

Work and Climate Change Report

The green transition of work and workplaces: Research and News from a Canadian viewpoint

YEARLY ARCHIVES: 2014

Study Examines “High Road”, Unionized Jobs in the California Solar Industry

Posted on **November 29, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

A study released on November 10 by the University of California at Berkeley examines the environmental and economic impact of a boom in utility-scale solar electricity generation in California since 2010.

The report describes the overall economic and policy situation, then calculates the new construction, maintenance, and operations jobs created, plus the upstream and downstream jobs. It estimates the income and health and pension benefits of these new construction and plant operations jobs, most of which are unionized.

In California, the union contracts have required payments into apprenticeship training programs; the study calculates the new monies that have been generated for apprenticeship programs, and asserts that the boom in utility-scale solar construction has set in motion a related boom in apprenticeship and other forms of training for electricians, operating engineers, ironworkers, carpenters, millwrights, piledrivers, and laborers. The author estimates how apprenticeship affects lifetime earnings- using the example of electrical apprentices, who are estimated to see a lifetime income approximately \$1 million higher than that of workers without similar training.

Finally, the report describes the policy environment that has facilitated this solar boom, and makes recommendations for the future. The author, Peter Philips, from the University of Utah, is currently a Visiting Scholar at the UC Berkeley Institute for Research on Labor and Employment, at the Donald Vial Center on Employment in the Green Economy.

LINKS

Environmental and Economic Benefits of Building Solar in California: Quality Careers, Cleaner Lives.

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | Tagged [Apprenticeship](#), [Economics of Renewables](#), [Education and Training](#), [Job Creation](#), [Labour Policy](#), [Renewables](#), [Solar Energy](#), [Solar PV Manufacturing](#), [Union Jobs](#), [University of California](#) | [Leave a reply](#)

Literature Review of Job Creation Impact of Energy Efficiency Investments

Posted on **November 29, 2014** by [Ava Lightbody](#)

A study released by the U.K. Energy Research Centre (UKERC) on November 4 presents an analytical literature review of fifty studies published since 2000 on the relationship between green energy investment and job creation in the U.S., Europe and China. The report outlines the key concepts and modelling methodologies, and provides a comparative analysis of the job impact results of the studies surveyed.

Overall, the authors found that renewable energy and energy efficiency create up to ten times more jobs per unit of electricity generated or saved than fossil fuels. However, they conclude that the job creation issue is complex and is often wrongly focussed on short-term benefits. “The proper domain for the debate about the long-term role of renewable energy and energy efficiency is the wider framework of energy and environmental policy, not a narrow analysis of green job impacts.”

LINKS

Low Carbon Jobs: The Evidence for Net Job Creation from Policy Support for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy is available from the Energy Research Centre website.

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | Tagged [Economics of Renewables](#), [energy efficiency](#), [Job Creation](#), [Renewables](#), [U.K. Energy Research Centre \(UKERC\)](#) | [Leave a reply](#)

Canadian Environmental Education: Post Secondary Guides, Context, and New Initiatives for Public Outreach

Alternatives Journal in October published a special issue addressing environmental education. The fifteenth annual Environmental Education Guide helps students heading to postsecondary education to identify and compare the 700 interdisciplinary programs available in 120 Canadian universities and community colleges.

Three accompanying articles emphasize the importance of interdisciplinary studies: “Academic Evolution: Innovation knows no Boundaries”, profiles the work of Dr. James Orbinski, who leads research on global health and climate change as the Research Chair in Global Health at the Balsillie School of International Affairs at the University of Waterloo, Ontario, and Tim Kruger, who is the Coordinator of the Geoengineering Program at the Martin Oxford School at University of Oxford, and one of the authors of the Oxford Principles.

A quote from Kruger sums up the point of the article: “Climate change presents systems problems, involving multiple, complex mechanisms...What is left now, are those problems which are not amenable to being solved by a single disciplinary approach.” “The Genius of the Generalist”, describes the educational paths of three graduate students- two of whom have Masters of Environmental Studies degrees from York University in Toronto and “Meet 6 Environmental Grads” profiles careers after graduation from various environmental programmes in Canada, and one in Freiberg, Germany.

For students heading for an MBA, Corporate Knights magazine released its annual guide to Sustainable MBA programs around the world in October. As in past years, York University’s Schulich School of Business ranked first, followed closely by the Sauder School of Business at University of British Columbia.

And two new online initiatives to promote climate change literacy and climate justice emerged from British Columbia in October. The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives and the B.C. Teachers’ Federation jointly created free classroom-ready materials designed for students in grades 8 to 12. Eight modules explore climate justice within the context of B.C.’s communities, history, economy and ecology. On October 28th the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions at the University of Victoria, launched “B.C Climate Impacts & Adaptation”, an interactive online module free to anyone interested in expanding their climate literacy. At the same time, PICS updated the content of the educational section of their website, which houses other modules and mini-lessons.

LINKS

[Alternatives Journal Education Issue \(October 2014\)](#). It includes the [A/J 2014 Environmental Education Guide](#), as well as the following articles: “Academic Evolution: Innovation knows no Boundaries”, “The Genius of the Generalist”, and “Meet 6 Environmental Grads”

[“100 Shades of Green”](#) (a guide to Sustainability in MBA curricula of universities around the world) in the Fall 2014 issue of Corporate Knights Magazine

CCPA/BC Teachers Federation classroom modules about Climate Justice, and Climate Literacy modules and mini-lessons at the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions website

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | Tagged [Alternatives Journal](#), [Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives \(CCPA\)](#), [Climate Education](#), [Corporate Knights](#), [Education](#), [Environmental Education Guide](#), [Generalism](#), [Integrative Thinking](#), [Interdisciplinarity](#) | [Leave a reply](#)

A New Commission with a Prescription of “Ecofiscal” Policies for Canada

Posted on **November 29, 2014** by [Ava Lightbody](#)

Canada’s Ecofiscal Commission was launched on November 4, with the release of a report which makes the economic case for a new suite of Canadian policies at the municipal, provincial and national level.

“Ecofiscal policies correct market signals to encourage the economic activities we want (job creation, investment, and innovation), while discouraging those we don’t (greenhouse gas emissions and pollution of our land, air, and water). They use prices to help companies and individuals make decisions that take the true value of our environmental assets into account.” The Commission describes itself as independent, and representative of all political viewpoints; this manifests itself in the membership, which includes prominent former politicians Jean Charest, Bob Rae, Preston Manning, Sheila Watt-Cloutier, and Mike Harcourt. It is housed at McGill University, and led by Professor Chris Ragan of the McGill University Department of Economics (formerly a special adviser to the Bank of Canada).

LINKS

View the

[The Ecofiscal Commission website.](#)

Smart, Practical, Possible: Canadian Options for Greater Economic and Environmental Prosperity, Inaugural Report of the EcoFiscal Commission ([English Version](#) / [French Version](#)).

Chris Ragan is interviewed by Tyler Hamilton of *Corporate Knights* magazine.

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | Tagged [Ecofiscal](#), [Ecofiscal Commission](#), [Economic Incentive](#), [McGill University](#) | [Leave a reply](#)

Corporate Leaders Sign on to an Open Letter for More Climate Change Leadership, Carbon Pricing in Canada

Posted on **November 29, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

In an open letter to Canada's federal and provincial political leaders, including Prime Minister Harper, the Clean 50 states that Canada needs to put a higher priority on climate change action, and specifically, "We believe that one solution is to develop a well thought out framework that includes setting a price on carbon at some specific date in the future, that would reduce other taxes, and provide an incentive for businesses and individuals to take steps to reduce their use of carbon." The Clean 50 is a group founded and managed by Delta Management, a corporate search firm specializing in green jobs; it includes sustainability professionals from corporate Canada, as well as academics and individuals. [See the website and their Open Letter.](#)

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Carbon Pricing, Clean 50, Climate Policy, Prime Minister Harper** | [Leave a reply](#)

Superlatives for the U.S.-China Agreement on Climate Change, and what it Means for Canada

Posted on **November 29, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

Media superlatives signal the importance of the surprising climate change announcement by the U.S. and China on November 11. President Obama pledged that the U.S. will emit 26 to 28 percent less carbon in 2025 than it did in 2005, and will double the pace of reduction it had previously targeted for the period from 2005 to 2020. China's President Xi Jinping pledged to reach peak carbon emissions by 2030, if not sooner, and that clean energy sources would account for 20 percent of China's total energy production by 2030.

[See the White House press release](#) and the [White House Fact Sheet](#). For a summary of U.S. reactions, see the Blue Green Alliance at "[What Leaders are Saying about the Historic Agreement](#)".

What is the impact in Canada? [A Globe and Mail article](#) stated that the agreement would put pressure on Prime Minister Harper to act on climate change, yet [columnist Jeffrey Simpson wrote](#),

“Leadership means a willingness to spend political capital on an issue, and in Canada’s case, there is no such leadership at the top. That this absence would suddenly shift as a result of a China-U.S. understanding is improbable in the extreme”.

[Alberta’s new premier Jim Prentice](#) announced that the province will “stiffen” its regulations for fossil fuel extraction. “It’s the desire of Alberta to be participatory in any sort of international agreement that we can arrive at, modeled on what the United States and China have been able to achieve”. When the U.S. – China agreement was announced, Ontario’s Kathleen Wynne, accompanied by green business leaders, had just returned from a trade mission to China.

According to the [University of Victoria PICS Newscan](#), Guelph’s Canadian Solar Solutions signed a \$70-million deal to build solar energy plants in China, and China Energy Conservation and Environmental Protection Group signed an agreement for future collaboration.

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | Tagged [2 Degree Target](#), [Chinese Solar Industry](#), [Emissions reduction targets](#), [Kathleen Wynne](#), [President Obama](#), [Renewables](#), [U.S. Climate Action Plan](#), [U.S.-China Agreement](#) | [Leave a reply](#)

Climate Change Momentum Continues at the G20 Summit in Brisbane

Posted on **November 29, 2014** by [Ava Lightbody](#)

Despite the efforts of Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott to keep it off the agenda, pressure to address climate change was heaped on the G20 group, notably by the climate agreement signed by the U.S. and China. Pope Francis sent a letter to Prime Minister Abbott that admonished “unbridled” consumerism, environmental degradation, and their capacity to undermine global economic stability. See [“U.S., EU Override Australia to put Climate Change on G20 Agenda”](#) from Reuters and [“Pope Francis to World Leaders: Consumerism Represents ‘Constant Assault’ on the Environment”](#) from ClimateProgress.

The final communiqué expressed strong support for the Green Climate Fund. Canada announced on November 20 that it would contribute \$300 million to the Green Climate Fund. See the [government press release](#) and [government backgrounder](#), and see also [“Green Climate Fund in the Spotlight at G20 Leaders’ Meet”](#) from the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development.

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | Tagged [Australia](#), [ClimateProgress](#), [G20](#), [G20 Summit](#), [Green Climate Fund](#), [International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development \(ICTSD\)](#), [Pope Francis](#), [Tony Abbott](#) | [Leave a reply](#)

Ontario and Quebec sign Agreements on Electricity Trade and Climate Change

Posted on **November 29, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

On November 21, Ontario and Québec announced a number of agreements to “strengthen Ontario and Québec’s partnership to build up Central Canada’s economy, create jobs and make a difference in people’s lives”. These agreements specifically focused on electricity trade, climate change (including carbon pricing), infrastructure investments, the Energy East pipeline, interprovincial trade, and the Francophonie.

Relating to Energy East, Ontario affirmed Québec’s concerns and insistence that climate change is considered by the NEB and that the unfair burden of risk born by those nearby the converted aging gas pipelines is addressed.

Read [Ontario’s press release](#) and [Ontario’s backgrounder](#), and see CBC coverage in “[Ontario, Québec sign deals on Electricity, Climate Change](#)”. According to the *Globe and Mail*, federal and Alberta government ministers will be travelling to Quebec soon to press the case for Energy East. Read reaction to the Ontario-Quebec agreement by [Clare Demerse at Clean Energy Canada](#).
Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Climate Agreement, Energy East, Energy Infrastructure, Francophonie, Infrastructure, Ontario, Ontario-Quebec Agreement, Quebec** | [Leave a reply](#)

Analysis of the Canada – EU Trade Agreement

Posted on **November 29, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

The Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA) between the EU and Canada was announced as a “done deal” in Ottawa on September 26, despite the fact that the text had never been made public till that time.

The agreement abolishes almost all tariffs and reduces many non-tariff barriers, but most controversial is the chapter on investment protection, which includes Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) provisions. The ISDS mechanism gives foreign corporations the ability to sue Canada or a province, if the companies allege that domestic health or environmental policies and regulations interfere with their right to make a profit.

The Council of Canadians has been a vocal opponent of CETA because of these ISDS provisions and released a new book in November. *Trading away Democracy* (co-published by a number of

other organizations, including Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, Canadian Union of Public Employees, European Federation of Public Service Unions, Friends of the Earth Europe). The International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development in Geneva has published a detailed review which includes a summary of the Environment and Labour chapters of the CETA . The article points out a departure from past trade agreements such as NAFTA: disputes under the Environment or Labour chapters cannot be initiated by civil society, but only by a government- to - government mechanism specifically defined in each chapter. See “[Unpacking the EU Canada Free Trade Deal](#)” in *Bridges* (Nov. 3).

Also see the Government of Canada website relating to CETA, including a link to the text of the agreement ([English version](#) / [French version](#)).

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | Tagged [Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives \(CCPA\)](#), [Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement \(CETA\)](#), [Council of Canadians](#), [EU](#), [Foreign Policy](#), [Free Trade](#), [International Trade](#), [Investor-State Dispute Settlement \(ISDS\)](#), [NAFTA](#) | [Leave a reply](#)

Grid Parity for Solar and Wind Energy

Posted on **November 29, 2014** by [Ava Lightbody](#)

According to the [Global Wind Energy Outlook](#) published by the Global Wind Energy Council and Greenpeace International, wind power alone could supply as much as 19 percent of global electricity needs by 2030, and 30% by 2050, given policy support. The economics of wind and solar production are leading the way: see an [overview of recent studies](#) relating to grid parity of solar and wind energy, including the October report by Deutsche Bank analyst Vishal Shah, and a [New York Times](#) article. The Deutsche Bank report found that solar has already reached grid parity in the ten states that represent 90 % of U.S. solar electricity production. Wind continues to face community opposition, but a Health Canada study in November concludes that there is no evidence of a causal relationship between exposure to wind turbine noise and self-reported medical illnesses and health conditions. See the [Health Canada study](#).

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | Tagged [Global Wind Energy Outlook](#), [Grid Parity](#), [Low-Carbon Electricity](#), [Low-Carbon Transition](#), [Renewables](#), [Solar Energy](#), [wind energy](#) | [Leave a reply](#)

Pipeline News: Report Questions Economic Benefit of Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain Project ahead of Mass Arrests

Posted on **November 29, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

A report released by Simon Fraser University and The Goodman Group Ltd. on November 10th asserts that pipeline company Kinder Morgan has exaggerated the number of jobs to be created by its Trans Mountain Expansion Project and drastically underestimated the potential cost of spills.

While the company holds that the project will support 36,000 person-years of work for British Columbians, with an additional 2000 jobs in spin-offs, the Goodman Group report estimates a maximum of 12,000 person-years during the construction period – amounting to about 4000 jobs per year. Further, revenues for the province may also be lower than claimed. The Goodman report was released just after Kinder Morgan was granted an injunction on November 14th against a group of residents protesting the Trans Mountain project on Burnaby Mountain. 53 protestors have been arrested as of November 22nd.

Read the Goodman report, *Economic Costs and Benefits of the Trans Mountain Expansion Project (TMX) for B.C. and Metro Vancouver*. Read “Economists Question Projected Value of Trans Mountain’s Pipeline” from *The Globe and Mail*. For information about the protests, see “Kinder Morgan Slaps Burnaby Residents with Multi-Million-Dollar Lawsuit” from the *Vancouver Observer*, and “Kinder Morgan Protests: More Protesters are Arrested as Test Drilling Starts” from the CBC.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Burnaby, Burnaby Mountain, Kinder Morgan, Pipeline Jobs, Trans Mountain Pipeline** | **Leave a reply**

Pipeline News: Energy East

Application filed at NEB;

Quebec Response

Posted on **November 29, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

On October 30th, Trans Canada filed a formal application for its Energy East pipeline project from the National Energy Board (NEB). See the [NEB website](#) for information about the Energy East application and the National Energy Board process, including how to participate, or see the CBC website for “TransCanada Formally Applies to NEB for Energy East Pipeline Approval”.

TransCanada claims the project will directly or indirectly create 14,000 jobs, and help create \$36 billion worth of economic activity, basing its projections on a new Conference Board of Canada report, which updates a previous report by Deloitte consultants. See *Energy East Pipeline Project: Understanding the Economic Benefits for Canada and its Regions*. See also an “Economic Backgrounder” from Trans Canada.

On November 6th, the Québec National Assembly unanimously passed a resolution asserting provincial jurisdiction to conduct its own environmental assessment and casting a vote of non-confidence in the NEB process. The resolution condemned the NEB's exclusion of climate impacts from the factors it considers and the failure of the federal government to adopt national emissions regulations for oil and gas. Québec's Minister of Natural Resources said the province will analyze potential economic and environmental impacts and the threat to its wintertime natural gas supply in consultation with the public, and will appear before the NEB with its findings. Find the resolution in the legislative [Votes and Proceedings](#) for Nov. 6 at page 471, and the [Quebec press release](#). See [reaction to the resolution](#) from the Pembina Institute, emphasizing climate impacts. The Québec Minister of Environment also sent a letter to Trans Canada on November 18th which outlined seven project conditions, including assurance the province will benefit economically and adequate involvement of the public and First Nations in decision-making. Read the conditions in "[Environment Minister sets Conditions for TransCanada in Quebec](#)".

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | Tagged [Energy East](#), [Environmental Assessment](#), [National Energy Board \(NEB\)](#), [Quebec](#), [TransCanada](#) | [Leave a reply](#)

How Should Canada Prepare for Climate Migrants?

Posted on **November 29, 2014** by [Ava Lightbody](#)

As part of its Climate Justice program, the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives – B.C. Office released a report in November, asking: "given Canada's historical and ongoing contribution to global warming, what is our collective obligation to people fleeing regions most affected by climate change, and how prepared are we to meet these obligations?" Researchers found serious gaps in current policies and thinking around climate migration, and recommend legislative reform to create a new immigration class of "climate migrants", with targets and programs to ensure Canada absorbs its fair share of those migrants. Recognizing that most climate migrants will remain in developing countries, Canada should also increase its support to those countries which will bear the brunt of climate displacement. Read [Preparing B.C. for Climate Migration](#).

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | Tagged [Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives \(CCPA\)](#), [Climate migrants](#), [Displacement](#), [Immigration](#), [Refugees](#) | [Leave a reply](#)

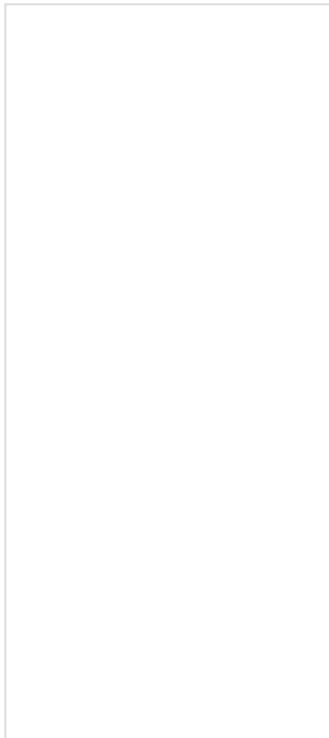
Canada's Forests, Climate Change, and the Roles of Government

and Professionals

Posted on **October 29, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

On September 24, Canada's Minister of Natural Resources released the 2014 edition of State of Canada's Forests, which includes "sustainability indicators" which highlight key social, economic and environmental data such as GhG emissions, contribution to GDP, and labour force growth and wage levels.

In a table showing "Benefits to the Canadian Economy", the forest sector ranks as providing 9.34 jobs per million dollars of value added; in comparison, the energy sector provides 1.94 jobs (see <http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/forests/report/economy/16517>). The federal government report strikes an optimistic and positive note, highlighting government's role in providing financial incentives through the Investments in Forest Industry Transformation program, the Expanding Market Opportunities program and the Forest Innovation program.



In contrast, a September report from the Intact Forest Landscapes Initiative states that Canada has led the world in forest loss from deforestation since 2000 (half of such forest loss occurred in just three countries: Canada, Russia and Brazil). According to Global Forest Watch Canada, the major causes of Canada's forest loss are massive increases in oil sands and shale gas developments, as well as logging and road building. The Intact Forest project is produced by the Global Forest Watch Network, an international collaboration that includes Greenpeace, University of Maryland, and World Resources Institute among others, and uses satellite imagery technology to determine the location and extent of the world's last large undisturbed forests.

In British Columbia, four professional associations related to the forestry industry released an "unprecedented" joint statement in July, which states, "Our members have crucial roles to play in

both climate change mitigation and adaptation; their knowledge, expertise and professionalism are key parts of the solution. But they also have important professional and ethical responsibilities related to the changing climate. Professional associations have an obligation to define those responsibilities and to provide the training and structures that will allow members to meet their responsibilities to their clients and to the public". The statement also calls on government to show leadership, and calls for a review of a range of provincial laws in light of climate change.

Signatories to the joint statement are: the Association of BC Forest Professionals (ABCFP), the Association of Professional Biology (APB), the College of Applied Biology (CAB), and the Planning Institute of BC (PIBC).

