

# Climate Action News **this week**

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## **The Path From Bali**

It could have been much worse. Two weeks of painful negotiations from which Canada's international reputation emerged in tatters, could well have ended in an impasse with no agreement on a way to move forward. To everyone's joy and relief, some important progress was made.

There were two main forums negotiating in Bali. In one forum, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, which includes almost every country in the world and is the umbrella agreement for the Kyoto Protocol, countries ultimately found agreement for a "Bali Roadmap," one that has a working group negotiating an agreement that is now scheduled to be completed by the end of 2009. Unfortunately, the U.S. and Canada succeeded in blocking any reference to binding targets and also to including any detail on the topics to be part of the working group's agenda. The bulk of any future agreement has yet to be decided.

In the other forum, which only includes countries that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol (i.e. NOT the U.S.A), Canada also tried to block the inclusion of text on binding targets. However, it backed down at the eleventh hour. The final text recognizes the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Fourth Assessment Report calling for global emissions to peak in 10-15 years, and for industrialized countries to reduce their GHG emissions to levels at least 25-40% below 1990 levels by 2020. With Canada's current national objective set at 20% below 2006 levels by 2020 (or stabilization at 1990 levels by 2020), the Government of Canada must now act to substantially strengthen its regulatory framework and implement a comprehensive climate change plan if it plans to live up to spirit and intent of Kyoto.

Read the "Bali Action Plan" under the Framework:

[http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/cop\\_13/application/pdf/cp\\_bali\\_act\\_p.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/cop_13/application/pdf/cp_bali_act_p.pdf)

Get the full details of what was accomplished:

[www.iisd.ca/download/pdf/enb12354e.pdf](http://www.iisd.ca/download/pdf/enb12354e.pdf)

Or the abbreviated version:

[www.greenpeace.org/raw/content/international/press/reports/the-bali-decisions.pdf](http://www.greenpeace.org/raw/content/international/press/reports/the-bali-decisions.pdf)

Press Releases:

Canada Bows to Pressure at Bali's 11th Hour, December 15, 2008, Climate Action Network Canada:

[www.climateactionnetwork.ca/e/news/2007/bali-partial-agreement-2007-12-15.html](http://www.climateactionnetwork.ca/e/news/2007/bali-partial-agreement-2007-12-15.html)

Climate Change Talks Brought Back from the Brink, but Lacking Substance, December 15, 2008, Greenpeace Press Release

[www.greenpeace.org/international/press/releases/bali](http://www.greenpeace.org/international/press/releases/bali)

Bali Launches Climate Negotiations but is Weak on Substance, December 15, 2007, WWF Press release

[www.panda.org/about\\_wwf/where\\_we\\_work/ecoregions/index.cfm?uNewsID=120020](http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/where_we_work/ecoregions/index.cfm?uNewsID=120020)

## **Set Carbon Price Now – NTREE**

The National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy (NRTEE) released a report January 7<sup>th</sup> detailing a framework that would reduce Canada's GHG emissions to 20% below 2005 levels by 2020 and to between 60% and 70% below 2005 levels by 2050 without much hurt to the economy. Their central recommendation: establish a price for carbon emissions as soon as possible.

Read the press release:

[www.nrtee-trnee.ca/eng/media/media-releases/20080107-getting-to-2050-eng.htm](http://www.nrtee-trnee.ca/eng/media/media-releases/20080107-getting-to-2050-eng.htm)

Get the report:

*Getting to 2050: Canada's Transition to a Low-emission Future*

[www.nrtee-trnee.ca/eng/publications/getting-to-2050/intro-page-getting-to-2050-eng.html](http://www.nrtee-trnee.ca/eng/publications/getting-to-2050/intro-page-getting-to-2050-eng.html)

For Reaction:

New Report Shows Urgent Need for Stronger Climate Policies from Canada's Government

[www.climateactionnetwork.ca/e/news/2008/carbon-tax-2008-01-07.html](http://www.climateactionnetwork.ca/e/news/2008/carbon-tax-2008-01-07.html)

Carbon Tax Proposal a Non-Starter in Alberta, CBC News, January 8, 2007

[www.cbc.ca/canada/calgary/story/2008/01/08/renner-carbon.html](http://www.cbc.ca/canada/calgary/story/2008/01/08/renner-carbon.html)

## **“2007: The year that climate change began biting deep and hard on the home front” - Environment Canada**

Read the Top Ten Weather Stories for 2007  
[www.ec.gc.ca/doc/smc-msc/m\\_110/toc\\_eng.html](http://www.ec.gc.ca/doc/smc-msc/m_110/toc_eng.html)

“Vanishing Ice Biggest Weather Story”  
Toronto Star, December 28, 2007  
[www.thestar.com/News/article/289112](http://www.thestar.com/News/article/289112)

## **BC’s GHG Targets Come to Force**

On January 1, 2008, the B.C. *Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act* came into effect. The Act sets targets to reduce overall emissions by 33% below 2007 levels by 2020, and 80% below 2007 levels by 2050. Interim targets for 2012 and 2016 must be in place by the end of 2008, and all B.C. public sector organizations must be carbon-neutral by 2010.

Read the full text:  
[www.leg.bc.ca/38th3rd/1st\\_read/gov44-1.htm](http://www.leg.bc.ca/38th3rd/1st_read/gov44-1.htm)

BC Government News Release, November 20, 2007  
[www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news\\_releases\\_2005-2009/2007OTP0181-001489.htm](http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2005-2009/2007OTP0181-001489.htm)

## **Stephen Harper, Be a leader - Canadian Union of Public Employees**

Ottawa, December 12, 2007 - Front line public service workers have felt the impact of climate change and their union, the Canadian Union of Public Employees, is calling on Stephen Harper’s minority government to show leadership and embrace the initiatives to reduce green house gases that were discussed in Bali, Indonesia.

Press Release:  
[www.cupe.ca/environment/Front\\_line\\_workers\\_c](http://www.cupe.ca/environment/Front_line_workers_c)

CUPE Resolution on United Nations Conference on Climate Change- Bali  
[www.cupe.ca/updir/Dec12-Climate\\_Change\\_Bali\\_resolution\\_rev.pdf](http://www.cupe.ca/updir/Dec12-Climate_Change_Bali_resolution_rev.pdf)

## **Environmental Report Card Gives Failing Mark to Tar Sands' Top 10**

A new report released jointly by the Pembina Institute and WWF-Canada entitled *Under-Mining The Environment, The Oil Sands Report Card* ranks Alberta's top tar sands projects on 20 environmental indicators under environmental management, land impacts, air pollution, water use, and management of greenhouse gases. Projects surveyed earned an average mark of just 33 per cent, leaving substantial room for improvement across the sector.

Pembina Institute Press Release

[www.pembina.org/media-release/1573](http://www.pembina.org/media-release/1573)

Under-Mining the Environment: Fact Sheet, January 2008

<http://pubs.pembina.org/reports/OS-Undermining-factsheet.pdf>

Under-Mining the Environment: The Oil Sands Report Card, January 2008

<http://pubs.pembina.org/reports/OS-Undermining-Final.pdf>