

North American Environmental Headlines: 2025 Policy Shifts, Climate Disasters

Environment · Answer Key · 10 Questions

1. In 2025, what significant change occurred regarding Canada's carbon pricing system, affecting consumer fuel charges?

- A) The federal fuel charge was increased to \$100 per tonne.
- B) The consumer carbon price was eliminated at the federal, provincial, and territorial levels.**
- C) Provinces were mandated to implement their own carbon pricing systems.
- D) A new national carbon tax was introduced for all industries.

2. According to the EPA's National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution released in November 2024, what is the overarching goal and target year for eliminating plastic waste release into the environment?

- A) To reduce plastic waste by 50% by 2035.
- B) To eliminate the release of plastic waste by 2040.**
- C) To reduce single-use plastics by 75% by 2030.
- D) To achieve zero plastic waste in landfills by 2050.

3. The U.S. experienced a record number of billion-dollar weather and climate disasters in 2024 and 2023. How many such events were recorded in 2024, and what was the approximate total cost?

- A) 28 events, costing approximately \$183.6 billion.
- B) 27 events, costing approximately \$182.7 billion.**
- C) 26 events, costing approximately \$175.5 billion.
- D) 25 events, costing approximately \$170.2 billion.

4. In 2025, which North American region saw the repeal of its Endangered Species Act and its replacement with the Species Conservation Act, leading to concerns about habitat protection for at-risk wildlife?

- A) British Columbia, Canada
- B) California, USA
- C) Ontario, Canada**
- D) Mexico City, Mexico

5. The Mexico Plastics Pact (PPMX), launched in 2024, is a collaborative platform aiming to accelerate the transition to a circular economy for plastics. Which organization is leading this initiative?

- A) The Mexican Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT)
- B) The World Economic Forum
- C) WWF Mexico**
- D) The National Plastics Industry Association of Mexico (ANIPAC)

6. As of April 2025, what was the federal carbon price in Canada per tonne of CO2 equivalent, with a planned increase to \$170 in 2030?

- A) \$70 per tonne
- B) \$80 per tonne**
- C) \$90 per tonne
- D) \$100 per tonne

7. In the United States, the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), passed in 2022, has been a key driver of renewable energy. What significant policy shift regarding the IRA was planned for 2025 by the current administration?

- A) An expansion of unspent funds and tax credits.
- B) A reduction or elimination of unspent funds.**
- C) A complete repeal of the Act.
- D) The redirection of funds towards fossil fuel research.

8. The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) aims to protect and restore the Great Lakes. What was a key priority for the GLRI in its 2025 Federal Priorities, with a call for substantial funding?

- A) Expanding commercial shipping routes.
- B) Reauthorizing GLRI for \$500 million annually and calling for \$475 million in FY 2026.**
- C) Reducing the number of federal agencies involved in restoration efforts.
- D) Phasing out all recreational boating activities.

9. Regarding plastic waste management in the USA, the EPA is pushing for upstream policies. Which of the following acts is cited as a comprehensive piece of legislation aiming to ban problematic single-use plastics and establish national Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)?

- A) The Recycling Enhancement Act
- B) The Waste Reduction and Recycling Act
- C) The Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act**
- D) The Sustainable Packaging Act

10. What significant policy change concerning offshore wind leasing was enacted in the U.S. in January 2025, effectively freezing development nationwide?

A) Withdrawal of all Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) areas from offshore wind leasing.

B) Implementation of new, faster permitting processes for offshore wind.

C) Increased federal subsidies for offshore wind projects.

D) A mandate for all new offshore wind to be zero-emission.