

**Power Workers' Union Submission on Canada's Draft Sustainable Development Strategy
July 2023**

The Power Workers' Union (PWU) is pleased to submit comments and make recommendations to Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) regarding the Draft Federal Sustainable Development Strategy (FSDS).

The PWU is a strong advocate of emission reduction strategies that contribute to sustainable development and has engaged in several federal consultations, including the National Infrastructure Plan, Clean Fuel Standard (CFS), 2030 Emission Reduction Plan, and Clean Electricity Mandate (CEM), Carbon Capture Utilization and Separation (CCUS) for credit, SAH Action Plan, and Hydrogen Strategy.

The FSDS sets out the Government of Canada's sustainable development goals and targets and outlines implementation strategies for achieving them. The ECCC is seeking comments on the draft FSDS from Canadians to strengthen the strategy, help inform the Government of Canada's sustainable development priorities, help shape the final version of the strategy, and ensure its targets, milestones and actions reflect the priorities of Canadians.

The government is seeking feedback on several questions, including the following:

1. *Given the climate crisis facing Canada and the world today, does the structure of the draft 2022 to 2026 strategy—highlighting the environmental aspects of the 17 SDGs, including its more social and economic goals—resonate with you? How would you change it?*
2. *Do the goals, targets and actions highlighted in the draft strategy cover the key sustainable development issues that the federal government should be focusing on?*
3. *Which sustainable development issue(s) do you think are missing or need more emphasis?*
4. *Sustainable development encompasses environmental, social, and economic issues. Are these linkages captured well (for example in the chapters on SDG 1, No Poverty, SDG 4, Quality Education, and SDG 10, Reduced Inequality)?*
5. *What do you think is the Government of Canada's primary role in driving sustainable development forward?*
6. *Do we have the right targets and indicators to advance and measure performance?*

The PWU addresses Questions 1 and 2 to set the context for the following recommendations that respond specifically to Questions 3 to 6.

Primary role of government in driving sustainable development (SD)

1. The federal government's primary FSDS goal should be to enable the development of the sustainable energy infrastructure Canada needs including the infrastructure required to make the energy transition.

Sustainable development issues missing from the Draft FSDS (SD)

1. The FSDS should be clear about the definition of clean energy in order to provide a unifying context for the sustainable development strategies and initiatives that advance decarbonisation of the economy.