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July 18, 2008 Edition

Top Story

Provinces throw out flawed federal climate strategy

The federal government's weak, intensity-based plan for tackling climate change is dead on arrival today after Ontario announced that it will join the Western Climate Initiative (WCI) at this year's Council of the Federation Meeting in Quebec City. The WCI is a coalition of provinces and U.S. states developing a regulatory system to cap and reduce industrial greenhouse gas emissions.

Provincial governments representing 25 million Canadians – almost 80 percent of the country's population – have now committed to placing a hard cap on industrial emissions that will be ratcheted down over time.

Under the WCI system, which now includes Ontario, B.C., Manitoba and Quebec, participating states and provinces will agree to a hard limit on emissions on industries within those jurisdictions.

The proposed federal regulatory framework for large industry uses a weak, emissions intensity approach (based on emissions produced per unit of production.) As a result, total annual emissions under the existing federal proposal are likely to continue to rise over the next decade.

Read the Climate Action Network July 18 media release: In English:

www.climateactionnetwork.ca/e/news/2008/intensity-rejected-2008-07-18.html

And French:

www.reseauactionclimat.ca/f/nouvelles/2008/intensite-des-emissions-2008-07-18.html

The July 17 press release is also available on our website.

Read the David Suzuki Foundation media release and report on provincial initiatives:

www.davidsuzuki.org/latestnews/dsfnews07160801.asp

Read the Greenpeace media release:

www.greenpeace.org/canada/en/press/press-releases/greenpeace-to-press-premiers-t

Provincial News

Ontario announces landmark boreal forest conservation plan

The Ontario government announced Monday that it will start a land use planning process to protect more than 225,000 square kilometres of northern boreal forest – an area twice the size of England. Janet Sumner, Executive Director of CPAWS Wildlands League, calls it “the most ambitious conservation agenda for the boreal forest in Canada.”

Read the story:

www.ens-newswire.com/ens/jul2008/2008-07-14-03.asp

Read the government news release:

www.premier.gov.on.ca/news/Product.asp?ProductID=2353&Lang=EN

Read the CPAWS Wildlands League news release:

<http://cpaws.org/news/archive/2008/07/group-welcomes-premiers-announ.php>

Alberta introduces \$4-billion climate plan; first CO2 pipeline announced

Last week, Alberta premier Ed Stelmach announced that \$4-billion from this year's expected budget surplus will be spent on programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Half will be invested in public transit, while the other half will be used to fund carbon capture and storage projects. But a two billion dollar subsidy to oil companies to implement carbon capture and storage will do very little in the absence of aggressive targets and regulations that force industry to invest in solutions. Alberta's targets are embarrassingly weak when compared with other jurisdictions and with climate science. Consider the following:

- B.C., Ontario, Quebec and Manitoba have said that their greenhouse gas emissions will be well below 1990 levels by 2020. In contrast, Alberta has said that its emissions will be 45 percent above 1990 levels by 2020.
- Alberta's per capita greenhouse gas emissions are six times higher than Quebec's and about five times higher than Ontario and British Columbia.

Read the Pembina Institute's commentary on the government's plan:

www.pembina.org/media-release/1666

Alberta announces \$4B climate plan:

www.canada.com/victoriatimescolonist/news/story.html?id=45302555-3da9-4bb0-886b-e1c384ed148b

Read the Alberta government media release:

<http://alberta.ca/home/NewsFrame.cfm?ReleaseID=/acn/200807/23960039FB54D-CC21-7234-31C3E853089A1E6C.html>

U.S. News

EPA refuses to regulate emissions despite report on health threats

A long-awaited scientific report from the Environmental Protection Agency on the health effects of climate change was released this week. In 2007, the Supreme Court ruled that the EPA must regulate greenhouse gases unless it could provide a scientific reason not to do so. Although the report found significant public health effects, EPA chief Stephen Johnson says the agency will not regulate greenhouse gas emissions, falling in line with White House wishes.

Read the story:

www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/us_and_americas/article4337877.ece

World News

Swiss adopt aggressive renewable energy tariffs

Switzerland has adopted one of the world's most aggressive systems of funding to promote the rapid development of renewable energy. The government will pay energy generators tariffs, or payments per kilowatt-hour (kWh), for energy from solar photovoltaics, wind, hydro, geothermal, and biomass. Such a system is already in use in Germany, France, and Italy.

<http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5itvqXWPO-IEmfGQbWhFa5cxxzNBQ>

Read the story:

www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/news/story?id=53026

EU puts cap on airline emissions

European Union lawmakers approved a deal with governments last week to include aviation in the EU's Emission Trading Scheme, beginning in 2012. The European Parliament voted 640 to 30 in favour of making airlines cut emissions by 3 percent in the first year, and by 5 percent from 2013 onwards.

Read the story:

www.forbes.com/reuters/feeds/reuters/2008/07/08/2008-07-08T171330Z_01_L08478020_RTRIDST_0_EU-AVIATION-UPDATE-3.html

Justice Matters

Indigenous people demand inclusion in UN climate talks

Representatives from 17 indigenous communities around the world released a statement at the close of last week's G8 summit urging G8 leaders to pave the way for indigenous

people to be included in U.N. global climate change talks. The statement, issued through the 2008 Indigenous Peoples Summit, blames the market-oriented economic model of the rich nations as the main cause of climate change, which, according to the U.N., has already exposed 370 million indigenous people to increased frequent floods, droughts, desertification, disease, and rising seas.

Read the story:

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/email/idUKT31697720080704>

Read the declaration:

www.ainumosir2008.com/img/NibutaniDeclaration-E.pdf

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

Looking Ahead

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| July 29 | Western Climate Initiative meets in San Diego
www.westernclimateinitiative.org/ |
| August 21-27 | UN Climate Negotiations in Accra, Ghana
http://unfccc.int/meetings/intersessional/accra/items/4437.php |
| September 26-28 | Climate Law in Developing Countries Conference at the University of Ottawa
www.iucnael.org/content/view/17/30/lang,english/ |

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