



Transition pathways approach accelerates clean hydrogen fuel pilot in Alberta

The Transition Accelerator would like to congratulate Emissions Reduction Alberta (ERA) and the Alberta Motor Transport Association on their announcement of a \$15 million investment to the [Alberta Zero-Emissions Truck Electrification Collaboration \(AZETEC\)](#) project. This investment is an important first step in exploring a made-in-Alberta hydrogen economy and shows a willingness to adopt innovative, and potentially disruptive, solutions to address climate change.

The AZETEC project builds on work from the [Canadian Energy Systems Analysis Research \(CESAR\) Initiative](#), who examined various low or zero-carbon energy systems and the economic opportunity for hydrogen in Alberta. In undertaking this work CESAR, under the direction of executive director Dr. David Layzell, adopted a transition pathways approach collaborating with industry innovators, technology providers and other stakeholders to define a shared vision for the transportation sector that is credible, capable and compelling.

A transition pathway approach is a strategy for facilitating the response to climate change by focusing on the transformation of human systems to better meet societal aspirations. It engages directly with the challenge of system change, linking decarbonization to broader processes of social development. It involves developing a detailed understanding of current systems, defining attractive visions of a better future that are also carbon neutral, identifying steps that can link the present with such futures, and working to build out these changes in practice. Such an approach can help empower innovators, improve policy design and implementation, shift the terms of the climate debate in Canada, and accelerate movement on the ground.

Recognizing the huge potential of the transition pathways approach Dr. Layzell has joined with two of Canada's foremost academics in sustainability, Dr. James Meadowcroft and Dr. Normand Mousseau, to form a new incubator of low-carbon disruption called The Transition Accelerator. With a mission to define and implement transition pathways that help Canada address climate change The Transition Accelerator will build coalitions of innovators, enhance promising alternatives, and spin out consortia interested in generating change. It will act as a 'force multiplier', focusing efforts, speeding the construction of attractive and viable alternatives to existing ways of doing things, and catalysing processes of change. It works by drawing together change agents from industry, governments, universities, environmental groups and the broader not-for profit sector. Above all, it seeks to change narratives from the negative ('what we don't want') to the positive ('what we do want').

CESAR's experience with the AZETEC project pioneers development and application of The Transition Accelerator's methodology and sets the stage for more to come. Over the next year The Transition Accelerator will pursue pathways in the hydrogen economy and personal mobility as well as issuing a 'call for proposals' to identify potential pathways, commission 'white papers' to provide background and sketch out promising avenues of advance, and convene workshops to refine alternatives.

More information on the AZETEC initiative is available on CESAR's [blog](#) and information about The Transition Accelerator is available at www.transitionaccelerator.ca. Core funding for The Transition Accelerator comes from the Ivey, McConnell and Edmonton Community Foundations.