The Climate Policy Landscape in Ontario

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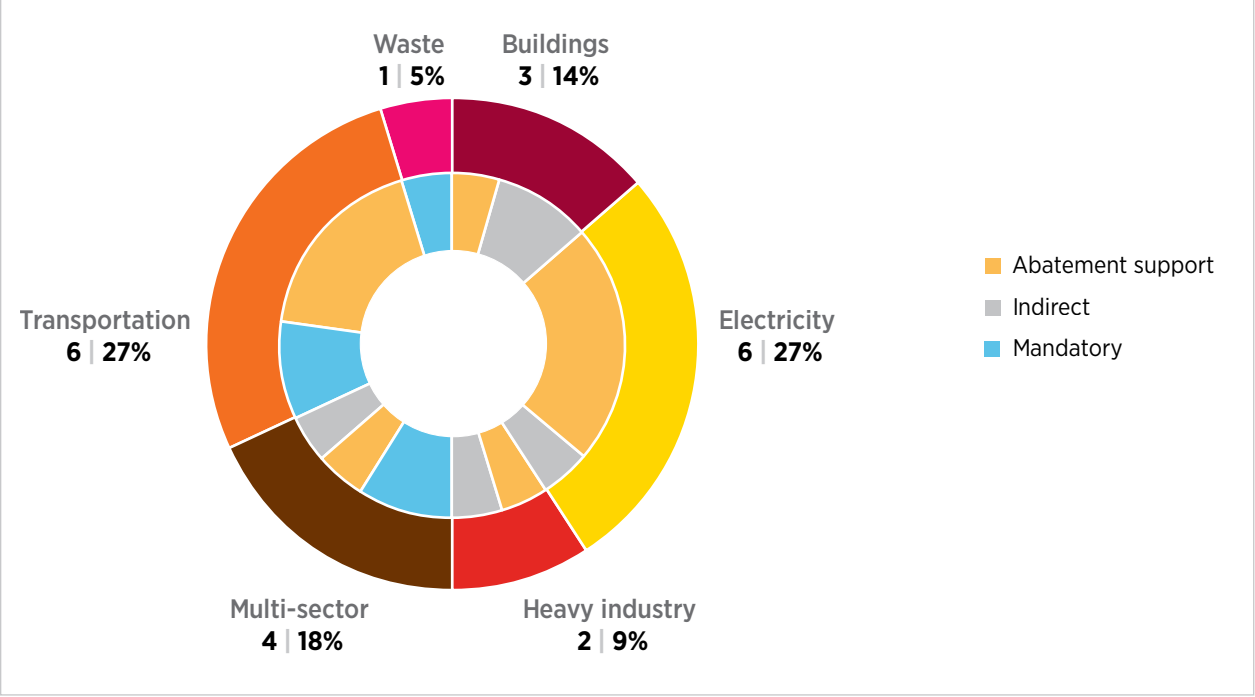
Of the 341 total emissions-reduction policies in the **Canadian Climate Policy Inventory**, Ontario has 22 policies, or six percent. The Government of Canada has the largest number (71).

Figure 1 shows the policy instruments employed by the Government of Ontario, categorizing them by sector. The inner ring highlights the share of instrument types—abatement support, indirect or mandatory—by sector, while the outer ring indicates the percentage of total policies targeting each sector.

Policies are classified by instrument type based on how they reduce emissions: mandatory, abatement support, and indirect. Mandatory policies impose a compulsory requirement on regulated parties (e.g., regulation). Abatement support policies incentivize voluntary adoption or development of lower emissions processes or products, (e.g., consumer subsidies). Indirect policies do not require or directly incentivize abatement but nevertheless contribute to emissions abatement (e.g., enabling legislation and information). Mandatory policies are generally considered to be more effective in reducing emissions than opt-in abatement support or indirect policies.

