

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH



DALE BEUGIN

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Dale Beugin is the Vice President of Research and Analysis at the Canadian Institute for Climate Choices. Occupying a leadership role, Dale's work routine is based on coordinating and responding to team members' concerns, overseeing their deliverables, ensuring that they are of high quality, and steering the process of expert panel and peer review cycles. Dale received his undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering before completing a master's degree in resource and environmental management. Prior to his current role at Climate Choices, Dale held the positions of Executive Director and Research Director at Canada's Ecofiscal Commission, as well as a policy advisor for the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy.

The Institute for Climate Choices prioritizes promoting a discourse that is first and foremost informed by empirical data. Before making any recommendations or statements to the public or private spheres, the institute ensures that they are well-versed in the facts surrounding the situation. The actual policy content that Climate Choices is involved with concerns the path to net-zero emissions, adapting to an increasingly warming climate, and contributing to economic prosperity driven by clean energy technologies. The move from the utilization of fossil fuels to clean electricity entails massive shifts across multiple levels of government, economy, and society, necessitating expert input on how this can be accomplished and what it will look like for different geographic regions. Organizations like Climate Choices provide an important service by offering engagement and feedback on technological matters and policy levers of climate change mitigation and clean energy projects. The work conducted by Climate Choices has the added complexity of balancing content that is broad enough to be policy, able to contribute to specialized knowledge, as well as working to move forward a collective dialogue.

One piece of advice that Dale stresses for those like him interested in transitioning from a technical background to a more policy-oriented environment is to view issues holistically. While it may be more palatable to draw a tight "boundary" around an issue to attain analytical clarity, it is ultimately worthwhile to approach situations with an openness to complexity and ambiguity. To better address the complex issues surrounding climate change mitigation, the academic and professional backgrounds of the team at Climate Choices are diverse, ranging across disciplines from both the social and natural sciences. Similarly, the institute hires a range of seniority, primarily accomplished through open postings. For younger candidates, Climate Choices typically sources from among graduate students. These graduate students will then take on the role of a junior research assistant at the institute or a similar position. For

those junior members, their skills are supplemented with mentorship from project members as well as specialized teaching programs. Overall, the essential skill required for working at the Institute for Climate Choices is a high aptitude for written communication, utilized frequently for the day-to-day work of drafting briefings, op-eds, and blog posts. Beyond competency in the written area, Climate Choices values the ability to think analytically, as well as having a keen sense of empathy – something particularly valuable for working effectively in a team setting.

Similar organizations that occupy the policy and think tank space for climate change and clean energy development include the Pembina and Prosperity Institutes and academic groups such as the University of Calgary.

Finally, for those interested in pursuing a career that addresses the impacts of climate change (which could certainly apply to a vast range of renewable energy technologies), it can perhaps be overwhelming when it comes to deciding one's course. After all, in the current social and political reality, concerns and discussions based around climate change are permeating an increasingly large number of sectors. As a result, Dale emphasizes the importance of being unafraid to enter new territory and the ability to pivot when an opportunity presents itself.