

Climate Action News **this week**

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Note: Climate Action News This Week will be on vacation next week and the following one; please look out for the next edition during the first week of September.

Top Story

Ontario needs carbon tax, says Conference Board of Canada

As part of a Globe and Mail opinion piece identifying needed tax reforms in Ontario, the Conference Board of Canada has called for the introduction of a tax on greenhouse gas pollution, as well as an environmental investment tax credit that would encourage businesses to adopt new, greener technologies.

Read the article:

www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20080813.wcoont13/BNStory/specialComment/home

Read the Conference Board position paper on green taxes:

www.conferenceboard.ca/documents.asp

National News

Unprecedented Arctic melt ice could set new record

The Arctic Ocean ice cover has melted so rapidly in recent weeks that experts now say the ice loss by mid-September could exceed 2007's record-setting summer meltdown. Some researchers predict that the tipping point of an ice-free Arctic during the summer months could be reached as early as 2013.

Read the story:

www.canada.com/ottawacitizen/story.html?id=a6475b46-616e-4003-84d7-f8e4e9a18060

Details of government's offset plan released

The federal government has posted draft details of the offset system that would form part of their greenhouse gas regulations for industrial emitters. The document lays out the rules under which regulated companies (such as those in the oil and gas sector) could buy offset credits for emissions reductions from companies that don't have targets, such as wind farms.

Read the government document:

www.ec.gc.ca/creditscompensatoires-offsets/default.asp?lang=En&n=7CAD67C6-1

Read the Pembina Institute's briefing on carbon pricing and offset systems:

<http://pubs.pembina.org/reports/carbon-pricing-Canada.pdf>

Walkers to bring climate solutions from Toronto to Ottawa

A group of activists will walk from Toronto to Ottawa in October to promote climate justice and the needed transition from fossil fuels to clean, sustainable energy sources. The walkers will leave Toronto on October 4 and collect letters and pictures promoting clean energy solutions along the way, to be delivered to Parliament on October 20.

Read the story:

<http://sunshinewalk08.blogspot.com/>

Provincial News

BC advised to hike carbon tax, make buildings carbon-neutral

British Columbia should consider increasing its carbon taxes faster than previously planned, according to a report released last week by the Climate Action Team, a group formed to advise the government on climate policy. The report also proposes a requirement that some new buildings be constructed carbon-neutral (with built-in solar, wind or geothermal power supplies) as early as 2016, a requirement that would be applied to all new buildings in the province by 2020.

Advisory group recommends expanding provincial carbon tax:

www.canada.com/vancouver/news/story.html?id=7a07ae6b-d03a-4159-bf81-f43dc1b32074

B.C. green report pushes for carbon-neutral construction:

www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20080812.wbcgreen12/BNStory/National/?page=rss&id=RTGAM.20080812.wbcgreen12

U.S. News

New York adopts cap-and-trade

New York adopted regulations this week to cap greenhouse gas emissions, making it the tenth state in the U.S. Northeast to develop a cap-and-trade system in the absence of any action by the federal government. The system, set to start in December, will cap emissions at their current level until 2014, at which point cuts will be required.

Read the story:

www.poughkeepsiejournal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080811/NEWS/80811048

Bird breeding ranges move north

New scientific studies reveal that climate change has shifted the boundaries of plant and animal habitats, with some North American birds extending the boundaries of their yearly migrations northward. Treelines have also been found to have crept up mountainsides in California over the past few decades.

Read the story:

www.livescience.com/environment/080812-birds-north.html

World News

UN report on climate change threat to East Asian cities

A joint report by the United Nations and the World Bank warns that climate change could undermine rapid economic growth and displace millions in East Asia's cities if authorities don't do more to prepare for its impact.

Read the story:

www.alertnet.org/db/an_art/20316/2008/07/12-151813-1.htm

Read the press release and report:

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/EASTASIAPACIFICEXT/0,,contentMDK:21845641~pagePK:146736~piPK:226340~theSitePK:226301,00.html>

UK climate camp wraps up

UK activists protesting a proposed coal power station - which would be Britain's first new coal-fired station for a quarter of a century - vowed to continue to fight the development as their Camp for Climate Action wound down this week. The camp, which was held in fields close to Kingsnorth power station in Kent county, attracted up to 3,000 people over the last week. Campaigners pledged to set up a permanent protest camp if the government allows the station to be built there.

Protesters vow to set up permanent camp at Kingsnorth:

www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2008/aug/11/kingsnorthclimatecamp.activists

The truth is, we're fighting for survival:

www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2008/aug/08/kingsnorthclimatecamp.climatechange

Brazil takes stock of climate threat to agriculture

Global warming will cause heavy financial losses to Brazil's agricultural sector over the next decade, a government study said Monday. Soy bean exports could fall by over a quarter. The losses will grow to five billion dollars by 2020 and 14 billion by 2070.

Read the story:

<http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5gULLR3bVG77Ks2Lk3bQcxT6tm3gQ>

China to tax gas guzzlers

China will raise its sales tax on large cars starting September 1, with the tax on passenger vehicles with engines bigger than 4 liters to be hiked from 20 to 40 percent. The sales tax on cars with engines of 3 litres or less will be reduced.

Read the story:

www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2008-08/13/content_6933251.htm

Get Involved

Carbon tax for environmental justice: Sign the JustEarth petition to the federal government for a carbon tax at www.justearth.net/carbontax/index.aspx

Stop the Tar Sands! Email Premier Ed Stelmach and Prime Minister Stephen Harper, and tell them to stop fuelling the rapid expansion of tar sands projects. See www.greenpeace.org/canada/en/campaigns/tarsands/take-action

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-combating-global-warming-and

Looking Ahead

- August 21-27 UN Climate Negotiations in Accra, Ghana
<http://unfccc.int/meetings/intersessional/accra/items/4437.php>
- Mid-September Western Climate Initiative final design recommendations released
- September 15 Parliament reconvenes
www.parl.gc.ca/common/index.asp?Language=E
- September 15-16 Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers (NEG/ECP) in Bar Harbour, Maine
www.negc.org/premiers.html
- September 23-24 Climate Action Network Canada - Réseau action climat Canada - Annual General Meeting in Montreal
- September 26-28 Climate Law in Developing Countries Conference, University of Ottawa
www.iucnael.org/content/view/17/30/lang,english/
- October 15 Business of Climate Change Conference in Toronto
www.thebusinessofclimatechange.com/
- October 4-20 Sunshine Walk for Climate Justice - Toronto to Ottawa
<http://sunshinewalk08.blogspot.com/>
- October 20-24 Climate Action Network International Equity Summit, India

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