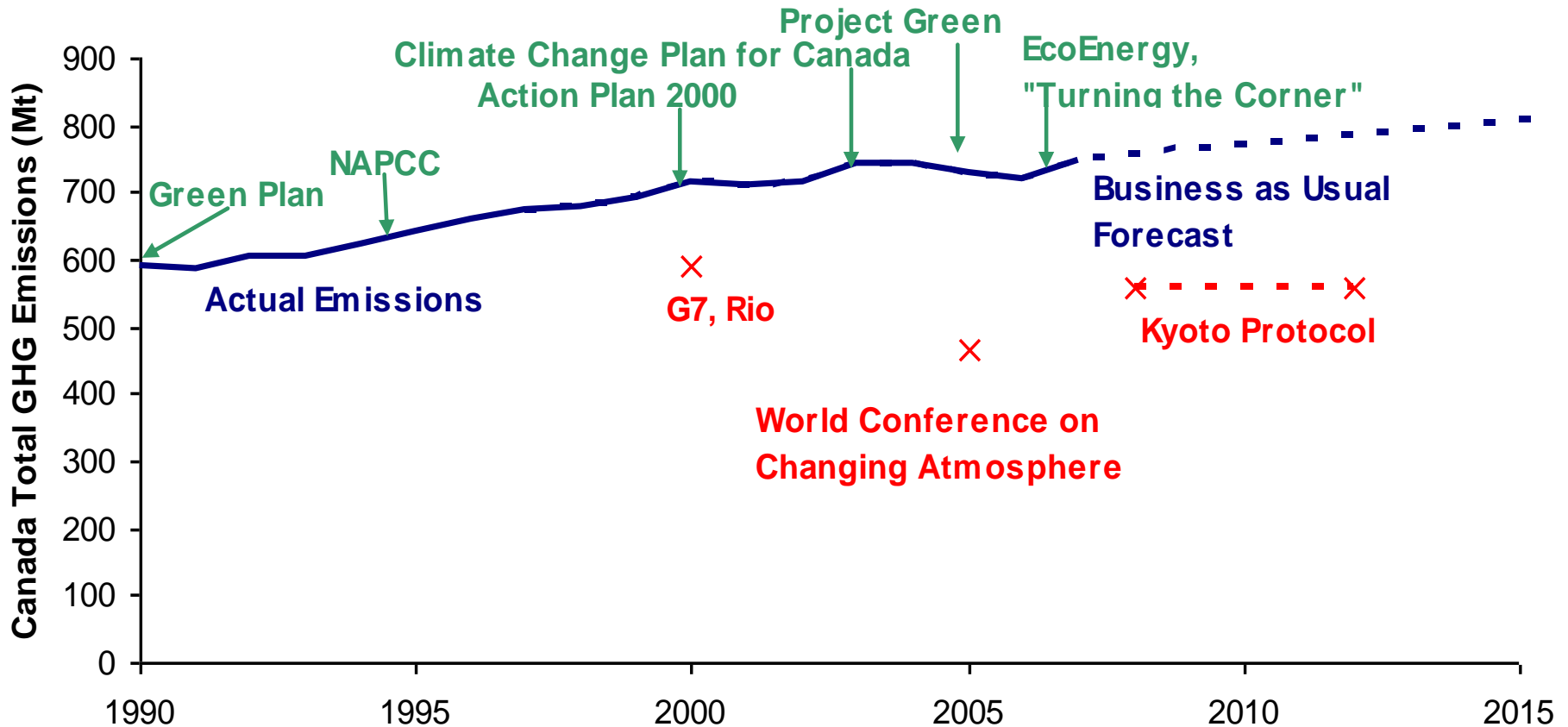
What do the Data say?



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What do the Data say?

Canadians are strongly in favour of Climate Change:

By 2007:

- Overall emissions rose 26% over 1990
 - 34% shy of Canada's Kyoto target
 - Considered the worst of the G8

- Emissions from trucks has increased most rapidly
 - 117% increase in light gas trucks, change in emissions exceeds oil sands total
 - 95% increase in heavy duty trucks, also exceed oil sands total

- Emissions from manufacturing industry declined
 - 10% decline since 1990, including process emissions

- Emissions from residences and commercial have risen
 - 2.5% increase in residential
 - 37% increase in commercial / institutional



Policy Development

A policy is:

an effort by public authorities to induce actions by consumers, businesses and perhaps other levels of government.”

