

Climate Action News **this week**

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July 24, 2008 Edition

Top Story

Western Climate Initiative draft plan released

Partners in the Western Climate Initiative (WCI), a regional cap-and-trade system that now includes four provinces and nearly 80% of Canada's population, yesterday released a draft design of the system. Although the plan contains considerable flaws—with limits on emissions set at an overly timid level, possibly covering only two-thirds of emissions from large polluters, and not coming into force until 2012—it signals momentum towards the inevitable adoption of carbon limits and prices in North America. Partners and stakeholders will meet next Tuesday in San Diego to hammer out the details.

Bilateral coalition unveils cap-and-trade proposal:

www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/LAC.20080724.CAPTRADE24/TPStory/Environment

Industrial cap-and-trade system not on the agenda until 2012:

www.canada.com/vancouver/news/story.html?id=551b7826-491c-4579-b314-66b5108922b5

Read the David Suzuki Foundation and Pembina Institute backgrounder on the WCI here:

www.davidsuzuki.org/Publications/Climate_Change_Reports/Briefing_Notes.asp

Read and comment on the draft WCI plan here:

www.westernclimateinitiative.org

National News

Feds to bury climate health report

The Conservative government is planning a "low-profile" release of a major Health Canada report on the harmful impact of climate change on the health of Canadians, particularly the young, the elderly, and aboriginals.

Read the story:

www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/LAC.20080723.CLIMATE23/TPStory/National

Short-sighted politics hamper climate action in western provinces

Last week's convention of provincial and territorial premiers wrapped up with the leaders of Alberta and Saskatchewan continuing to resist any serious measure to deflate emissions. Ironically, it's the western provinces that are most at risk from the ravages of climate change, with pine beetle invasions, drying soils, reduced snowfall, and forest fires set to damage the provinces' forestry, agricultural, and tourist sectors.

Climate brinkmanship in Alberta, Saskatchewan:

www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/GAM.20080722.COSIMP22/TPStory/TPComment

U.S. News

Gore to America: we can solve it

Al Gore launched an ambitious campaign last week challenging America to switch all of the nation's electricity production to wind, solar, and other carbon-free sources within 10 years.

Read the story:

http://origin.mercurynews.com/elections/ci_9908392

Watch the speech:

www.wecansolveit.org/

World News

Brown and Sarkozy back Sahara solar plan

British Prime Minister Gordon Brown and French President Nicholas Sarkozy are backing a proposal by European scientists to establish a series of huge solar farms in the Sahara desert that could meet all of Europe's electricity needs.

<http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5itvqXWPO-IEmfGQbWhFa5cxyzNBQ>

Read the story:

www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2008/jul/23/solarpower.windpower

Get Involved

CANADIANS DESERVE KYOTOPLUS!

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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