LINKS:

State of Canada's Forests 2014 is available, with accompanying infographics and summaries at: <http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/forests/report/16496> (English version), and <http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/forets/rapport/16497> (French version)

Intact Forest Landscapes is at: <http://intactforests.org/>; Global Forest Watch Canada is at: <http://www.globalforestwatch.ca/>

Professional Associations of B.C. Joint Statement is at: http://www.abcfp.ca/about_us/media_centre/documents/Pro_Leadership_in_a_Changing_Climate-Joint_Statement_20140708.pdf; accompanying 1-page background document is at: http://www.abcfp.ca/about_us/media_centre/documents/Joint_Statement_on_Climate_Change-Backgrounder_20140708.pdf. The Association of B.C. Forest Professionals released their own position paper in January 2014 at: http://www.abcfp.ca/publications_forms/publications/documents/ABCFP_Climate_Change-Position_Paper_2014.pdf

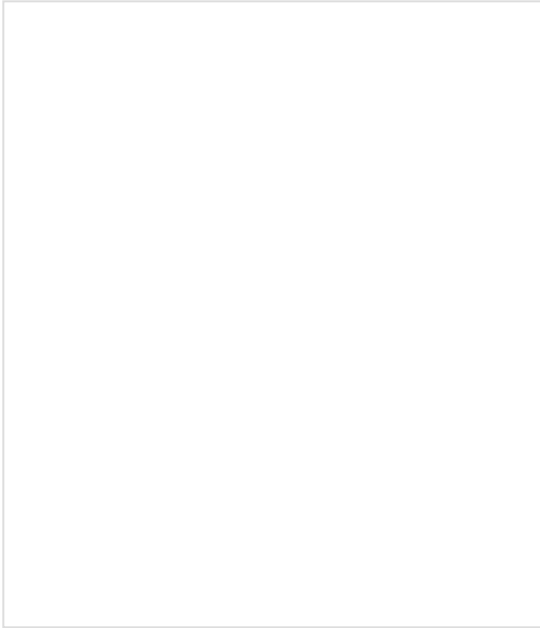
Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Deforestation, Global Forest Watch Canada, Intact Forest Landscapes Initiative, Minister of Natural Resources, State of Canada's Forests, Sustainability Indicators** | [Leave a reply](#)

Electric Vehicles Good for Ontario Economy

Posted on **October 29, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

According to a new report from the non-profit Windfall Centre, Ontario's economy would enjoy major economic benefits from increased electric vehicles (EV's), including considerable energy savings, government revenue, and thousands of new skilled, well-paid jobs in manufacturing, research, business and professional services, and infrastructure development.

According to Windfall, these benefits would outweigh losses in other sectors, including oil and gas and Ontario's sagging gasoline vehicle manufacturing sector. The report estimates that if 10% of Ontario's passenger vehicles were to be electric by



2025, the province's total income would increase by more than \$3.6 billion with an added 34,000 person years of work.

The importance of such a conversion is underlined in a September report from the Partnership on Sustainable Low Carbon Transport. "Without transport contributing in a significant manner to the mitigation of climate change it will not be possible to shift to a global stabilization pathway that can keep warming below 2 Degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels".

California's Governor Jerry Brown also cast his vote for EV's in September with S.B. 1275, *The Charge Ahead California Initiative*, to get 1 million EV's driving in the state by 2020. Governor Brown's decision was celebrated by the BlueGreen Alliance, who noted that most EV's in California are union-made in the U.S.

LINKS:

The Economic Impact of Electric Vehicle Adoption in Ontario is available at:

<http://www.windfallcentre.ca/drive-electric/studies/ev-adoption/report/>

For more about electric vehicles, see "Plugged in: Electric Vehicles Coming to Canada in 2015"

from the *Globe and Mail* at: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/globe->

[drive/culture/technology/plugged-in-electric-vehicles-coming-to-canada-in-2015/article20592549/](http://www.theglobeandmail.com/globe-drive/culture/technology/plugged-in-electric-vehicles-coming-to-canada-in-2015/article20592549/),

or follow the Electric Vehicle News Blog at FleetCarma at:

<http://www.fleetcarma.com/category/electric-vehicle-news/>

Land Transport's Contribution to a 2°C Target is at: <http://www.slocat.net/transporttwodegree>

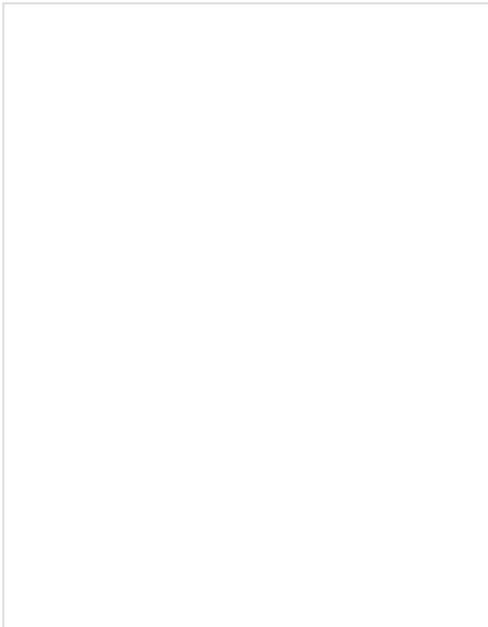
"The Effort to Get One Million Electric Vehicles on California's Roadways Just Got A Jumpstart" from BlueGreen Alliance is at: <http://www.bluegreenalliance.org/blog/the-effort-to-get-one-million->

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | Tagged [Automobiles](#), [BlueGreen Alliance](#), [Canadian Manufacturing](#), [Electric Vehicles](#), [Green Job Creation](#), [Green Jobs](#), [Jerry Brown](#), [Ontario Manufacturing](#), [The Charge Ahead California Initiative](#), [Windfall Centre](#) | [Leave a reply](#)

Federal Government Scientists: an Open Letter in their Support, and an Injunction for Energy East Based on their Concerns

Posted on **October 29, 2014** by [Ava Lightbody](#)

The Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada (PIPSC), along with the Union of Concerned Scientists, marked the Government of Canada's Science and Technology week with an advertising campaign which included an open letter to Prime Minister Stephen Harper.



The letter states: "Canada's leadership in basic research, environmental, health and other public science is in jeopardy...We urge you to restore government science funding and the freedom and opportunities to communicate these findings internationally". The letter was signed by more than 800 scientists from 32 countries, from institutions such as Harvard Medical School in the U.S. and the Max Planck Institute in Germany. PIPSC, which represents scientists employed by the federal government, has published earlier surveys of its members to document their perceptions of being

“muzzled”; a related advocacy group, Evidence for Democracy, released its own report on October 8, compiling and ranking the communications policies of federal government departments.

The world has seen this before, as described in a blog by the Union for Concerned Scientists, and coincidentally, by the New York Times obituary on October 19, 2014 for Rick Pitz. Pitz was a U.S. whistleblower who exposed the subtle manipulation of scientific reports on climate change in the Bush administration between 2002 and 2003.

Ignoring the opinions of federal government scientists has its perils. On September 23, the Quebec Superior Court issued a temporary injunction to stop TransCanada's exploratory drilling for the Energy East pipeline. Part of the reason for the injunction: environmental groups provided internal documents showing that scientists from the federal department of Fisheries and Oceans had been raising concerns for months about the impact of the exploratory drilling on the habitat of threatened St. Lawrence beluga whales, and of the proposed oil terminal that would be built to service 250-metre long supertankers. The court ruled that, by ignoring the scientists' concerns, Quebec's Minister of the Environment erred in issuing a permit for the exploratory work.

LINKS:

PIPSC Press release, with a link to the Open Letter, is at:

<http://www.pipsc.ca/portal/page/portal/website/news/newsreleases/news/21102014>

Can Scientists Speak? Grading Communication Policies For Federal Government Scientists is at:

<https://evidencefordemocracy.ca/canscientistsspeak>, with a blog which summarizes Canadian and U.S. experience at the Union of Concerned Scientists at: <http://blog.ucsusa.org/want-to-talk-to-a-scientist-in-canada-dont-look-to-the-federal-government-678>

See the CBC report at: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/foreign-scientists-call-on-stephen-harper-to-restore-science-funding-freedom-1.2806571> for links to previous stories in this ongoing issue.

Rick Pitz obituary in the New York Times (Oct. 19, 2014) is at:

http://dotearth.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/10/19/a-passing-rick-piltz-a-bush-era-whistleblower/?_php=true&_type=blogs&module=Search&mabReward=relbias%3Ar&_r=0, and the related expose of Philip A. Cooney, “Bush Aide Softened Greenhouse Gas Links to Global Warming” in the New York Times (June 8, 2005) at: <http://www.nytimes.com/2005/06/08/politics/08climate.html?emc=eta1>

“TransCanada work on St. Lawrence port Suspended by Quebec Court Order” on the CBC website (September 23) at: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/transcanada-work-on-st-lawrence-port-suspended-by-quebec-court-order-1.2775613>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Climate Science, Energy East, Environmental Science, Evidence for Democracy, Muzzled Scientists, PIPSC, Public Science, Science Funding, TransCanada, Union for Concerned Scientists** | [Leave a reply](#)

Productivity Loss due to Workplace Heat Stress: an Issue for North America, too

Posted on **October 29, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

In an article appearing in Our World, a publication of the United Nations University, author Tord Kjellstrom argues that economists need to consider the impact of the physiological limits of people exposed to ambient heat when they work.

His article reviews the literature to date on this issue, and contends that climate change is resulting in huge financial losses because of reduced labour productivity: estimated in 2012 as approximately US\$2 trillion globally by 2030. High temperatures are already having an impact in tropical and sub-tropical countries, as well as the southern U.S. and Europe, and Australia.

How relevant is this to North America? In 2014, as part of the Risky Business project, the American Climate Prospectus included a chapter on labour productivity, which projected that heat-related losses of labour productivity in 2050 and 2090 in the United States would be the largest actual economic cost of climate change – amounting to approximately 0.2 percent of GDP in 2050. And in October 2014, an article in the Journal of the American Medical Association found that “By 2050, many US cities may experience more frequent extreme heat days. For example, New York and Milwaukee may have 3 times their current average number of days hotter than 32°C (90°F)... The adverse health aspects related to climate change may include heat-related disorders, such as heat stress and economic consequences of reduced work capacity”. The article continues to list many other adverse health outcomes and the implications for physicians. Wor

LINKS:

“Productivity Losses Ignored in Economic Analysis of Climate Change” in Our World (September 23, 2014) at: <http://ourworld.unu.edu/en/productivity-losses-ignored-in-economic-analysis-of-climate-change>

American Climate Prospectus: Economic Risks in the United States (June, updated August 2014) at: <http://rhg.com/reports/climate-prospectus>

“Climate Change Challenges and Opportunities for Global Health” in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) at: <http://jama.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=1909928>

For more, see the Hothaps website at: <http://www.climatechip.org/>. Hothaps = High Occupational Temperature: Health and Productivity Suppression, an international research program which studies “the effects of heat exposure on working people (including gender aspects and effects on

pregnant women and on children), to quantify climate change-related increases in workplace heat exposures and the impact this will have on human health and productivity”.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **American Climate Prospectus, Heat Stress, Labour Productivity, Occupational Health and Safety, Our World, Productivity, United Nations University** | [Leave a reply](#)

Labour Should Lead with a Worker-Friendly Climate Plan

Posted on **October 29, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

Drawing on American economic and labour policy during World War II, authors Jeremy Brecher, Ron Blackwell and Joe Uehlein envision what climate policy could look like with labour in the lead, in an article in the September 2014 issue of New Labor Forum.

The authors acknowledge that unions are caught between the immediate interests of their members, many of whom work in industries vulnerable to new climate regulations, and long-term social, economic, and ecological wellbeing. As a result, labour has at times remained “aloof” to the climate movement, but the authors advocate that the labour movement should take the initiative to develop its own government-led climate plan – one that bridges the divide between work and environment, reverses austerity, raises wages, and offers full employment, job security, and transition training.

As during wartime, the authors contend, climate change demands ramped up production and expansion in innovative sectors. The government should take the lead in financing the low-carbon transition during its initial, more expensive stages, thereby encouraging private investment by creating stable green markets. Citizens should be supported during the transformation through the establishment of a welfare state that diverts carbon tax revenues to workers and the unemployed, provides education and training, and recruits and distributes workers to where they are most needed.

LINKS:

“If Not Now, When? A Labor Movement Plan to Address Climate Change” in New Labor Forum (v.23, #3) is at: <http://nlf.sagepub.com/content/23/3/40.full.pdf+html>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Austerity, Carbon Tax, Climate Plan, Climate Policy, Education and Training, Labour Policy, Low-Carbon Transition, New Labour Forum, Retraining, Welfare State** | [Leave a reply](#)

New York Climate Summit: Labour Marches and Business Makes Pledges

Posted on **October 29, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

The New York Times Editorial Board pronounced its verdict on the U.N. Climate Summit – focussing on the People’s March rather than the official meetings, and noting “a palpable conviction that tackling climate change could be an opportunity, and not a burden”.

The article notes that cooperation between the U.S. and China could create the conditions for a breakthrough agreement in 2015, “But what might really do the trick – if Climate Week is any guide – is the emergence of a growing bottom-up movement for change”. In an article in Truthout, Abby Scher summarizes the support for the People’s March by national unions in the U.S., including Service Employees (SEIU) and Communication Workers of America, as well as the New York state and city unions and the community-labour alliances which have taken root in New York since Hurricane Sandy.

The business community made headlines with its reports and announcements over the Climate Summit week: a Global Investor Statement by nearly 350 global institutional investors representing over \$24 trillion in assets, calling for stable, reliable and economically meaningful carbon pricing and a phase-out of fossil fuels; the Carbon Tracker Initiative published a report for investors to measure their risk exposure and start directing capital away from high cost, high carbon projects; the new We Mean Business coalition released The Climate has Changed report; and iconic companies like Kellogg’s, Nestle, Apple, and IKEA and others released their own statements supporting climate change action.

CalPERS, the largest public pension fund in the U.S., pledged to measure and publicly disclose the carbon footprint of its \$300 billion investment portfolio, and the California State Teachers Retirement System announced that it will increase its clean energy and technology investments from \$1.4 billion to \$3.7 billion over the next five years. And according to a New York Times summary of business initiatives: “The major Indonesian palm oil processors, including Cargill, issued a separate declaration on Tuesday pledging a crackdown on deforestation, and asking the Indonesian government to adopt stronger laws. Forest Heroes, an environmental group, called the declaration “a watershed moment in the history of both Indonesia and global agriculture. We should not underestimate the significance of what is happening”.

And for an interesting, more neutral point of view: consider the special report Climate Protection as a World Citizen Movement, presented to the German Federal Government on the occasion of the UN Climate Summit in New York. The German Advisory Council on Global Change (WBGU) recommends a dual strategy for international climate policy: governments should negotiate the global phasing-out of fossil CO2 emissions at the Paris meetings in 2015, while civil society

initiatives, including those of trade unions and religious organizations, should be supported and encouraged.

LINKS:

“A Group Shout on Climate Change” Editorial in the New York Times (September 27) is at: http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/28/opinion/sunday/a-group-shout-on-climate-change.html?emc=edit_th_20140928&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=67440933&r=0. In contrast, see also “Moving Forward after the People’s Climate March” in Canadian Dimension at: <https://canadiandimension.com/articles/view/moving-forward-after-the-peoples-climate-march>

“At Least Some Unions Step Up for Big Climate March!” by Abby Scher in Truthout at: <http://www.truth-out.org/news/item/26137-at-least-some-unions-step-up-for-big-climate-march>, with a list of the unions who officially endorsed the People March at: <http://peoplesclimate.org/organizedlabor/>. See also the BlueGreen Alliance statement at: <http://www.bluegreenalliance.org/news/latest/members-of-labor-environmental-partnership-front-and-center-in-peoples-climate-march>

For Business documents, see Global Investor Statement is at: <http://investorsonclimatechange.org/>; Carbon Supply Cost Curves: Evaluating Financial Risk to Oil Capital Expenditures is at the Carbon Tracker Initiative at: <http://www.carbontracker.org/report/carbon-supply-cost-curves-evaluating-financial-risk-to-oil-capital-expenditures/>; We Mean Business website is at: <http://www.wemeanbusinesscoalition.org/>, with The Climate has Changed at: <http://www.wemeanbusinesscoalition.org/stories>. CalPERS statement is at: <http://www.calpers.ca.gov/index.jsp?bc=/about/newsroom/news/montreal-carbon-pledge.xml>; California Teachers Retirement System press release is at: <http://www.calstrs.com/news-release/calstrs-commits-increase-clean-energy-and-technology-investments>; “Companies take the Baton in Climate Change Efforts” in the New York Times at: http://mobile.nytimes.com/2014/09/24/business/energy-environment/passing-the-baton-in-climate-change-efforts.html?_r=3

Climate Protection as a World Citizen Movement by the German Advisory Council on Global Change is at: http://www.wbgu.de/fileadmin/templates/dateien/veroeffentlichungen/sondergutachten/sn2014/wbgu_sg2014_en.pdf

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Carbon Pricing, Carbon Tracker Initiative, Clean Energy Investment, Communication Workers of America, COP 20, Green Investment, Hurricane Sandy, New York, New York Climate Summit, Paris 2015, People's Climate March, Service Employees (SEIU) | Leave a reply**

Climate Change is the Theme of ILO World Day for Decent Work, and CLC Announces a Climate Change Week of Action

Posted on **October 29, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

According to the Director of the International Labour Organization (ILO), “To mark this year’s World Day for Decent Work, trade unions have chosen the theme of climate change, urging governments to move now to create prosperity for all on a sustainable planet”. “There is a growing consensus that climate change and decent work for all are the two defining challenges of the 21st century”. The Canadian Labour Congress also marked the day, and, referring to the Report of Canada’s Commissioner of the Environment, made this statement: “In keeping with the Climate Justice theme for World Day for Decent Work, the CLC used this report to invigorate the preparations for its planned national climate change week of action this December, set to coincide with the United Nations global climate change meeting (COP 20) in Lima, Peru, from December 1 to 12, 2014”.

LINKS:

ILO Director’s blog is at: <http://iloblog.org/2014/10/08/there-are-no-jobs-on-a-dead-planet/>

CLC announcement of Climate Change Week of Action is at: <http://www.canadianlabour.ca/news-room/statements/october-7-2014-world-day-decent-work>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Canadian Labour Congress (CLC)**, **COP 20**, **Good Jobs**, **ILO**, **International Labour Organization** | [Leave a reply](#)

Canada will miss 2020 Copenhagen Emissions Target, says Environment Commissioner

Posted on **October 29, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

The Report from the Canadian Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development states that, in addition to failing to develop a national framework, enact any legislation that targets climate change, or release long-awaited oil and gas regulations, Canada’s tar sands monitoring is inadequate, neglects cumulative impacts, and lacks a plan beyond next year. The tar sands are Canada’s fastest growing source of emissions. Commissioner Gelfand also highlighted uncertainty

surrounding which projects are subject to an environmental assessment and inadequate public and aboriginal consultation following the introduction of Bill-C45 in 2012, which profoundly altered environmental legislation in Canada. She also noted the dire need to improve planning in the Arctic, as shipping increases in the absence of updated navigation information or emergency response strategies.

Read the 2014 Fall Report of Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development at: http://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/parl_cesd_201410_e_39845.html (English), and http://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/Francais/parl_cesd_201410_f_39845.html (French). The Commissioner appeared before the House of Commons Standing Committee on the Environment and Sustainable Development to discuss her report on October 8; see the transcript at: <http://www.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?DocId=6723122&Language=e&Mode=1&Parl=41&Ses=2> (English), and <http://www.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?DocId=6723122&Mode=1&Parl=41&Ses=2&Language=F> (French). See “Highlights of the Environment Commissioner’s Fall Report” from the CBC at: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/highlights-of-environment-commissioner-s-fall-report-1.2790164>.

For reaction see “Commissioner’s report shows Canada must do more for environment” from the David Suzuki Foundation at: <http://www.davidsuzuki.org/blogs/science-matters/2014/10/commissioners-report-shows-canada-must-do-more-for-environment/>; “Treading Water on Climate Change: Sierra reacts to Environment Commissioner’s Report” from Sierra Club Canada at: <http://www.sierraclub.ca/en/report-fail>; and “No Overall Vision.” Scathing New Audit from Environment Commissioner Exposes Canada’s Utter Climate Failure” from Desmog Canada at: <http://www.desmog.ca/2014/10/07/no-overall-vision-scathing-new-audit-environment-commissioner-exposes-canada-s-utter-climate-failure>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Arctic Shipping, Bill C-45, Canadian Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development, Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, Copenhagen Summit, Emissions reduction targets, Oil and Gas Regulations, Oil Sands, Tar Sands** | [Leave a reply](#)

Ontario is the First Canadian Province to Issue Green Bonds

Posted on **October 29, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

In early October, Ontario’s sale of green bonds attracted orders of almost \$2.4 billion from investors around the world.

The funds will be used to finance clean transportation; energy efficiency and conservation; clean energy and technology; forestry, agriculture and land management; and climate adaption and resilience. Toronto’s Eglinton Crosstown LRT will be the first project to receive funding. Read the

news release from the Government of Ontario at: <http://news.ontario.ca/mof/en/2014/10/strong-demand-for-ontarios-first-green-bond.html>. See also “Ontario goes green with the latest bond sale” from the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions at: <http://pics.uvic.ca/news/news-scan/pics-climate-news-scan-september-25-2014#solutions>.

For an financial explanation of green bonds, see the TD Economics report Green Bonds: Victory Bonds for the Environment (November 2013), at:

http://www.td.com/document/PDF/economics/special/GreenBonds_Canada.pdf. According to a September report released by UNEP, World Bank and others, green bonds are on the rise worldwide and are “integral” to financing the global low-carbon transition. Read Financial Institutions Taking Action on Climate Change at: http://investorsonclimatechange.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/FinancialInstitutionsTakingActionOnClimateChange_Final.pdf.

Bloomberg estimates that the global green bond market will reach US\$40 billion by the end of the year, three times more than 2013.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Eglinton Crosstown LRT, Green Bonds, Green Finance, Low-Carbon Transition, Ontario** | [Leave a reply](#)

B.C. LNG Setor: New Legislation and a New Report

Posted on **October 29, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

In the week of October 20, British Columbia introduced the Greenhouse Gas Industrial Reporting and Control Act and the Liquefied Natural Gas Income Tax Act. The former requires liquefied natural gas plants to purchase carbon offsets and punishes those who fail to limit their carbon emissions to 0.16 tonnes per tonne of LNG – the strictest standards in the world, according to B.C. Environment Minister Mary Polak.

However, Merran Smith of Clean Energy Canada criticized the Act for focussing exclusively on port facilities, at the end of the supply chain. Matt Horne of the Pembina Institute asserted that 70% of the industry’s emissions would be released before reaching the ports. See “B.C.’s New LNG Emissions Regulations A Good Start, But Not Enough” from Desmog Canada at:

<http://www.desmog.ca/2014/10/22/bc-new-lng-emissions-regulations-good-start-but-not-enough>, and Pembina’s comments at: <http://www.pembina.org/media-release/pembina-reacts-to-tabling-of-bc-lng-carbon-pollution-legislation>.

