

# Climate Action News **this week**

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April 23, 2008 Edition

## **Across Canada**

### **Quebec Joins Western Climate Initiative**

Quebec has become the third province after British Columbia and Manitoba to join the Western Climate Initiative. The Initiative is a regional climate change agreement between 9 states and 3 provinces that has a cumulative goal of reducing emissions to 15% below 2005 levels by 2020. Premier Jean Charest made the announcement at a gathering of state governors at Yale University on Friday.

Read the CAN-RAC Press Release (English/French):

[www.climateactionnetwork.ca/e/news/2008/quebec-cap-and-trade-2008-04-21.html](http://www.climateactionnetwork.ca/e/news/2008/quebec-cap-and-trade-2008-04-21.html)

[www.reseauactionclimat.ca/f/nouvelles/2008/quebec-wci-2008-04-21.html](http://www.reseauactionclimat.ca/f/nouvelles/2008/quebec-wci-2008-04-21.html)

News Coverage (English/French)

[www.canada.com/montrealgazette/news/business/story.html?id=83d33b0f-91f0-4a3c-b109-d76b2d1faee0](http://www.canada.com/montrealgazette/news/business/story.html?id=83d33b0f-91f0-4a3c-b109-d76b2d1faee0)

[www.cyberpresse.ca/article/20080418/CPENVIRONNEMENT/80418247/6108/CPENVIRONNEMENT](http://www.cyberpresse.ca/article/20080418/CPENVIRONNEMENT/80418247/6108/CPENVIRONNEMENT)

<http://argent.canoe.com/lca/infos/quebec/archives/2008/04/20080418-143103.html>

Western Climate Initiative "Goals Statement":

[www.westernclimateinitiative.org/ewebeditpro/items/O104F13006.pdf](http://www.westernclimateinitiative.org/ewebeditpro/items/O104F13006.pdf)

### **Ontario Ends Clothesline Ban**

Residents of detached, semi-detached and some kinds of row housing are now free to let it all hang out after Premier McGuinty's announcement on Friday that a new provincial law permitting clotheslines will override any type of local ban. The law does not yet affect high-rise condos or apartment buildings.

Read the article (English/French):

[www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/20080418/clotheslines\\_ban\\_080418/20080418?hub=Canada](http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/20080418/clotheslines_ban_080418/20080418?hub=Canada)

[www.tqs.ca/infos/2008/04/N041913AU.php](http://www.tqs.ca/infos/2008/04/N041913AU.php)

## National News

### Statistics Canada Data Backs Need for Hard Caps on Industrial Emissions

Data contained in a new Statistics Canada report released yesterday entitled, "Human activity and the environment: Climate change in Canada," confirms the charge by critics that the federal government's intensity-based approach is weak and unambitious. For example, the government's 2010 target for intensity improvement by industry is 18% over 2006, the same percentage improvement Statistics Canada found to have occurred in the economy from 1990 to 2005 without any meaningful federal climate change policies. The 146 page report also presents data showing just how little the energy sector is re-investing into research and development. Canadian industry as a whole spent on average about 3.8% of its corporate revenue, but the energy industry spent just 0.75%, and the oil and gas sector a mere 0.36% or less than one-tenth the Canadian average.

Read the press release:

[www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/080422/d080422a.htm](http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/080422/d080422a.htm)

[www.statcan.ca/Daily/Francais/080422/q080422a.htm](http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/Francais/080422/q080422a.htm)

Get the full report:

[www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/16-201-XIE/2007000/part1.htm](http://www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/16-201-XIE/2007000/part1.htm)

[www.statcan.ca/francais/freepub/16-201-XIF/2007000/part1\\_f.htm](http://www.statcan.ca/francais/freepub/16-201-XIF/2007000/part1_f.htm)

## On the Hill

### Update: Speaker of the House to Decide Future of Climate Change Accountability Act

The Climate Change Accountability Act (bill C377) is bruised but alive after the Commons Environment Committee voted last Thursday to send it back to Parliament as amended to that point. A report explaining what happened in the committee, filibuster and all. It is up to House Speaker Peter Milliken to decide how the remaining amendments will be dealt with.

Read Kady O'Malley's live blog from Thursday's meeting:

<http://forums.macleans.ca/advansis/?mod=for&act=dip&pid=116073&tid=116073&eid=48&so=1&ps=0&sb=1>

### Climate Change Offset System Ready to go in 2006

Another ATIP (Access to Information and Privacy) memo, this time obtained by *The Hill Times*, confirms that the previous government was ready to implement an offsets system. The memo reveals that government bureaucrats only needed the go-ahead from the Harper government to launch the system at the end of 2006. The government rejected that approach and now, 2 years later, is still considering what to do. "This

delay of over two years in the development of an offset system is symptomatic of a total lack of urgency that we're seeing in all aspects of the government's regulatory framework for climate change," said Clare Demerse, Senior Policy Analyst, Pembina Institute.

Read the article:

[www.thehilltimes.ca/html/index.php?display=story&full\\_path=2008/april/21/dimate\\_change/&c=2](http://www.thehilltimes.ca/html/index.php?display=story&full_path=2008/april/21/dimate_change/&c=2)

## **U.S. News**

### **Governors Pledge to Push Feds on Climate: Schwarzenegger urges everyone to stop "slowing things down"**

The Governors of California, Illinois, Florida and 15 other states signed a pledge on Friday to "reach out to major presidential candidates as a means of shaping the first 100 days of the next administration", on climate.

