

Climate Action News **this week**

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May 7, 2008 Edition

National News

Federal Government Set to Open Beaufort Sea to Drilling

Canadians will soon know just how serious the Government of Canada is about global warming in the Arctic. On June 2nd, bidding will close on five oil and gas drilling permits on the ecologically sensitive Beaufort/Mackenzie Valley Delta. WWF-Canada is leading the fight to protect polar bears and other life at risk of extinction as a result of climate change and human activities.

News coverage:

<http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5h-p6y5bD53wSKe8fWsF4ZkDVJYig>

WWF-Canada press release:

www.wwf.ca/NewsAndFacts/NewsRoom/default.asp?section=archive&page=display&ID=1582&lang=EN

Read the Gazette Notice:

<http://canadagazette.gc.ca/partI/2008/20080209/html/notice-e.html>

US Climate Deniers Distribute 11,000 Brochures and DVDs to Canadian Schools

An American think tank has sent more than 11,000 brochures and DVDs to Canadian schools telling teachers to give their students a “balanced” education by explaining that scientists are exaggerating the role human activity is playing in global warming.

Emilie Moorhouse, Climate and Energy Campaigner for Sierra Club Canada is not impressed. “It’s alarming that an American think-tank is distributing misinformation on the most important issue of our time in Canadian schools to actually create an illusion that there is a scientific debate,” she said.

Read the story:

www.canada.com/calgaryherald/news/story.html?id=c007a9c3-0538-47ed-829a-fdf93e89266c

Get the goods on the Heartland Institute at DeSmogBlog:

www.desmogblog.com/

On the Hill

Biofuel Bill Passes Second Reading amid “Food for Fuel” Crisis

In the midst of a global debate on biofuel production and the part it is playing in the current world food shortage, federal Liberals and Conservatives on May 2nd voted in favour of Bill C33 that mandates 5% ethanol in all gas sold in Canada by 2010. The bill will likely survive third reading and a Senate vote and be passed into law. The NDP had wanted it returned to committee for further study. For now, the Liberals are holding to their promise to raise the 2010 target to 10% ethanol.

News coverage:

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/oilRpt/idUKN0134877320080501>

www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20080430.wethanol30/BNStory/National/home/?pageRequested=all

www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/20080428/un_food_080428

Le Canada s'apprête à pousser l'éthanol

www.cyberpresse.ca/article/20080502/CPENVIRONNEMENT/805020647/6638/CPENVIRONNEMENT

Read Bill C33

<http://cmte.parl.gc.ca/cmte/CommitteePublication.aspx?COM=13178&Lang=1&SourceId=227860>

Read Resource Efficient Agricultural Production (R.E.A.P.) Canada's brief to the committee studying Bill C33:

www.reap-canada.com/library/Bioenergy/AAFC_Standing_Committee_Briefing.pdf

Get the latest on cellulosic ethanol:

www.canada.com/montrealgazette/news/business/story.html?id=16c61b53-ac26-42d9-88cd-7dc800fceab9&p=1

Across Canada

BC Introduces Law Enabling CA Car Standards

On April 29th, the Government of British Columbia introduced the *Greenhouse Gas Reduction (Vehicle Emissions Standards) Act*, a law containing California-style standards that could potentially reduce GHG emissions 30% relative to current models, and reduce the province's overall emissions by 600,000 tonnes annually by 2016. 17 states and all provinces and territories except Ontario also support California's tailpipe standards. The federal government is promising new standards for all cars and light trucks sold in Canada by the end of this year, but strongly supports the much weaker U.S. CAFE standard. (See related item under "Get Involved")

BC government press release:

www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2005-2009/2008ENV0049-000653.htm

U.S. News

US Auto Lobby Sees Results from Blitz on State Legislatures

America's powerful auto lobby is targeting state capitals in an all-out effort to urge lawmakers away from California tail pipe standards. Automakers and dealers are seeing results from the blitz in states like Minnesota, Arizona and Montana.

Get the story: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB120994726465866383.html>

"Climate Change" the New Buzz Word for Corporations

In 2005 the words "climate change" appeared 495 times in first quarter corporate filings to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. In 2008, the number had skyrocketed to 7,634. There has been a recent trend for companies to focus on new government regulations and their potential to "crimp" future earnings.

Read the story: www.politico.com/news/stories/0508/10089.html

American Scientists Report Rampant Political Interference

Interviews with current and former EPA staff members, government documents and a survey of 5,419 EPA scientists (generating 1,586 responses) have revealed what the Union of Concerned Scientists calls an "agency in crisis." 60% of those surveyed said they had personally experienced political interference within the last 5 years. The highest percentage of scientists reporting interference came from program offices with regulatory duties and EPA headquarters.