The new tax legislation imposes a 3.5% rate on operating income, half the amount B.C. had initially planned. Read the government press release at:

<http://www.newsroom.gov.bc.ca/2014/10/bc-to-have-worlds-cleanest-lng-facilities.html>, and for details on the Act, see the government’s website at: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/topic.page?>

id=75BD4BF2B6B5493FB8A36DB05EBA764D. Jack Mintz, from the University of Calgary, states: “the B.C. shale gas royalty is one of the most distortionary systems developed in industrialized countries”.

For his financial and policy critique, see “Jack M. Mintz: Why B.C.’s LNG tax policy sets a bad precedent” in the Financial Post at: <http://business.financialpost.com/2014/10/22/jack-m-mintz-why-b-c-s-lng-tax-policy-helps-neither-the-province-nor-the-industry/>. For a broader view, see Marc Lee’s reaction in “A B.C. Framework for LNG, part 2: The LNG income tax” at Rabble.ca at: <http://rabble.ca/blogs/bloggers/policynote/2014/10/bc-framework-lng-part-2-lng-income-tax>.

And the last word: Pembina will release a new report on October 27th, LNG and Climate Change: The Global Context.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **BC LNG, Carbon Offsets, Emissions Regulations, Industry Taxation, Liquefied Natural Gas, LNG** | [Leave a reply](#)

Energy Efficiency in Canadian Industrial Sectors

Posted on **October 29, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

On October 16, the Council of Canadian Academies released a report commissioned by Industry Canada, based on a survey of more than 1,000 Canadian firms. It provides an overview of how Canadian businesses have adapted to rising and increasingly volatile energy prices. “The Panel focused on Canadian sectors that are particularly exposed to energy prices and therefore potentially vulnerable to changes: the energy intensive resource-based, manufacturing, and transport sectors; the capital intensive oil and gas, mining, and electric power sectors; and the transport equipment sector”.

59% of firms surveyed have invested in equipment to manage energy costs over the past few years; only 18% of surveyed firms had access to information that allowed them to benchmark their energy efficiency against their competitors (the Forest Products industry being one example of an industry that does benchmark).

The report was prepared by a 13-member expert panel, chaired by Fred Gorbet . See Energy Prices and Business Decision-Making in Canada: Preparing for the Energy Future at: <http://www.scienceadvice.ca/en/assessments/completed/energy-prices.aspx> (English), and <http://sciencepourlepublic.ca/fr/assessments/completed/energy-prices.aspx> (French), with an abridged English version (6 pages) at: http://www.scienceadvice.ca/uploads/eng/assessments%20and%20publications%20and%20news%20releases/energy_prices/energyprices_rif_en.pdf.

Cities Making Progress in the Fight against Climate Change

Posted on **October 29, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

A new global network, The Compact of Mayors, was announced at the New York Climate Summit in September, to expand city-level GHG reduction strategies; make existing targets and plans public; and make annual progress reports using a newly-standardized measurement system that is compatible with international practices. The new Compact will work with existing organizations and global networks of cities (C40, Cities Climate Leadership Group, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)). See a summary at:

<http://www.iclei.org/details/article/global-mayors-compact-shows-unity-and-ambition-to-tackle-climate-change-1.html>, read The Compact document at:

http://www.iclei.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ICLEI_WS/Documents/advocacy/Climate_Summit_2014/Compact_of_Mayors_Doc.pdf, or see the World Resources Institute blog at:

<http://www.wri.org/blog/2014/09/compact-mayors-cities-lead-tackling-climate-change-un-summit/>.

At their annual meeting on September 23, the B.C. Mayors Climate Leadership Council reviewed their accomplishments since the group was founded 5 years ago. Climate Action Plans have been established in 50% of municipalities in British Columbia, covering 75% of B.C.'s population. 31 local governments achieved carbon neutrality for their operations in 2012. See the press release at: <http://www.toolkit.bc.ca/News/BC-Municipalities-Marching-Ahead-Climate-Action>. For more information about action in cities across Canada, see the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Partners for Climate Protection latest National Measures Report at:

http://www.fcm.ca/Documents/reports/PCP/2014/PCP_National_Measures_Report_2013_EN.pdf (the PCP is part of the global ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability). See also Best Practices in Climate Resilience from Six North American Cities (from City of Toronto, June 2014) at:

<http://www1.toronto.ca/City%20Of%20Toronto/Environment%20and%20Energy/Programs%20for%20Businesses/Images/16-06-2014%20Best%20Practices%20in%20Climate%20Resilience.pdf>.

The Carbon Disclosure Project surveyed 207 cities worldwide in its new report, Protecting Our Capital: How Climate Adaptation In Cities Creates a Resilient Place for Business. The survey included the following Canadian cities: Vancouver, Victoria, Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatoon, Brandon, Winnipeg, Burlington, Hamilton, London, Toronto, and Montreal. The report attempts to identify the alignment of how companies and the cities in which they operate perceive climate-related risks. It finds most commonality in recognizing risks from increased temperatures and heatwaves, which have immediate impacts across the public and private sectors. It is assumed that cities that develop reasonable risk assessment and reduction strategies will be better

positioned to attract and retain business. See <https://www.cdp.net/CDPResults/CDP-global-cities-report-2014.pdf>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Adaptation, C40, Carbon Disclosure Project, Cities Climate Leadership Group, Climate Risk, Emissions reduction targets, Emissions Regulations, ICLEI, New York Climate Summit, Sustainability Measures, Urban Adaptations** | [Leave a reply](#)

Climate Compensation: Considering the Liability of Oil and Gas Companies on the Toronto Stock Exchange

Posted on **October 29, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

CLIMATE COMPENSATION: CONSIDERING THE LIABILITY OF OIL AND GAS COMPANIES ON THE TORONTO STOCK EXCHANGE

A report released on October 9 by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA) and West Coast Environmental Law considers the total potential liability of five oil and gas companies currently trading on the Toronto Stock Exchange—EnCanada, Suncor, Canadian Natural Resources, Talisman, and Husky. Informed by a discussion of the liability claims against the tobacco industry, the authors provide an overview of possible legal approaches to climate compensation, and conclude that those five TSX-listed companies alone could be incurring a global liability as high as \$2.4 billion per year for their contribution to climate change.

See *Payback Time? What the Internationalization of Climate Litigation Could Mean for Canadian Oil and Gas Companies* at the CCPA website at:

<https://www.policyalternatives.ca/publications/reports/payback-time>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA), Climate Risk, Liability, Toronto Stock Exchange, TSX, West Coast Environmental Law** | [Leave a reply](#)

New European Targets for Emission Reductions and Renewables

Posted on **October 29, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

On October 24, members of the European Union reached agreement on new emissions targets for 2030: 40% cuts to greenhouse gas emissions, 27% target for the renewable energy market share and, an optional target of 27% increase for energy efficiency improvement. The EU is holding up the agreement as a model for other countries in advance of the Paris climate talks of 2015, though like all politically-driven compromises, it has its critics. According to Greenpeace EU: “People across Europe want cleaner energy, but EU leaders are knocking the wind out of Europe’s booming renewables sector”, and from the European Green Party, “It is shameful that the council gave veto power against better goals to Poland on renewables, to France on interconnectors, and to the UK on efficiency. [...] We used to have a polluter-pays-principle; now we’ve gotten a polluter-vetos-principle”.

See The Guardian at: <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/oct/24/eu-leaders-agree-to-cut-greenhouse-gas-emissions-by-40-by-2030>; Statements and Reactions are found at: <http://www.euractiv.com/sections/eu-priorities-2020/eu-leaders-adopt-flexible-energy-and-climate-targets-2030-309462>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Emissions reduction targets, EU, European Union, Renewables** | **Leave a reply**

Union Should Embed Climate Change in their Core Agenda, says TUED Report

Posted on **October 3, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

Trade Unions for Energy Democracy is convening a 40-person strategy discussion on September 20 as part of the People’s Climate March activities in New York. The meeting will discuss “central political issues facing the global labor movement around energy, climate change, impacts of pollution, and the need to develop an inspiring vision of a truly sustainable political economy based on solidarity and sufficiency”.

To focus discussion, TUED has released a working paper, written by Sean Sweeney of the Cornell Global Labor Institute, taking stock of what he calls “the great inaction” – UN-led climate negotiations and labour’s participation in them. He advocates that “social dialogue and social partnership need to be replaced by a new trade union narrative around movement-building and alliances, coupled with a new agenda or program grounded in economic democracy and popular power”. He concludes: “Focusing on climate change as a distinct and separate issue is counterproductive. To connect with their own members unions will need to embed climate protection into the work they are presently doing to defend and promote workers’ rights, fight privatization, austerity, and defend public services...By integrating climate protection into their

present battles, unions can broaden the social base of support for what they presently regard to be their 'core agenda'. Furthermore, they can play a role in articulating a clear and inspiring alternative that mounts to a new ecological and economic development paradigm".

Sweeney cites Naomi Klein's speech at the founding convention of UNIFOR in September 2013 as a statement of a desirable approach. Ms. Klein will also speak at the TUED event about her new book, *This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs the Climate*.

LINKS:

Climate Change and the Great Inaction: New Trade Union Perspectives by Sean Sweeney is at: <http://unionsforenergydemocracy.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/TUED-working-paper-2-Final.pdf>

Agenda for the TUED meeting, Power to the People: A Strategy Discussion on Advancing Social Ownership of Energy is at: <http://unionsforenergydemocracy.org/tued-strategy-discussion-sept-20-draft-agenda>

Naomi Klein's website is at: <http://www.naomiklein.org/main>; see the book review of *This Changes Everything* in the *Globe and Mail* at: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/arts/books-and-media/book-reviews/naomi-kleins-this-changes-everything-a-convincing-case-that-global-warming-is-the-defining-issue-of-our-era/article20700657/>, and an excerpt at: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/arts/books-and-media/naomi-klein-the-price-of-free-trade-is-unchecked-climate-change/article20578823/>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Cornell Global Labor Institute, Labour Policy, Political Economy, Sean Sweeney, Trade Unions for Energy Democracy** | [Leave a reply](#)

Greening the Workplace: UK Unions Experience

Posted on **October 3, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

A July report from the Trades Union Congress (TUC), *The Union Effect: Greening the Workplace*, explores six U.K. case studies in which notable attempts were made to improve workplace environmental footprints, including a government department, a hospital, a port, and a financial services company. While some initiatives were instigated by management and achieved variable success rates, unions played key roles overall. In some cases, unions pro-actively worked for environmental change, for example by educating members directly or instigating campaigns.

In other cases, they supported initiatives by helping shape workplace behaviour and "staff culture", working closely with management, and adding staff input to the planning process. In general,

unions saw it as their role to lobby employers to view a green workplace as a long-term invest



tment. Unfortunately, the current reliance on voluntary commitments meant that environmental initiatives sometimes stalled or failed as enthusiasm waned. The report concludes that “the right for a recognised trade union to appoint union environmental reps could have a transformative effect”, and that there are three essential underpinnings to success: “sufficient time off for appropriate and relevant environmental training; sufficient time to carry out an energy and environmental audit with management; by agreement with management, the option to establish a joint environment forum”.

LINKS:

The Union Effect: Greening the Workplace is available at: <http://www.tuc.org.uk/economic-issues/social-issues/environment/climate-change/union-effect-greening-workplace>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Trades Union Congress (TUC)**, **Workplace greening** | [Leave a reply](#)

Energy Efficiency Investment Bring Jobs in US Scenario

Posted on **October 3, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

A new report by lead authors Robert Pollin and Heidi Garrett-Peltier proposes a new energy investment program for the U.S., requiring public and private investment of \$200 billion per year over the next 20 years, and focussing on energy efficiency and renewable energy.

“Green Growth: A U.S. Program for Controlling Climate Change and Expanding Job Opportunities” argues that the U.S. can cut its carbon pollution by 40% from 2005 levels and create a net increase of 2.7 million clean energy jobs, if policies and investment undergo “a transformational shift in how we construct, finance, and deploy our energy infrastructure”. The report provides estimates of fiscal impacts and job impacts. The authors cite four essential conditions for their

scenarios, one of which is “Regional equity and transitional support for communities and workers”, described as “allocating federal government clean energy investment spending equitably among all regions of the country, targeted community-adjustment assistance, extensive worker-training programs, and adjustment-assistance programs for fossil fuel workers. The national clean energy investment program can itself provide a critical base for generating new opportunities among workers and communities that are presently dependent on the fossil fuel industries”.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Climate Economics, Education and Training, Energy Investment, Green Growth, Green Job Creation, Green skilling** | [Leave a reply](#)

Energy Efficiency: Measuring the Multiple Benefits

Posted on **October 3, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

The International Energy Association (IEA) on September 9 released a guide aimed at policy makers, including assessment tools to measure the multiple benefits of energy efficiency. In addition to the customary benefits (reduced GHG emissions, energy savings, and improved energy security), the IEA also lists improved health and well-being, industrial productivity, increased employment, poverty alleviation, and improved local air pollution, among others. It argues that energy efficiency is now the “first fuel” rather than the “hidden fuel”.

Note that in the 2014 International Energy Efficiency Scorecard published by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) in July, Canada ranked 10th out of 16 countries; the U.S. ranked 13th, and Germany ranked #1.

LINKS:

Green Growth: A U.S. Program for Controlling Climate Change and Expanding Job Opportunities by Robert Pollin, Heidi Garrett-Peltier, James Heinz and Bracken Hendricks, released by the Center for American Progress (CAP), and the Political Economy Research Institute (PERI) is available at: <http://cdn.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/GreenGrowthReport.pdf>. Reaction is at: http://cdn.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/PERI_quotesheet9.18.pdf

Capturing the Multiple Benefits of Energy Efficiency is summarized at: <http://www.iea.org/newsroomandevents/pressreleases/2014/september/name-125300-en.html>, with an executive summary at: <http://www.iea.org/Textbase/npsum/MultipleBenefits2014SUM.pdf>

Press release for 2014 International Energy Efficiency Scorecard by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) is at: <http://www.aceee.org/press/2014/07/germany-italy-eu-china-and-france-to>

Business and Climate Change: Canada, US, and a new International Coalition

Posted on **October 3, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

Corporate Knights magazine released its 13th annual ranking of the best Corporate Citizens in Canada in June. Companies are ranked on 12 key performance indicators, including energy, carbon and water productivity, waste productivity, safety performance and employee turnover, and “clean capitalism pay link” (defined as: at least one senior executive’s compensation tied to clean capitalism-themed performance targets). A companion article, “The Sustainability Pay Link”, discusses the extent to which executive compensation is tied to ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) criteria, and the reasons why it is not as widespread as might be expected.

Also in June, U.S.- based Ceres released a 2014 edition of its ongoing series, Power Forward 2.0: How American Companies are Setting Clean Energy Targets and Capturing Greater Business Value. It reports that clean energy is becoming mainstream for U.S. corporations – with 60% of the Fortune 100 having goals for renewable energy or greenhouse gas reductions, resulting in a decrease in annual CO2 emissions of approximately 58.3 million metric tons. The report also chronicles the evolving business practices, financial tools, and policy developments, including case studies and profiles. For example, it includes a note about the compensation policy at Clorox, which awards its CEO a bonus for meeting corporate environmental goals.

In the lead-up to the U.N. Climate Summit in New York, a new coalition of business and climate organizations is being launched. The founding partners of “We Mean Business” are: BSR, the B Team, CDP, Ceres, The Climate Group, the Prince of Wales’s Corporate Leaders Group (CLG) and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD). Their mission statement says: “we are calling for national and international policies that will continue to scale-up clean energy and energy efficiency, unleash low carbon innovation and send the right price signals to drive investment in clean technologies”.

LINKS:

Corporate Knights’ Canada’s Best Corporate Citizens is at:
<http://www.corporateknights.com/report/2014-best-corporate-citizens-canada>, with details of the performance criteria at: <http://www.corporateknights.com/report/2014-best-corporate-citizens-canada/methodology>. “The Sustainability Pay Link” is at:
<http://www.corporateknights.com/article/sustainability-pay-link>

Power Forward 2.0: How American Companies are Setting Clean Energy Targets and Capturing Greater Business Value is at: <http://www.ceres.org/resources/reports/power-forward-2.0-how-american-companies-are-setting-clean-energy-targets-and-capturing-greater-business-value/view> (free registration required)

We Mean Business website is at: <http://www.wemeanbusinesscoalition.org/>

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [Leave a reply](#)

Architects Commit to Build Zero Emissions World by 2050

Posted on **October 3, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

In early August, at the International Union of Architects (UIA) World Congress, architects from around the world signed the “2050 Imperative”, committing them to eliminating emissions in the built environment by 2050.

UIA member organizations alone represent 1.3 million architects in 124 countries. From Canada, the declaration was signed by The Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC). From the text: “We recognize our responsibility to seize this unique opportunity to influence ethical, socially responsible development throughout the world: to plan and design sustainable, resilient, carbon - neutral and healthy built environments that protect and enhance natural resources and wildlife habitats, provide clean air and water, generate on-site renewable energy, and advance more livable buildings and communities”.

LINKS:

The 2050 Imperative and the media advisory from Architecture 2030 are available at:

http://architecture2030.org/news/uia_declaration_081414.html. The 6-page declaration is at:

http://www.architecture2030.org/downloads/uia_declaration_full.pdf

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | Tagged [2050 Imperative](#), [Architecture](#), [International Union of Architects \(UIA\)](#), [Royal Architectural Institute of Canada \(RAIC\)](#), [Urban Emissions](#) | [Leave a reply](#)

Provincial Updates, including the Premiers Agreement on a National Energy Plan

Posted on **October 3, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

As the annual Premiers conference ended on August 29, Canada's premiers announced a reinvigorated Canadian Energy Strategy (CES), a shared vision and set of principles emphasizing environmental responsibility, a diversified, climate-friendly energy and clean technology sector, and a robust, lower-carbon economy utilizing carbon pricing.

A driving force at the Premiers Conference may have come from Ontario Premiers Kathleen Wynne and Quebec Premier Philippe Couillard, who had agreed to revive the Ontario-Québec partnership at a bilateral meeting one week earlier. The central Canadian bloc will increase economic and energy integration between the provinces and advocate for national progress on climate change.

Reaction to the Energy Strategy announcement from Keith Stewart of Greenpeace provides historical context to the Premiers' meetings, and laments the failure of the federal government to contribute meaningfully to the development of a coherent, effective national approach.

Yet Canadian provinces have made uneven progress on their climate action plans, according to monitoring reports released over the summer. In Alberta, the Auditor General's report stated that the province lacked a plan to meet its goals. British Columbia has achieved its first interim target of a 6% emissions reduction below 2007 levels by 2012, largely due to government policies, including its well-regarded carbon tax. The Ontario Environment Commissioner reported that Ontario will meet its 2014 target (a 6% reduction in emissions below 1990 levels) largely because of the shutdown of the province's coal plants, but it will miss the 2020 target because so little else has been done. In New Brunswick, the Climate Action Plan 2014-2020 document reports that New Brunswick's GHG emissions declined by 17 per cent between 2005 and 2010, thus meeting its goals for 2012. A new plan establishes provincial GHG emissions reduction targets of 10 per cent below 1990 levels by 2020 and 75 to 85 per cent below 2001 levels by 2050.

LINKS:

The Canadian Energy Strategy and premiers' news release are available at:

<http://www.canadaspremiers.ca/en/latest-news/74-2014/398-canadian-energy-strategy>

The Ontario news release on partnering with Québec is available at:

http://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2014/08/quebec-and-ontario-partner-to-strengthen-central-canadas-economy.html?utm_source=ondemand-multimedia&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=p

Comments from Keith Stewart of Greenpeace are available at:

<http://www.greenpeace.org/canada/en/Blog/provinces-leave-harper-increasingly-alone/blog/50444/>

A Letter to the *Ottawa Citizen* by Mark Winfield and Pierre Olivier Pineau provides insight into Ontario's and Quebec's electricity markets at: <http://marksw.blog.yorku.ca/2014/06/11/ontario-quebec-electricity-and-climate-change-time-for-a-new-relationship/>

For a summary of the energy-related policies in Ontario's July 2014 Budget statement, including the Industrial Electricity Incentive program to promote job creation, see the Gowlings Newsletter at: <http://www.gowlings.com/KnowledgeCentre/article.asp?pubID=3675>

Alberta Auditor General's report is at:

<http://www.oag.ab.ca/webfiles/reports/AGJuly2014Report.pdf>, with a Pembina Institute analysis at:
<http://www.pembina.org/blog/auditor-generals-scathing-review-puts-pressure-to-improve-albertas-weak-climate-policy>

Ontario's Environmental Commissioner's report, *Looking for Leadership: the Costs of Climate Inaction* is at: http://www.eco.on.ca/index.php/en_US/pubs/greenhouse-gas-reports/2014-ghg-looking-for-leadership

In British Columbia, *Climate Action in British Columbia Progress Report 2014* is at:
<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cas/pdfs/2014-Progress-to-Targets.pdf>.

The Pembina reaction to the report is generally positive at: <http://www.pembina.org/blog/bc-climate-action-plan-2>

New Brunswick released its *Progress Report for 2012-2013* at:
<http://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/env/pdf/Climate-Climatiques/ClimateChangeProgressReportSummary2012-2013.pdf>, followed by a new *Climate Change Action Plan 2014 to 2020* (April 2014) at:
<http://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/env/pdf/Climate-Climatiques/ClimateChangeActionPlan2014-2020.pdf>. Energy and fracking are dominant issues in the provincial election, held on September 22. See CBC at: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/new-brunswick-votes-2014/new-brunswick-election-voters-challenged-to-choose-on-resources-jobs-1.2739029> and <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/new-brunswick-votes-2014/brian-gallant-defends-stance-on-natural-resource-jobs-1.2748023>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Canadian Emissions, Canadian Energy Strategy, Canadian Premiers Conference, Carbon Pricing, Kathleen Wynne, Low-Carbon Economics, Philippe Couillard** | [Leave a reply](#)

Clean Energy From Canadian Perspective: a Call for Renewable Policies in Canada and a Global Review

Posted on **October 3, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

"A New National Prize: Making Clean Energy the Next Oil Sands" by Clare Demerse and Dan Woynillowicz appears in the September/October issue of *Policy* magazine. The article distills the findings of the UN-backed study, *Pathways to Deep Decarbonization*, in which research teams

from 15 countries, including Canada, proposed strategies for national energy reform that will allow us to limit global temperature rise to below 2 degrees.

