

Climate Action News this week

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September 5, 2008 edition

Top Story

Sierra Club Ranks Parties on Eve of Election

Sierra Club Canada unveiled its ranking of the federal parties on the eve of the “climate crisis election”. The rankings are outlined in a new publication, Voter’s Guide to the Climate Crisis Election. Help educate friends, family and colleagues by forwarding this email and ask them to check out the report at:

In English:

www.sierraclub.ca/national/vote-canada/2008/voters-guide-climate-crisis-election.pdf

See the release in French:

<http://sierraclub.ca/f/national/media/item.shtml?x=2797>

See today’s coverage at: www.canada.com/ottawacitizen/news/story.html?id=93375274-9485-4751-94ad-9bdbae768ed6

National News

Large ice shelf in Canadian Arctic breaks away

The latest sign of accelerating climate change in the arctic is a 55 square kilometer ice shelf that broke away from Ellesmere Island in early August.

Read the story:

<http://in.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idINIndia-35296820080903>

Feds continue to block electric cars on Canada's roads

As greenhouse gases and fuel prices continue to rise, the federal government is still blocking low-speed electric vehicles from the roads. Transport Canada declared last winter that low-speed vehicles (LSVs) are unsafe to run on public roads. Meanwhile, Canadian-made electric vehicles have found a healthy market south of the border where 40 states allow the Quebec-made ZENN and B.C. Dynasty electric cars on public roads at restricted speeds.

Read the story:

www.canada.com/edmontonjournal/news/opinion/story.html?id=c48a14db-0226-40e8-a7fa-60d895ba655d

Provincial News

The Federal Government pulls \$100 000 from BC Sierra Club's climate change initiative

Environment Canada has ended a funding contract with the BC chapter of the Sierra Club of Canada which could terminate a climate-change program.

Read the story:

www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/LAC.20080904.BCGREEN04/TPStory/Environment

www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/LAC.20080902.BCGREEN02/TPStory/TPNational/BritishColumbia/

Ontario launches pilot carbon offset projects on farms

The government of Ontario announced three trial projects in August aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions from farms. The projects look at how farmers can offset greenhouse gas emissions through improved nitrogen fertilizer application procedures (which would decrease nitrous oxide emissions), low-till or no-till farming practices, and reforestation of marginal lands.

Read the story:

www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20080817.wontariooffset08017/EmailBNStory/National/home

Nova Scotia gets soft on greenhouse gas pollution

Premier Rodney MacDonald announced last week that neither a carbon tax nor cap-and-trade system will be part of the Nova Scotia government's response to climate change. Its plan, to be released this fall, will instead rely on voluntary efforts to cut greenhouse gases to 1990 levels by 2020.

Read the story

<http://thechronicleherald.ca/Columnists/1074019.html>

Alberta coal plant on hold

Sherrit International is delaying its plan to build Canada's first commercial coal gasification plant near Edmonton, partially due to uncertainty over what shape greenhouse gas regulations will take in coming years. Construction on the plant was originally set to begin next year, with production beginning in 2012. Construction is now set for 2010 and production for 2014.

Read the story:

www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20080829.wsherritcoal0829/BNStory/energy/?page=rss&id=RTGAM.20080829.wsherritcoal0829

U.S. News

Shareholder climate activism on the rise

In the struggle to fight climate change, a weapon that's growing in popularity is shareholder activism. The number of shareholder resolutions aimed at forcing companies to cut their greenhouse gas emission has more than doubled over the past five years in the U.S.

Read the story:

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

World News

Ghana Climate Talks make some progress on forest protection

UN climate talks in Ghana last week focused on how to halt global deforestation, which emits about 20 percent of greenhouse gases from human activities. Countries came up with proposals to raise tens of billions of dollars in funds for forest protection -- such as a Saudi Arabian call for a levy on the logging industry or a proposal by the Pacific island of Tuvalu to tax air tickets and shipping.

But little was achieved in the way of an agreement on targets and timelines for cuts in greenhouse gas emissions, with Canada, Russia, and Australia slowing progress.

Read the story:

www.reuters.com/article/environmentNews/idUSLR72490620080827?feedType=RSS&feedName=environmentNews

Poor countries need \$130 billion a year to cope with climate change

WWF says that rich nations need to provide about \$130 billion a year by 2030 to help developing countries cope with climate change. This figure is about five times the money currently spent for such purposes.

Read the story:

www.reuters.com/article/environmentNews/idUKLR70527320080827?virtualBrandChannel=10112

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

Carbon tax for environmental justice: Sign the JustEarth petition for a federal 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

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

ELECTION, ELECTION, ELECTION!?!

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|-----------------|--|
| Mid-September | Western Climate Initiative final design recommendations released |
| 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 15 | Engineering in a Climate of Change Conference in Toronto
www.ospe.on.ca/ClimateChange/index.html |
| 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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