

Climate Action News **this week**

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January 30, 2008

National News

Where's the climate change report, Mr. Lunn?

Environmental groups are wondering what Minister of Natural Resources Gary Lunn has done with a major report on regional impacts of climate change. The first of its kind in a decade, it was completed months ago and could have provided critical information to Minister Baird and federal negotiators during the lead up to the UN Climate Change Conference in Bali in December.

CAN-RAC Press Release:

www.climateactionnetwork.ca/e/news/2008/climate-report-2008-01-23.html

World News

European Commission Presents New Plan to Cut Emissions at least 20% from 1990 Levels by 2020

A new package of proposals submitted by the European Commission to EU Ministers this week includes an overall EU-wide cap on emissions from large industry under its trading system that covers approximately 40% of all emissions. It also tells each country how much and what it must do to help reach the overarching 2020 target. The proposals must now pass through the EU Council and Parliament and could be changed substantially before entering into force. Environmental groups are giving the package mixed reviews.

Read the official Press Release:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/80&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

CAN-Europe Press Release:

www.climnet.org/EUenergy/20080123_Energypack_PR.pdf

For the full package of proposals:

http://ec.europa.eu/commission_barroso/president/focus/energy-package-2008/index_en.htm

US Senate Probes EPA Decision Denying California Waiver on Cars

The US Senate Environment and Public Works Committee is examining evidence indicating that Environmental Protection Agency Chief Stephen Johnson ignored a staff recommendation to approve a waiver for California so it could pass its own tailpipe emission standards. Staff had warned Johnson that the state would take the waiver denial to court and the EPA would likely lose the case. This is the first time California has been refused such a waiver. The issue is also under investigation by the House of Representatives Oversight Committee.

Link to the House Oversight Committee

<http://oversight.house.gov/story.asp?ID=1681>

News coverage:

www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/01/24/MNE6UKCQI.DTL

www.nbc11.com/news/15120771/detail.html

Iraq Ratifies Kyoto

With so much else on its plate, war-ravaged Iraq ratified the Kyoto Protocol on January 23, 2008.

Read the New York Times article:

<http://thelede.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/01/28/iraqi-government-tackles-global-warming/?hp>

COP 15 Website Up and Running

Denmark has launched the website for COP15, an impressive start as host to the 2009 UN Conference on Climate Change (Copenhagen, November 30 to December 11). Check it out: www.cop15.dk/en/

On the Hill

Environment Committee Begins Review of Bill C377, Canada's Climate Change Accountability Act

The House of Commons Standing Committee on the Environment and Economy began its review of bill C377 this week. The legislation is aimed at ensuring the Government of Canada acts to do its fair share to bring down global emissions at the rate consistent with IPCC scientists' recommendations. Meetings go to February 13th.

For the full text of the bill:

www2.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?DocId=3084559&Language=e&Mode=1

To check the meetings schedule and watch the proceedings live:

http://cmte.parl.gc.ca/cmte/CommitteeList.aspx?Lang=1&PARLSES=392&JNT=0&SELID=e22_2&COM=13183&STAC=2215653

Across Canada

Premiers Agree on Adaptation Planning and Management - What about that Cap and Trade System?

Premiers emerged from a Council of the Federation Summit in Vancouver this week with an agreement to work on a flood mitigation strategy, water conservation and northern adaptation plans, and a forestry agreement to battle the BC pine beetle. As of the moment of this writing, media reports are indicating Ontario, BC, Quebec and Manitoba have a deal on a provincial cap and trade system, but no public announcements have been made. Stay tuned....

See related CAN-RAC Press Release:

www.climateactionnetwork.ca/e/news/2008/premiers-meeting-2008-01-28.html

News coverage:

www.thestar.com/News/Canada/article/298642

Ed Stelmach Ditches Premiers' on Day Two of Climate Summit

Premier Ed Stelmach took a pass on day two of the Premiers' summit, leaving the remaining Premiers, academics and others to figure out how to make progress in dealing with the effects of climate change across Canada.

Read the story:

www.thestar.com/News/Canada/article/298132

Canada's Top Business Council Calls on Premiers to commit to "Canada-wide approach to Climate Policy"

The Canadian Council of Chief Executives, this country's most influential business lobby, has sent a letter to the Premiers calling on them to replace the current patchwork of provincial targets and plans with a single common approach for all of Canada.

Read the letter:

www.ceocouncil.ca/publications/pdf/test_080f5986a4cf7083ee9592461d6937c4/Memo_to_Premiers_and_Territorial_Leaders_re_climate_change_January_2008.pdf

News coverage:

www.cbc.ca/cp/business/080127/b012717A.html

Stelmach's "Shockingly Irresponsible" Plan Will Allow Alberta' GHG Emissions to Climb for the Next 12 Years

Alberta's oil patch is celebrating this week following Premier Ed Stelmach's release of a climate change plan that replaces the province's 2002 version with an even weaker one. Rather than reducing pollution, the plan relies almost exclusively on carbon capture and storage technology, it contains no targets for absolute emission reductions and GHG stabilization will not occur until 2020 at the earliest.

For more information from Alberta's website:

<http://environment.alberta.ca/1319.html>

News Coverage:

www.oilweek.com/news.asp?ID=13902

www.canada.com/edmontonjournal/news/story.html?id=39935287-ed3c-48d5-b79d-3e95d663e187&k=62902

www.canada.com/topics/news/politics/story.html?id=e5473e6e-47ba-4efc-8496-484019d2db9e&k=63756

Environmental Community Reactions:
www.pembina.org/media-release/1576

Get Involved

February 2nd is Canada's National Energy Day of Action. So how can you help? Send PM Harper a mitten! To learn more:
www.canadians.org/energy/action/toolkit/mitten.html

Looking Ahead

- * Feb 4-5 New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers (NEG-ECP) will gather for a workshop on "GHG Regulatory Requirements and Market-Based Trading Mechanisms" Saint John, New Brunswick
- * Feb 11-12 United Nations Gathers in New York City for High Level Debate, "Addressing Climate Change: the UN and the World at Work."
Watch the debate live on the web: www.un.org/webcast/
- * IISD Conference in Ottawa March 3-4 2008, A Way Forward: Canadian and International Perspectives on Post-2012 Climate Policy
Register now: www.iisd.org/climate/kyoto/