The report of the U.N.-based Pathways project was presented to the Secretary General in July, to support the UN Climate Summit in September. The press release and details of the Pathways project is at: <http://unsdsn.org/news/2014/07/08/ddpp-press-release/>.

The Demerse/Woynillowicz article summarizes the overall findings and focuses on the Canadian findings, including that by 2050, wind and solar sources could comprise 27% of Canadian electricity generation, up from 2% today. The article concludes by proposing two simple policy changes to kick off a stronger commitment to clean energy in Canada: more favourable tax treatment for power storage and solar technologies, and consumer incentives for electric vehicles. See “A New National Prize” at: <http://policymagazine.ca/pdf/9/PolicyMagazineSeptember-October-14-DemerseWoynillowicz.pdf>.

Citing the “wave of hope” generated by the People’s Climate March, on Sept



ember 21, Clean Energy Canada released its first-ever annual review, called *Tracking the Energy Revolution: Global Edition* at: <http://cleanenergycanada.org/2014/09/21/tracking-energy-revolution-builds-surg-ing-wave-hope/>. With maps, photos and infographics, it is loaded with statistics that reveal the extent of the global shift to renewable energy by governments and businesses.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Canadian Energy Mix, Canadian National Energy Plan, Canadian Renewable Energy Sector, Clean Energy, Clean Energy Canada, Decarbonization, Electric Vehicles, Policy Magazine, Tax Incentives, United Nations** | [Leave a reply](#)

Nova Scotia Bans Onshore Fracking; Explores Energy Options

Posted on **October 3, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

Following a two-year moratorium and the release of the report of a 10-person expert panel chaired by Cape Breton University president David Wheeler, Nova Scotia announced its decision to prohibit onshore high-volume fracking on September 3rd. The ban does not include less risky onshore extraction methods or offshore high-volume fracking.

Nova Scotia's offshore oil and gas reserves are significantly larger and have already attracted \$2 billion in investments and proposals to build three LNG plants. The South Canoe wind project, currently under construction, and a tidal turbine to be built next year will further buttress the province's energy resources.

Consultations with the public and Mi'kmaq communities revealed a strong mistrust of fracking. See the website of the Hydraulic Fracturing Review at: <http://www.cbu.ca/hfstudy>, with links to submissions, studies and press coverage. See also "High-volume fracking to be banned in Nova Scotia" available at the CBC at: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/high-volume-fracking-to-be-banned-in-nova-scotia-1.2754439>.

On the heels of the announcement, a study released by the US National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health found that some fracking workers are exposed to unsafe volumes of benzene when inspecting storage tanks. "Evaluation of Some Potential Chemical Exposure Risks During Flowback Operations in Unconventional Oil and Gas Extraction: Preliminary Results" is available at: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/VBDknKOUras#.VBySDmOln4U>, summarized in the Los Angeles Times at: <http://www.latimes.com/science/sciencenow/la-sci-sn-fracking-benzene-worker-health-20140910-story.html#page=1>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Community benefits, Fracking, Fracking Moratorium, LNG, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Nova Scotia, Occupational Health and Safety, South Canoe wind project, Tidal Turbine, Wheeler Report** | [Leave a reply](#)

Tsilhqot'in Landmark Decision with Implications for Resource Developments in Canada

Posted on **October 3, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

The decision by the Supreme Court of Canada to grant British Columbia's Tsilhqot'in nation title over a portion of their ancestral lands marks the first time Aboriginal title has been formally recognized in Canada. Gowlings law firm calls it "one of the most significant Aboriginal law cases in Canadian history" and a blog at West Coast Environmental Law calls the decision "a watershed moment".

Notably, the decision clarifies the test for whether an indigenous group has title over an area, including such criterion as occupation prior to the Crown assertion of sovereignty and continuous

occupation since. In particular, the case established that “nomadic or semi-nomadic” land use, such as that of the Tsilhqot’in, does not preclude title.

It also offers some explanation about what legal rights and responsibilities title entails, such as decision-making power over how the land will be used, the right to derive economic benefits from the land and to use and manage it. Yet considerable uncertainty remains about resource extraction or other projects espoused by the government. The decision stops short of requiring consent, but recommends seeking consent from title-holders prior to project approval.

The West Coast Environmental Law blog offers an analysis of the text of the decision and how it may impact pipeline development in B.C. See the Supreme Court decision at: <http://scc-csc.lexum.com/scc-csc/scc-csc/en/item/14246/index.do>; subsequently, the B.C. government announced a letter of agreement with the Tsilhqot’in in a press release at: <http://www.newsroom.gov.bc.ca/2014/09/tsilhqotin-bc-sign-historic-letter-of-understanding-set-the-stage-for-lasting-reconciliation.html>.

See also: “Supreme Court of Canada grants Tsilhqot’in Aboriginal title claim” summary from Gowlings Law Firm available at: <http://www.gowlings.com/KnowledgeCentre/article.asp?pubID=3399>

and “Tsilhqot’in Nation v. British Columbia: Implications for the Enbridge Tankers and Pipelines Project” from West Coast Environmental Law is available at: <http://wcel.org/resources/environmental-law-alert/tsilhqotin-nation-v-british-columbia-implications-enbridge-tankers>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Aboriginal Law, Aboriginal Title, Indigenous Peoples, Supreme Court of Canada (SCC), Tsilhqot’in Decision** | [Leave a reply](#)

An Update on Canadian Climate Change

Posted on **October 3, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

At the end of June, Natural Resources Canada released the latest in its climate change assessment reports, updating the 2008 version. *Canada in a Changing Climate: Sector Perspectives on Impacts and Adaptation* synthesized over 1500 publications since 2007, and includes chapters on natural resources, food production, industry, biodiversity and protected areas, human health, and water and transportation infrastructure.

Editors of the compilation are F.J. Warren and D.S. Lemmen of the Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Division of Natural Resources Canada; over 90 authors and 115 expert reviewers contributed to the document. See <http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/environment/resources/publications/impacts-adaptation/reports/assessments/2014/16309> for the 2014, 2008, and 2004 assessment reports.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Canada, Climate Economics, Committee on Natural Resources (Canada) Pipeline** | [Leave a reply](#)

Canadian Food Industry Targets Waste Reduction

Posted on **October 3, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

A new report on waste in Canada's food industry calls for a collaborative, coordinated approach that includes businesses and consumers to reduce waste. An estimated 30-40% of all the food produced in Canada is wasted.

The report asserts that because businesses tend to focus narrowly on the waste of food products, it overlooks the waste of energy, water, labour, and productive capacity. Where efforts are made to reduce food waste, they tend to emphasize waste diversion, particularly recycling. Far more effective is waste reduction, which eliminates waste diversion costs before they arise.

Although consumers are the greatest source of food waste, the report states that one of the main barriers to preventing food waste at source were the attitudes and behaviour of management and staff. *Developing an Industry Led Approach to Addressing Food Waste in Canada* was commissioned by Provision Coalition (a national association of food and beverage manufacturers), and written by Provision Coalition, Network for Business Sustainability at the Ivey School of Business, and Value Chain Management Centre. See a summary at:

<http://www.provisioncoalition.com/blog/blogdetail/Industry%20Collaboration%20Needed%20To%20Tackle%20Food%20Waste%20Challenge%20in%20Canada>. The full report is at: <http://www.provisioncoalition.com/assets/website/pdfs/Provision-Addressing-Food-Waste-In-Canada-EN.pdf>.

For a recent article on the "food waste hierarchy" and the growing international concern about food waste, see the Food Climate Research Network at: <http://www.fcrn.org.uk/research-library/waste-and-resource-use/food-waste/food-waste-hierarchy-framework-managing-food-surp>. The authors argue for a distinction between food surplus and food waste, and advocate a hierarchy of action, beginning with prevention, followed by re-use, recycle, recovery and finally, disposal.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Food and Agriculture, Food Wastage, Sustainable Food System** | [Leave a reply](#)

Need for Energy Efficiency will Transform Manufacturing

Posted on **October 3, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

A report released on July 30 by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) describes the components of “smart manufacturing” – networked devices, predictive and anticipatory software, culminating in an integrated, cloud-based, open-access smart manufacturing platform which “in a few decades will transform the industrial sector and fundamentally alter the way products are manufactured”.

See *The Energy Savings of Smart Manufacturing* at: <http://aceee.org/research-report/ie1403>.

See also the July 4 white paper *Smart Freight: Applications of Information and Communications Technologies to Freight System Efficiency*, which describes and provides examples of companies using new, more sophisticated information and communications technology (ICT). Although examples are given of new systems of electronic monitoring of truck drivers, the majority of the report describes sophisticated logistics innovations. The report is at: <http://aceee.org/files/pdf/white-paper/smart-freight-ict.pdf>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, energy efficiency** | **Leave a reply**

People’s Climate March Under the Eyes of the World

Posted on **October 3, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

The Climate Leadership Summit convened by U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in New York City on September 23 has created a flurry of reports and statements, some of which are summarized below. Most world leaders are expected at the Summit, with the notable exceptions of the leaders of China, India, and Canada – which will be represented by Environment Minister Leona Aglukkaq. See the official U.N. website at: <http://www.un.org/climatechange/summit>. Oxfam International has published *The Summit that Snoozed*, which calls for government action at the meeting and provides a checklist/toolkit for sorting out promises from greenwash at: http://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/file_attachments/bkm_climate_summit_media_brief_sept19.pdf.

On September 21, the People’s Climate March, organized by 350.org and Avaaz, brought together people from diverse social movements from across the globe to demonstrate the size and diversity of the support for urgent climate action. In New York, Avaaz presented a petition containing 2.1 million signatures. Donald Lafleur, Executive Vice-President of the Canadian Labour Congress marched – as did an estimated 311,000 other people, including U.N. Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, Al Gore, New York mayor Bill de Blasio, Ontario Environment Minister Glen Murray as well as Bill McKibben and Naomi Klein. According to the *New York Times* coverage at: http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/22/nyregion/new-york-city-climate-change-march.html?ref=todayspaper&_r=0, “the People’s Climate March was a spectacle even for a city known for doing things big”... and it was only one demonstration of hundreds across the globe. The official

March website is at: <http://peoplesclimate.org/>; see also the *Toronto Star* coverage, which reported 3000 demonstrators including leaders from the Sierra Club, Toronto 350, and Quebec-based Equiterre, at:

http://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2014/09/21/3000_join_climate_march_at_nathan_phillips_square.html;

CBC Vancouver estimated a crowd of 1000 for that city at: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/un-climate-summit-vancouver-joins-thousands-in-worldwide-rallies-1.2773535>, see the CTV video from Calgary for a taste of the demonstration there at:

<http://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/canadians-join-global-climate-protest-in-nyc-1.2017167#>, and the *Montreal Gazette* at:

<http://www.montrealgazette.com/technology/Montrealers+march+back+climate+summit/10223004/story.html>.

See Britain's *The Guardian* for a world-wide report, with photos, at:

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/sep/21/sp-climate-change-protest-melbourne-london-new-york-protest>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **350.org**, **Avaaz**, **Ban Ki-Moon**, **International Climate Summit**, **New York**, **People's Climate March**, **Protests & Rallies**, **United Nations** | **Leave a reply**

No Contradiction Between Climate Progress and Economic Growth

Posted on **October 3, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

In September 2014, with the U.N. Summit on the horizon, the Global Commission on the Climate and the Economy released a consultation document, *Better Growth, Better Climate*, which culminates in a 10-point plan of key recommendations, aimed at the international community of economic decision-makers.

According to *The Guardian* newspaper, this report is the most significant intervention in climate politics for Lord Nicholas Stern since his 2006 report. "The report from the international commission concludes that making progress on the climate would not come at the expense of the global economy, but that there will have to be a sharp shift away from carbon-intensive fossil fuels if the world is going to avoid the worst impact of a changing climate". See reaction at The Guardian at: <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/sep/16/barack-obama-report-economy-grow-fight-climate-change-un-summit?CMP=EMCENVEM1631>.

The Toronto *Globe and Mail* reaction honed in on the implications for Canada's oil and gas industry of the report's call for higher carbon pricing and the elimination of fossil fuel subsidies – see <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/industry-news/energy-and-resources/oil-reliant-firms-at-risk-report/article20607843/#dashboard/follows/>. Paul Krugman wrote an OpEd in *New York Times* on Sept.18 at: <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/19/opinion/paul-krugman-could-fighting-global-warming-be-cheap-and-free.html>.

The Global Commission on the Climate and the Economy was commissioned in 2013 by seven countries, with its programme of work conducted by eight research institutes, led by Washington-based World Resources Institute. The Commission is chaired by former President of Mexico Felipe Calderón, and includes Nicholas Stern amongst its other prominent members. Read *Better Growth, Better Climate: the Synthesis Report* at: <http://static.newclimateeconomy.report/TheNewClimateEconomyReport.pdf>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Climate Economics, Cornell Global Labor Institute, Nicholas Stern, World Resources Institute** | [Leave a reply](#)

Statements of European Policies for a Green Economy

Posted on **October 3, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

In early July, the European Commission adopted the Green Employment Initiative Communication, a labour market and skills policy framework document which advocates developing labour skills and improving forecasting of which skills will be needed, anticipating sectoral change and promoting worker mobility, supporting job creation by shifting taxation from labour to pollution, and increasing transparency and data quality to better monitor changes to the labour market. See the European Commission press release is at: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-765_en.htm; for more specifics see the FAQ's re the Green Employment Initiative Communication at: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-14-446_en.htm.

Much of the theory behind the policy framework is reiterated and elaborated in the European Environment Agency (EEA) report *Resource-efficient Green Economy and EU Policy*, released on July 15th. Noting that change is coming too slowly, it states: "what is required is a much bigger, deeper, and more permanent change in the EU economy and society to create both new opportunities and substitution processes across the economic structure". The report then emphasizes the importance of strong fiscal reforms to support the green transition, including environmental taxation, emissions-trading, and phasing out subsidies to harmful industries, but notes that keeping the EU competitive will take delicate balance. The EEA report also underscores the need for eco-innovation and reducing barriers to adoption and diffusion through the free circulation of green knowledge, greater financial resources. See *Resource-efficient Green Economy and EU Policy* at: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/resourceefficient-green-economy-and-eu>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **European Commission, Green Employment Initiative, Green Job Creation, Green skilling, Just Transition, Labour Policy, Low-Carbon Transition, Skilled Workers** | [Leave a reply](#)

...From the World Bank

Posted on **October 3, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

Released in June, a World Bank report presents “simulated case studies” of Brazil, China, India, Mexico, the United States and the European Union. It examines the benefits of implementing three sets of policies on clean transportation, energy efficiency in industry, and energy efficiency in buildings. The report introduces a new macroeconomic modeling framework that can incorporate socioeconomic benefits such as public health and environmental externalities. See *Climate-Smart Development: Adding Up the Benefits of Actions that Help Build Prosperity, End Poverty and Combat Climate Change* at: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2014/06/23/study-adds-up-benefits-climate-smart-development-lives-jobs-gdp>. The World Bank has also praised British Columbia, along with Sweden, California, and even China for their carbon pricing initiatives in “What does Carbon Pricing Success Look Like? (September 18) at: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2014/09/18/what-does-carbon-pricing-success-look-like-ask-the-leaders>, along with a June 3 2014 Statement, *Putting a Price on Carbon*, at: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/pricing-carbon>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Carbon Pricing, Climate Economics, Climate Policy, Externality, World Bank** | [Leave a reply](#)

IMF Calls for Higher Taxes on Fossil Fuels Around the World, including Canada

Posted on **October 3, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

Getting Energy Prices Right: From Principle to Practice “green-shift” tax analysis calculates the cost of carbon energy – including health effects of pollution – in 156 countries, and proposes precise levels of taxation: higher levels on fossil fuels, and lower levels on people and capital. Their prescription is gradual tax increases which would be balanced by decreases to income taxes – for Canada, the tax increases average out to about 52% on gasoline and diesel.

Canadian Finance Minister Joe Oliver rejected the proposals, according to a report at the CBC website at: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/business/imf-calls-for-green-shift-with-52-gas-tax-hike-in>

canada-1.2724294. See also the *Globe and Mail* article at:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/industry-news/energy-and-resources/imf-calls-on-canada-to-raise-carbon-taxes-cut-income-taxes/article19872600/>.

The full report is available for purchase (\$28) at: <http://www.imfbookstore.org/ProdDetails.asp?ID=9781484388570>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Carbon Tax, External Cost, International Monetary Fund (IMF)** | [Leave a reply](#)

Leaked IPCC Updates

Posted on **October 3, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

In June, the European Trade Union Institute (ETUI) released a 20-page guide which summarizes the most pertinent findings relating to workers and employment in the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. *Climate Change: Implications for Employment* is available from <http://www.etui.org/Publications2/Guides/Climate-change-Implications-for-employment>.

In late August, news media obtained a leaked version of the IPCC draft Synthesis Report of the AR5, scheduled for official release in November. While the facts are unchanged from the three reports it summarizes, the tone was reported to be blunter and more “stark”. See Bloomberg News at: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-08-26/irreversible-damage-seen-from-climate-change-in-un-leak.html> or the *New York Times* at: http://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/27/science/earth/greenhouse-gas-emissions-are-growing-and-growing-more-dangerous-draft-of-un-report-says.html?ref=science&_r=4.

The leaked draft emphasizes the need for urgent action – a point also made by in the July 31 report from the U.S. Council of Economic Advisors. See *The Cost of Delaying Action to Stem Climate Change* at: http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/the_cost_of_delaying_action_to_stem_climate_change.pdf.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Climate Economics, European Trade Union Institute (ETUI), IPCC** | [Leave a reply](#)

China Announces Coal Restrictions and a National Carbon Market to Begin in 2016

Posted on **October 3, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

The Chinese government has shown new muscle in its efforts to rein in its enormous GHG emissions. China's planning agency, the National Development and Reform Commission, issued a directive banning the sale or import of coal with 40 per cent or more ash content and 3 per cent or more sulphur content, with tighter restrictions (ash content limits at 16 per cent and sulphur at 1 per cent) in major economic hubs, including Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou.

Australians, whose coal industry could be adversely affected, see this as a move to protect the Chinese coal mining industry, according to the *Sydney Morning Herald* at: <http://www.smh.com.au/business/china-coal-ban-to-rescue-domestic-mines-20140917-10ibcl.html>. See also a *Wall Street Journal* report at: <http://online.wsj.com/articles/china-coal-ban-highly-polluting-types-banned-starting-in-2015-1410852013>.

In September, China also announced that it plans to launch a national carbon market in only two years, in 2016. See the *New York Times* announcement at: <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/01/business/international/china-plans-a-market-for-carbon-permits.html>, a brief summary by the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development at: <http://www.ictsd.org/bridges-news/bridges/news/china-unveils-plans-for-national-carbon-market-by-2016> or a detailed analysis by Caron Brief at: <http://www.carbonbrief.org/blog/2014/09/analysing-china-carbon-market/>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Australia, China, Coal, Emissions Regulations** | **Leave a reply**

Information and Communications Technologies as a Path to Sustainable Infrastructure and Systems

Posted on **June 28, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

On June 17th , the Council of Canadian Academies released the report of its Expert Panel on the Potential for New and Innovative Uses of Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) for Greening Canada. The multidisciplinary panel of experts was chaired by David Miller, President and CEO of WWF-Canada. The report discusses interconnected ICT opportunities which can achieve environmental, economic, and social benefits for Canada, and organizes these opportunities in six key thematic areas: “environmental monitoring; smart interconnected utilities; smart interconnected buildings and neighbourhoods; smart interconnected mobility; smart interconnected production; and healthy people and healthy communities”. It also states that Canada is well positioned to be a leader in green data centres, because of our cooler climate and relatively clean electricity supply. Regarding our human capital capabilities to achieve ICT innovation, the report states that they “are difficult to assess”, and that skills gaps are likely to occur on both the demand and supply sides. Increased computer literacy training will be required from elementary to post-graduate levels.

LINKS:

Enabling Sustainability in an Interconnected World is at the Council of Canadian Academies website at <http://www.scienceadvice.ca/uploads/eng/assessments%20and%20publications...> (224 pages). The Backgrounder, with links to summaries, is at <http://www.scienceadvice.ca/en/assessments/completed/greenict.aspx> .

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Communications Technology, David Miller, Green Infrastructure, Information Technology, World Wildlife Fund (WWF), WWF** | [Leave a reply](#)

Proposed Pipelines would Bring Miniscule Benefits to Quebec; Moratorium Urged for Oil Exploration in the Gulf of St.Lawrence

Posted on **June 28, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

A report dated January 2014 but only released on June 2 examines the claims of economic benefits and job creation for Quebec if tar sands are transported and refined in Quebec. It concludes that Quebec will receive “miniscule” benefits but will bear almost all of the risk and cost of spills and other environmental impacts. Even if all the proposed projects (Line 9B, Energy East and a Suncor coker plant) were approved, the report estimates the economic contribution related to operating activities for the entire crude oil sector would likely remain at about 0.50% (or less) of the total economy and 0.30% (or less) of total jobs. This report was prepared by the consultants at the Goodman Group, in collaboration with Équiterre and Greenpeace Canada.

A report by the St. Lawrence Coalition looks at the issue of the exploration for and exploitation of oil in the Gulf of the St. Lawrence River, and the impacts on the five provinces which border it: Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, PEI, and Newfoundland. The report describes the environmental impacts, and also includes a section dealing with socioeconomic impacts such as job creation, wealth distribution, and how oil-related activity can coexist with the existing fisheries industry and with the First Nations. Because of the current gaps in knowledge, the report calls on the precautionary principle and recommends a moratorium on development to allow “a vast public consultation as part of an ad hoc public review ... , which would involve the coastal communities of the five Gulf provinces when it comes to decide whether or not the Gulf should be opened to the oil and gas industry.” The authors of this report are employed at the David Suzuki Foundation, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) Quebec, Nature Québec, and Attention Fragiles.

