

CLIMATE CHANGE, ENERGY AND US

PETER LOVE, PRESIDENT, LOVE ENERGY CONSULTANTS

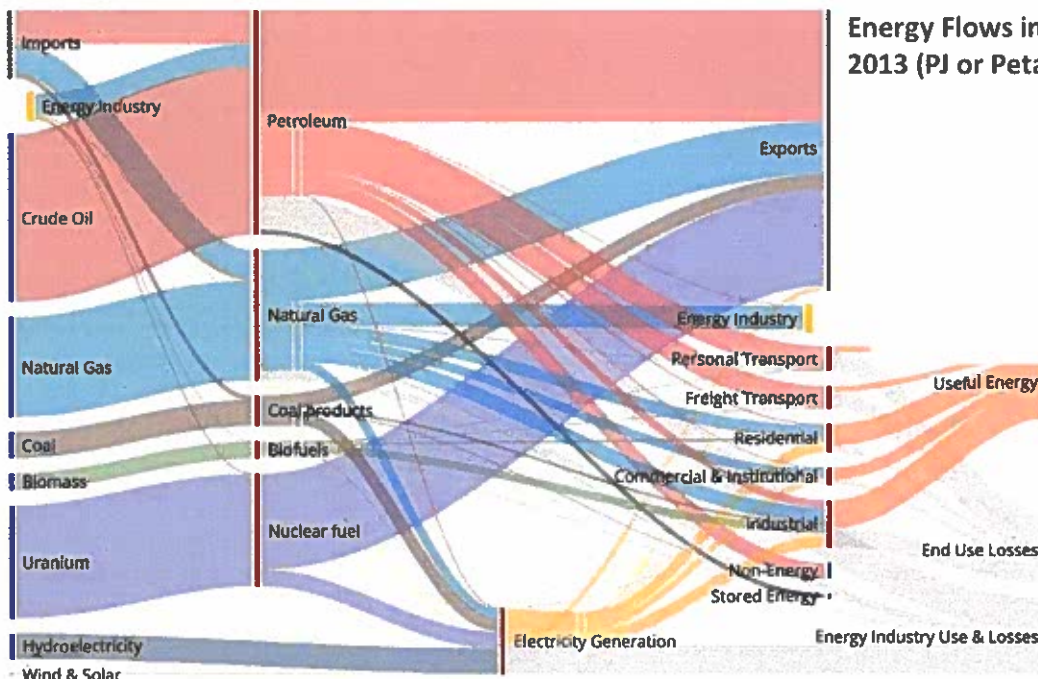
Polls have consistently shown that the majority of Canadians are concerned about climate change. While the details about just how bad it will be by what date are still being confirmed, there are five basic truths about climate change: "It's warming, it's us, we're sure, it's bad, and we can fix it." What's not so clear to many is what needs to be done.

...there are five basic truths about climate change: "It's warming, it's us, we're sure, it's bad, and we can fix it."

To better understand this, there are two critically important numbers. The first is 81%; that the portion of man-made greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (which causes climate change) that come from the production and use of energy in Canada. This leads us to the conclusion that to confront the climate change challenge, we must focus on energy. The second number is 2/3; that's the amount of energy that is lost in Canada as it is converted from its raw form to the work that we use it for.

This now leads to the conclusion that reducing GHG can be done by reducing the amount of energy we use (energy efficiency behaviour and products) and by using forms of energy that do not result in GHG emissions (renewable energy like hydro, solar, wind and biomass). In practical terms, this means everyone needs to focus on the energy they use in their everyday lives. This can be broken down into two main activities; those associated with the built environment (homes, offices, factories, schools, appliances, etc.) and transportation (cars, trucks, public transit, etc.). Within each of these two categories, there are a few common approaches. When buying new, consider buying the more energy efficient product or the one that runs on renewable fuels. If you are not buying new, consider retrofitting your existing building to make it more energy efficient, ensure that it is operated in the most efficient manner and use the more energy efficient public transit system.

Reference:
www.energyefficiencyfundamentals.org/textbook



Energy Flows in Canada:
2013 (PJ or Petajoules)