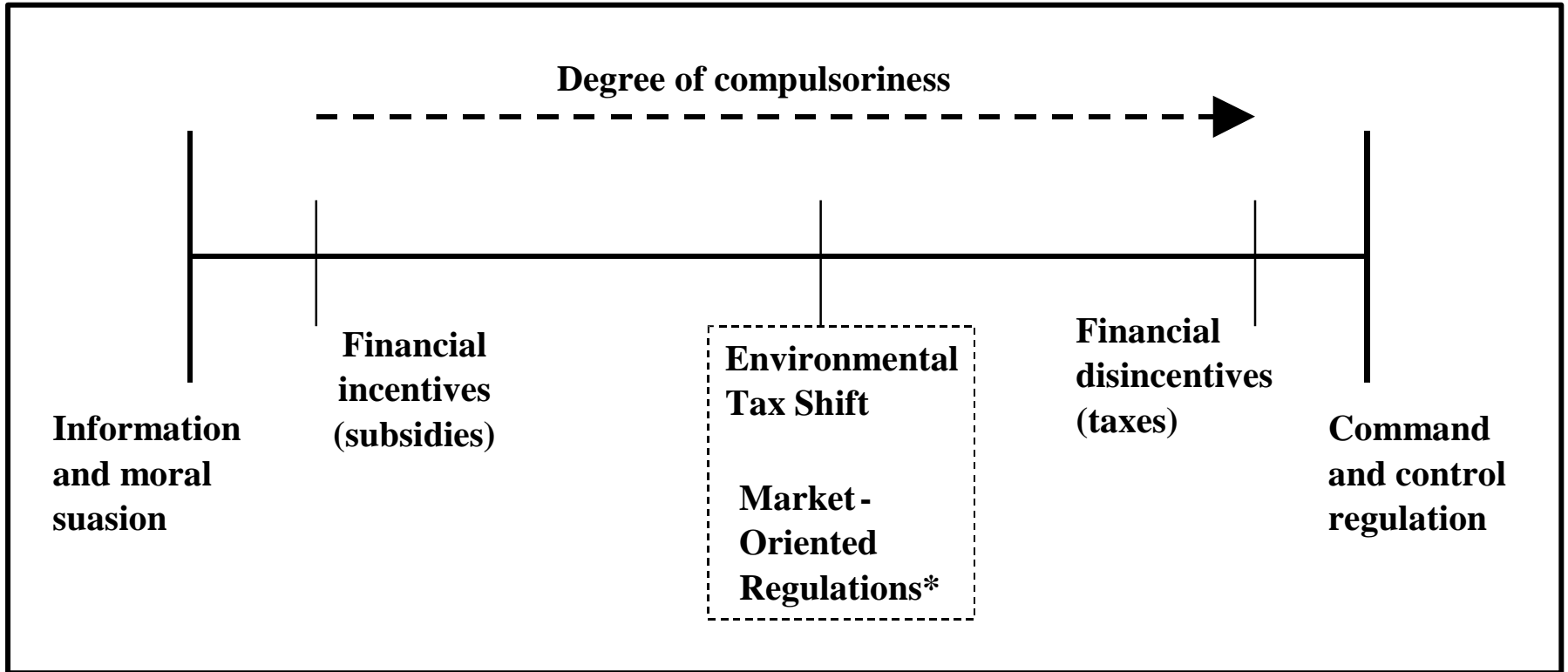


Policy Development

- Policies include:
 - information provision, education
 - taxation
 - regulation
 - direct action (government equipment, buildings, infrastructure, etc.)
 - voluntary actions (suasion)
 - subsidies, grants, tax credits
 - permits, licences (C&T)

- Policy criteria:
 - Effectiveness (environmental)
 - Administrative feasibility
 - Economic efficiency
 - Political feasibility
 - Equity

Policies and Compulsoriness



{ Includes tradable permits, vehicle emission standards, renewable portfolio standards, producer responsibility, etc.}*

What to do!

We can no longer use the atmosphere as a free waste receptacle for GHGs.

*Policies should **focus on the problem** – constraining GHG emissions and how to assign a value to emissions.*

*A variety of policy alternatives are available but, unless accompanied by a **regulatory or financial constraint**, assume failure.*



What to do!

- The Need

Carefully crafted policies that start us today toward a zero-emission energy system and that are “guaranteed” to achieve much of that target over the next half century.

These will be policies bearing a financial or regulatory constraint, complemented by policies directed to specific market segments and to mitigate risk.



What to do!

- The way forward:

It takes time.

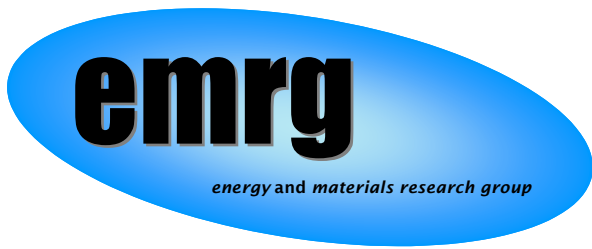
Markets don't take care of everything.

Information, subsidies and voluntary policies do nothing to signal the cost to society of using the atmosphere as a free waste receptacle.

To minimize impact on competition, we learn from international examples, develop creative policies, consider a Global Cost of Carbon (equity balanced).

What to do!



A detailed architectural rendering of a modern urban street scene. The scene is bright and sunny, with a clear blue sky. In the foreground, two women in business attire are walking away from the viewer on a paved sidewalk. To their right, a silver car is driving on the road, and a person is riding a bicycle. The middle ground shows a landscaped area with green grass, trees, and a small blue water feature. In the background, there are several modern buildings with large windows and balconies, some with greenery. The overall atmosphere is clean, vibrant, and urban.

Thank you.