LINKS:

Economics of Transporting and Processing Tar Sands Crudes in Quebec is available at <http://www.greenpeace.org/canada/Global/canada/report/2014/06/Goodman%20report.pdf>
Gulf 101: Oil in the Gulf of St. Lawrence: Facts, Myths, and Future Outlook by the St. Lawrence Coalition is at http://www.coalitionsaintlaurent.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/DSF_Golfe_101_English_June_4_2014_V2.pdf (English version) and http://www.coalitionsaintlaurent.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/DSF_Golfe_101_Francais_June_4_2014.pdf (French version).

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Canadian Oil Refineries, Energy East, Equiterre, Greenpeace Canada, Gulf of St.Lawrence, Line 9B, Montreal Refineries, Quebec, St.Lawrence Coalition** | [Leave a reply](#)

Canadian Forestry Industry Rebrands Itself as Innovative and Green

Posted on **June 28, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

Canada's forestry companies, through their organization the Forest Products Association of Canada (FPAC), recently released two “report cards” to measure their progress towards their Vision 2020 goals for productivity, environmental performance, and people . Regarding people, their Pathways to Prosperity report states: “the sector recruited 8,000 workers in the period 2010 to 2012, mainly to replace retiring baby-boomers.” The environmental performance measures get far more attention: “

In 2010-2012, the reduction in waste to landfill was 31%, with 98% of wood residue now being used for either energy generation or composting. More than 66% of mills' waste water sediment is being used for either energy generation, composting or land application. The recycling rate also

improved by another 4%. Canada has one of the highest recovery rates of waste paper and packaging in the world at 73% ... Energy use decreased by 8%. For example, the sector continued to invest in energy reduction projects including the installation of energy-efficient equipment to improve mills' competitiveness and increase the production of green energy. This has also served to improve the quality of air emissions with a reduction in particulate matter (PM) (11%), sulphur oxide (SOx) (6%) and nitrous oxide (NOx) (11%)” .

The Productivity Scorecard report is based on a detailed analysis by the Centre for the Study of Living Standards (CSLS). That study documents the trends in the labour force and in labour productivity, and concludes that the driving force behind rapid labour productivity growth in the forest products industry is multifactor productivity growth, made possible by investment in change and innovation. The report describes the two major initiatives: Future Bio-pathways Project (begun in 2010), and Construction Value Pathways (begun in 2013). The report recommends renewed focus on human and physical capital investment, as well as on R&D spending.

To rebrand the industry and attract a new generation of workers to the sector, FPAC launched The Greenest Workforce.ca website. The website states: “The industry’s traditional products like pulp, paper and lumber are fundamental to the success of new products like renewable bio-fuels, green bio-plastics, bio-pharmaceuticals, bulletproof vests, car parts and airplane wings which are part of the dynamic new face of the Canadian forest products industry.” Using videos and Twitter, the site includes job postings, job profiles, descriptions of the industry and career prospects.

Unifor, which represents more than 21,000 forestry workers, and just completed bargaining for a pattern agreement with Resolute Forest Products, agrees that the industry is in transition. In a President’s Statement of June 8, Jerry Diaz calls for the reinstatement of a Forestry Industry Council with “a specific mandate to investigate and make public recommendations for a strengthened high-value forestry industry.”

LINKS:

Vision2020 Pathways to Prosperity (June 17) is at

<http://www.fpac.ca/index.php/en/page/vision2020>

Productivity Report Card summary (May 2014) is at [http://www.fpac.ca/publications/14-FPAC-](http://www.fpac.ca/publications/14-FPAC-0349-ProductivityReportDesign2014-EN-Rev5.pdf)

[0349-ProductivityReportDesign2014-EN-Rev5.pdf](http://www.fpac.ca/publications/14-FPAC-0349-ProductivityReportDesign2014-EN-Rev5.pdf) with the detailed analysis prepared by the

Centre for the Study of Living standards (CSLS) at <http://www.csls.ca/reports/csls2014-01.pdf> .

Greenest Workforce.ca is at <http://www.thegreenestworkforce.ca/index.php/en/>

Unifor Statement is at <http://www.unifor.org/en/blog/new-resolute-collective-agreements-covering-2000-workers>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Forest Products Associaton of Canada (FPAC), Forestry Industry, Green Innovation, Recycling, Resolute Forest Products, Sustainable Forestry, Unifor** | [Leave a reply](#)

Canada Ranks #1 Outside the U.S. for LEED Projects; A New Guide for Engineers Recognizes the Impact of Sustainability Requirements

Posted on **June 28, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

Canada was ranked first for LEED® installations, of all countries outside the U.S., in a list compiled by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). The list is intended to demonstrate the global reach of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) movement – a green building certification system that provides third-party verification of the features, design, construction, maintenance, operation and effectiveness of green buildings.

According to the USGBC, Canada has 17.74 million GSM of LEED-certified space, and in total, it has 4,068 LEED-certified and -registered projects representing 58.66 million GSM. A related report, LEED in Motion: Canada, details all LEED activity in Canada, and features a list of the cities in Canada that have incorporated LEED into their local building codes, as well as provincial and federal green building requirements. It states that there are 3,651 people in Canada who hold LEED credentials.

For Canadian consulting engineers dealing with infrastructure projects, the Association of Consulting Engineering Companies – Canada (ACEC) recently released Sustainable Development for Canadian Consulting Engineers. It states: “It is clear that sustainable development will increasingly drive the project requirements of clients of the consulting engineering industry in Canada. The industry needs to take sustainability issues seriously ...” The report identifies systems currently in use for sustainability measurement on infrastructure projects in the U.S., U.K., France and Australia , and considers their possible application for Canada. The report acknowledges the importance of the existing PIEVC Engineering Protocol for evaluating the impact of climate change on infrastructure

LINKS:

LEED in Motion: Canada is available at

http://www.usgbc.org/sites/default/files/LEED_In_Motion_Canada_0.pdf ,with the press release re the List of LEED countries at [http://www.cagbc.org/AM/Template.cfm?](http://www.cagbc.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=News_and_Media_Room&template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=16357)

[Section=News_and_Media_Room&template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=16357](http://www.cagbc.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=News_and_Media_Room&template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=16357)

Sustainable Development for Canadian Consulting Engineers is at

<http://www.acec.ca/source/2014/SourceExpress/sustainability/PDF/SustainabilityEng.pdf>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Engineers, Green Building, Green Infrastructure, LEED, U.S. Green Building Council** | [Leave a reply](#)

6.5 Million People Employed in the Global Renewable Energy Industry

Posted on **June 28, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

The Renewables Global Status Report released by REN21 on June 4th covers recent industry and policy developments, and key growth trends in the global renewable energy industry, striking an optimistic tone with the statement that more than 22% of the world's power production now comes from renewable sources. China, the United States, Brazil, Canada, and Germany remain the top countries for total installed renewable power capacity. REN21 reports that 6.5 million people are directly or indirectly employed in renewable energy industries worldwide. Data is provided by industry at the global level, with greater detail for some countries, including U.S. China, India, EU, but not for Canada. Most renewable jobs are concentrated in a few countries: China, Brazil, U.S., India, Bangladesh, and some EU countries; of these, 60% of China's employment is concentrated in the solar pv industry. Regarding the employment data, the report states: "Global statistics remain incomplete, methodologies are not harmonised, and the different studies used are of uneven quality. These numbers are based on a wide range of studies, focused primarily on the years 2012–2013."

LINKS:

Renewables Global Status Report website, with links to the full report, figures, summaries and previous editions back to 2005 is available at

<http://www.ren21.net/REN21Activities/GlobalStatusReport.aspx>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Green Growth**, **Green Jobs**, **REN21**, **Renewables Global Status Report** | [Leave a reply](#)

Proposed Carbon Tax Model Forecasts Job Increases; Hank Paulsen Calls Urgent Action Against Climate Change, Including a Carbon Tax

Posted on **June 28, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

A new report models the effects of a carbon tax in the U.S. at the point of extraction, beginning in 2016 at a rate of \$10 per metric ton of carbon dioxide and escalating at \$10 per year until 2035. All

proceeds from the carbon tax would enter into a “fee-and-dividend” (F&D) system that would refund money to all American households on a monthly basis, based on the number of people in the household. The report forecasts that by 2025, there would be: 2.1 million more jobs under the F&D carbon tax than in the baseline; 33% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions from baseline conditions; 13,000 premature deaths avoided because of improved air quality. The report was prepared for the Citizen’s Climate Lobby by consultants Regional Economic Models (REM) and Synapse Energy Economics.

Models and research about carbon taxes may assume higher prominence as the U.S. business community becomes more and more open about discussing the possibility.

In an OpEd in the New York Times on June 21, Former U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, Hank Paulsen, a Republican, states that climate change is the challenge of our times and “The solution can be a fundamentally conservative one that will empower the marketplace to find the most efficient response. We can do this by putting a price on emissions of carbon dioxide — a carbon tax.... Putting a price on emissions will create incentives to develop new, cleaner energy technologies.” Paulsen, along with former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg and billionaire Tom Steyer, founded a business-oriented research initiative called Risky Business. Their high profile report is scheduled to be released on June 24, and will expand on the themes of Paulsen’s OpEd: the urgency of action and the risks of delay in fighting climate change.

LINKS:

The Economic, Climate, Fiscal, Power, and Demographic Impact of a National Fee-and-Dividend Carbon Tax is at <http://citizensclimatelobby.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/REMI-carbon-tax-report-62141.pdf>

“The Coming Climate Crash” in New York Times OpEd (June 21) is at <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/22/opinion/sunday/lessons-for-climate-change-in-the-2008-recession.html?ref=opinion>

Risky Business website is at <http://riskybusiness.org/>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Carbon Tax, Citizen's Climate Lobby, Climate Economics, Climate Risk, Economic Risk, F&D, Michael R. Bloomberg, Publications, Risky Business** | [Leave a reply](#)

Lord Stern Proposes an Alternate Model of the Economic Cost of Climate Change

Posted on **June 28, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

A new academic paper by Nicholas Stern and Simon Dietz critiques the widely-used Dynamic Integrated model of Climate and the Economy (DICE), developed by William Nordhaus in the

1990's, and updated in 2013. In a summary from the London School of Economics, Lord Stern states: "I hope our paper will prompt other economists to strive for much better models which will help policy-makers and the public to recognise the immensity of the potential risks of unmanaged climate change." By modifying assumptions – for example, using a range of temperatures from 1.5C to 6C for climate sensitivity, rather than the single 3C level of the DICE model – Stern and Dietz arrive at a level of \$200 per tonne for the cost of carbon – astonishingly higher than \$40 – \$50 per tonne cost that the DICE model would produce. (The carbon tax in British Columbia grew from \$10 per tonne at its inception in 2008, to the current level of \$30 per tonne of CO₂, since July 2012.)

LINKS:

London School of Economics press release is at

http://www.lse.ac.uk/GranthamInstitute/news/dietz_stern_june2014/ . A working paper version of the article , Stern and Dietz (2014) Endogenous growth, convexity of damages and climate risk: how Nordhaus' framework supports deep cuts in carbon emissions, is available from a link at <http://www.lse.ac.uk/GranthamInstitute/publication/endogenous-growth-convexity-of-damages-and-climate-risk-how-nordhaus-framework-supports-deep-cuts-in-carbon-emission/>.

"We're massively underestimating climate costs, experts warn" (June 16) at Grist at <http://grist.org/news/were-massively-underestimating-climate-costs-experts-warn/>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Climate Economics, Dynamic Integrated model of Climate and the Economy (DICE), Economic Risk, London School of Economics, Nicholas Stern, Simon Dietz** | [Leave a reply](#)

Reaction to the Harper Government Northern Gateway Decision

Posted on **June 28, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

Neither the Prime Minister nor any cabinet ministers were available for comments or questions about the expected cabinet approval, released at the last possible moment via a brief press release on June 17. "After carefully reviewing the report, the Government accepts the independent Panel's recommendation to impose 209 conditions on Northern Gateway Pipelines' proposal." ... "Moving forward, the proponent must demonstrate to the independent regulator, the NEB, how it will meet the 209 conditions. It will also have to apply for regulatory permits and authorizations from federal and provincial governments. In addition, consultations with Aboriginal communities are required under many of the 209 conditions that have been established and as part of the process for regulatory authorizations and permits." See the press release at <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=tp&ctr.page=2&nid=858469&ctr.tp1D=1> and the government's summary statement of the 209 conditions is at <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=tp&ctr.page=1&nid=858489&ctr.tp1D=930> .

The province of British Columbia has conditions of its own, which Environment Minister Polak reiterated in the official B.C. reaction to the decision on June 17 at <http://www.newsroom.gov.bc.ca/2014/06/northern-gateway-pipeline-more-work-needed-to-meet-bcs-five-conditions.html>. Most notably, the First Nations of B.C. have condemned the decision: see the Coastal First Nations website at <http://www.coastalfirstnations.ca/>, where Art Sterritt, Executive Director of the Coastal First Nations says: "The government's announcement giving its approval to Enbridge is meaningless. 'It's an approval in name only. This project is dead. '..... The project can't proceed with these conditions. We've been clear there is no technology to clean up an oil spill and the dispersant that is used causes more damage than the oil itself." (<http://www.coastalfirstnations.ca/news-release/june-17-2014-215pm>).

Another press release from the Coastal First Nations, on June 16th, states: "With many First Nations gearing up for court battles to protect their territories from this risky proposal, representatives of Coastal First Nations, Dogwood Initiative, Unifor, West Coast Environmental Law, Douglas Channel Watch and One Cowichan promised to work together to defeat Northern Gateway, regardless of any approvals issued by the federal cabinet."

The internet is alive with opposition campaigns: Within B.C., the Dogwood Initiative is calling for a referendum at Let B.C. Vote at <http://www.letbcvote.ca/>, (includes a compilation of news reports). Stand Strong Christy, co-ordinated by ForestEthics Advocacy, at <http://standstrongchristy.ca/> has an online petition urging B.C. Premier Christy Clark to hold firm to her earlier stated 5 conditions for Northern Gateway approvals in B.C.

Leadnow.ca and ForestEthics Advocacy host another petition at <http://www.enbridge21.ca/> naming the Enbridge 21 (the 21 federal Conservative cabinet ministers from B.C.) and providing an online email form to contact them, and "hold them accountable" by pledging to vote for whoever opposes Enbridge in the 2015 election.

David Suzuki posted an open Letter and has an online petition to Stephen Harper , and the leaders of all federal parties at http://action2.davidsuzuki.org/no-enbridge-pipeline?utm_campaign=enbridgeEmail&utm_source=EM1&utm_medium=email&utm_content=link&mkt_to_k=3RkMMJWWfF9wsRolu6XLZKXonjHpfsX66u8kXK%2B3IMI%2F0ER3fOvrPUfGjl4CSsFil%2BSLDwEYGJlv6SgFS7jNMbZkz7gOXRE%3D .

The federal Green Party also has its own petition at <http://www.greenparty.ca/media-release/2014-06-17/predictable-cabinet-decision-enbridge-project-launches-fight-stop-pipelines> . Environmental Defense has an online email form to send a protest message to the political leaders at http://environmentaldefence.ca/stop-tar-sands-expansion?utm_source=Environmental+Defence+Campaign+Email+List&utm_campaign=06cf692bda-Lighten+Up+FINAL&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_df56834cfa-06cf692bda-27545293.

For reaction from environmental groups, see EcoJustice at <http://www.ecojustice.ca/media-centre/press-releases/federal-approval-doesnt-guarantee-enbridge-northern-gateway-will-be-built> ; Pembina Institute at <http://www.pembina.org/reacts-fed-decision-gateway>, Greenpeace Canada at <http://www.greenpeace.org/canada/en/Blog/harper-just-picked-a-fight-he-cant-win/blog/49666/> ,

Environmental Defence Canada at <http://environmentaldefence.ca/articles/statement-environmental-defence%E2%80%99s-tim-gray-in-response-federal-cabinet%E2%80%99s-irresponsible-deci> and Natural Resources Defence Council (U.S.) at http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/eshope/canada_approves_northern_gateway.html .

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **British Columbia, Coastal First Nations, David Suzuki, Dogwood Initiative, Enbridge, Environmental Defence Canada, First Nations, ForestEthics, Greenpeace Canada, Leadnow.ca, National Energy Board, NEB, Northern Gateway, Pembina Institute** | [Leave a reply](#)

Carbon Taxes and the Need for Social License

Posted on **June 28, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

Especially timely, given the June 17th Northern Gateway decision, is a recent report by the Canada West Foundation about the concept and means to achieve “social license”, and a Pembina Institute blog which reviews it. Pembina provides this definition: “Social license is generally considered to exist when the perceptions, opinions, and beliefs held by a local population regarding a development allow for the ongoing public approval of the related activity.” The Canada West Foundation, an advocate for Western development, states: that ... “A positive brand will only endure if it is based on solid and constantly improving performance at the local level.” The author calls for industry to lead a systematic effort to engage supporters in communities affected by resource development, and calls on government to be involved with “public policy, legislation and regulation needed to sustain progress”. Regarding a carbon tax, for example, he states: “The net benefit/cost might well be positive for resource industries since a stable carbon management regime would add to policy stability and social legitimacy.”

LINKS:

From The Ground Up: Earning Public Support for Resource Development (May 27) from Canada West Foundation at [http://cwf.ca/pdf-](http://cwf.ca/pdf-docs/publications/From%20the%20Ground%20Up%20Report%20v9.pdf)

[docs/publications/From%20the%20Ground%20Up%20Report%20v9.pdf](http://cwf.ca/pdf-docs/publications/From%20the%20Ground%20Up%20Report%20v9.pdf).

The Costs of Losing Social License (June 6) at Pembina Institute at <http://www.pembina.org/blog/the-costs-of-losing-social-licence>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Branding, Canada West Foundation, Carbon Tax, Public Support, Social License** | [Leave a reply](#)

House of Commons Standing Committee Applauds the Oil and Gas Industry

Posted on **June 28, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

In the lead-up to the Northern Gateway decision, on June 11th the House of Commons Standing Committee on Natural Resources presented its 7th Report on the Cross-country Benefits of the Oil and Gas Industry. The report selectively reproduces the testimony of industry-affiliated witnesses, and quotes the Assistant Deputy Minister of Natural Resources Canada, who is reported to have said that “the socio-economic benefits from the oil and gas industry are universally positive.” Not only socio-economic benefits, but, according to the Standing Committee, “the development of the oil and gas industry generates various environmental benefits, including improved air quality, water quality, and reforestation. Many of these improvements are achieved through world-class innovation and clean technologies developed and supported by the industry”.

Dissenting reports from the Liberal and New Democratic members of the committee attempt to give voice to some of the less enthusiastic witnesses. See the report at http://www.parl.gc.ca/Content/HOC/Committee/412/RNNR/Reports/RP6644319/412_RNNR_Rpt07_PDF/412_RNNR_Rpt07-e.pdf (English version) or http://www.parl.gc.ca/Content/HOC/Committee/412/RNNR/Reports/RP6644319/412_RNNR_Rpt07_PDF/412_RNNR_Rpt07-f.pdf (French version). Briefs and evidence submitted are not available online, but the oral testimony and minutes of the committee meetings can be read at <http://www.parl.gc.ca/committeebusiness/CommitteeMeetings.aspx?Cmte=RNNR&Language=E&Mode=1&Parl=41&Ses=2> (English) <http://www.parl.gc.ca/committeebusiness/CommitteeMeetings.aspx?Cmte=RNNR&Mode=1&Parl=41&Ses=2&Language=F> (French version).

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Natural Resources Canada (NRC), Northern Gateway, Oil and Gas, Oil Sands** | [Leave a reply](#)

Ontario Electors Return a Liberal Government, Avoid Conservative Cuts to Green Energy

Posted on **June 28, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

The Green Prosperity Scorecard at <http://www.greenprosperity.ca/scorecard/> compared the environmental policies of the four political parties contesting the Ontario election of June 12.

Professor Mark Winfield of York University also highlighted the positions in his OpEd at <http://marksw.blog.yorku.ca/2014/05/26/ontarios-not-so-green-election/> . “There is...almost across-the-board silence on basic environmental issues like air and water quality, waste management, the protection of biological diversity, parks and protected areas, and endangered species.” After the success of the Liberal party and Premier Kathleen Wynne, Professor Winfield wrote: “Wynne’s party owes a great deal of its success last night to younger and progressive voters in towns and cities, for whom urban, energy and environmental issues are of central importance. With the threat of a PC government removed, these voters, and the province’s organized environmental movement, can afford to push the Liberals much harder in these areas than they have over the past few years.”

See <http://marksw.blog.yorku.ca/2014/06/13/the-2014-ontario-election-outcome-the-electoral-politics-of-economic-transitions/> . Specifically, Environmental Defence reacted with the statement: “Most immediately, we look forward to the reintroduction of the Great Lakes Protection Act, the Protection of Public Participation Act, and the Ending Coal for Cleaner Air Act.” See <http://environmentaldefence.ca/articles/statement-tim-gray-environmental-defence%E2%80%99s-executive-director-kathleen-wynne%E2%80%99s-election-pre> .

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Clean Energy, Conservative Party, Green Energy, Green Prosperity Scorecard, Kathleen Wynne, Liberal Party, Mark Winfield, Ontario, Ontario election, York University** | [Leave a reply](#)

Clean Electricity in Alberta Means Less Reliance on Coal

Posted on **June 28, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

While the government of Alberta continues to develop its Alternative and Renewable Energy Policy Framework, a new report from the Pembina Institute and Clean Energy Canada argues that “With effective policy, the province could cut the percentage of grid electricity that is supplied from coal energy from over 60 per cent today to less than four per cent by 2033.” (p.1) According to the report, in 2013, coal power generation supplied 63.7 per cent of electricity in Alberta’s grid (compared to 39.1 per cent of the in the United States). And whereas total coal power generation in the United States decreased by 21.3 per cent between 2007 and 2013, it decreased by only 13 per cent in Alberta. (p.4). See Power to Change: How Alberta can Green its Grid and Embrace Clean Energy at <http://www.pembina.org/docs/power-to-change-pembina-cec-2014.pdf> with a backgrounder at <http://www.pembina.org/docs/power-to-change-pembina-cec-backgrounder.pdf> . Earlier in 2014, the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment commissioned a survey which revealed that 80% of Albertans agreed that wind energy should be used to reduce reliance on coal-fired power in the province. See the CAPE Newsletter (Summer 2014) at <http://cape.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/capenewsummer2014.pdf> . And on May 23, a public opinion commissioned by the Alberta Energy Efficiency Alliance, in conjunction with the Pembina

Institute, reported that 76 per cent of Albertans support the stronger greenhouse gas performance regulations for industrial facilities. See the Ipsos Reid poll at <http://www.ipsos-na.com/news-polls/pressrelease.aspx?id=6509> .

