

Climate Action News this week

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February 6th, 2008 Edition

National News

Government Taskforce calls for initial \$2 billion Subsidy for Tar Sands Companies to Bury Carbon Pollution

A new federal-provincial (Alberta) taskforce report on the role of carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology in controlling pollution from the Tar Sands recommends \$2 billion in public money for oil and gas companies during the first construction to 2015. Alberta's climate change plan relies on CCS technology for approximately 70% of its reductions to 2050.

For the full report:

<http://www.nrcan-rncan.gc.ca/com/resoress/publications/fosfos/fosfos-eng.php>

News Coverage:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/LAC.20080201.RCAPTURE01/TPStory/Business>

Reaction:

<http://www.pembina.org/media-release/1578>

Conference Board of Canada Calls for National Emissions Tax

The Conference Board of Canada has added its voice to the growing call for a fixed price on GHG emissions from Canada's industrial sector. "Fundamentally, as economists, you have to believe that one of the great challenges of (addressing) climate change is that carbon is still treated like it's free," said Glen Hodgson, senior vice-president and senior economist at the Conference Board.

Get the report:

<http://www.conferenceboard.ca/documents.asp?rnext=2426>

News Coverage:

<http://www.canada.com/topics/news/politics/story.html?id=1596dd42-ef07-443c-9bbd-9b4712328e02&k=64291>

Emissions from Smaller Oil Companies to Continue Unchecked under Federal Regulations

Last month the federal government made a preliminary step toward regulating emissions from large oil and gas facilities by ordering them to report their emissions data. Companies producing less than 10,000 barrels of oil per day do not have to report their figures. Together, they are responsible for approximately 10 million tonnes of GHG emissions every year.

Read more:

<http://www.canada.com/topics/news/politics/story.html?id=4044ccb0-a455-4805-8d87-9ea22fbe3e99>

Canadian Youth Movement Builds on Success in Bali

Canada was represented by the largest, most impressive youth delegation in the world at the recent UN Climate Change Conference in Bali. The Canadian Youth Climate Coalition is a proven force for change and they're not waiting to put their Bali momentum into action.

Read more at:

<http://canadianpress.google.com/article/ALeqM5hoAID6o8VPzWz582hwfLoGp2W9Ng>

On the Hill

Harper Government Censors Environment Canada Scientists

Environment Minister Baird has silenced Environment Canada scientists. From now on they must refer all media inquiries to communications head office, where only "approved messages" will be released.

Read the full story:

<http://www.canada.com/ottawacitizen/news/story.html?id=55e49c18-cb8d-45dd-a2d3-22dc0f053f18>

Across Canada

“Global warming and the environment has emerged in the minds of Canadians as the world's most pressing issue” – Canada’s World Poll

EnviroNics conducted a major poll January 9-28, 2008 on our attitudes and opinions about international issues and what Canada’s role should be. When asked, unprompted, what issue concerns them most, more Canadians said “climate change” than any other issue, including war and poverty.

Download the complete poll:

http://www.igloo.org/community.igloo?r0=community&r0_script=/scripts/folder/view.script&r0_pathinfo=%2F%7B0f2c2935-322d-40c1-b053-6c1c022faa81%7D%2Flearnmor%2Fquizzesa%2Fpollresu&r0_output=xml

Read the CBC Summary:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/polls/canada-world/findings.html>

Eastern Premiers Meet with Eastern State Governors

New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers (NEG-ECP) met February 4 & 5 in Saint John, New Brunswick to discuss “GHG Regulatory Requirements and Market-Based Trading Mechanisms.” There was agreement on the need for a robust provincial cap and trade system that can be linked to state and EU trading systems.

NEG-ECP Background:

<http://www.cap-cpma.ca/default.asp?mn=1.62.4.28>

News coverage:

<http://www.theenergynews.com/news/article.php?storyid=2135&newstype=gov>

World News

UK Uncouples GHG Pollution from Economic Growth

Proving again this year that emissions can be controlled in a growing economy, the UK reduced its total GHG emissions .5% in 2006 over 2005 while the economy grew by 2.9%. UK emissions are now 16.4% below 1990 levels.

UK Government News Release:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2008/080131c.htm>

Statistics and Data:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2008/080131a.htm>

Second Major Economies Meeting Not So Major

Seventeen of the world's largest emitters have met again under President Bush's "Major Emitters" process. The January 30-31 meeting in Hawaii was closed to media, journalists and poorer nations. It also produced few tangible results. France will follow through on its commitment to host the next meeting May 1-2 in Paris, however, it remains unclear if a final meeting and/or statement will come at the end of the process.

News Coverage - China:

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2008-02/01/content_7546733.htm

New Coverage - UK

<http://ukpress.google.com/article/ALeqM5gQB-dC9gcCYnPMrH8B54JUMI3s5A>

News Coverage- Canada

http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/20080131/climate_change_080131/20080131?hub=SciTech

NGO Coverage:

<http://usclimatenetwork.org/international/honolulu-mem>

<http://www.greenpeace.org/international/press/releases/bush-monumental-failure>

New Analysis of US Spending Compares Military Elephant to "Climate Security" Mouse

U.S.-based Institute for Policy Studies has completed a revealing study of US federal spending showing just how far climate change must climb to reach the top rung of the spending priority ladder. In the last five years, over \$37 billion was directed toward "climate security." Over the same period \$3.5 *trillion* was committed to military forces, a funding ratio of 97 to 1.

Get the report:

<http://www.ips-dc.org/reports/#83>

Justice Matters

Climate Change will affect our natural environment, but what about our jobs?

It's inevitable: climate change will modify the way we live our lives, including the way we work. But what will that impact be on the types and numbers of jobs available in Canada and around the world? Carla Lipsig-Mummé, of York University's Center for Research on Work and Society, explores the issues at: <http://www.thestar.com/comment/article/299336>

Take Action

On March 29th, join EARTH HOUR 2008 by turning off your lights between 8pm – 9 pm. Don't forget to mark your calendar!

For more information: <http://wwf.ca/earthhour/> <http://www.earthhour.org/>

Looking Ahead

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| February 11-12 | United Nations High Level Debate, "Addressing Climate Change: the UN and the World at Work." Watch the debate live on the web: http://www.un.org/webcast/ |
| February 13 | "Confronting the Tar Sands" Two First Nations leaders are in Ottawa talking about health abnormalities in Fort Chipewyan, a community situated downstream from the Tar Sands. Wednesday February 13, 7pm-9pm, Fateux Hall, University of Ottawa, 57 Louis Pasteur, Room 147A |
| February 13 | Clause-by-clause vote on Bill C377, the "Climate Change Accountability Act." |
| February 19 | BC Budget is released. Watch for a carbon tax! |
| March 3 | Alberta goes to the polls |