

Climate Action News **this week**

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www.climateactionnetwork.ca

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September 30, 2008 Edition

Sierra Club/Greenpeace: “Don’t vote conservative if you care about the environment”

Greenpeace and Sierra Club Canada are urging voters not to vote Conservative in this election, and instead to vote for parties that are willing to take action on climate change. They released the responses to a joint questionnaire on the environment sent to all political parties to assist voters in their choice. The Conservatives did not provide any response.

See the press release:
www.sierraclub.ca/national/media/item.shtml?x=2807

See the report:
www.sierraclub.ca/national/vote-canada/2008/election-survey.html

Climate Action Network’s Election 2008 website

Climate Action Network Canada’s website dedicated to the federal election campaign is online at www.climatevote.ca. The site features news and analysis of the election from Climate Action Network groups, links for taking action during the election, videos and fact sheets on carbon pricing, and more.

Visit the website here:
www.climatevote.ca

Watch the video for a fact check on carbon pricing here:
www.youtube.com/climatereality

Voters get strategic with www.voteforenvironment.ca

Canadians have a powerful online tool available to ensure that our next federal government takes responsible action on the urgent challenge of climate change. The website www.voteforenvironment.ca features a riding-by-riding prediction system that calculates what the likely vote totals would be for each party based on the day's polling, showing how strategic voting can be used.

A similar campaign was launched last week by Avaaz, which secured over \$95,000 in donations in just 4 days to run a series of ads promoting strategic voting to beat the Conservatives in three key ridings.

Check out the Avaaz ad campaign here:

www.avaaz.org/en/stop_harper/

Green party leader Elizabeth May calls for 'strategic voting' across party lines to stop Harper:

www.thestar.com/FederalElection/article/505642

Youth coalition campaigns for just, green economy

The Canadian Youth Climate Coalition staged demonstrations as part of an international day of action on climate change this past Saturday, September 27. The group is promoting Canada's transition to a green economy, with jobs creation in sustainable activities such as renewable energy for low income communities, communities of colour, indigenous people, and other marginalized groups.

Read the story:

www.canada.com/coquitlamnow/news/story.html?id=a134c422-de93-4c2a-b888-f20a3e0b7ea1

Greenpeace campaigners hit the Harper campaign trail

Greenpeace campaigners have established a presence at Prime Minister Harper's major stops on the campaign trail, chiding the Conservatives for their permissive policies on greenhouse gas emissions from industries like the tar sands. At Stephen Harper's visit to a Tory campaign office in Etobicoke last Friday, greenpeace campaigner Dave Martin was thrown to the ground by security officials before being handcuffed and led away to a police car.

Harper gets Greenpeace welcome in Alberta:

www.nationalpost.com/news/story.html?id=840647

See a video of the Etobicoke incident

www.youtube.com/watch?v=ICknz7pCGiM

Emissions reductions under Harper plan may be even feeblcr than expected

Not only are Canada's greenhouse gas emissions unlikely to fall to the level projected by the Government of Canada under their proposed regulations for industrial emitters, they may be as high as they are today in 2020, according to a paper published last week by Simon Fraser University climate scientist Mark Jaccard.

See the media release and read the paper here:

www.sfu.ca/pamr/media_releases/media_releases_archive/media_release09260801.html

CPAWS decries BC Government's focus on forestry as climate solution

Several leading environmental groups are criticizing a B.C. Government publication containing misleading information about how forestry contributes to global warming. The groups are David Suzuki Foundation, ForestEthics, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS), Pembina Institute and B.C. Spaces. The booklet, entitled "Tackle Climate Change, Use Wood," promotes the use of wood products and burning trees for energy as effective climate change strategies.

Read the media release:

<http://cpaws.org/news/archive/2008/09/cpaws-decries-bc-governments-e.php>

Sorting through the carbon debate

Here are some recent articles to help you sort through the increasingly complicated debate about where the parties stand on carbon taxes, caps, and other policies.