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Alberta, Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment, Clean Energy, Clean Energy Canada, Clean Power, Coal, Coal Power, wind energy, Wind Power** | [Leave a reply](#)

No to Light Rail for the Calgary-Edmonton Corridor

Posted on **June 28, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

The Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future reported to the provincial legislature on May 23, with a recommendation not to proceed with a light-rail link between Calgary and Edmonton at this time because population is not sufficient to support it. However, for future infrastructure planning, the report recommended that the government should identify a greenfield transportation/utility corridor and begin acquiring land, while at the same time developing a regulatory framework to allow the private sector to participate. See the report at <http://www.assembly.ab.ca/committees/abeconomicfuture/EHS/Reports/2014/High%20Speed%20Rail%20Transit%20System%20in%20Alberta,%20Final%20Report.pdf> .

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Calgary, Calgary-Edmonton Corridor, Edmonton, Light Rail, Public Transportation, Transportation, Transportation Infrastructure** | [Leave a reply](#)

A Path to Sustainable De-Growth

Posted on **June 28, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives on June 12 released an extended essay by University of British Columbia Professor Emeritus William Rees, the originator of "ecological footprint analysis". He states, "Ecological damage and resource scarcity is largely the result of production and consumption to satisfy just the wealthiest 20 per cent of the world's population." (p. 2) ... "Drawing on various disciplines from cognitive psychology through environmental science, sociology and economic history, I outline some of the broad framing necessary at the global level and specific policies needed at the national and (bio-)regional scales to achieve a planned descent to a sustainable steady state." (p. 4). Read *Avoiding Collapse : An Agenda for Sustainable Degrowth and Relocalizing the Economy* at https://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/BC%20Office/2014/06/ccpa-bc_AvoidingCollapse_Rees.pdf .

New Canadian NGO Promotes Polluter Responsibility and a Clean Economy

Posted on **June 28, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

Canadians for Clean Prosperity has launched a website with the goal of educating Canadians and advocating for political action towards polluter responsibility. The website estimates the costs of pollution clean-up – currently borne by taxpayers – at approximately \$27.1 billion dollars, or \$1779 per Canadian household.

Their online petition states: “We call on the government to impose pollution fees and use the revenues to cut taxes, dollar for dollar, on things we want, like jobs and income.” Don Drummond, former Chief Economist of the TD Bank, Gord Downie of the Tragically Hip and Munir Sheikh, former Chief Statistician of Statistics Canada are among the Advisors to the group; the business-oriented Board of Directors includes Greg Keissling of Bullfrog Power, and Bruce Lourie, President of the Ivey Foundation. See the website at <http://www.cleanprosperity.ca/>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Bruce Lourie**, **Bullfrog Power**, **Canadians for Clean Prosperity**, **Don Drummond**, **Gord Downie**, **Munir Sheikh**, **Pollution**, **Pollutor Pays Principle** | [Leave a reply](#)

President Obama’s Landmark Executive Actions to Cut Coal Plant Emissions and Protect Oceans

Posted on **June 28, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

For details about the June regulatory initiatives in the United States, go to: Clean Power Plan Proposed Rule at the Environmental Protection Agency website at <http://www2.epa.gov/carbon-pollution-standards/clean-power-plan-proposed-rule> and for commentary, see “Taking Page from Health Care Act, Obama Climate Plan relies on States” in the New York Times (June 2) at <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/03/us/politics/obama-epa-rule-coal-carbon-pollution-power-plants.html>. The Pembina Institute highlights the growing gap between Canadian and U.S. climate

leadership at <http://www.pembina.org/blog/us-action-on-climate-amplifies-leadership-vacuum-in-ottawa>; The Natural Resources Defence Council discusses the possible impacts on jobs at http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/plehner/new_carbon_pollution_standards.html and <http://www.nrdc.org/media/2014/140529.asp> . Regarding the U.S. Executive Order on June 17th to expand protection of the oceans, see the White House press release at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/06/17/presidential-memorandum-comprehensive-framework-combat-illegal-unreported> , and “Pew Applauds Obama Administration’s New Focus on Illegal Fishing” at <http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/about/news-room/news/2014/06/pew-applauds-obama-administrations-new-focus-on-illegal-fishing> or “Obama to Expand Marine Reserves and Crack Down on Seafood Black Market” at The Guardian (June 17) at <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/jun/17/obama-oceans-marine-reserves-leonardo-dicaprio>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Barack Obama, Clean Power Plan, Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), Environmental Protection Agency, Fisheries, Ocean Protection, U.S. Climate Action Plan** | [Leave a reply](#)

Roadmap for Corporate Sustainability Practices Includes Employee Recruitment, Retention, Training and Support

Posted on **May 29, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

A new report produced by Ceres and Sustainalytics assesses the progress of 613 of the largest, publicly-traded companies in the U.S. in integrating sustainability into business systems and decision-making. Gaining Ground uses the framework of the Ceres “Roadmap”, reporting on greenhouse gas emissions reduction programs, human rights in supply chains, and the sustainability aspects of product design, transportation and logistics, and supply chains. The Roadmap includes 3 activities related to employees (under the “Performance dimension”): recruitment and retention, training and support, and promotion of sustainable lifestyles. The report states that only 6 percent of companies can be considered “Tier 1”, or exemplary, regarding their efforts to systematically engage employees in sustainability issues. General Electric is highlighted for “using its Human Resource department to integrate sustainability into the company’s culture—from hiring practices to job education and training to employee well-being programs.” Campbell Soup requires that every employee have a “CSR oriented goal” in their annual performance objectives (Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) includes sustainability). Bank of America provided \$3,000 reimbursement to employees who purchased hybrid vehicles. Gaining Ground concludes that there is progress in corporate sustainability initiatives, but it is insufficient at the current rate.

LINKS

Gaining Ground: Corporate Progress on the Ceres Roadmap for Sustainability is at: <http://www.ceres.org/roadmap-assessment/progress-report>, with interactive links to topics and company information. The Summary of employee related information is at: <http://www.ceres.org/roadmap-assessment/roadmap-in-action/explore-by-topic/performance-employees>.

See the Ceres Climate Declaration and list of signatories (including some Canadian companies) at: <http://www.ceres.org/bicep/climate-declaration/climate-declaration-full-signatory-list>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **CERES, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Corporate Sustainability, Sustainable Business, Sustainalytics** | [Leave a reply](#)

Drought Brings Economic and Job Loss in California's Agricultural Industry

Posted on **May 29, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

Researchers at the University of California at Davis were commissioned by the state Department of Food and Agriculture to prepare estimates of the economic impacts of the current drought to enable targeting of drought relief efforts. Their preliminary report concludes that losses will reach \$1.7 billion and 14,500 full-time and seasonal jobs in the intensively-farmed Central Valley. "...the smaller than expected reduction of water availability, crop acres and employment comes at the expense of the exhaustion of reserve groundwater storage and a substantial increase in groundwater overdraft. There will be substantial long term costs of groundwater overdraft that are not reflected in this study. Furthermore, if another critically dry year occurs in 2015 the socioeconomic impacts will likely be much more severe." Although the drought will cause hardship for farmers and communities, agriculture accounts for less than 3 percent of the state's \$1.9 trillion a year gross domestic product. Other economic concerns are for forest fires, the fisheries industry, and consumer prices for fruit and vegetables. California has been under a state of emergency since January 2014; its normal dry season begins around May.

LINKS

Preliminary 2014 Drought Economic Impact Estimates in Central Valley Agriculture is at: https://watershed.ucdavis.edu/files/biblio/Preliminary_2014_drought_economic_impacts-05192014.pdf, with a press release summary at: http://news.ucdavis.edu/search/news_detail.lasso?id=10933.

To keep abreast of the hardships and actions relating to California's drought, go to the government website at: ca.gov/drought.

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | Tagged [Agriculture](#), [California](#), [Drought](#) | [Leave a reply](#)

Actions By International Unions: A Global Campaign for Climate Goals, and Demands for Labour Rights in TIPP Trade Agreement

Posted on **May 29, 2014** by [Ava Lightbody](#)

On May 21, more than 50 unions representing millions of workers joined the Unions4Climate global campaign at the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) World Congress in Berlin. The sign-up launches the mobilisation campaign for industrial transformation, just transition measures to organise workers in green, decent jobs, and ultimately for a climate agreement in Paris in 2015. Hassan Yussuff, newly-elected President of the Canadian Labour Congress, and Secretary Treasurer Barb Byers attended the Berlin meeting, though the CLC is not named in the press release as one of the signatories.

The European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) has released a detailed position statement regarding the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) agreement, currently under discussion between the EU and the U.S. The ETUC position includes demands for consideration of the environmental impact of tar sands and shale gas, and for protection of labour rights on both sides of the Atlantic. On May 15, 240 unionists and activists were arrested in Brussels in protest against budget austerity and the trade agreement.

LINKS

The Unions4Climate Action website, including a sign-up form for individuals, is at: <http://act.equaltimes.org/unions4climate>; the full Statement, Climate Change is a Trade Union Issue, is at: http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/en_unions4climate.pdf. The website for the 3rd Congress is at: <http://congress2014.ituc-csi.org/>, and includes a press release about the campaign.

"ETUC position on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership" statement from the European Trade Union Confederation is available at: <http://www.etuc.org/documents/etuc-position-transatlantic-trade-and-investment-partnership#.UxX0sYW7Tm4>. See also "What does the TTIP really mean for workers?" (March 10) from ETUC's Equal Times at: <http://www.equaltimes.org/what-does-the-ttip-really-mean-for?lang=en>.

Sierra Club and Power Shift TTIP analysis: Energy Trade in the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership: Endangering Action on Climate Change is available at: <http://sierraclub.typepad.com/compass/2014/05/exposed-transatlantic-trade-pact-endangers-action-on-climate-1.html>.

“Hundreds of Protesters Arrested In Brussels as Business Leaders Debate ‘Maintaining Citizen’s Trust’” at: <http://www.euractiv.com/sections/european-business-summit-2014/hundreds-protesters-arrested-brussels-business-leaders-debate>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)**, **Green Jobs**, **International Trade Union Conference (ITUC)**, **Just Transition**, **Labour**, **Low-Carbon Transition**, **Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)** | [Leave a reply](#)

Improvements to Canadian Regulations for Oil Tankers and Pipelines

Posted on **May 29, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

Following changes to railroad safety regulations in April, the Canadian government released back-to-back announcements of changes governing oil tankers (on May 13) and pipelines (on May 14). Regarding spills from oil tankers, the new regulations will increase company liability from the current \$161 million per incident to \$400 million per spill, and will also impose a levy on companies, with a total of \$1.6 billion available to clean up an oil spill and provide compensation. (The government’s own expert panel had recommended that corporate liability be unlimited in its report, delivered December 2013.) See the government press release at: <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=847519> or the CBC report at: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/new-tanker-spill-rules-raise-liability-for-companies-1.2641217>.

The changes to pipeline safety announced on May 14 include the introduction of “absolute liability” for all National Energy Board (NEB)-regulated pipelines, making companies liable for costs and damages irrespective of fault, up to the limit of \$1 billion for major oil pipelines; companies continue to have unlimited liability when at fault or negligent. The powers of the National Energy Board are expanded to give the NEB authority to order reimbursement of any cleanup costs incurred by governments, communities or individuals, and to take control of any clean-up operations if the company is unable or unwilling to do so. The regulations also call for developing a strategy with industry and First Nations communities to increase First Nations’ participation in pipeline safety operations. See the government press release and backgrounder at: <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=848059>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | [Leave a reply](#)

Report Re B.C. Site C Dam Draws Little Attention or Controversy

Posted on **May 29, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

The Report of the Review Panel on British Columbia's Site C dam was released on May 8. See the Report of the Joint Review Panel at: <http://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca/050/documents/p63919/99173E.pdf>, the Globe and Mail coverage (May 8) at: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/british-columbia/site-c-recommendation/article18565850/> or the summary at The Tyee at: <http://thetyee.ca/News/2014/05/08/Site-C-Review/>. The Panel was mandated "to inquire into the environmental, economic, social, health, and heritage effects of the Project and their significance, to examine proposals for the mitigation of adverse effects, and to record assertions of Project effects on the Aboriginal rights and treaty rights of the affected First Nations and Métis peoples." Their only recommendation relating to employment issues was that "If the Project proceeds, BC Hydro must work with training institutions to focus on employment in indirect and induced sectors for Aboriginal workers, as these jobs are likely to be longer lived than those related strictly to construction." An earlier WCR post links to a David Suzuki report about the Site C Dam: see: <https://workandclimatechangereport.org/2013/12/19/the-jobs-argument-and-the-costs-of-energy-development-two-views/>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | [Leave a reply](#)

Shale Gas Reports Call for "More Research" and "Better Communication"

Posted on **May 29, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

On May 1, the Council of Canadian Academies released a report by a multidisciplinary panel of experts who considered the state of knowledge of potential environmental impacts from the exploration, extraction, and development of Canada's shale gas resources. The report does not address the safety, nor the economic benefits of development. As stated in the press release: "It reviews the use of new and conventional technologies in shale gas extraction, and examines several issues of concern including potential impacts on groundwater and surface water, greenhouse gas emissions, cumulative land disturbance, and human health." The report concludes that suitability of shale gas development depends on regional context because of Canada's different geographies, geologies, and ecologies. Further, it states that scientific understanding is not yet sufficient nor conclusive. The Environmental Impacts of Shale Gas Extraction in Canada is at:

http://www.scienceadvice.ca/uploads/eng/assessments%20and%20publications%20and%20news%20releases/shale%20gas/shalegas_fullreporten.pdf; a press release and summaries are available at: <http://www.scienceadvice.ca/en/assessments/completed/shale-gas.aspx> (English) and <http://sciencepourlepublic.ca/fr/assessments/completed/shale-gas.aspx> (French).

In the U.K. in early May, a Select Committee of the House of Lords tabled a report, The Economic Impact on UK Energy Policy of Shale Gas and Oil. The report examines the U.S. experience, and discusses U.K. environmental impacts, job impacts, and climate change implications. It concludes: “We consider that the risks to human health and the environment are low if shale development is properly regulated, with the improvements we recommend. We welcome the community benefit schemes announced by the industry which, if well-targeted, could play a role in winning public acceptance. We also recommend that the industry improves its presentation and communication skills and puts across more convincingly the economic and employment gains shale development can bring to areas like Lancashire.” The official summary of the recommendations is at: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/lords-select/economic-affairs-committee/news/report-publication/>; the Report is at: <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldselect/ldeconaf/172/172.pdf>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | [Leave a reply](#)

Fraser Institute Argues the Economic Importance of the Energy Industry

Posted on **May 29, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

A report released by the right-wing Fraser Institute on May 15 states: “Our examination of Canadian data leads us to conclude that energy use in Canada is not a mere by-product of prosperity, but a limiting factor in growth...policies favouring the abundant availability of energy are important for sustaining strong economic growth, and policies that deliberately limit energy availability will likely have negative macroeconomic consequences.” Read Energy Abundance and Economic Growth at: <http://www.fraserinstitute.org/research-news/display.aspx?id=21204>. For a critique of the report, see the Broadbent Institute blog by Matthew Patterson of the University of Ottawa, at: <http://www.broadbentinstitute.ca/en/blog/economic-freedom-and-politics-environmental-performance>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | [Leave a reply](#)

U.S. Scientists and Generals Sound the Alarm on Climate Change

Posted on **May 29, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

The landmark National Climate Assessment report was written by 300 experts, guided by a 60-member Federal Advisory Committee, and reviewed by a panel of the National Academy of Sciences. It documents climate changes, makes future projections, and analyses impacts nationally and regionally on seven sectors – human health, water, energy, transportation, agriculture, forests, and ecosystems. The report is available in a variety of formats – go to <http://nca2014.globalchange.gov/highlights>. On May 14th, the U.S. Center for Naval Analyses and its Military Advisory Board (composed of 16 retired generals and admirals) released a “bipartisan call to action” in the form of its report: National Security and the Accelerating Risks of Climate Change at: http://www.cna.org/sites/default/files/MAB_2014.pdf. The report argues that climate-related events such as flooding, drought and rising sea levels bring population dislocation and food insecurity, and therefore act as “catalysts for instability and conflict”. Importantly for Canadians, they warn that an ice-free Arctic will bring competition for shipping lanes and access to undersea oil deposits – see an article in The Guardian at: <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/may/14/climate-change-arctic-security-threat-report?CMP=EMCENVEML1631>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | [Leave a reply](#)

U.S. Makes Progress in Pollution Regulations, Set Back in Energy Efficiency

Posted on **May 29, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

The bipartisan Shaheen-Portman bill, which would have raised energy efficiency standards for federal buildings and provided tax incentives for energy-efficient homes and commercial buildings, became pegged to the Keystone XL and coal plant issues during election-year political dealings, resulting in its defeat on May 12. See “Energy Bill Caught Up in Keystone XL Dispute” article from the Huffington Post at: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/05/12/energy-bill-keystone_n_5308819.html or “Shaheen Energy Bill to Promote Energy Efficiency Failed” in the New York Times at: http://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/13/us/politics/bill-to-encourage-energy-efficiency-fails-in-senate.html?partner=rss&emc=rss&_r=0

On April 29th, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the EPA’s Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR). About 1,000 power plants will now be required to adopt new restrictions on nitrogen oxide and sulfur dioxide. Information on the EPA’s Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR) is available from the EPA at: <http://www.epa.gov/airtransport/CSAPR/> and see also “Justices Back Rule Limiting Coal Pollution” (April 30) in the New York Times at: <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/04/30/us/politics/supreme-court-backs-epa-coal-pollution-rules.html>.

New coal plant carbon regulations, which are expected to spur carbon trading on the west coast, will be announced on June 2 but still face legal and political challenges from the Republicans, the Chamber of Commerce, utilities, coal companies, and others. See the EPA's website at: <http://www2.epa.gov/carbon-pollution-standards/what-epa-doing#overview> and <http://www.c2es.org/publications/carbon-pollution-standards-existing-power-plants-issues-options/>.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is making headway in other areas, including taking the first step towards regulating the chemicals used in the fracking process. The EPA is considering filing information about the chemicals under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), but has not yet committed to forcing companies to submit data or to actively controlling chemical use. See "EPA Takes First Step Toward Regulating Fracking Chemicals" at Bloomberg News at: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-05-09/epa-considers-requiring-disclosure-of-fracking-chemicals.html>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | [Leave a reply](#)

Bad News for Climate Change in the First Budget of Australia's Abbott Government

Posted on **May 29, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

In what is being called the "Backwards Budget" delivered on May 13, the government of Australia continues to dismantle the existing national agencies related to a low-carbon economy. The Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) joins the previously announced Climate Change Authority and the Clean Energy Finance Corporation on the chopping block. Funding for the Emissions Reduction Fund is now muddy, and the 3-year old carbon pricing system will be abolished, if government proposals are approved by the Senate in July. See the positions of Australia's Climate Institute at: <http://www.climateinstitute.org.au/>, Australia's coal miners' union (CFMEU) at: <http://cfmeu.com.au/campaigns/national/climate-change> or blogs by Alexander White from The Guardian: "Australia's Extreme Budget Meets Extreme Climate" (May 21) at: <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/southern-crossroads/2014/may/21/may-heatwave-budget-2014-abbott-renewable-energy-cuts> and "Could Australia Really Dismantle its Carbon Price" (May 26) at: <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/southern-crossroads/2014/may/26/carbon-price-abolish-tony-abbott-australia>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | [Leave a reply](#)

Canada's Oil Economy Through the "Staples" Lens

Posted on **April 30, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

In 1963, economist Mel Watkins achieved international recognition with the publication of "A Staple Theory of Economic Growth" in the Canadian Journal of Economics and Political Science. To mark the 50th anniversary, the Canadian Centre for Policy Analysis published a collection of essays written by members of Canada's Progressive Economics Forum, placing Watkins' ideas in historical and global context. The section "Staple Theory and the Bitumen Boom" is essential reading, as authors Thomas Gunton, Gordon Laxer, Daniel Drache and Jim Stanford use staples theory to discuss the fossil fuel addiction of our economy, its dangerous impact on the broader economy, on cultures, especially Aboriginal culture, and on the environment.

Part 4: "Modern Applications", includes "The Staple Theory and the Carbon Trap", by Brendan Haley; "LNG: BC's Quest for a New Staple Industry" by Marc Lee, and "Staples Theory: Its Gendered Nature" by Marjorie Griffin Cohen, among others. In the final essay in the collection, Mel Watkins writes: "My 1963 article has perhaps encouraged some readers to think too much about linkages and how to enhance them, to focus on incremental change when it is transformative change that is necessary...Fifty years on I have grandchildren, and know that the world must move ASAP from dependence on fossil fuels to reliance on green technologies. This will involve a wrenching change for Canada because bitumen is now the superstaple driving our economy and our polity...These may not be the best of times, and they may well get worse, but there is room for hope if we will but face up to our situation. In Canada, that means escaping both the staple trap and the carbon trap by weaning ourselves from the export of bitumen".

LINK

The Staple Theory @ 50: Reflections on the Lasting Significance of Mel Watkins' "A Staple Theory of Economic Growth" is available at:

https://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/National%20Office/2014/03/Staple_Theory_at_50.pdf

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA)**, **Mel Watkins**, **Staples Theory**, **Staples Trap** | [Leave a reply](#)

Canada's Oil Economy Through the IMF Lens

Posted on **April 30, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

The International Monetary Fund has weighed in on the economic benefits of oil sands development in Canada, in a background report written in January 2014 but only released in April. Using Input-Output analysis based on 2009 data, the IMF report notes that overall the unconventional oil and gas industry make a small, positive contribution to Canada's economy: for every \$1 invested in the oilsands, Canada's GDP rises 90 cents – of which 82 cents goes to Alberta. The report states “employment in the energy sector increased by less than 13,000 over 2007-12, against a total 752,000 jobs created over the same period in Canada”. To measure broader spillover effects across Canada and across industries, the report uses a General Equilibrium Model which takes into account the “infrastructure constraints” – i.e. pipeline and transportation capacity. The report concludes “that the potential output gain for Canada's energy products would reach only about 2 percent of GDP” over a ten year horizon, and that is conditional on construction of infrastructure (pipelines) for export to non-U.S. markets and for interprovincial energy integration, and if inter-industry linkages are encouraged across Canada to more widely distribute economic benefit.

