

# Climate Action News **this week**

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[www.climateactionnetwork.ca](http://www.climateactionnetwork.ca)

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October 10, 2008 Edition

## **Canadian Government Lets Tar Sands Companies Off the Hook on Climate Change**

Climate Action Network Canada's new report outlines how the federal government's proposed climate change strategy lets oil companies off the hook.

Read the news release and report:

[www.climateactionnetwork.ca/e/news/2008/tar-sands-2008-10-08.html](http://www.climateactionnetwork.ca/e/news/2008/tar-sands-2008-10-08.html)

## **Back carbon tax, leading economists tell politicians**

More than 230 Canadian economists have signed an open letter to federal political leaders calling for economically coherent action on climate change. "It's remarkable how much agreement there is among economists on this key point -- the best climate change policy is to put a price on carbon," says Nancy Olewiler, one of the authors.

Read the story:

[www.canada.com/ottawacitizen/news/story.html?id=1fcafc91-adbe-4f4d-8947-a94d08b9db2f](http://www.canada.com/ottawacitizen/news/story.html?id=1fcafc91-adbe-4f4d-8947-a94d08b9db2f)

Read the letter:

[www.econ-environment.ca](http://www.econ-environment.ca)

## **Scientists call for climate action**

More than 120 of Canada's top climate scientists have signed an open letter criticizing Conservative government policy and urging Canadians to vote "strategically" for the environment in next week's federal election. Read the story:

[www.thestar.com/FederalElection/article/513792](http://www.thestar.com/FederalElection/article/513792)

And today, scientists once again spoke up calling for an end to the "politicization" of science.

Read the story: [www.cbc.ca/technology/story/2008/10/09/scientists-letter.html](http://www.cbc.ca/technology/story/2008/10/09/scientists-letter.html)

## **Party leaders provide video responses to key questions on environment**

Four of the five major party leaders have responded to a set of key questions on climate policies posed by a coalition of Canada's largest environmental organizations. The coalition challenged the party leaders to answer their questions on climate change, wild spaces, water issues, renewable energy and their personal commitment to solving the global warming crisis, and posted their 90-second video responses online. Stephen Harper was the only major party leader who didn't respond.

Watch the video responses here:

[www.tomorrowtodaycanada.ca/election/en/](http://www.tomorrowtodaycanada.ca/election/en/)

## **Climate reality on YouTube**

Climate Action Network Canada has opened a video forum to cut through the spin on climate change. Already posted on the YouTube site are videos from the directors of major Canadian environmental groups and clips from local candidates' debates on climate policy. Viewers are encouraged to post videos of their own to the site.

Check out the site:

<http://ca.youtube.com/climatereality>

## **Pembina compares parties' carbon-pricing plans**

A report comparing the carbon-pricing platforms of the major national parties was released this week by the Pembina Institute. It finds that the Greens offer the strongest policy proposal, while the Tory plan is the weakest. The Liberal and NDP plans received mixed reviews.

Read the story:

[www.thestar.com/FederalElection/article/513650](http://www.thestar.com/FederalElection/article/513650)

Read the report:

[www.pembina.org/pub/1705](http://www.pembina.org/pub/1705)

## **1 million hits in 12 days for www.voteforenvironment.ca**

Over a million people visited the [www.voteforenvironment.ca](http://www.voteforenvironment.ca) website within its first twelve days of operation.

Read the story:

[www.cbc.ca/news/canadavotes/story/2008/10/06/vote-environment.html](http://www.cbc.ca/news/canadavotes/story/2008/10/06/vote-environment.html)

## Stelmach burns up even more gas on tar sands PR tour

Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach is traveling throughout Canada this week as part of a \$25-million, three-year campaign to boost the Alberta "brand" around the globe. He spoke Wednesday to the Montreal Board of Trade and Thursday to the Economic Club of Toronto, hoping to counter what he calls "misinformation" about the environmental impact of the tar sands industry. In November he heads to Europe to continue the spin job overseas. Stelmach's tour coincides with tar-sands companies' push to increase export infrastructure and get the oil out of Alberta and to the main North American refining facilities.

Read the story:

[www.canada.com/topics/news/national/story.html?id=c1cd550c-6514-41e7-9aed-1f7411a92d7d](http://www.canada.com/topics/news/national/story.html?id=c1cd550c-6514-41e7-9aed-1f7411a92d7d)

## World News

### World Bank Group increases lending to high-carbon projects

New statistics developed by the US-based Bank Information Center show that funding for fossil-fuel projects from the World Bank's private sector arm, the International Financial Corporation's (IFC), increased 165 percent in fiscal year 2008, compared with a nine percent rise for renewable projects. Taken as a whole, the World Bank Group increased its fossil-fuel lending by 60 per cent in the same period.

Read the story:

[www.brettonwoodsproject.org/art-562437](http://www.brettonwoodsproject.org/art-562437)

## 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](http://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](mailto:kyotoplus@climateactionnetwork.ca). To download the pledge and view current standings, go to [www.kyotoplus.ca/en/pledge.html](http://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](http://www.torontoclimatecampaign.org/sunshinewalk) or email [info.sunshinewalk@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.vtacc.org/vtacc_template.php?content=lawn_sign)

## Looking Ahead

**October 9** **Sunshine Walk:** Brighton to Trenton. See [www.torontoclimatecampaign.org/sunshinewalk](http://www.torontoclimatecampaign.org/sunshinewalk)

**Students for Sustainability Campus Tour:** Ottawa University. See [www.cfs-fcee.ca/sustainability/tour.php](http://www.cfs-fcee.ca/sustainability/tour.php)

**October 10** **Sunshine Walk:** Belleville/Shannonville/Tyendinaga

**Students for Sustainability Campus Tour:** Trent University (Peterborough, ON)

**October 11** **Sunshine Walk:** Marysville – Deseronto – Napanee - Odessa

**October 12** **Sunshine Walk:** Westbrook/Kingston Port Hope – Cobourg

**October 13** **Sunshine Walk:** South Frontenac/Harrowsmith/Hartington/Verona/Godfrey

**October 14** **Sunshine Walk:** Godfrey to Central Frontenac

**Students for Sustainability Campus Tour:** Ryerson University (Toronto, ON)

**October 15** **Sunshine Walk:** Central Frontenac to Perth

**Students for Sustainability Campus Tour:** York University (Toronto, ON)

**October 16** **Sunshine Walk:** Perth to Carleton Place

**Students for Sustainability Campus Tour:** University of Toronto Mississauga (Mississauga, ON)

**October 17 Sunshine Walk:** Carleton Place to Nepean

**Students for Sustainability Campus Tour:** University of Guelph  
(Guelph, ON)

**October 18 Sunshine Walk:** Nepean to Ottawa

**October 20 Sunshine Walk:** Parliament Hill

**Students for Sustainability Campus Tour:** Laurentian University  
(Sudbury, ON)

**The Power of Green Conference** – Halifax, NS. See  
[www.powerofgreen.ca](http://www.powerofgreen.ca)

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