Read the story:

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/48113/story.htm

Get the summary report "Interference at the EPA":

www.ucsusa.org/assets/documents/scientific_integrity/EPA-Report-Executive-Summary.pdf

Full report:

www.ucsusa.org/assets/documents/scientific_integrity/Interference-at-the-EPA.pdf

World News

Europe Turning Back to Coal

Coal-fired power plants might be on the decline in the United States, but at least 50 new plants will start up in Europe over the next 5 years. Power plant owners are promising "clean coal" using carbon capture and storage, but critics are vociferously denouncing the claim as a pipe-dream. (See "False Hope", below)

Read the story:

www.nytimes.com/2008/04/23/world/europe/23coal.html?bl&ex=1209096000&en=c73a8d0a1cc4dbf6&ei=5087%0A

Companies Pushing "False Hope" of Carbon Capture and Storage - Greenpeace

In a new report entitled, "False Hope: Why carbon capture and storage won't save the climate", Greenpeace is urging policy-makers to focus investments on sustainable energy solutions, not "elusive" technologies like carbon capture and storage (CCS) that will not be ready in time to stave off dangerous climate change. They say coal and power companies "are exploiting the notion of so-called "capture ready" power plants to justify building new coal-fired power stations with no guarantee that CCS would ever be retrofitted to 'capture' CO2."

False Hope executive summary:

www.greenpeace.org/raw/content/international/press/reports/false-hope-executive-summary.pdf

False Hope full report:

www.greenpeace.org/raw/content/international/press/reports/false-hope.pdf

False Hope fact sheet:

www.greenpeace.org/raw/content/international/press/reports/false-hope-fact-sheet.pdf

NGO joint statement:

www.greenpeace.org/raw/content/international/press/reports/statement-on-carbon-capture-an.pdf

Top Climate Modellers Meet to Revolutionize Climate Protection

150 of the world's top climate modelers are gathering in the UK this week "to plan a revolution in climate prediction." They say providing the kinds of information policy-makers and businesses need will require huge investments in "supercomputers 1,000 times more powerful than at present."

Read the story:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7381250.stm>

Watch the video "climate modeling explained":

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/7385077.stm>

Carbon Labeling

Tesco, the world's third largest food retailer has begun a pilot project labeling some of its products on GHG emissions emitted from "seed to store." Twenty products are included in the pilot but the number will be gradually expanded this year as accurate calculations of lifecycle emissions on other products are completed.

Read the story:

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/48142/story.htm

Tesco lance l'étiquette carbone pour les produits alimentaires

www.novethic.fr/novethic/site/article/index.jsp?id=110255&titre=Tesco%20lance%20

Justice and Equity News

Millennium Development Goals Threatened by Climate Change

Climate change is a serious threat to meeting 2015 UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), says UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) President Mr. Sha Zukang. Progress in achieving MDGs will be assessed at ECOSOC's high-level Annual Ministerial Review July 2 & 3, 2008 at UN Headquarters in New York.

Read the article:

www.thetidenews.com/article.aspx?qrDate=05/05/2008&qrTitle=Climate%20change%20can%20derail%20MDGs%20%E2%80%93%20UN&qrColumn=ENVIRONMENT

ECOSOC: Débat sur les relations entre le développement et le changement climatique

www.casafree.com/modules/news/article.php?storyid=16616

For more information on ECOSOC's Annual Ministerial Review:

www.un.org/ecosoc/newfunct/amr2008.shtml

Indigenous Peoples Decry Canadian Statement on Climate Change

The Assembly of First Nations and 6 other indigenous organizations have expressed "grave disappointment" at a statement given by Canada April 29 to the United Nations Permanent Forum (UNPFII) on Indigenous Issues. In a press release issued by the Indigenous Environmental Network representative Ben Powless said: "What the statement shows is how little the government cares to deal with climate change's effects or stopping climate change. They announced their plan to reduce 2006 greenhouse gas levels by 20 percent in 2020, but this is too little too late, and will only mean further devastation to our peoples." The Permanent Forum met from April 21 to May 2, 2008 in New York.

Read the Indigenous Environmental Network press release:
www.straightgoods.ca/ViewFeature8.cfm?REF=251

Read Canada's statement:
http://geo.international.gc.ca/canada_un/new_york/whats_new/default-en.asp?id=12521&content_type=4

Poor Children Main Victims of Climate Change – UNICEF

UNICEF-UK says it is attempting to address a "critical missing element" in the debate about climate change with a new report entitled, "Our Climate, Our Children, Our Responsibility." Unless urgent action is taken millions of children will be malnourished and die from drought, flooding, water stress, forced migration, loss of livelihood and resource conflict. The report calls on the UK Government to commit to GHG emissions reductions of at least 80% below 1990 levels by 2050, and to mainstream climate change implications for children across its work.

News coverage:
www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20080430/world-news/poor-children-victims-of-climate-change
<http://in.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idINIndia-33288220080428>

Get the report:
www.unicef.org.uk/campaigns/publications/pdf/climate-change.pdf

Get Involved

STOP NEW OIL SANDS PROJECTS!

Sign the petition at www.nonewapprovals.ca/

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

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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|-----------|---|
| May 21 | Western Climate Initiative Face-to-face Stakeholder Meeting on Subcommittee Recommendations, Salt Lake City |
| May 24-26 | G8 Environment Meeting, Kobe, Japan
www.mofa.go.jp/policy/economy/summit/2008/info/map.html |
| May 30 | Montreal Climate Exchange Begins Trading Carbon Futures |
| June 1-8 | Environment Week |
| June 3-5 | High-Level Conference on Food Security, Climate Change and Bioenergy, Rome, Italy |
| June 2-13 | 2nd session of Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention & SBSTA & SBI, Bonn, Germany |
| June 9-12 | Montreal Conference (Int'l Economic Forum of the Americas) |

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Questions or comments about anything you've read?

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