LINKS

IMF Country Report 14/28: Canada: The Unconventional Energy Boom in North America; Macroeconomic Implications and Challenges for Canada is at:
<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/scr/2014/cr1428.pdf>

Summary and commentary are at the DeSmog Blog at: <http://desmog.ca/2014/04/09/benefits-canadas-energy-boom-remain-energy-sector-alberta-reports-imf>, or in an article by Andrew Jackson at the Broadbent Institute at: <http://www.pressprogress.ca/en/blog/imf-oil-exports-aren%E2%80%99t-so-key-canada%E2%80%99s-economic-future-after-all>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Canadian GDP, Economic Indicators, International Monetary Fund (IMF)** | **Leave a reply**

British Columbia Tripartite Working Group Makes Workforce Recommendations for LNG Development in the Face of Environmental Controversy and Public Opinion

Posted on **April 30, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

Since September 2013, the Premier's Liquefied Natural Gas Working Group has met to discuss workforce planning, skills training, and the use of temporary workers in LNG projects. Described by the government as "unprecedented", the working group included representatives from government, industry, the Haisla Nation, and organized labour, specifically: United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 170; B.C. Federation of Labour; B.C. and Yukon Building and Construction Trades Council; B.C. Government and Service Employees Union; Construction and Specialized Workers Union Local 1611; and Sheet Metal Workers International Association Local 280. The Working Group released their final report on March 31st and all fifteen recommendations were accepted by the Premier on April 3rd. Next step: a 10-year skills-training plan. The Terms of Reference did not include the environmental impact of the proposed LNG development and the contention that the LNG production will make it impossible for B.C. to meet its legislated carbon emissions targets.

The Final Report provides an inventory of existing and proposed LNG development in B.C. as of March 2014, as well as analysis of the workforce data and issues as identified by the B.C. Natural Gas Workforce Strategy and Action Plan, released in July 2013 and since updated by the government. Fifteen recommendations include the use of best practices relating to apprenticeship, mobility of labour within B.C. and Canada, and most contentiously, the use of temporary foreign workers. The report calls for the formation no later than July 2014, of an ongoing body which would include government, labour unions, industry and contractors, and First Nations, to participate in workforce planning, skills training, and to develop a protocol for the use of temporary foreign workers, "to limit their use, but also to plan accordingly for their use if and when needed".

Many First Nations groups oppose LNG development, and a new public opinion survey released on April 24 shows that 78% of British Columbians agree that "B.C. should transition away from using fossil fuels to cleaner sources of energy to prevent climate change from getting worse. More than two thirds (67%) agree the province should decrease its reliance on fossil fuel exports to avoid future boom and bust economic cycles". The survey was commissioned by the Pembina Institute, Clean Energy Canada and the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions, and conducted by Strategic Communications Inc. in April of 2014.

LINKS

Premier's Liquefied Natural Gas Working Group: Final Report is available at: http://www.labour.gov.bc.ca/pubs/pdf/lng_final_report.pdf, with a press release and backgrounder from B.C. Premier's Office at: <http://www.newsroom.gov.bc.ca/2014/04/premiers-lng-working-group-recommendation-road-map.html>

"Key Native Group in Northern B.C. threatens to Stop Talks on Pipelines" in the Globe and Mail (April 21) at: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/british-columbia/native-group-threatens-to-stop-talks-on-pipelines/article18088799/>, but also see "B.C. and First Nations sign first LNG revenue-sharing Agreement, and Backgrounder" at: <https://www.newsroom.gov.bc.ca/2014/04/bc-and-first-nations-sign-first-lng-revenue-sharing-agreements.html>

Public Opinion Survey is available from the Pembina Institute website at:
<http://www.pembina.org/pub/2539>

See also the BC LNG Info website, maintained by the Northwest Institute, SkeenaWild Conservation Trust, and Headwaters Initiative, with the stated goal of providing impartial, up to date information about the LNG industry in B.C. for the benefit of the community. See <http://bclnginfo.com/newsroom> for news and updates.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **B.C. and Yukon Building and Construction Trades Council, B.C. Government and Service Employees Union, BC LNG, Christy Clark, Construction and Specialized Workers Union, Haisla Nation, Liquefied Natural Gas, LNG Jobs, Sheet Metal Workers International Association, United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters B.C. Federation of Labour** | [Leave a reply](#)

New Brunswick's Controversial New Forestry Plan Allows for Expanded Cutting on Crown Lands

Posted on **April 30, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

The New Brunswick government released a new forestry plan in March 2014, following heavy lobbying by the forest industry, led by J.D Irving Ltd. The industry argued that they needed a long-term commitment to access the wood supply from Crown Lands to justify the large capital investment necessary to make New Brunswick mills efficient. The 2014 Strategy for Crown Lands Forest Management increases the amount of softwood (chiefly spruce and fir) that can be harvested from Crown Lands by 20%, and reduces the areas that are off-limits to industrial cutting (including watercourse buffers, deer wintering areas, and old growth forest) from 28% to 23% over a 10-15 year period. The result, according to the government, will be “500 new, well-paid private sector jobs” and “more than \$22 million in additional annual wages”. Direct forest sector employment in New Brunswick had fallen 24% and the number of mills had fallen 47% since 2004, according to the government. Since the release, J.D. Irving Ltd. has committed to \$513 million in capital investments in its mills, mostly at Irving Pulp & Paper in Saint John.

In response to the March Strategy document, Rino Ouellet, Atlantic area Director for Unifor, issued a press release which echos the government's economic arguments and endorses the Forestry Plan. In a February press release, he had stated, “...in order for the plan to work, it must include in the process First Nations people, wood lot owners, labour, and crown land rights...and must continue to allow for environmentally-protected areas”.

On another side of this triangular debate, opposition includes: the provincial leader of the Green Party, who calls it “a plan for plunder”; the executive director of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness, who calls it “regressive”; Graham Forbes, a professor from University of New

Brunswick, who says it is unsustainable; and Rod Cumberland, a retired government biologist, who says many provincial government scientists are alarmed, but are too afraid to speak out for fear of losing their jobs.

The political storm continues on this issue. On April 24th, the government tabled in the legislature the terms of an agreement with J.D. Irving which increases the company's annual allocations of softwood, for an initial term of 25 years, beginning on July 1, 2014. The contract calls for the company's performance to be reviewed every five years, with five-year renewals contingent upon satisfactory performance.

LINKS

Putting Our Resources To Work: A Strategy For Crown Lands Forest Management on the New Brunswick government website at: <http://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/nr-nr/pdf/en/ForestsCrownLands/AStrategyForCrownLandsForestManagement.pdf>

J.D. Irving press release is at: <http://www.newswire.ca/en/story/1335353/new-crown-forest-policy-drives-16-8-million-investments-in-the-forests-mills-and-suppliers-74-jobs-created>

Unifor's March press release: "Atlantic's Largest Forestry Union applauds Long term plan for Sector" at:

<http://www.unifor.org/en/whats-new/press-room/atlantics-largest-forestry-union-applauds-long-term-plan-sector>; February press release at: <http://www.newswire.ca/en/story/1298929/forestry-plan-much-needed-for-new-brunswick>

For Reactions: The Crown Lands Debate, a Feature on the CBC website at: <http://www.cbc.ca/nb/features/crownforestrydebate/> including, "Irving clout with Government challenged in wake of Forest Deal" at: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/irving-clout-with-government-challenged-in-wake-of-forest-deal-1.2572410>; and "New Crown Forest Plan slammed by retired Provincial Biologist" at: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/new-crown-forest-plan-slammed-by-retired-provincial-biologist-1.2580430>; "New Crown Forestry Plan greeted with Shock, Dismay" at: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/new-crown-forestry-plan-greeted-with-shock-dismay-1.2570803>

"J.D. Irving's Crown Forest Contract Made Public" is at the CBC at:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/j-d-irving-s-crown-forest-contract-made-public-1.2620780>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Boreal Forest, Crown Land, Forestry Industry, Forestry Management, J.D. Irving Ltd., New Brunswick, Unifor** | [Leave a reply](#)

U.K. Union Makes Green Progress on Three Fronts

Posted on **April 30, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

A new report by the Public and Commercial Services Union of the U.K. outlines how that union is pursuing its green goals on three fronts: greening the union administration and operations through policies regarding energy use, waste reduction, green procurement and staff travel policies; at the workplace, supporting the green representatives through networks and online training; and in the community, through national and local campaigns, for example, against fracking, the Energy Bill Revolution and energy poverty, and through fair trade and trade justice campaigns. The report also summarizes the union's Green Forum in November 2013, and its new participation in the Trade Unions for Energy Democracy (TUED) network, based at Cornell University's Global Labor Institute in New York. It will relaunch its One Million Climate Jobs campaign in 2014.

LINKS

Becoming a Greener Union is available from a link at the Public and Commercial Services Union website at:http://www.pcs.org.uk/en/resources/green_workplaces/index.cfm, which also gives a link to the full report and a video from the 2013 Green Forum

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Cornell Global Labor Institute**, **Energy Bill Revolution**, **Green administration**, **Trade Unions**, **Trade Unions for Energy Democracy**, **U.K. Public and Commercial Services Union** | **Leave a reply**

Eco-Industries Can Thrive with Supportive Government Policies and a Culture of Innovation

Posted on **April 30, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

A new report from EU think-tank the Ecologic Institute, prepared for the Greens in the European Parliament, asserts that eco-industries outperformed the broader economy during difficult times, including the 2008 financial crisis. The report examines five European countries since 2008, and compares them to the U.S., China, and Mexico. It states that, while European manufacturers in general fell behind on the global market, manufacturers of environmental goods and services managed to remain competitive. In addition, even when European eco-manufacturing lost out to global competitors like China's growing solar PV manufacturing sector, European jobs were retained in planning, installation, and maintenance. The resilience of the European eco-industries is attributed partly to rapid innovation, as measured by patent applications. Ecologic also noted

that government policy that preserved investor confidence was crucial to maintaining resilient eco-industries.

LINKS

How Crisis-resistant and Competitive are Europe's Eco-Industries? Is available at:
<http://www.ecologic.eu/10477>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Ecologic Institute, Green industry, Green Innovation, Green Manufacturing, Low-Carbon Transition, Solar PV Manufacturing** | **Leave a reply**

Links to IPCC 5th Assessment Reports, and Reactions

Posted on **April 30, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

If somehow you missed the release of the two reports from the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 5th Assessment, you will find Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaption, and Vulnerability (released March 31st) at:

<http://www.ipcc-wg2.gov/AR5/>. The second report, Climate Change 2014: Mitigation of Climate Change (released on April 13th) is available at: <http://mitigation2014.org/>. The final Synthesis Report is scheduled for release in October 2014. What follows is a series of links to summaries and reaction, especially with a Canadian viewpoint. "UN report highlights urgency of near-term carbon cutting" (April 13) in the Globe and Mail at:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/world-losing-ground-in-climate-battle-says-un-body/article17949953/>; "Only with Political Will can we Avoid the Worst" from David Suzuki at: <http://www.davidsuzuki.org/blogs/science-matters/2014/04/only-with-political-will-can-we-avoid-the-worst-of-climate-change/>; "Dear Fossil Fuel Industry, It's Over" at the Greenpeace Canada website at: <http://www.greenpeace.org/canada/en/Blog/dear-fossil-fuel-industry-its-over/blog/48924/>. There was no response from Environment Canada or the Prime Minister's office.

From the U.S., several items from the New York Times are at:

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/04/01/opinion/climate-signals-growing-louder.html?emc=edit_th_20140401&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=67440933&_r=0, and http://www.nytimes.com/2014/04/14/science/earth/un-climate-panel-warns-speedier-action-is-needed-to-avert-disaster.html?emc=edit_th_20140414&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=67440933&_r=0, with a widely cited OpEd on April 17th by Paul Krugman, "Salvation gets Cheap", at: http://www.nytimes.com/2014/04/18/opinion/krugman-salvation-gets-cheap.html?_r=0. From the U.K., The Guardian summary of U.K. reaction is at: <http://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/blog/2014/apr/14/climate-change-report-reactions-to-the-final-instalment-of-the-ipcc-analysis>, and a portal to all Guardian coverage of the IPCC reports is at: <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/ipcc>.

Oil and Gas Sector Contributed Almost One Quarter of Canada's Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Posted on **April 30, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

On April 11th, a Friday afternoon, Environment Canada quietly released its annual national greenhouse gas emissions inventory, as required by the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). National emissions decreased by 0.3% between 2010 and 2012, but overall trends confirm that Canada is on track to significantly miss its commitment to a 17% decrease by 2020. Most provinces have cut their overall emissions, although Alberta's have increased by 7% between 2005 and 2012, mainly because the oil sands experienced an 80% emissions increase. The oil sands alone now account for 9% of total Canadian emissions, while the oil and gas sector overall contributes about one quarter.

Signs of progress are emerging in the manufacturing and transportation sectors, and electricity emissions intensity is decreasing, largely attributable to efficiency improvements and the Ontario coal phase-out, which reduced the province's electricity emissions by 56%.

Reaction from P.J. Partington, an analyst at the Pembina Institute, calls for Canada to make good on its promise to introduce national oil and gas regulations. See National Inventory Report 1990-2012: Greenhouse Gas Sources and Sinks in Canada at the Environment Canada website at: <http://www.ec.gc.ca/ges-ghg/default.asp?lang=En&n=3808457C-1&offset=6&toc=show> (English version), and <http://www.ec.gc.ca/ges-ghg/default.asp?lang=Fr&n=3808457C-1> (French version).

For P.J. Partington's blogs, go to "Big shiny trends: Canada's new emissions numbers" at: <http://www.pembina.org/blog/789>; "Oil Sands Talking Point collides with Reality" at: <http://www.pembina.org/blog/787>; and "Getting Back in Gear: Oilsands Climate Performance" at: <http://www.pembina.org/blog/788>. The U.S. released its UNFCCC National Inventory documents in the same week, showing that U.S. emissions are now 10% below 2005 levels, the lowest they have been in 20 years. Go to: <http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/ghgemissions/usinventoryreport.html>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Canadian Emissions, Emissions reduction targets, Greenhouse Gas Inventory, Oil Sands Emissions, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** | [Leave a reply](#)

Canadian Cities Rank High in Climate Change Adaptation – and Some Examples

Posted on **April 30, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

A newly released survey conducted by the researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology investigates the progress in climate adaptation planning in 468 cities worldwide – 298 of which were in the U.S., 26 were in Canada. Results show that 92% of Canadian cities are pursuing adaptation planning, compared to 68% worldwide, and 59% in the U.S.. The top ranked impacts identified by cities that conducted assessments were: increased stormwater runoff (72%), changes in electricity demand (42%), loss of natural systems (39%), and coastal erosion (36%). Other important issues were loss of economic revenue, drought, and solid waste management. The report, Progress and Challenges in Urban Adaptation Planning: Results of a Global Survey is available at: <http://www.icleiusa.org/action-center/learn-from-others/progress-and-challenges-in-urban-climate-adaptation-planning-results-of-a-global-survey>, and summarized at: http://www.icleiusa.org/blog/survey_us_cities_report_increase_in_climate_impacts_lag_in_adaptation_planningworldwide-progress-on-urban-climate-adaptation-planning. For a policy perspective, read the David Suzuki blog “Canada’s Success depends on Municipal Infrastructure Investments” (March 13) at: <http://www.davidsuzuki.org/blogs/science-matters/2014/03/canadas-success-depends-on-municipal-infrastructure-investments/>. For a more anecdotal report which names and describes some innovative Canadian municipalities, see “Five Canadian Communities Fighting Climate Change That You’ve Probably Never Heard of Before” from the DeSmog Blog at: <http://www.desmog.ca/2014/04/03/five-canadian-communities-fighting-climate-change-you-ve-probably-never-heard-of-before>. It describes Dawson Creek, B.C.; Guelph, Ontario; Varennes, Quebec; T’Sou-ke First Nation, B.C.; and Bridgewater, Nova Scotia. An overview of the Upwind-Downwind Conference of municipalities in Hamilton in March, and a summary of Hamilton’s climate action initiatives, appears in “Ontario Municipalities take Action on Air Quality and Climate Change” at: <http://www.alternativesjournal.ca/community/blogs/current-events/ontario-municipalities-take-action-air-quality-and-climate-change>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Adaptation, Cities and Climate Change, Climate Resilience, Coastal Cities, Economic impacts, Green Infrastructure, Infrastructure, Infrastructure Investment, Municipal Emissions, Municipal Government** | [Leave a reply](#)

The Future of Canada’s Electrical System

Posted on **April 30, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

On March 25, the Canadian Electricity Association (CEA) released Vision 2050: The Future of Canada's Electricity System, a report which offers recommendations and calls for urgent decisions and action. The report concludes with "Principles for Prudent Investment" which include: reliability, equity (calling for social policies to support ratepayers and protect low income consumers from energy poverty), integration of intermittent sources of electricity (i.e. solar and wind), innovation and modernization of infrastructure, energy efficiency improvements, and the electrification of transportation. See <http://www.electricity.ca/resources/publications/vision-2050-the-future-of-canadas-electricity-system.php>; See also the Sustainable Electricity Annual Report 2013 at: <http://www.sustainableelectricity.ca/media/AnnualReport2013/2013SustainableElectricityAnnualReport.pdf> (published August 2013), and Power for the Future: Electricity's Role in a Canadian Energy Strategy (July 2013) at: <http://www.electricity.ca/media/ReportsPublications/PowerForTheFutureElectricityRoleCanadianEnergyStrategyE.pdf>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Canadian Electricity Association (CEA), Canadian Energy Strategy, Electricity, Electricity Efficiency, energy efficiency, Energy Infrastructure** | [Leave a reply](#)

Investment in Canadian Clean Energy Mirrors Global Trend to Solar Pre-Eminence

Posted on **April 30, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

Two new reports on investment in clean energy were released in March/April, both showing a global decline in investment levels, and that investment in solar now exceeds wind investment. A report by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) shows a 14% decrease in global investment in renewables in 2013, but even so, renewables attracted \$192 billion for new capacity and comprised 43.6% of newly installed generation capacity in 2013. The U.S. continues to rank first among developed economies for investment in renewable energy with \$33.9 billion in 2013 – although this represents a 10% decrease, largely attributable to the uncertainty over the continuation of the Wind Tax Credit. Japan, Canada and the United Kingdom were the only G-20 countries in which investment increased. Canada ranked 6th amongst the G-20 countries with \$6.4 billion investment, largely in wind energy (\$3.6 billion) and solar energy (\$2.5 billion) in 2013. See "Six Canadian companies shaping the future of clean energy" (March 27) in Globe and Mail Report on Business Magazine at: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/rob-magazine/six-canadian-clean-energy-companies/article17685931/?page=4>. To read the Global survey, see Global Trends in Renewable Energy Investment 2014, produced jointly by the Frankfurt School-UNEP Collaborating Centre, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Bloomberg

New Energy Finance (BNEF) at: <http://www.unep.org/newscentre/Default.aspx?DocumentID=2787&ArticleID=10824&l=en>.

A related report was issued by the Pew Charitable Trusts, also utilizing Bloomberg data. Who's Winning the Clean Energy Race? 2013 Edition contrasts a 16% decline in renewables investment in developed markets of G-20 countries (led by the U.S. and EU) with a growth of 15% in non G-20 countries, led by such countries as Chile and Uruguay. Pew ranks China as the top destination for investors; solar capacity in China increased fourfold in 2013. See Who's Winning the Clean Energy Race? At: <http://www.pewenvironment.org/news-room/press-releases/pew-report-finds-that-global-clean-energy-investment-declined-in-2013-85899543052>. See also the U.S. Energy Information Administration's April 2014 Electricity Monthly Update which shows that U.S. solar capacity also increased by 418% between 2010 and 2014, as described at: <http://cleantechnica.com/2014/04/24/us-solar-energy-capacity-grew-an-astounding-418-from-2010-2014/>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Bloomberg New Energy Finance, Clean Energy, Clean Energy Investment, Low-Carbon Investment, renewable energy, Renewables, Solar Energy, wind energy** | [Leave a reply](#)

Low-Carbon Solutions to the GTA Gridlock – What Do They Mean for Workers?

Posted on **April 30, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

A new report from the Pembina Institute and the Toronto Atmospheric Fund presents policy options, innovative ideas, and examples from other countries of strategies that would reduce emissions, chiefly by greening delivery fleets and optimizing trip planning through sophisticated information sharing. Directed at government and business, this report also has implications for workers, particularly those in the transportation and delivery sectors, as well as the warehousing, manufacturing, retail and food services industries.

See Greening the Goods: Opportunities for Low-Carbon Goods Movement in Toronto at: <http://www.pembina.org/pub/2536>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Greater Toronto Area (GTA), Municipal Emissions, Pembina Institute, Toronto, Toronto Atmospheric Fund** | [Leave a reply](#)

Divestment Still a Necessary Strategy as ExxonMobil Reports on Stranded Assets

Posted on **April 30, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

The largest oil and gas company in the world, ExxonMobil, agreed under pressure from activist shareholders to publish a “Carbon Asset Risk” report on their website, to provide information to shareholders on the risks that stranded assets pose to the company’s business model, and how the company is planning for a low-carbon world. Stranded assets for Exxon are the carbon reserves which would need to remain in the ground if the world were to follow a carbon budget to keep below 2 degrees of global warming.

Some environmentalists are claiming this transparency as a victory – GreenBiz described it as “a pivotal milestone on the road to a low-carbon economy”. Bill McKibben, noting that the Exxon report was released on the same day as the IPCC Report, said it is “probably at least as important in the ongoing battle over the future of the atmosphere”. But McKibben sees “consummate arrogance” in Exxon’s statement that “we are confident that none of our hydrocarbon reserves are now or will become stranded”. For McKibben, the solution remains a divestment campaign – a strategy that Archbishop Desmond Tutu also urged in an April essay in The Guardian.

