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NEWS RELEASE

Climate change best tackled by fostering new energy technologies

Montreal – As countries around the world struggle to meet their greenhouse gas (GHGs) emissions-reduction targets, Canada should take a lead in developing next-generation low-carbon technologies rather than continuing to focus on emissions-reduction targets, according to a new study published by the Institute for Research on Public Policy.

"A technology-led climate policy would aim to encourage movement on global GHG emissions reductions that cannot be achieved using the low-carbon energy options available today," say the authors, Isabel Galiana, Jeremy Leonard and Christopher Green.

In *A Technology-Led Climate Change Policy for Canada,* Galiana, Leonard and Green argue that the policy focus on meeting GHG reduction targets over the past 15 years has been a failure, and that adopting a technology-led policy would be a more effective way for Canada to contribute to global climate change mitigation.

"We do not support abandoning current policies, such as measures related to fuel efficiency, green building codes, hybrid vehicles, and others," contend the authors. "We simply believe that these measures by themselves will not be able to meet established emissions-targets."

Rather, Canada needs to put the technology-development "egg" before the emissions-reduction "chicken," to avoid potentially costly brute-force climate-change mitigation policies. Given Canada's minor share of global emissions (two percent), developing next-generation technologies is the most effective contribution it could make.

The authors recommend establishing a low-carbon energy research council funded by a modest $5 per tonne carbon tax, which would provide secure, long-term funding for basic R&D, testing and demonstration of promising technologies to significantly cut emissions. Overtime, this carbon price could be slowly increased, sending a signal to firms to start deploying the new and improved technologies.

"If Canadian governments want to get serious about having a positive impact on climate change mitigation, they should adopt policies that develop the breakthrough technologies needed to reduce global GHG emissions significantly," explained the authors.

A Technology-Led Climate Change Policy for Canada, by Isabel Galiana, Jeremy Leonard and Christopher Green can be downloaded free of charge from the Institute's Web site *(www.irpp.org).*

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