Real alternatives on climate issue:

www.thestar.com/comment/article/507335

Distortion, incoherence in the carbon tax's wake:

www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20080925.wcosimp26/BNStory/politics/home

A carbon tax is a good tax:

www.justearth.net/carbontax/mcdonald-goodtax.aspx

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World News

Scientists find methane time bomb on ocean floor

Preliminary findings from an international study suggest that significant amounts of methane gas -- a much more powerful greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide -- are being released from the ocean floor off the north coast of Russia. Researchers say that the permafrost on the ocean floor appears to be melting, causing methane gas to bubble to the surface.

Read the story:

www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/20080927/Methane_Climate_20080926/20080927?hub=Canada

Gwynne Dyer: Climate apocalypse could be approaching

www.straight.com/article-164106/gwynne-dyer-climate-apocalypse-could-be-approaching

Gore urges civil disobedience to stop coal plants

Nobel Peace Prize winner and climate activist Al Gore has urged young people to engage in civil disobedience to stop the construction of coal plants that aren't built with the ability to store carbon. Gore was speaking at a meeting of the Clinton Global Initiative last Wednesday. None of the 28 coal plants under construction in the United States are equipped to capture and store their carbon emissions.

Read the story:

www.cnn.com/2008/TECH/science/09/25/gore.carbon/

U.S. ban on tar sands oil upheld

Environmental groups on both sides of the border are celebrating today, after a provision of the U.S. Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) of 2007 that curtails the import of energy intensive fuels like the tar sands was left intact.

Read the story:

www.greenpeace.org/canada/en/recent/tar-sands-too-dirty-for-us-federal-purchase

Get Involved

Check out the Climate Action Network Election 2008 page for a fact check on federal climate action and a guide to the key election news, analysis, and action websites at www.climatevote.ca

Get your candidate to sign the KYOTOplus pledge. Get candidates in your riding to commit to science-based greenhouse gas reduction targets and a credible national plan to achieve them. To get involved in your area, contact kyotoplus@climateactionnetwork.ca. To download the pledge and view current standings, go to www.kyotoplus.ca/en/pledge.html.

Sunshine Walk: Powered by our feet... to demand a future powered by the sun! Participants will be leaving Toronto on October 4 and trekking by foot to Ottawa to promote the transition to renewable energy. Join up for all or part of the walk, or give your clean, green solutions in a letter to be delivered to the new government in Ottawa on October 20. See www.torontoclimatecampaign.org/sunshinewalk or email info.sunshinewalk@gmail.com.

Send a sign that you're voting for Real Action on climate. Let your federal candidates know that climate change is a key issue for you this election with a lawn sign from Voters Taking Action on Climate Change. Order your sign at www.vtacc.org/vtacc_template.php?content=lawn_sign

Looking Ahead

Sept. 30 **Students for Sustainability Campus Tour:** Memorial University (St John's, NL). See www.cfs-fcee.ca/sustainability/tour.php

October 1 **French language federal party leaders debate** (televised)

October 2 **English language federal party leaders debate** (televised)

Students for Sustainability Campus Tour: Dalhousie University (Halifax, NS)

October 3 **Students for Sustainability Campus Tour:** University of Prince Edward Island (Charlottetown, PEI)

October 4 **Sunshine Walk Starts in Toronto:** Moving towards Pickering. See www.torontoclimatecampaign.org/sunshinewalk

October 5 **Sunshine Walk:** Pickering Village-Ajax-Whitby-Oshawa-Oshawa Centre

October 6 **Sunshine Walk:** Clarington Centre – Bowmanville – Newcastle – Newtonville

Students for Sustainability Campus Tour: University of New Brunswick (Fredericton, NB)

October 7 **Green Neighbours 21 all-candidates debate on carbon pricing** (Toronto) See www.planetfriendly.net/calendar/events.php?id=9589

Sunshine Walk: Port Hope – Cobourg

Students for Sustainability Campus Tour: Dawson College (Montreal, QC)

October 8 **CBC Environment Debate** (televised)

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