

# Climate Action News **this week**

Published by Climate Action Network – Réseau action climat Canada  
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April 16, 2008 Edition

## On the Hill

### Generations Sing Out for Climate Change Accountability Act

Last Wednesday, Raging Grannies and youth activists blasted government MPs on the House of Commons Environment Committee with songs of shame for blocking work on the Climate Change Accountability Act. NGO representatives, Green Party Leader Elizabeth May and a bank of journalists were also there to witness the filibuster that has paralyzed the committee for weeks. The committee will meet again tomorrow, Thursday, April 17, at 11:00 AM EDT.

Watch the video web cast of tomorrow's meeting at 11: AM EDT:

<http://parlvu.parl.gc.ca/parlvuen%2Dca/Guide.aspx?viewmode=4&categoryid=-1&currentdate=2008-04-15&eventid=6157&languagecode=12298>

Read Kady O'Malley's blog from Monday's meeting:

<http://forums.macleans.ca/advansis/?mod=for&act=dip&tt=&pid=115538&tid=115538&eid=48&so=&ps=&sb=&tso=&tps=&tsb=>

Raging Grannies articles:

[www.thestar.com/News/Canada/article/413167](http://www.thestar.com/News/Canada/article/413167)

[www.nationalpost.com/opinion/columnists/story.html?id=bed982a3-657c-4324-93bd-3a49f6fbdf4a&k=1693](http://www.nationalpost.com/opinion/columnists/story.html?id=bed982a3-657c-4324-93bd-3a49f6fbdf4a&k=1693)

Stalemate in context of general committee chaos:

[www.thehilltimes.ca/html/index.php?display=story&full\\_path=2008/april/14/commons\\_committees/&c=2](http://www.thehilltimes.ca/html/index.php?display=story&full_path=2008/april/14/commons_committees/&c=2)

## Climate Change Accountability Act ACTION ALERT!

The government is feeling the heat! If you haven't done it yet, 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](mailto:Harvey.L@parl.gc.ca)  
(418) 648-3244
- Maurice Vellacott, MP for Saskatoon-Wanuskewin, SK, [Vellacott.M@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Vellacott.M@parl.gc.ca)  
(306) 975-4725
- Jeff Watson, MP for Essex, ON, [Watson.J@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Watson.J@parl.gc.ca)  
(519) 776-4700
- Mark Warawa, MP for Langley, BC, [Warawa.M@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Warawa.M@parl.gc.ca)  
(604) 534-5955
- Hon. John Baird, MP for Ottawa-West Nepean, ON, [Baird.J@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Baird.J@parl.gc.ca)  
(613) 990-7720
- Right Hon. Stephen Harper, Prime Minister, AB, [Harper.S@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Harper.S@parl.gc.ca)  
(403) 253-7990

To find your MP, go to:

[www2.parl.gc.ca/Parlinfo/Compilations/HouseOfCommons/MemberByPostalCode.aspx?Menu=HOC](http://www2.parl.gc.ca/Parlinfo/Compilations/HouseOfCommons/MemberByPostalCode.aspx?Menu=HOC)

Climate Action Network Press Release:

[www.climateactionnetwork.ca/e/news/2008/blocking-committee-2008-04-07.html](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](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>

## National News

### U of Calgary Account Buys 2006 Federal Election Attack Ads

Documents released to CanWest News Service under the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act reveal that a University of Calgary "research" account containing over \$500,000 in community donations was used during the 2006 federal election to buy radio attack ads against the Liberals in Peterborough, Ottawa, Kitchener-Waterloo, London and Thunder Bay. The ads criticized the Liberal position on climate change. Some of the money was also used to pay lobbyists and staff of the anti-climate action group "Friends of Science".

