

# finding SOLUTIONS



David Suzuki Foundation



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www.davidsuzuki.org



## Novel partnership with engineers aims at energy plan for Canada

CANADA'S NATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM was implemented by the federal Liberal government in 1980 and dismantled by the Conservatives in 1984. Although the program reduced foreign ownership of the oil industry and our dependence on oil, it is most remembered for the divide it created between the oil-rich western provinces and the federal government.

The subject has been taboo in Canada since then. Unfortunately, that means Canada is now one of the only developed nations without a coordinated energy plan. We have no countrywide energy transmission system, and many communities are not connected to the continental energy grid. Some provinces have stronger ties to U.S. energy systems than to those of neighbouring provinces, and jurisdiction over energy matters is tangled up between the federal and provincial governments.

Canada is rich in resources, technology, and skilled citizens. But if we continue to rely too heavily on coal and oil to fuel our energy systems and our economy, we risk being left behind in the

emerging clean-energy economy. Our current use of fossil fuels pollutes the air, water, and land and contributes to climate change.

We need an energy plan that benefits all Canadians.

That's why we've joined the Canadian Academy of Engineering and the philanthropic Trottier Family Foundation to research the best renewable energy options for Canada. Over the next five years, the Trottier Energy Futures Project will engage Canadians, from energy experts to citizens, to analyze our current and potential energy sources, systems, and needs, and develop a sustainable energy plan.

A partnership between environmentalists and engineers will allow us to base solutions on the most objective scientific information available.

Every means of generating energy has some environmental impact. We can't build a no-impact energy system, but we can identify ways for Canada to reduce its emissions while providing the most benefits for Canadians with the fewest environmental, social, and economic costs.

Ian Hanington



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Your guide to consumer labels **6**



# Which labels can you trust?

 Lindsay Coulter, David Suzuki's Queen of Green

Have you noticed that certain products have special labels telling you they're certified fair trade, organic, or energy-efficient? I did some research and found the best labels to look for to reduce your environmental footprint.



### Energy Star

These products use less energy, save money, and help protect the environment. More than 50 different product categories are eligible.

[www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov) (USA)



### EcoLogo™ Environmental Choice Program

EcoLogo is North America's oldest and most widely known environmental leadership standard. EcoLogo contains almost 7,000 certified environmentally preferable products.

[www.ecologo.org](http://www.ecologo.org)



### Fairtrade Certified™

Fairtrade-marked goods ensure that suppliers in developing countries are paid fairly for their goods and services. It can be found on coffee, chocolate, spices, sugar, flowers, and even soccer balls.

[www.transfair.ca](http://www.transfair.ca)



### Forest Stewardship Council

FSC is an international certification system guaranteeing that forest products — from paper tissue to lumber — come from responsibly managed forests and verified recycled sources.

[www.fsccanada.org](http://www.fsccanada.org)



### Green Seal

They certify environmentally responsible products, from cleaners to paints, ensuring they perform as well as other brands. Ingredients are biodegradable with no phthalates, heavy metals, or optical brighteners.

[www.greenseal.org](http://www.greenseal.org)



### Quality Assurance International

This independent, third-party certification of organic food has been the foundation of domestic and international organic food trade. Every step of the chain is considered — land on which the product is grown, producers, post-harvest facilities, and processing facilities.

[www.qai-inc.com](http://www.qai-inc.com)



### U.S. Department of Agriculture

They designed a fixed set of standards for organic products: antibiotics, genetic engineering, and most synthetic pesticides and fertilizers are not allowed. Animals must eat 100 per cent organic feed with no growth hormones, with access to the outdoors (except for chickens).

[www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)

## funding solutions



Left to right: Andrew Ference, Ed Begley Jr. and Russell Peters; Tara Cullis and Sarika Cullis-Suzuki; Chantal Kreviazuk and David Suzuki.

PHOTOS: TOM SANDLER

## Foundation celebrates its 20th anniversary in style

YOU'RE ONLY 20 ONCE, so we decided to have a party to celebrate.

The Live Your Legacy Gala was a smashing success, raising more than \$425,000 for the Foundation. Held on September 10 in Toronto during the Toronto International Film Festival, it helped bring greater awareness about the work of the Foundation to a whole new audience nationally and internationally.


From celebrities walking a "green carpet" to a feast of local, organic food to the carbon offsets purchased for the entire event, the gala set new standards for environmentally responsible celebrations.

Party-goers were kept laughing throughout the evening by comedian Russell Peters and Foundation Board member George Strombouloupoulos, who acted as co-hosts. Co-chairs for the event

were Stephen Bronfman and John Ruffolo.

The audience was brought to its feet during a moving reading of the Foundation's founding document, the *Declaration of Interdependence*, by diplomat Stephen Lewis, actor Ed Begley Jr., musician Melissa Auf der Maur, Olympian Adam van Koeverden, and fisheries researcher Sarika Cullis-Suzuki.

A surprise performance by Olivia Newton-John was made all the more special after she told the audience she was a long-time fan of Dr. Suzuki. Of course, no Foundation event is complete without a rousing speech by Dr. Suzuki, who called on everyone in the audience to "motivate the motivated to motivate".

 Leanne Clare