Climate Action News this week

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Action of the Week

Clean Cars for Canada Register your position with Transport Canada on a new federal fuel efficiency standard for cars at www.cleancarscanada.ca. Right now the government is seriously leaning toward the weaker option so take a minute to send your thoughts, then circulate this link to your friends, family and networks. Deadline: March 15.

Across Canada

Alberta Liberals Promise Absolute Caps on GHGs within Five Years

If elected on March 3rd Liberal Leader Kevin Taft will create "an absolute cap on greenhouse gas emissions from all sources" within five years. The Conservative plan would count on intensity targets, allowing emissions to increase until 2020. Over 30% of Canada's total GHG emissions come from Alberta.

News Coverage:
http://www.canada.com/ottawacitizen/news/story.html?id=efe7c639-4628-4216-83b0-c9dc1919eb2f&k=1264

For Sierra Club Coverage of the 2008 Alberta Election Campaign 2008:
http://www.sierraclub.ca/prairie/election08.htm

Polar Bears Make Manitoba's Endangered List

Manitoba's Endangered Species Act now lists polar bears as threatened by climate change. From 1999 to 2004, the polar bear population in the Western

Hudson Bay area dropped to 935, a 22% decrease. Manitoba joins Ontario and Newfoundland, putting more pressure on the federal government to list the bear in its own review this spring. The U.S. is also on the verge of a decision.

News Coverage:
http://winnipegsun.com/News/Manitoba/2008/02/08/pf-4834317.html

On the U.S. decision:
http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-polar3feb03,0,1976402.story
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/02/06/AR2008020604451.html?nav=rss_nation

Policy Coordination between Governments Realistic and Required - report

Authors of a new inventory of federal, provincial and territorial climate change policies say jurisdictions share many common goals but do not do enough to coordinate with or learn from each another.

"Building on Our Strengths" report:
http://www.cwf.ca/V2/files/Building_on_our_Strengths.pdf

World News

Scientists find 9 'tipping points' of climate change

A team of leading climate scientists has identified nine 'tipping points' (i.e. trigger points for major, out-of-control impacts such as the melting of the Greenland ice sheet). Several are expected to occur within the next 100 years. The melting of the Arctic sea-ice and the disruption of the West African monsoon will happen within 10 years. All will be unstoppable under business-as-usual emissions track scenarios.

Media coverage:
http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/climate-change/scientists-identify-tipping-points-of-climate-change-778027.html
http://blogs.nature.com/news/thegreatbeyond/2008/02/climate_change_tipping_points.html

Original article:
http://www.pnas.org/cgi/reprint/0705414105v1

G7 Hopes to Create "World Bank-Style" Clean Technology Fund

G7 finance ministers say they intend to act on a proposal from the U.S., Britain and Japan to establish a fund to assist developing countries to address climate change. The final statement from their February 9th meeting in Tokyo also states that "market-based policies, which include taxes and emission trading, will become increasingly important in combating climate change."

Final G7 statement:
http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/finance/fm080209.htm

Media coverage:
http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5gc8JEW4bcoTUnJcCKemRD-iJprWg
http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20080207/sc_afp/g7japanbritainusclimatewarming_080207182000

U.S. Cap and Trade Law for Mercury Stuck Down, Coal-Fired Plants Face Large Expenditures to Control Pollution

The future of GHG-spewing coal-fired plants is less bright after 14 states and some environmental groups won a major victory against a Bush administration law that would have allowed them to trade poisonous mercury emissions under a cap and trade system rather than reduce emissions at source. The District of Columbia Appeals Court decision cites a failure to consider the health and environmental consequences of the law. The plants will now have to install expensive mercury-reduction equipment.

Full story:
http://uk.reuters.com/article/environmentNews/idUKN0847678520080208
NYT editorial:
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/02/10/opinion/10sun2.html?ref=opinion

Three U.S. Banks Set "Carbon Principles" on Funding New Coal-Fired Plants

Three of Wall Street's biggest investment banks have announced new environmental principles for companies seeking financing for new coal-fired power plants in the U.S. Seeing federal hard caps on GHG emissions in the not-

too-distant future, the bankers are requiring consideration of energy-efficiency, renewable energy and carbon capture and storage options in plant designs. Environmental groups are looking for binding commitments on banks to reduce their financed emissions.

News Coverage:
http://www.reuters.com/article/fundsFundsNews/idUSWNAS913620080204
http://www.envirolink.org/external.html?itemid=200802050658040.00917291

Environmental Community Reaction:
http://itsgettinghotinhere.org/2008/02/04/wall-street-announces-carbon-principles-but-what-do-they-mean/
http://ran.org/media_center/news_article/?uid=4735

Justice Matters

Climate Scientists Predict "Crushing" impact on World's Poorest

Stanford University scientists were surprised at their findings from a computer modelling study examining the effects of a changing climate on the world's twelve most impoverished regions. Southern Africa, for example, would lose over 30% of its main crop, maize, by 2030. They are recommending crop-switching and major investments into new varieties and irrigation.

News story:
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7220807.stm

Take Action

No New Approvals for Tar Sands Developments! Sign the petition today at:
http://www.thepetitionsite.com/1/no-new-approvals-on-tar-sands-developments

Save Hockey and Fight Climate Change…The Canadian Youth Climate Coalition wants you to skate into action on the 3rd Anniversary of the coming into force of the Kyoto Protocol. It's easy – just get up a neighbourhood game for Feb 16th, 2008, put a "Save Hockey" banner on your net and have fun! Contact Barbara Hayes, CYCC Director to include your game time on the national media advisory at director@ourclimate.ca or 613-241-1615.

Looking Ahead

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!
February 26	Federal Budget
March 3	Alberta goes to the polls
March 31- April 4	First Working Group Meeting on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention and First Meeting of Article 3.9 Working Group un