

Climate Action News **this week**

Published by Climate Action Network – Réseau action climat Canada
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April 9, 2008 Edition
SPECIAL ALERT ISSUE

Action Alert

Government Paralyzes Parliament's Environmental Agenda

Conservative Members of Parliament have halted the work of the Environment Committee by blocking a review of the Climate Change Accountability Act, Bill C-377. This bill is supported by opposition MPs who represent over 60% of elected MPs in Parliament. If it passes, Canada will have science-based targets to reduce its emissions 25% below 1990 levels by 2020.

Conservative members responsible for blocking this important bill will succeed in killing it altogether if they are allowed to continue their procedural antics to stall the committee's agenda. They and the media need to hear this week that Canadians want them to stop and to get on with the work of the committee.

Please forward this alert to your social and work networks, and then call, email, write or visit the Conservative members on the committee. When writing, copy your own Member of Parliament, the Prime Minister and your local newspaper.

- Luc Harvey, MP for Louis-Hebert, QC, Harvey.L@parl.gc.ca
(418) 648-3244
- Maurice Vellacott, MP for Saskatoon-Wanuskewin, SK, Vellacott.M@parl.gc.ca
(306) 975-4725
- Jeff Watson, MP for Essex, ON, Watson.J@parl.gc.ca
(519) 776-4700
- Mark Warawa, MP for Langley, BC, Warawa.M@parl.gc.ca
(604) 534-5955
- Hon. John Baird, MP for Ottawa-West Nepean, ON, Baird.J@parl.gc.ca
(613) 990-7720
- Right Hon. Stephen Harper, Prime Minister, AB, Harper.S@parl.gc.ca
(403) 253-7990

To find your MP, go to:

<http://www2.parl.gc.ca/Parlinfo/Compilations/HouseOfCommons/MemberByPostalCode.aspx?Menu=HOC>

Climate Action Network Press Release:

<http://www.climateactionnetwork.ca/e/news/2008/blocking-committee-2008-04-07.html>

More detailed information on the Climate Change Accountability Act:

http://cmte.parl.gc.ca/cmte/CommitteeHome.aspx?Lang=1&PARLSES=392&JNT=0&SELID=e17_&COM=13183

Pembina Institute testimony:

<http://pubs.pembina.org/reports/c-377-testimony.pdf>

Across Canada

BC Cap and Trade Act Lays Groundwork for Future Targets, Regulations

Last Thursday, April 3rd, the government of British Columbia passed the *Greenhouse Gas Reduction (Cap and Trade) Act*. Being enabling legislation, it does not contain regulations or targets, but rather prepares the legal ground for ultimately linking up with the Western Climate Initiative and/or cap and trade systems in other jurisdictions.

Read the Act:

http://www.leg.bc.ca/38th4th/1st_read/gov18-1.htm

News coverage:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20080404.wrcarbon04/BNStory/National/home>

<http://www.canada.com/edmontonjournal/news/opinion/story.html?id=88da1730-fab0-4c3b-bb86-a7002efd3553>

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/LAC.20080409.RPOWER09/TPStory/Business>

World News

Bangkok Negotiators Agree to Meeting Schedule, US Targets to Wait for Next President

Negotiators in Bangkok have agreed to meet 3 more times this year and 4 times in 2009 to work out the details of the next UN global agreement on climate change. Major

issues like U.S. targets and Japan's proposal for a sectoral system were set aside for future talks.

Read Dale Marshall's (David Suzuki Foundation) final blog from Bangkok:

http://www.davidsuzuki.org/blog/DSF1_04040801.asp

Final ECO Newsletter (CAN-International):

<http://www.climatenetwork.org/eco/bangkok-awgkp-awglca/200803%20eco%20awg-lca-3.pdf>

News coverage:

<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/world/20080404-1259-thailand-climateconference.html>

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/environmentNews/idUKN0328419020080404?sp=true>

World Bank Climate Change Funding Initiative Spurs Global Outcry

A World Bank initiative to establish climate funds of US\$5-11 billion has been severely criticized on multiple fronts by NGOs, developing countries, and the G77 and China. A large fund managed by the World Bank is viewed as a dangerous diversion from existing and future finance mechanisms operated under the UNFCCC. There is also concern that the recipient countries would have little say about where the money should go.