News Coverage:

[www.smh.com.au/news/environment/states-bypass-bush-on-climate-policy/2008/04/19/1208025562724.html](http://www.smh.com.au/news/environment/states-bypass-bush-on-climate-policy/2008/04/19/1208025562724.html)

Full text of Schwarzenegger's speech:

<http://gov.ca.gov/index.php?/speech/9360/>

### **U.S. National Cap and Trade More than Affordable: Environmental Defense Fund Report**

The Environmental Defense Fund has prepared a synthesis report of various economic models of the comparative costs of taking action on climate change. Their conclusion is that the costs are "almost too small to measure." They cite the fact that the national economy is expected to reach \$26 trillion in 2030, and say that a national cap and trade system would delay hitting that mark by just 2 to 7 months.

EDF News release summary:

[www.edf.org/article.cfm?contentID=5405](http://www.edf.org/article.cfm?contentID=5405)

Download the full report:

[www.edf.org/documents/7815\\_climate\\_economy.pdf](http://www.edf.org/documents/7815_climate_economy.pdf)

# World News

## Major Economies Pan Bush's 2025 Stabilization Goal: Meeting Ends without Agreement

Last Wednesday President George W. Bush gave a speech calling for stabilization of U.S. GHG emissions by 2025. The speech was timed for the day before the 3rd session of his "Major Economies" process, which happened last Thursday and Friday in Paris, France. The speech was heavily criticized by meeting participants as being much too little, too late, and the gathering ended with no agreement on major items. Two additional meetings have had to be scheduled to take place before the G8 Summit July 7-9 to try for a deal, one in May and the other in June.

News Coverage of MEM:

English:

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2008-04/19/content\\_8008112.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2008-04/19/content_8008112.htm)

<http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5jbisWIJJP7g0ldhtFE1NE5AymCpg>

French:

[www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/actions-france\\_830/environnement\\_1042/evenements\\_5138/major-economies-meeting\\_18826/annonce\\_61694.html](http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/actions-france_830/environnement_1042/evenements_5138/major-economies-meeting_18826/annonce_61694.html)

[www.lemonde.fr/sciences-et-environnement/article/2008/04/18/l-europe-critique-la-timidite-de-l-objectif-fixe-par-george-w-bush-sur-le-rechauffement-climatique\\_1035651\\_3244.html](http://www.lemonde.fr/sciences-et-environnement/article/2008/04/18/l-europe-critique-la-timidite-de-l-objectif-fixe-par-george-w-bush-sur-le-rechauffement-climatique_1035651_3244.html)

News coverage of Bush's speech:

English:

[www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/48020/story.htm](http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/48020/story.htm)

French:

[www.france24.com/fr/20080416-effet-serre-bush-veut-stopper-croissance-americaine-emissions-dici-2025](http://www.france24.com/fr/20080416-effet-serre-bush-veut-stopper-croissance-americaine-emissions-dici-2025)

NGO responses to Speech:

<http://usclimatenetwork.org/federal/bush-admin/>

Major editorials in US media:

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB120839002670521303.html?mod=googlenews\\_wsj](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB120839002670521303.html?mod=googlenews_wsj)

[www.time.com/time/health/article/0,8599,1731550,00.html](http://www.time.com/time/health/article/0,8599,1731550,00.html)

[www.businessweek.com/bwdaily/dnflash/content/apr2008/db20080416\\_274239.htm?chan=technology\\_technology+index+page\\_top+stories](http://www.businessweek.com/bwdaily/dnflash/content/apr2008/db20080416_274239.htm?chan=technology_technology+index+page_top+stories)

## **March the warmest on record over world land surfaces**

March 2008 was the hottest month on record on Earth.

Read the article:

[www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/20080418/march\\_weather\\_080418/20080418?hub=SciTech](http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/20080418/march_weather_080418/20080418?hub=SciTech)

NOAA Press release:

[www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2008/20080417\\_marchstats.html](http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2008/20080417_marchstats.html)

## **Nicholas Stern: "I Underestimated the Threat"**

Sir Nicholas Stern told Reuters he was badly mistaken in the predictions contained in his highly influential 2007 "Stern Review." "Emissions are growing much faster than we'd thought, the absorptive capacity of the planet is less than we'd thought, the risks of greenhouse gases are potentially bigger than more cautious estimates, and the speed of climate change seems to be faster," he said.

Read the story

English:

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idUKGOR65702120080416>  
[www.buzzle.com/articles/190987.html](http://www.buzzle.com/articles/190987.html)

French:

<http://sandrominimo.blog.24heures.ch/archive/2008/04/21/le-rapport-stern-remis-en-cause.html>

## **Earth Day Offering**

If you sometimes find yourself searching for any logical reason to think you can make a difference on climate change, you might enjoy this article in the New York Times "Green Issue" by Michael Pollan, author of the book, "In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto."

Read the article:

[www.nytimes.com/2008/04/20/magazine/20wwln-lede-t.html?hp](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/04/20/magazine/20wwln-lede-t.html?hp)

## Get Involved

**Would you like to see a \$120 billion/year U.N. Green Global Fund to save species from extinction due to global warming?**

Go here to sign the Care2 petition: [www.thepetitionsite.com/1/to-un-secretary-general-for-creating-the-120-byr-global-green-fund-for-combatting-global-warming-and](http://www.thepetitionsite.com/1/to-un-secretary-general-for-creating-the-120-byr-global-green-fund-for-combatting-global-warming-and)

**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

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|-------------|---|
| April 23-24 | G8 NGO Forum, Kyoto, Japan<br><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<br><a href="http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/review.htm">www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/review.htm</a>         |
| May 21      | Western Climate Initiative Face-to-face Stakeholder Meeting on Subcommittee Recommendations, Salt Lake City   |
| May 24-26   | G8 Environment Meeting, Kobe, Japan<br><a href="http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/economy/summit/2008/info/map.html">www.mofa.go.jp/policy/economy/summit/2008/info/map.html</a> |
| May 30      | Montreal Climate Exchange Begins Trading Carbon Futures   |

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