Read the stories:

[www.canada.com/calgaryherald/news/story.html?id=e0870922-5cb8-4edc-a9ef-8785fcc75ff4&k=25260](http://www.canada.com/calgaryherald/news/story.html?id=e0870922-5cb8-4edc-a9ef-8785fcc75ff4&k=25260)

[www.canada.com/ottawacitizen/news/story.html?id=b95761e6-5dbe-44cd-8090-3c83f5f2b278](http://www.canada.com/ottawacitizen/news/story.html?id=b95761e6-5dbe-44cd-8090-3c83f5f2b278)

## Across Canada

### Manitoba Adopts Kyoto

The Province of Manitoba proposed legislation last Friday that if passed would commit the province to the Kyoto GHG reduction target of 6% below 1990 levels by 2012. "We believe the federal government made a commitment to the world to meet Kyoto targets, and we're one province that can meet it," said Premier Gary Doer. The legislation will also do a host of practical things like cover the cost of 50% of all operating expenses for public transit across the province, update building codes and allow slower, zero emissions vehicles onto roads. Environmental groups are pleased about the Kyoto pledge but still want to see hard targets for Manitoba's large industries.

News coverage:

[www.winnipegfreepress.com/local/story/4159530p-4746413c.html](http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/local/story/4159530p-4746413c.html)

[www.theenergynews.com/news/article.php?storyid=2804&newstype=gov](http://www.theenergynews.com/news/article.php?storyid=2804&newstype=gov)

[www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/LAC.20080412.CLIMATE12/TPStory/National](http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/LAC.20080412.CLIMATE12/TPStory/National)

Climate Action Network Press Release:

[www.climateactionnetwork.ca/e/news/2008/manitoba-cc-legislation-2008-04-11.html](http://www.climateactionnetwork.ca/e/news/2008/manitoba-cc-legislation-2008-04-11.html)

### Premier Charest to Join 10 Governors for Yale Conference

Quebec Premier Jean Charest will join 10 US Governors this Thursday and Friday, April 17-18 for a conference organized by the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. Participants will include California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and IPCC Chairman Dr. R. K. Pachauri, who will address the gathering.

Read the full article:

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5giGyNMdOuDMPhOKFDjLWJbcKzHLgD901403G0>

Get the report from the 2005 Yale Conference "America and Climate Change":

[http://environment.yale.edu/dimate/americans\\_and\\_climate\\_change.pdf](http://environment.yale.edu/dimate/americans_and_climate_change.pdf)

### How Green Are you?

Asked by Ipsos-Reid pollsters how they would grade their personal performance in "taking actions that help to preserve and protect the environment", 85% of B.C. residents say they would assign themselves B's or C's. Almost three-quarters or 74%

said that "the actions of individual consumers have a significant impact on climate change," but just 21% said their environmental concerns influence the type of car they drive. The poll was taken from March 26 to April, 1<sup>st</sup> 2008.

Read the story:

[www.canada.com/theprovince/news/story.html?id=ff6254aa-2b0a-4d44-84e2-dafc310cb39a](http://www.canada.com/theprovince/news/story.html?id=ff6254aa-2b0a-4d44-84e2-dafc310cb39a)

## **Leave Intact Boreal Forest Alone – Greenpeace**

In a new report "Turning Up the Heat: Global Warming and the Degradation of Canada's Boreal Forest" Greenpeace Canada has found that "intact areas of the Boreal are not only actively helping to slow global warming, but are also helping the forest itself to resist and recover from global warming impacts." It concludes that intact areas "should be made off-limits to logging and other industrial activity—particularly in its biologically rich southern regions—to curb this dangerous cycle."

"Turning Up the Heat" Summary Report:

[www.greenpeace.org/raw/content/canada/en/campaigns/boreal/resources/documents/turning-up-the-heat-summary.pdf](http://www.greenpeace.org/raw/content/canada/en/campaigns/boreal/resources/documents/turning-up-the-heat-summary.pdf)

Save the Boreal Forest slideshow:

[www.greenpeace.org/canada/en/photos-and-video/greenpeace-activists-arrested-shopping-mall-slideshow](http://www.greenpeace.org/canada/en/photos-and-video/greenpeace-activists-arrested-shopping-mall-slideshow)

## **U.S. News**

### **Bush to Announce Climate Policy "Principles"**

Eight years into his term of office and a day before a meeting of the world's largest GHG economies (see related story, below), President Bush plans to outline his administration's main climate change policy "principles" in a speech later today. White House Press Secretary Dana Perino says Bush "wants to make sure the world's major economies... avoid a 'Kyoto-like mistake' in addressing the issue."

