

Climate Action News **this week**

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July 19th 2007 Edition

A Week in Review...

UN to hold special debate on Climate Change

On July 31st and August 1st, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, the President of the General Assembly, H.E. Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa, will convene an informal thematic debate "Climate Change as a Global Challenge".

On August 1st there will be a discussion open to all in which Member States will make statements about their national strategies and international commitments to address climate change.

To view the webcast live and for more details visit:
<http://www.un.org/ga/president/61/follow-up/thematic-climate.shtml> and
<http://www.un.org/webcast/>

Flying to a wedding this summer?

Find out from the David Suzuki Foundation how to reduce your footprint.

More at:
http://www.davidsuzuki.org/Climate_Change/What_You_Can_Do/green_wedding.asp and
http://www.davidsuzuki.org/Climate_Change/What_You_Can_Do/air_travel.asp

7 steps towards an energy saving [r]evolution

Signup for Greenpeace's 7 emails in 7 weeks for instructions on how to campaign effectively for energy efficiency. As they say on the website: "How many people to change a lightbulb?" Try changing the law!

More: http://www.greenpeace.org/international/campaigns/climate-change/take_action/7steps?MM_URL=nukefireaction

Action Alert

Send a letter by August 11th to prevent the delay of Ontario's coal phaseout

The Ontario McGuinty government originally promised during the last provincial election to phase out all coal generation by 2007. That promise was subsequently betrayed by delaying the phaseout to 2009. This promise was in turn abrogated with a delay until 2014, as part of the government's climate change announcement in June 2007.

Under Ontario's Environmental Bill of Rights, there are 30 days (until August 11, 2007) to comment on a draft regulation by the Ontario government to delay the phaseout of coal-fired electricity generation until December 31, 2014.

To view a sample letter and for more information:

<http://www.greenpeace.org/canada/en/campaigns/climate-and-energy/take-action/coal-action-alert-ontario>

Keep BC's Coast oil tanker Free!

The coastal waters of Northern BC have been protected by a moratorium on oil tanker traffic since 1972. There are now six oil and gas projects proposed for the north coast that will need tanker traffic. Sign the petition to keep BC's coast oil tanker free: <http://www.notankers.ca/>

Oil tankers in BC facilitate the massive projected expansion of the Alberta tar sands, the single largest contributor to the growth of Canada's greenhouse gas emissions.

Inside Ottawa....

Clock is ticking on the government's plan to meet Kyoto

Prime Minister Stephen Harper's government has until next month to develop a plan to meet Canada's commitment to the Kyoto Protocol under Private Member's Bill C-288, but so far the government isn't indicating its next move.

See the full Hill Times article at: <http://www.thehilltimes.ca/html/index.php>

Looking Ahead....

The following three events are organized by the Council of Canadians in response to the Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP). Prime Minister Stephen Harper will be meeting in Montebello, Quebec with U.S. President George Bush and Mexican President Felipe Calderón August 20th and 21st. Also visit the Council of Canadians SPP summit website:

<http://www.canadians.org/integratethis/summit/index.html>

SUNDAY, AUGUST 19, 7:00 p.m. — PUBLIC FORUM

The Council of Canadians is working with other labour and social justice groups to organize a public forum near Montebello. This event will feature Canadian, U.S. and Mexican speakers, focusing on how the SPP affects energy security, water, the environment, security policy, and other key issues. More details to come.

MONDAY, AUGUST 20 — NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION

The Council of Canadians will be organizing a National Day of Action Against the SPP on August 20. This will allow people across Canada to “plug in” to the resistance at the Montebello summit. Council of Canadians’ chapters will be organizing public forums and community picnics, lobbying of Members of Parliament, distributing handbills, and speaking to the media. We will be posting information about events across the country at IntegrateThis.ca, as details develop.

MONDAY, AUGUST 20 — PROTEST IN MONTEBELLO

The Council of Canadians will be joining with other groups from across Ontario and Quebec to protest at the summit site in Montebello. More details to come.

Other Events

SATURDAY, JULY 21 — Canada Parks Day—Celebrate Canada’s parks and historical sites with numerous events taking place all over the country.

www.parksday.ca/eng/index.html.

AUGUST 1 TO AUGUST 3 — CONSERVATIVE NATIONAL CAUCUS MEETING in Charlottetown, P.E.I. For more information, call Conservative MP Rahim Jaffer, chair of the Conservative caucus, 613-995-7325.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8 Council of the Federation — Chair of the Council of the Federation, New Brunswick Premier Shawn Graham will host other premiers at this summer meeting. August 8-10. Hotel Beauséjour, Moncton, N.B.
For more details please visit www.gnb.ca/cf.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 25 — NDP MPs will gather in Montreal from Aug. 25 to 27 for their annual summer caucus retreat.

AUGUST 26 — US National Remembrance of Hurricane Katrina

TUESDAY, AUGUST 28 — Federal Liberal Caucus meeting—The Liberal Party holds its summer caucus meeting. Aug. 28-30. The Fairmont Hotel, St. John's, Nfld. For more information, please call 613-783-8400.

August 27 to 31 — Intersessional: AWG 4 and the Dialogue 4, , Vienna, Austria
The fourth session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG 4) and the fourth workshop under the dialogue on long-term cooperative action to address climate change by enhancing implementation of the Convention will take place at the Austrian Center Vienna (ACV), Vienna, Austria on 27-31 August 2007.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10 — Ontario Provincial Election—
www.electionsontario.on.ca