News coverage:

<http://www.twinside.org.sg/title2/finance/twninfofinance20080401.htm>

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/environmentNews/idUKBKK28941120080404>

http://www.ucsusa.org/news/press_release/california-takes-step-ba-0105.html

Climate Change is a Threat to Human Health – WHO

The World Health Organization has caught the climate change bug. It used 2008 World Health Day to spread the word that climate change is bad for your health. As Dr. Margaret Chan, Director-General of the World Health Organization, stated: "The core concern is succinctly stated: climate change endangers human health." The WHO is involved in research on the best ways to protect humans from climate change, particularly for vulnerable populations such as women and children in developing countries.

Dr. Chan's Statement:

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/statements/2008/s05/en/index.html>

WHO Press Release:

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2008/pr11/en/index.html>

WHO Background Information on climate change and Health:

<http://www.who.int/globalchange/climate/faq/en/index.html>

News Coverage:

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Global_warming_health_warning/articleshow/2931292.cms

How Much is Too Much Focus on Technology?

Technology and climate change has the attention of some major publications this month. Some are warning against relying too much on technology to drive down GHG emissions in the critical near-term. For a taste of what's out there, see:

"Dangerous Assumptions" *Nature*, 452, 531-532, 3 April 2008.

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v452/n7187/pdf/452531a.pdf>

"Climate change debate: push emissions goals or technology?" *Christian Science Monitor*, April 7, 2008 <http://www.csmonitor.com/2008/0407/p03s02-wogi.html>

"Can Clean Coal Live Up to its Promise?" *New Scientist* 2649, March 27, 2008, <http://environment.newscientist.com/article/mg19726491.500-can-coal-live-up-to-its-clean-promise.html>

"The Technology Gap in the Climate Debate," *New York Times*, April 2, 2008

<http://dotearth.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/04/02/the-technology-gap-in-the-climate-debate/index.html?ex=1364875200&en=c80339fede77ccfb&ei=5088&partner=rssnyt&mc=rss>

Strengthen GHG Targets Now – Hansen

NASA's Jim Hansen says the IPCC and UNFCCC have it wrong. Hansen and his team have concluded from their study of core samples from the ocean floor that the concentration of CO₂ in the atmosphere when the world began to glaciare (about 35 million years ago) was around 450 parts per million. Current UK targets, which are the most stringent in the world, would lead to stabilization of CO₂ at 550 parts per million. "If you leave us at 450ppm for long enough it will probably melt all the ice - that's a sea rise of 75 metres. What we have found is that the target we have all been aiming for is a disaster - a guaranteed disaster," Hansen told the Guardian.

Read the story:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2008/apr/07/climatechange.carbonemissions>

Justice Matters

UN Human Rights Council Adopts Resolution: Climate Change a Threat to Human Life

The United Nations Human Rights Council – the UN’s top human rights body - has declared climate change a top priority. It is studying climate change impacts on the 360,000 inhabitants of the Maldives islands in the Indian Ocean. The results will serve as the basis for a Council debate in March 2009 and will be fed into the ongoing UNFCCC process.

Read the story:

<http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2008/03/28/news/UN-GEN-UN-Rights-Climate-Change.php>

<http://www.minivannews.com/news/news.php?id=4304>

Get Involved

Toronto is Reclaiming Earth Day! On Sunday, April 20th, join the parade in Toronto. For details visit <http://www.torontoclimatecampaign.org/reclaimearthday2008>

PUBLIC FORUM: Crops, Cars & Climate Crisis- The Global Impacts of Growing Biofuels on Food, Farmers, and Human Rights. This is a 6-city tour with speakers from Argentina, Canada, Colombia, Mali, Mexico, Paraguay, the UK, the US, and the Philippines. For dates and locations visit: www.cban.ca/agrofuels Free admission.

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

Looking Ahead

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|-------------|---|
| April 8-15 | Registration window for side events at UNFCCC Sessions of the Subsidiary Bodies, 2-13 June 2008, Bonn, Germany |
| April 16 | Major Emitter’s Workshop on Sectoral Approaches, Paris, France |
| April 17-18 | Major Emitters Meeting, Paris, France |
| April 20 | TAKE BACK EARTH DAY parade, Toronto,
http://www.torontoclimatecampaign.org/reclaimearthday2008 |
| April 22 | EARTH DAY! |

April 23-24

G8 NGO Forum, Kyoto, Japan

<http://www.g8ngoforum.sakura.ne.jp/english/>

May 5 – 16

16th Session of Commission on Sustainable Development, New

York www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/review.htm

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Questions or comments about anything you've read?

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