Watch the speech on C-Span3 today, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:45 PM EDT:

[www.c-span.org/watch/cs\\_cspan3\\_wm.asp?Cat=TV&Code=CS3](http://www.c-span.org/watch/cs_cspan3_wm.asp?Cat=TV&Code=CS3)

News coverage:

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB120822829445915243.html?mod=googlenews\\_wsj](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB120822829445915243.html?mod=googlenews_wsj)

<http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/WireStory?id=4651971&page=1>

[www.redorbit.com/news/science/1342080/bush\\_finally\\_takes\\_action\\_on\\_global\\_warming/](http://www.redorbit.com/news/science/1342080/bush_finally_takes_action_on_global_warming/)

## **US Groups Successfully Blocking New Coal-Fired Plants**

US environmental groups fighting climate change are successfully targeting new coal plants as a way to slow emissions growth. A national coalition of groups, which includes heavyweights like the Natural Resources Defense Council, Environmental Defense Fund and the Sierra Club, are already claiming 65 victories in the last 3 years.

Read the story:

[www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-coalwars14apr14,0,5565145.story](http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-coalwars14apr14,0,5565145.story)

## **World News**

### **Major Economies to Meet in Paris**

The world's top 16 economies will meet for the third time this Thursday and Friday, April 17-18 under the US-led Major Economies Meeting process. A workshop to examine various sectoral approaches takes place alongside the MEM today, April 16th. Environmental policy analysts are watching the workshop for outputs that will be fed into the G8 Summit in July. NGOs and 160 UN nations were blocked from participating.

US Climate Action Network MEM Backgrounder:

<http://usclimatenetwork.org/international/mem/major-economies-meeting-brief/>

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

[www.reuters.com/article/environmentNews/idUSL1572568620080415?sp=true](http://www.reuters.com/article/environmentNews/idUSL1572568620080415?sp=true)

### **GHG Emissions Rate Doubles since 2000 - Earth Policy Institute**

A new analysis by the Earth Policy Institute in Washington, DC, puts the rate of greenhouse gas emissions being burned since 2000 as more than double that of the 1990s. Earth Policy's rate is substantially greater than the estimates the IPCC scientists had used to predict future warming. "With CO2 emissions currently exceeding the worst-case scenario, we can expect that temperature and sea level rise will likely do the same."

Read the analysis:

<http://us.oneworld.net/external/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.earthpolicy.org%2FIndicators%2FCO2%2F2008.htm>

### **Next IPCC Report: 2014**

Speaking at the close of a 4-day session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in Budapest Hungary, IPCC chairman Rajendra Pachauri laid the question to rest as to when of if the world science body will release another report. The answer: 2014.

**Read the story:**

[www.budapesttimes.hu/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=6889&Itemid=27](http://www.budapesttimes.hu/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6889&Itemid=27)

IPCC Secretariat's Synthesis of Comments on the Future of the IPCC:  
[www.ipcc.ch/meetings/session28/doc7.pdf](http://www.ipcc.ch/meetings/session28/doc7.pdf)

## Get Involved

**Toronto is Reclaiming Earth Day!** On Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, join the parade in Toronto. For details visit [www.torontoclimatecampaign.org/reclaimearthday2008](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](http://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](http://www.cleancarscanada.ca).

## Looking Ahead

April 16	Major Economies Workshop on Sectoral Approaches, Paris, France
April 17-18	Major Economies Meeting, Paris, France
April 20	TAKE BACK EARTH DAY parade, Toronto, <a href="http://www.torontoclimatecampaign.org/reclaimearthday2008">www.torontoclimatecampaign.org/reclaimearthday2008</a>
April 22	EARTH DAY!
April 23-24	G8 NGO Forum, Kyoto, Japan <a href="http://www.g8ngoforum.sakura.ne.jp/english/">www.g8ngoforum.sakura.ne.jp/english/</a>
May 5 – 16	16th Session of Commission on Sustainable Development, New York <a href="http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/review.htm">www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/review.htm</a>

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