

Climate Action News this week

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March 19, 2008 Edition

National News

Canada Has No Kyoto Commitments

The answer to how the government intends to remain in the Kyoto Protocol without even trying to meet its commitments is contained in its response in a court case against Friends of the Earth Canada. FoE has asked the court to decide if the Minister of the Environment is in compliance with provisions of the Kyoto Protocol Implementation Act. And the answer? The Government of Canada does not have to comply, having no obligations under Kyoto until the compliance mechanisms are adopted as an amendment to the Protocol. And if that doesn't work, the government says the court should mind its own business.

News coverage:

www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20080314.wkyoto14/BNStory/National/home

The government's legal response:

www.foecanada.org/images/stories/pdfs/KPIA/gov%20respondents%20memorandum%20of%20fact%20and%20law.pdf

FoE's factum:

www.foecanada.org/images/stories/Lawsuit/factum%20noa%201.pdf

Carbon Tax Debate Goes National

With election speculation mounting, Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion took advantage of the GLOBE conference in Vancouver last week to commit his government to following BC's lead with some form of revenue neutral carbon tax or cap and trade system. "I am telling you it will be done..." said Dion.

Read the story:

www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/LAC.20080315.QUADRA15/TPStory/National

Government Hands \$50,000 to PR Firm to Orchestrate Impacts Report Release

Natural Resources Canada hired a public relations firm last year to handle the release of the climate change impacts and adaptation report it quietly had posted on its website on March 7th.

Read the story:

http://canadianpress.google.com/article/ALeqM5hXxMDrXjPRIN0v5UnnGi_yI7xKrQ

Read the report:

http://adaptation.nrcan.gc.ca/assess/2007/index_e.php

Frustration Mounts As Government Delays GHG Regulations for Large Industry

Industry and environmental organizations are sharing a growing frustration at the government's unenergetic pace in regulating Canada's large industrial polluters. Last week the government announced "new details" of its regulatory framework without announcing any regulations. Industry is worried about the tight timetable that has final regulations in place in late 2009 and the first compliance period starting in 2010. Dale Marshall of the David Suzuki Foundation sees last week's release as just one more political document. "It's completely driven by communications, and not at all by solid policy," he said.

Read the story:

www.thehilltimes.ca/html/index.php?display=story&full_path=2008/march/17/lobbying/&c=2

World News

Differences Dog G20

Three days of talks in Japan have left G20 Energy and Environment Ministers with a clearer idea of how many ways they can disagree. Persistent areas of difference include the overall approach (Japan's proposed sectoral approach received little support), what year to use as a baseline, and what constitutes acceptable funding assistance to developing countries (Japan has pledged \$10 Billion, but whether this is "new" or recycled development assistance remains unclear).

The Ministers have committed to continue talking until an agreement on a post -2012 deal is reached. Discussions will be fed into the G8 Summit this July.

News coverage:

www.iht.com/articles/ap/2008/03/16/asia/AS-GEN-Japan-Climate-Conference.php

www.reuters.com/article/environmentNews/idUSSP8790020080314

Reuters G20 "Factbox" backgrounder:

www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSSP81257

The Great Glacier Meltdown

The World Glacier Monitoring Service has released data indicating that the average rate of thinning and melting from 30 "reference glaciers" in nine mountain regions doubled in the years between 2004-2005 and 2005-2006. Experts are becoming increasingly worried about the impact this will have on the millions of people around the world who depend upon summertime glacier melt for their drinking water.

News coverage:

www.nytimes.com/2008/03/18/science/earth/18melt.html?ref=environment

UNEP Press release:

<http://unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=530&ArticleID=5760&l=en>

World Glacier Monitoring Service data:

www.wgms.ch/mbb/mbb9/sum06.html

Get Involved

Earth Hour – This March 29th at 8:00 PM people all over the world will turn off their lights for one hour in solidarity for urgent global action. Read more at www.earthhour.org and don't forget to switch off on the 29th!

Fossil Fools Day of Youth Action – Canadian youth are being called to action for April 1st. Go to <http://actions.energyactioncoalition.org/fossilfools> to find an action near you, or better still, organize your own!

Green Cars – Do you want cars that are truly fuel-efficient? Tell it to the federal government today at www.cleancarscanada.ca.

Looking Ahead

March 22	World Water Day
March 26	WCI Training Workshop on Offsets, 8am-5 pm. To register for the simultaneous webinar: www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=sV0GH9EYoJQ3qbgIBN6m5A_3d_3d
March 29	Earth Hour. Lights out from 8:00 – 9:00 pm.
March 31-April 4	First Meeting of the Ad-Hoc Working Group on the Bali Action Plan, (Bangkok, Thailand)
April 1	Parliament returns
April 1	Fossil Fools Day of Youth Action http://actions.energyactioncoalition.org/fossilfools
April 5-6	G8 meeting on Development, Tokyo, Japan www.mofa.go.jp/policy/economy/summit/2008/info/map.html
April 8-15	Registration window for side events at Sessions of the Subsidiary Bodies, 2-13 June 2008, Bonn, Germany

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