

# Climate Action News **this week**

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June 26, 2008 Edition

## **Top Story**

### **Scientists make climate plea to Harper**

In an open letter sent to the prime minister, opposition leaders and Canadian premiers, 130 climate scientists from the academic, public and private sectors warned that the federal government's climate change plan will fail to address the dangerous impacts of global warming. They want to see absolute emission caps and a price put on GHG emissions.

Read the story:

[www.canada.com/topics/news/story.html?id=cec1bdbb-4818-40ab-98bd-255d8375331d](http://www.canada.com/topics/news/story.html?id=cec1bdbb-4818-40ab-98bd-255d8375331d)

Read the letter:

[www.climateactionnetwork.ca/e/issues/letter-climate-science-06-2008.html](http://www.climateactionnetwork.ca/e/issues/letter-climate-science-06-2008.html)

Voyez la lettre ici:

[www.reseauactionclimat.ca/f/issues/lettre-changements-climatiques.html](http://www.reseauactionclimat.ca/f/issues/lettre-changements-climatiques.html)

## **National News**

### **Views from the carbon front: commentary on carbon tax proposal**

Following last week's Liberal announcement of their proposed carbon tax, the papers were full of editorials both attacking and supporting the plan. Here is some of the commentary:

Not so crazy economics:

[www.thestar.com/comment/article/447107](http://www.thestar.com/comment/article/447107)

Weird weather could help Grits' carbon tax gamble:

[www.nationalpost.com/news/canada/story.html?id=608615](http://www.nationalpost.com/news/canada/story.html?id=608615)

Speak to the merits, or be silent:

[www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/LAC.20080624.ECARBON24/TPStory/Environment](http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/LAC.20080624.ECARBON24/TPStory/Environment)

## **Study shows top earners have biggest carbon footprint**

A study released by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives on Tuesday found that the ecological footprint of Canada's top 10 percent of earners is more than double that of the lowest 10 percent. The lifestyle of the average Canadian at the highest income level requires 12.4 hectares of land to support, while those at the bottom level require 5 hectares per person.

Read the story:

[www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20080624.wfootprint24/BNStory/National/home](http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20080624.wfootprint24/BNStory/National/home)

Read the report from the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives:

[www.policyalternatives.ca/Reports/2008/06/ReportsStudies1910/index.cfm?pa=BB736455](http://www.policyalternatives.ca/Reports/2008/06/ReportsStudies1910/index.cfm?pa=BB736455)

## **US News**

### **U.S. mayors agree to boycott tar sands; Obama pushes for shift away from dirty oil**

The U.S. Conference of Mayors has approved a resolution calling on its members to ban the use of energy from unconventional oil sources such as tar sands. Meanwhile, Barack Obama's plan to shift the U.S. sharply away from consumption of carbon-intensive fossil fuels could represent a challenge to growing U.S. imports from Canada's tar sands.

U.S. mayors join call for ban on oil sands-based gasoline:

[www.cbc.ca/canada/calgary/story/2008/06/23/us-mayors-oilsands.html?ref=rss](http://www.cbc.ca/canada/calgary/story/2008/06/23/us-mayors-oilsands.html?ref=rss)

Obama's fight against 'dirty oil' could hurt oil sands:

[www.nationalpost.com/most\\_popular/story.html?id=610810](http://www.nationalpost.com/most_popular/story.html?id=610810)

### **Put oil executives on trial, says leading climate change scientist**

In a speech before Congress on Monday, leading climate scientist Jim Hansen called for the chief executives of large fossil fuel companies such as ExxonMobil and Peabody Energy to be put on trial for high crimes against humanity and nature, for their role in actively spreading misinformation about global warming.

Read the story:

[www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2008/jun/23/fossilfuels.climatechange](http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2008/jun/23/fossilfuels.climatechange)

Read Hansen's speech:

[www.columbia.edu/~jeh1/2008/TwentyYearsLater\\_20080623.pdf](http://www.columbia.edu/~jeh1/2008/TwentyYearsLater_20080623.pdf)

## World News

### Japan PM: G8 not forum for mid-term CO2 cut goals

Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda said last week G8 nations will not be setting mid-term targets for cutting GHG emissions by 2020 or 2030 at their upcoming summit in Toyako. A UK official has also expressed doubt that any breakthrough on global warming is likely to result from the summit. Leaders at the summit are under pressure to formalize a goal of halving global emissions by 2050, a target the G8 referenced at their 2007 meeting in Germany. The G8 is being pressured to come up with medium-term targets on the way to that goal, a task that Fukuda says is better left up to UN negotiations.

Read the story:

[www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUST92521](http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUST92521)

Climate breakthrough unlikely at G8 Summit – UK envoy:

[www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUST301208](http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUST301208)

## Justice Matters

### Looming crisis of climate refugees

Canada and other rich nations should be prepared for an increase in the number of refugees displaced by climate-related disasters arriving at their shores, a York University professor warned at a conference on refugees held in Toronto last week. This week's report from the U.S. National Intelligence Council on the global security consequences of climate change also highlights the looming crisis of climate refugees.

Climate change refugees: Canada braces for wave of newcomers:

<http://torontosun.com/News/Canada/2008/06/22/5952516-sun.html>

Global warming could increase terrorism, official says:

<http://edition.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/06/25/climate.change.security/>

Read the testimony of National Intelligence Council spokesperson Dr. Thomasingar here:

[http://globalwarming.house.gov/pubs/pubs?id=0046#main\\_content](http://globalwarming.house.gov/pubs/pubs?id=0046#main_content)

## 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](http://www.kyotoplus.ca/en/petition.html)

**STOP NEW OIL SANDS PROJECTS!** Sign the petition at [www.nonewapprovals.ca/](http://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](http://www.thepetitionsite.com/1/to-un-secretary-general-for-creating-the-120-byr-global-green-fund-for-combatting-global-warming-and)

## Looking Ahead

- 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](http://www.g8summit.go.jp/eng/index.html)
- July 16-18 Council of the Federation Meeting, Québec City [www.councilofthefederation.ca](http://www.councilofthefederation.ca)

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