

Climate Action News **this week**

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May 29, 2008 Edition

Top Story

Arctic Disintegration Stuns Scientists

Scientists returning from a tour of the Ward Hunt Ice Shelf in the Upper Ellesmere Island region say they are astonished by what they have seen. Huge cracks, some 16 kilometers long, have torn the shelf into a jigsaw of floating islands that can now simply float away. Scientists consider the fate of Ward Hunt, the largest ice shelf in the region, to be a key indicator of climate change.

Watch the BBC video newscast:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/7417123.stm>

Information and photos:

www.madzu.com/ellesmere/Gallery.html

National News

Harper Tells Europe Canada is Serious on Environment, Critics Remain Skeptical

Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Environment Minister John Baird are in Italy, France, Germany and the UK this week trying to build support for Canada's position on climate change. In a speech yesterday at the UN Conference on Biological Diversity, Harper insisted that Canada is serious about the environment. Critics in Canada and Europe remain unconvinced, saying it is a disingenuous claim considering Canada is actively holding up negotiations under several international agreements, including the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Harper pitches environmental vision to European leaders:

www.canada.com/topics/news/world/story.html?id=cfe937d3-406d-4ee7-856e-9d67503c566e

Canada serious about environment, Harper tells skeptical Europe:

www.cbc.ca/world/story/2008/05/28/harper-bonn.html

Harper pushes wildlife protection:

www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20080528.wharper0528/BNStory/International/?page=rss&id=RTGAM.20080528.wharper0528

Harper brags up Canadian environmental record to UN conference:

<http://canadianpress.google.com/article/ALeqM5i7EcZehT75sRbm7qTDzMOv8KvYmw>

Canada's Baird Says EU Climate Change Plan Lacks U.S. Backing

www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601082&sid=ar2MwYUetFew&refer=canada

Greenpeace-Canada press release:

www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/May2008/28/c5304.html

72% support BC carbon tax

A new poll shows that 72% of Canadians approve of the BC carbon tax. The poll was commissioned by the Pembina Institute and conducted by McCallister Opinion Research between April 29 and May 9.

Read the story:

www.canada.com/topics/news/story.html?id=c28d5cd4-5404-4ade-a748-0352268d392c

Pembina press release:

www.pembina.org/media-release/1641

US News

Massachusetts Urges Coastal Owners to lift Homes 1 to 3 feet

Homeowners along the 1,700 mile coast of Massachusetts are being urged to elevate their homes as a protection against rising seawaters as a result of global warming.

Read the story:

www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2008/05/24/mass_urges_owners_on_coast_to_elevate_homes/

Exxon Mobil Cuts Funds to Skeptics Groups - Shareholders Reject New Climate Change Resolutions

Some of Exxon Mobil's largest stakeholders tried but failed to pass a slate of environmental resolutions at the company's annual meeting on Wednesday. One proposal would have forced the company to limit the greenhouse gas emissions from its operations. All was not lost, however - Exxon announced earlier in the week that it is pulling funding from 9 climate change skeptics groups.

Exxon Investors Reject Proposal to Split Jobs:
www.guardian.co.uk/business/feedarticle/7546118

Exxon shareholders fail to show strong support for green mandates:
www.guardian.co.uk/business/2008/may/28/useconomy.oil

Exxon again cuts funds for climate change skeptics:
<http://uk.reuters.com/article/environmentNews/idUKN2328446120080523>

World News

G8 Fails on 2020 Target, UN Chief Warns of Loss of Momentum

G8 environment ministers meeting in Kobe, Japan over the weekend agreed to press their leaders to halve emissions by 2050, but were unable to resolve differences on a target for 2020. On Sunday, UN chief Yvo De Boer warned that "the world is losing momentum in the battle against global warming", and made specific reference to disappointments like Canada indicating it will not meet its obligations under Kyoto. To regain momentum, he said G8 countries must focus on the critical 2020 target and make a clear commitment to help developing countries.

Agreement on 2020 target eludes G8 ministers:
<http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/nn20080526a1.html>

UN says global warming fight flat:
<http://calsun.canoe.ca/News/World/2008/05/25/5662356-sun.html>

G8 Chair Summary Report:
www.env.go.jp/earth/g8/en/img/G8EMM%202008%20Chair'sSummary_Final_.pdf

Follow G8 developments in Japan Times G8 summit news:
www.japantimes.co.jp/news/G8_summit_2008.html

World Bank to Announce Two Climate Change Investment Funds

The World Bank will announce at its July board meeting two funds to support developing countries this year. The bulk of the funding - \$5 billion - will go toward clean technologies. Another \$500 million will be spent on adaptation. The money will be collected over the fall. World Bank President Robert Zoellick said he expects Australia, Canada and some European countries to add to the existing pledges of Japan, the U.S. and Britain.

Read the story:
www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=aufska1ueDVw&refer=home
www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUST298007

Get Involved

CANADIANS DESERVE KYOTOPPLUS! Learn about this national mobilization campaign for climate action and sign the “Petition for Concerned Canadians” at www.kyotoplus.ca/en/petition.html

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? 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

May 30	Montreal Climate Exchange Begins Trading Carbon Futures
June 1-8	Environment Week
June 2-13	2nd session of Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention & SBSTA & SBI, Bonn, Germany
June 3-5	High-Level Conference on Food Security, Climate Change and Bioenergy, Rome, Italy www.fao.org/foodclimate/conference.html
June 9-12	Montreal Conference (Int'l Economic Forum of the Americas) www.conferencedemontreal.com/
June 17	World Day to Combat Desertification
June 24-26	7 th World Wind Energy Conference & Exhibition, Kingston, Ontario www.wwindea.org/home/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=194&Itemid=68
June 26-27	G8 Science and Technology Ministers Meeting, Okinawa, Japan
July 4-6	“Let’s Invite the Elephant into the Room”, National Youth Climate Summit, Edmonton, Alberta, http://ourclimate.ca
July 7-9	G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit www.g8summit.go.jp/eng/index.html

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