

Climate Action News **this week**

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July 3, 2008 Edition

Top Story

B.C. carbon tax kicks: environmental groups provide reality check

Drivers in B.C. started paying an extra 2.4 cents per litre of gasoline on Tuesday as the provincial carbon tax kicked in. The tax, introduced in the February 19th budget, is applied to carbon-based fuels at a rate of \$10 per tonne of greenhouse gases generated. Last week, a coalition of ten environmental groups released a “Reality Check” fact sheet responding to the top five misconceptions about the new tax.

B.C. carbon tax kicks in on Canada Day:

www.cbc.ca/canada/british-columbia/story/2008/06/30/bc-carbon-tax-effective.html

Read the press release from environmental groups:

www.davidsuzuki.org/latestnews/dsfnews06260801.asp

Read the “Reality Check” fact sheet:

www.davidsuzuki.org/Climate_Change/Carbon_Tax_Reality_Check.asp

Environmental groups demand real action from G8 leaders

In anticipation of the G8 summit being held next week in Toyako, Japan, climate campaigners are calling on the leaders of the world’s wealthiest countries to move forward with commitments for real action on climate change. Meanwhile, Canada has been singled out, once again, as having one of the worst records on climate change action, receiving the second-worst score among G8 countries in the WWF country scorecards on effectiveness in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Canada lands second-last in climate-change ranking:

www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/ArticleNews/freeheadlines/LAC/20080703/CARBON03/national/National

WWF press release on the G8 Climate Scorecard:
www.panda.org/index.cfm?uNewsID=139361

Pembina Institute backgrounder on Canada's obligations in Toyako:
See www.pembina.org (to be released July 4)

WWF international position paper on the G8 summit:
www.panda.org/about_wwf/what_we_do/climate_change/publications/position_papers/index.cfm?uNewsID=139081

Greenpeace international backgrounder on the G8 and climate change:
www.greenpeace.org/international/press/reports/G8-and-Climate-Change

National News

20 years after first global climate conference, Canada still dragging its heels

The last two decades of opportunity to act on climate change have been squandered by Canada, says a statement released by Canadian organizers and participants in the first ever international conference on climate change, held in Toronto in 1988. In a statement released last week, on the 20th anniversary of the conference, they call for a government-sponsored national conference to take place before the Copenhagen meeting and an "extraordinary Federal/Provincial/Territorial First Minister's Meeting" including mayors from major cities.

Read the press release and statement: www.greenparty.ca/en/releases/30.06.2008

Views from the carbon front: commentary on federal carbon tax proposal

Dion's carbon tax plan has hit the editorial board trail, with stops in the Toronto Star, Globe and Mail, National Post, and Montreal Gazette.

Change in the political climate:
www.thestar.com/comment/article/450941

Dion gung-ho on carbon tax:
www.thestar.com/News/Canada/article/450154

Dion's plan targets oil-rich provinces:
www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20080627.wdion27/BNStory/National/home

Clouds over western horizon:

www.canada.com/montrealgazette/story.html?id=d358519e-c321-4930-8806-cd71990a993c

It's time for a Green Shift:

www.canada.com/montrealgazette/features/viewpoints/story.html?id=2aad57d2-02d8-4663-9c60-a733891544c7

Jack Mintz: Regulation vs. Taxes:

<http://network.nationalpost.com/np/blogs/fpcomment/archive/2008/06/27/jack-mintz-regulation-vs-taxes.aspx>

Provincial News

Details of B.C. climate plan released

The B.C. government released its 126-page Climate Action Plan on May 26, and estimates that the initiatives outlined in the plan will take the province 73 per cent towards its goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to one-third below 2007 levels by 2020. Ian Bruce, a climate change specialist with the David Suzuki Foundation, said that "this is one of the first plans in Canada where government has used economic modeling to show how much progress will be made through their plan," but cautioned that the plan's conclusions depend on Campbell pushing ahead with a promised cap-and-trade system, which has yet to be finalized.

Read the story:

www.climateark.org/shared/reader/welcome.aspx?linkid=102074

B.C. closes in on climate goals: report:

www.canada.com/vancouvernews/news/story.html?id=e6f4368f-e90b-4c0c-bf46-542cdefc2433&p=1

Read the government media release:

www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2005-2009/2008OTP0168-000997.htm

See the plan:

www.livesmartbc.ca/plan/index.html

US News

White House waters down, blocks EPA emissions report

Politics trump science in Washington once again as the White House attempts to block the Environmental Protection Agency from publishing a document outlining how the government could regulate greenhouse-gas emissions under the Clean Air Act. EPA

officials say the White House has successfully put pressure on the agency to eliminate large sections of the original analysis.

White House Blocks EPA Emissions Draft:

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121478564162114625.html?mod=mktw>

White House Tried to Silence EPA Proposal on Car Emissions:

www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/25/AR2008062502713.html

World News

UK releases strategy for 15% renewable energy by 2020

The UK government last week released a national renewable energy blueprint designed to cut carbon emissions and meet a 15% renewable energy target by 2020, a ten-fold increase over current levels. Last year, the UK joined other EU countries in committing that 20% of the EU's energy consumption must come from renewables by 2020.

Brown unveils £100bn renewable energy plan:

www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2008/jun/26/greenpolitics.energy

Read the government press release:

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/environment/fullDetail.asp?ReleaseID=371909&NewsAreaID=2&NavigatedFromDepartment=True>

World Bank introduces climate funds; Canada withholds support

The World Bank has agreed to develop a "Clean Technology Fund" and "Strategic Climate Fund" aimed at helping developing countries to adopt low-carbon technology and adapt to climate change. Britain, Japan, and the United States have committed to bankrolling the venture, but a senior Canadian government official says Canada has not yet decided whether it will participate.

World Bank approves climate funds before G8 summit:

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/fundsNews/idUKZWE33022320080703>

Canada undecided on eve of G8 summit:

www.canada.com/topics/news/national/story.html?id=896e8fb2-271c-4f1f-a052-2b31db0ae456

Head in the sands

Vacationers invited to explore Alberta tar sands

Greenpeace is promoting Alberta's Athabaskan tar sands region as a hot new tourist destination with its recently unveiled "Explore Alberta" website.

Check out the website: www.travelingalberta.com

Get Involved

I am an Energy [R]evolutionary. Sign the Greenpeace petition asking G8 leaders join YOU by becoming Energy [R]evolutionaries:

www.greenpeace.org/international/campaigns/climate-change/take_action/wanted-energy-r-evolutionari

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

Looking Ahead

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| 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 |
| July 16-18 | Council of the Federation Meeting, Québec City
www.councilofthefederation.ca |

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