Figure 1: Policy Instruments Employed by the Government of Ontario by Sector



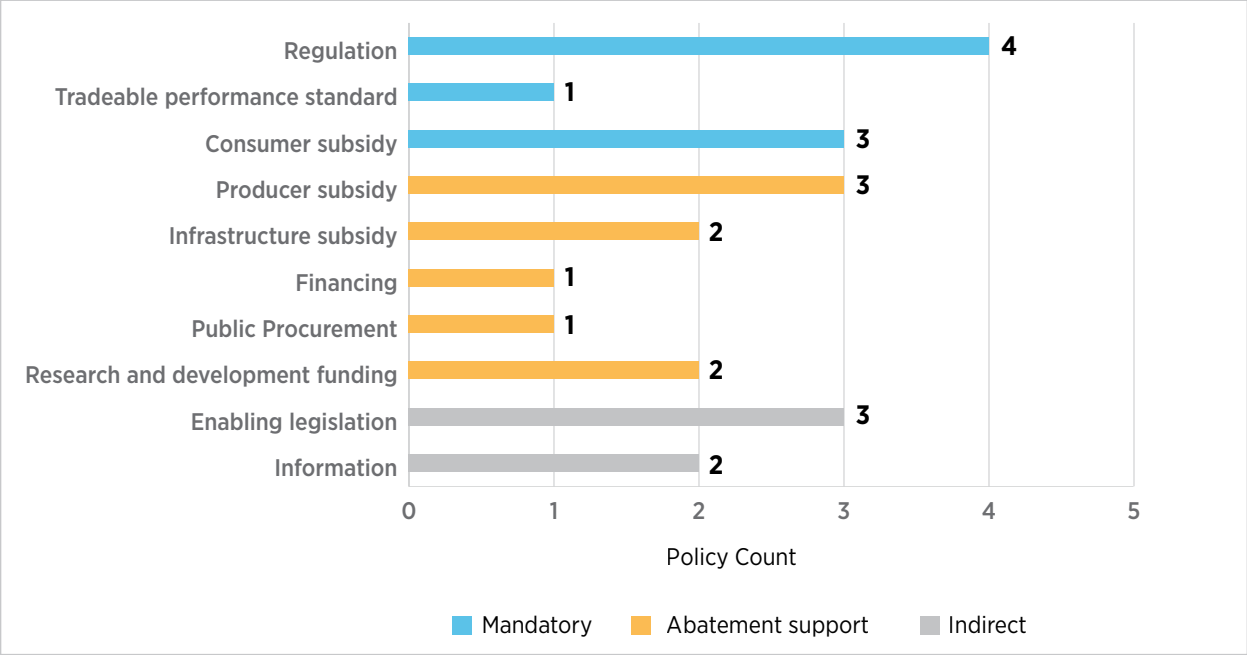
Source: Canadian Climate Policy Inventory, Version 3

KEY FACTS

- In Ontario, carrots (abatement support) dominate instrument type when compared with sticks (mandatory action). Carrots: e.g., subsidies for electric vehicle production. Sticks: e.g., the *Greenhouse Gas Emissions Performance Standards*.
- There are 22 implemented policies, with none proposed and none announced.
- Most policies reduce emissions through improving energy efficiency.
- The electricity and transportation sectors have the most sector-specific policies applied (e.g., DriveON vehicle emission testing program).
- Notably, Ontario does not have any policies targeting the agriculture and land-use or oil and gas sectors individually.
- Ontario has a mix of broadly applied policies covering multiple sectors (e.g., *Greenhouse Gas Emissions Performance Standards*) and narrowly scoped policies that are technology or project specific (e.g., funding to build public electric vehicle charging stations).

Figure 2 displays the number of policies by the policy instrument applied to mitigate emissions.

Figure 2: Number of Policies by Instrument



Source: Canadian Climate Policy Inventory, Version 3

ABOUT C2P2

The Canadian Climate Policy Partnership (C2P2), led by Dr. Jennifer Winter provides publicly accessible information on Canadian climate policies, supporting effective strategies to adapt and mitigate climate change, improving resilience, and helping Canada meet its net-zero emissions target.

Partners and funders include the Canadian Climate Institute, CIRANO (Centre Interuniversitaire de Recherche en Analyse des Organisations), the Government of British Columbia, the Government of Canada's Environmental Damages Fund, Mitacs, Quebec Net Positif, Royal Roads University, the Smart Prosperity Institute, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, the Office of the Vice-President (Research) at the University of Calgary, and the School of Public Policy at the University of Calgary.