See “Exxon, Stranded Assets and the New Math” at GreenBiz:

<http://www.greenbiz.com/blog/2014/03/24/exxon-stranded-assets-and-new-math>, and an article in the Wall Street Journal Market Watch at: <http://www.marketwatch.com/story/landmark-agreement-with-shareholders-exxonmobil-agrees-to-report-on-climate-change-carbon-asset-risk-2014-03-20>.

But see also Bill McKibben’s article in The Guardian on April 3rd, “Exxon Mobil’s Response to Climate Change is Consummate Arrogance” at:

[http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/apr/03/exxon-mobil-climate-change-oil-gas-fossil-fuels?](http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/apr/03/exxon-mobil-climate-change-oil-gas-fossil-fuels?CMP=twf&utm_content=bufferfc5c8&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer)

[CMP=twf&utm_content=bufferfc5c8&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer](http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/apr/03/exxon-mobil-climate-change-oil-gas-fossil-fuels?CMP=twf&utm_content=bufferfc5c8&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer), and Desmond Tutu, “We Need an Apartheid-style Boycott to Save the Planet” at: <http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/apr/10/divest-fossil-fuels-climate-change-keystone-xl>.

For an overview of Stranded Assets, see Unburnable Carbon: Wasted Capital and Stranded Assets at:

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/GranthamInstitute/publications/Policy/docs/PB-unburnable-carbon-2013-wasted-capital-stranded-assets.pdf>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Bill McKibben, Climate Risk, Economic Risk, Exxon, ExxonMobil, Fossil Fuel Divestment, GreenBiz, IPCC, IPCC Reports, Risk Reporting, Shareholder Activism, Stranded Assets** | [Leave a reply](#)

Pipeline News: Kitimat, First Nations Reject Northern Gateway; the Government Downgrades Protection for Humpback Whales

Posted on **April 30, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

The Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipeline has encountered new road blocks as communities voice renewed opposition to the project. In Kitimat, residents voted against the pipeline by 60% in a non-binding plebiscite on April 19th. Kitimat might stand to gain the most if the project proceeds, with a promise from Enbridge to bring 180 permanent jobs to the community in addition to indirect opportunities for local contractors and suppliers. The day before the vote, four First Nations from the Yinka Dene, just west of Kitimat, expressed their official opposition to Northern Gateway in a meeting with the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, the National Energy Board, and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. The Yinka Dene have already gathered 160 B.C. First Nations behind a petition against the project. Other communities that have previously stated their opposition include Terrace, Prince Rupert, and Smithers.

See “Kitimat Residents Vote ‘No’ in Pipeline Plebiscite” from The Globe and Mail at: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/british-columbia/kitimat-residents-vote-in-northern-gateway-oil-pipeline-plebiscite/article17949815/>, “Does Kitimat’s Vote Matter?” In The Tyee at: <http://thetyee.ca/News/2014/04/12/Kitimat-Northern-Gateway-Vote/>, and “Four Dene clans officially reject Northern Gateway pipeline” from The Globe and Mail at: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/british-columbia/four-dene-clans-officially-reject-northern-gateway-pipeline/article17948468/>.

See <https://workandclimatechangereport.org/2014/01/28/northern-gateway-headed-to-court-as-neb-approval-provokes-criticism-of-review-process/> for background on the current lawsuits against the Northern Gateway project by First Nations and environmental groups.

Meanwhile, on April 22nd, Environment Canada has recommended that the humpback whale be reclassified, from “threatened” to “species of special concern” under the Species At Risk Act. This would remove legal protection for humpback habitat (which happens to include the British Columbia coast where oil tanker traffic would increase if Northern Gateway is approved, and is part of the basis of a lawsuit launched by EcoJustice and others). See the CBC report at: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/humpback-whale-losing-threatened-status-amid-northern-gateway-concerns-1.2617633>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA), Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), Enbridge, Environment Canada, First Nations, Humpback Whales, Kitimat, Municipal plebiscite, National Energy Board, NEB, Northern**

National Energy Board Rejects B.C. Academics' Participation in Transmountain Pipeline Hearings

Posted on **April 30, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

A public letter sent to the National Post states: "This week, the National Energy Board (NEB) announced plans for its upcoming hearings on the proposal to triple the capacity of Kinder Morgan's Transmountain Pipeline, which transports oil from Alberta to the Port of Vancouver. The new pipeline alone is expected to lead to 50% more carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions each year than all of British Columbia currently produces. That fact prompted 26 university professors who study climate change to apply to lend our expertise to the NEB's assessment of whether this project is in the public interest. Every one of us was rejected, because we proposed to talk about climate change..." See the letter at: <http://fullcomment.nationalpost.com/2014/04/10/donner-harrison-hoberg-lets-talk-about-climate-change/>; see the NEB website for the Transmountain project at: <http://www.neb.gc.ca/clf-nsi/rthnb/pplctnsbfrthnb/trnsmntnxpnsn/trnsmntnxpnsn-eng.html>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Climate Science, Environmental Science, Kinder Morgan, National Energy Board, NEB, Transmountain Pipeline** | [Leave a reply](#)

Keystone Decision Delayed Again

Posted on **April 30, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

U.S. President Obama announced on April 18th that he will extend the government comment period on the Keystone XL pipeline until at least the end of May, frustrating Canadian boosters of the project. Read the CBC report at: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/world/u-s-to-delay-keystone-xl-decision-1.2615062>. Protests against KXL continue in the U.S., the latest including U.S. First Nations – see "Keystone Protesters mark Final Roundup – For Now" in Politico at: <http://www.politico.com/story/2014/04/keystone-protesters-mark-final-roundup-for-now-106053.html?ml=la>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Keystone XL, KXL, Pipelines** | [Leave a reply](#)

U.S. Announces Strategy to Reduce Methane Emissions

Posted on **April 30, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

On March 28th, the White House released a Strategy to Cut Methane Emissions as part of the overall Climate Action Plan. It includes plans and timetables for research and consultation for agriculture, landfill, coal mining and oil and gas. Re oil and gas, the press release states: “in the fall of 2014, EPA will determine how best to pursue further methane reductions from these sources. If EPA decides to develop additional regulations, it will complete those regulations by the end of 2016”. See the press release and overview at:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2014/03/28/strategy-cut-methane-emissions>; see the full Strategy Document at:

http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/strategy_to_reduce_methane_emissions_2014-03-28_final.pdf.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Emissions Regulations, Environmental Protection Agency, Methane, Methane Emissions, U.S. Climate Action Plan, U.S. Emissions** | **Leave a reply**

Mandatory Emissions Trading Scheme for China

Posted on **April 30, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

China's Ministry of Finance has announced a plan to launch a mandatory national emissions trading scheme sometime between 2017 and 2020. The country has chosen seven regions where carbon market pilots will begin in the meantime. Eleven regions across China have been conducting pollution trading pilots since 2007, partly modelled after the EU emissions trading scheme. While pilots to date have focussed on carbon dioxide (CO₂), the national scheme is expected to include sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and nitrous oxide (NO_x) as well. One billion metric tonnes of CO₂ will be covered under the pilot programs, smaller only than the EU emissions trading scheme.

See “China aims to launch pollution permit market within 3 years” from Reuters at: <http://in.reuters.com/article/2014/03/24/china-pollution-idINL4N0ML1OU20140324>. By 2020, China has pledged to cut its greenhouse gas emissions per unit of GDP by 40 to 45 percent from 2005 levels.

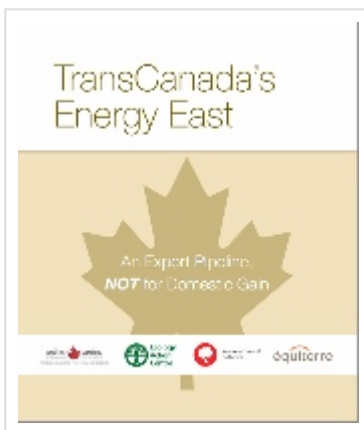
Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Cap and Trade, China, Emissions Trading, EU Emissions Trading Scheme** | **Leave a reply**

Energy East Pipeline: Transporting Crude Oil for Export, not Processing

Posted on **March 26, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

Contrary to the economic projections put forth by TransCanada Pipeline, a new report released on March 18 contends that the proposed Energy East pipeline will be used primarily as a means to export crude oil, rather than to refine it in Canada.

The Energy East project would convert 3,000 kilometres of existing natural gas pipeline in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Ontario to carry crude oil, and also would build over 1,500 km of new pipelines through Quebec and New Brunswick, with the objective



of carrying 1.1 million barrels of crude oil per day. In September 2013, an industry-sponsored report by Deloitte & Touche consultants projected job creation in the order of 10,000 jobs in development and construction, and 1,000 ongoing jobs in the operational phase.

TransCanada's Energy East Pipeline: For Export, Not Domestic Gain argues that the crude delivered by Energy East would exceed the processing capacity of existing Canadian refineries, given that they also source crude from the U.S., the Newfoundland offshore, and in the future, the newly-approved Line 9 pipeline project. The authors argue that new refineries are unlikely to be built in Canada, and point to TransCanada's proposed plans for export terminals at Gros Cacouna, Québec (east of Québec City) and Saint John, New Brunswick to prove that the intended purpose of the oil is export.

LINKS

TransCanada's Energy East Pipeline: For Export, Not Domestic Gain, prepared jointly by the Council of Canadians, Ecology Action Centre, Environmental Defence and Equiterre, is available at: <http://www.canadians.org/publications/transcanada%E2%80%99s-energy-east-export-pipeline-not-domestic-gain>

CBC summary is at: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/business/energy-east-pipeline-benefits-overblown-report-says-1.2576782>

Energy East: The Economic Benefits of TransCanada's Canadian Mainline Conversion Project (Sept. 2013) is on the Deloitte website at: <http://www.energyeastpipeline.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/Energy-East-Deloitte-Economic-Benefits-Report.pdf>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Canadian Oil Refineries, Council of Canadians, Deloitte, Deloitte & Touche Consultants, Ecology Action Centre, Energy East pipeline, Environmental Defence, Equiterre, Job Creation, Montreal Refineries, Oil Exportation, Oil Refining Jobs, Pipeline Jobs, Saint John Irving Refinery, Staples Trap, TransCanada, TransCanada Corporation | Leave a reply**

Growth of Canada's Clean Tech Sector

Posted on **March 26, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

The fourth annual *Canadian Clean Technology Industry Report* by private consulting company Analytica Advisors was released on March 6 in Ottawa, stating that the clean-tech industry is "coming of age". According to the report, the industry is comprised of over 700 Canadian companies which in 2012 generated \$5.8 billion in exports, spent \$1 billion in research and development, and created 41,100 new jobs across Canada. Twenty percent of the workforce in the sector is 30 years old and under. The survey authors predict that, at current growth rates, "this will become a \$28 billion industry by 2022, employing over 75,000". The clean tech industry has benefited from government investment of \$598 million in 246 projects through the Sustainable Technology Development Fund and the NextGen Biofuels Fund, both administered by Sustainable Development Technology Canada (SDTC).

LINKS

Press release re *Canadian Clean Technology Industry Report* is at: http://analytica-advisors.com/sites/default/files/2014%20Canadian%20Clean%20Technology%20Industry%20Report%20Analytica%20Press%20Release%20March%206th%202014%20SHORT_EN_Final.pdf.

The Table of Contents is at: http://analytica-advisors.com/sites/default/files/CTIR_TOC_2014.pdf, indicating the level of detail of the survey, but the full report is available only for sale at \$2,500.

Sustainable Technology Development Canada website is at: http://www.sdtc.ca/index.php?page=alias-3&hl=en_CA (English), and http://www.sdtc.ca/index.php?page=home&hl=fr_CA (French); their Knowledge Centre has an archive of reports on the sector.

Expanding Recycling will bring New Jobs to California

Posted on **March 26, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

According to a new report from the Tellus Institute, California could create 110,000 jobs if it meets its 2020 goal to recycle 75% of its solid waste. *From Waste to Jobs: What Achieving 75 Percent Recycling Means for California* is a follow-up to a 2011 report that asserted a 75% recycling rate for the entire U.S. could generate 1.5 million new jobs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 515 million metric tons.

Using recovered materials to create new products and packaging is more labour-intensive than incineration or sending them to the landfill. If California sticks to the 2011 AB 341 bill signed by Governor Jerry Brown, it will increase its solid waste diversion rate from half to three quarters while creating 34,000 jobs in materials collection, 26,000 jobs in materials processing, and 56,000 jobs during the manufacture of products using recycled materials. Plastics recycling is particularly significant, potentially delivering 29,000 new jobs alone. 38,600 indirect jobs could also be created in related sectors, such as equipment and services used by the recycling sector.

The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), which commissioned the report, recommends encouraging product stewardship and extended producer responsibility programs requiring packaging manufacturers to support the expansion of recycling infrastructure.

LINKS

From Waste to Jobs: What Achieving 75 Percent Recycling Means for California is available at: <http://www.nrdc.org/recycling/files/green-jobs-ca-recycling-report.pdf>

The 2011 Tellus report *More Jobs, Less Pollution* is available at: docs.nrdc.org/globalwarming/files/glo_11111401a.pdf

NRDC California Recycling Website is at: <http://www.nrdc.org/recycling/green-jobs-ca-recycling.asp>

The Importance of New Skills Training for Construction, Managers and all Occupations, in a Low Carbon Europe

Posted on **March 26, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

Greener Skills and Jobs, a joint publication of the the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), was released at the 2nd Green Skills Forum in Paris in mid-February.

The publication consists of papers presented by policy makers, researchers, experts from international o



rganisations and academics at the first forum in 2012. With a focus on European experience, the papers are organized into three sections: Gearing up Education for Training and Growth; Enterprise Approaches For a Workforce Fit For a Green Economy; and Integrating Skills Into Local Development Strategies For Green Job Creation.

Beyond the expected overview of the quantity and quality of green jobs in the EU countries and the arguments for the need for labour market flexibility and retraining, the 228-page document also offers detailed and specific chapters, including: “Licensing and certification to increase skills provision and utilisation amongst low-carbon small and medium-sized enterprises in the United Kingdom” (a study of construction trades and the emerging energy efficiency jobs), and “Managerial skills in the green corporation”, which used case study interviews to confirm the importance of three competencies for middle and top managers: change management leadership, collaborative openness, and eco-innovative mindset.

The overall message is that green skills will be needed “in all sectors and at all levels in the workforce as emerging economic activities create new (or renewed) occupations”.

LINKS

Greener Skills and Jobs is available at: http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/industry-and-services/greener-skills-and-jobs_9789264208704-en (read-only, or download with OECD credentials). It is not yet

available in French. Links to all the OECD Green Growth Studies are available at:
http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/fr/environment/oecd-green-growth-studies_22229523

Meeting skill needs for green jobs: Policy recommendations (November 2013) is a related document published by the International Labour Organization, which describes the complex international policy environment related to green vocational education. It was prepared for the G20 Working Group relating to Human Resources Development. It is available at:

http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/—ed_emp/—ifp_skills/documents/publication/wcms_234463.pdf

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Business Management, Construction Industry, Education and Training, Europe Centre for the Development of Vocational Training, Green Growth, Green skilling, Green Skills Forum, Labour, Labour Market Flexibility, Labour Training, Low-Carbon Transition, Management Skills, OECD, Training** | [Leave a reply](#)

Recommendations for an Equitable Green Growth Architecture

Posted on **March 26, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

The Green Economy Barometer, released at a U.K. conference in February, outlines the existing structures, organizations and national policies that underlie the green economy, and identifies gaps which may be impeding equitable growth. The report differentiates between green growth, which has focused on attracting investment, and green economy, which requires policy reform to create a more equitable economic system. “A green economy should start where the majority of people are, tackling poverty and helping them to develop their assets and meet their needs and aspirations. So it should actively include the informal economy, small and medium enterprises, and locally owned and run solutions – not just big business”. The paper concludes: “For the shoots of the green economy to grow, mature and replace the current economic system, we need collective action to tackle some of the ‘fault-lines’ that are fragmenting the green economy landscape. We also need urgently to connect the macro objectives of a green economy transition to societal needs and aspirations”.

LINKS

Green Economy Barometer: Who is Doing What Where and Why? by the Green Economy Coalition and the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) is available at:
<http://pubs.iied.org/pdfs/16573IIED.pdf>

Summary of the report and discussions from the conference are at the International Institute for Environment and Development website at:

<http://www.iied.org/support-for-green-economy-surges-crucial-gaps-remain>, and a Reuters summary is at: <http://www.trust.org/item/20140227105421>

Controversial New Water Legislation Introduced in B.C.

Posted on **March 26, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

The B.C. Government introduced Bill 18, the Water Sustainability Act, on March 11th. It updates the current legislation passed in 1909, and “will bring groundwater into the licensing system, and will expand government’s ability to protect fish and aquatic environments “. See <http://engage.gov.bc.ca/watersustainabilityact/> for the legislation and all supporting documents.

In a November 2013 posting during the lengthy consultation phase, the government had outlined how the proposed changes would impact oil and gas development, including a pledge that “in completing the new Act we are looking closely at the Oil and Gas Activities Act and the Environmental Management Act to ensure that surface and groundwater are protected during hydraulic fracturing operations” (see <http://engage.gov.bc.ca/watersustainabilityact/2013/11/14/blog-post-6-water-and-oil-gas-development/>). Yet on March 19, Western Canada Wilderness Committee and the Sierra Club of B.C. went before the Supreme Court of B.C., alleging that Encana has systematically avoided the current water licensing regulations by applying to the provincial Oil and Gas Commission for repeated “short term” water permits for fracking (see <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/encana-s-water-permits-for-b-c-fracking-illegal-lawsuit-alleges-1.2578788>).

The aspect of pricing commercial and industrial water use has been deferred by a period of further consultations; see the consultation paper, Pricing B.C.’s Water, at: <http://engage.gov.bc.ca/watersustainabilityact/files/2014/03/Pricing-B.C.s-Water.pdf>. Public comments will be accepted until April 8th.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **BC Water Sustainability Act, Bill 18, Encana, Fisheries, Fracking, Fracking Regulations, Groundwater Contamination, Sierra Club, Water Licensing Regulations, Water Protection Legislation, Water Sustainability, Western Canada Wilderness Committee** | [Leave a reply](#)

BC Budget Announces Tax on LNG, Silent on Carbon Price

Posted on **March 26, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

On February 18th, British Columbia tabled a provincial budget that touts its Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) development plans and offers some highly anticipated clarification on the sector's tax structure.

Proposed taxation will include a 7% levy on the liquefaction process (the most emissions-intensive part of the process), which will take effect after capital costs are recovered. Until then, companies will pay only 1.5%. While companies argue the tax may render B.C. LNG uncompetitive, Sustainable Prosperity argues that the rate will likely be lower in practice. Adding to the confusion over just how much revenue will accrue to the province is uncertainty about future LNG prices, and whether the existing carbon tax will apply.

The budget did not address the expected impacts on B.C.'s emissions reductions



targets. According to Sustainable Prosperity, five proposed LNG plants will emit 73 megatons of carbon alone, along with emissions from fracking, transportation, combustion, and any additional plants. In a new report, the Pembina Institute argues that the jobs and revenue figures published by the government would require five to seven LNG terminals, which it claims could put B.C. LNG emissions on par with oil sands emissions by 2020.

While the budget rolls back public spending overall, it also includes an expansion of the provincial Carbon Neutral Capital Program (CNCP) which will draw the health and post-secondary education sectors into an existing scheme to establish a carbon-neutral school system. CNCP collects \$25 per ton of greenhouse gas emissions from participating sectors, which is then invested in low-carbon capital upgrades.

See the B.C. Budget and Fiscal Plan, along with highlights and backgrounders, at:

<http://bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2014/default.htm>. For reaction, see "Carbon regime missing in action in BC's new LNG tax regime" from Sustainable Prosperity at:

<http://www.sustainableprosperity.ca/blogpost87>; "B.C. Budget 2014: About that LNG Prosperity Fund" Blog from Marc Lee of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives at:

<http://rabble.ca/blogs/bloggers/policynote/2014/02/bc-budget-2014-about-lng-prosperity-fund>. Also see Wellhead to Waterline: Opportunities to Limit Greenhouse Gas Emissions from B.C.'s Proposed LNG Industry from the Pembina Institute at: <http://www.pembina.org/pub/2524>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **BC Budget, BC LNG, British Columbia, Carbon Neutral Capital Program, Carbon Tax, LNG, LNG Jobs, Sustainable Prosperity** | [Leave a reply](#)

Nova Scotia Approves LNG Facility at Goldboro, with 40 Conditions

Posted on **March 26, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

On March 21st, the Nova Scotia Minister of Environment gave his approval for an LNG plant and terminal which the company predicts will create up to 3,500 jobs during its construction and employ 200 full-time workers in the operational phase. The Minister followed the conclusions of a 3-person environmental panel which acknowledged “residual effects” on the environment, including increased greenhouse gas emissions, and damage to local fisheries, but concluded that the economic benefits outweighed these considerations. The project still needs approval by the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board, and a final decision by the company, Pieridae Energy Canada. See the government press release and all documents relating to the project at: <http://www.novascotia.ca/nse/ea/goldboro-lng.asp>. See a Globe and Mail press report at: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/industry-news/energy-and-resources/nova-scotia-government-gives-conditional-okay-for-lng-plant/article17612971/>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **LNG, LNG Jobs, Nova Scotia** | [Leave a reply](#)

Recommendations for Québec’s Next Energy Policy Emphasize Energy Efficiency, Support Pipelines

Posted on **March 26, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

A 2-person commission appointed to review energy issues in Québec reported to the government in January 2014, generally recommending a change in direction to emphasize energy efficiency and limit new infrastructure investment. According to a report in the Montreal Gazette on March 2 (<http://www.montrealgazette.com/technology/Quebec+needs+energy+course+panel/9570190/story.html>), the recommendations included: set a goal of reducing greenhouse-gas emissions by 75 per cent by 2050; study the possibility of suspending phases 3 and 4 of the Romaine River hydroelectric project; stop or suspend wind, cogeneration and small-dam projects that have not yet been built; support TransCanada’s west-east oil pipeline, conditional on study by the province’s environmental review board; support Enbridge’s Line 9B oil pipeline; improve public transit; update the provincial building code to improve the energy efficiency of buildings; and support the construction of a natural-gas pipeline connection to the Gaz Métro network to replace heating oil with natural gas. The Energy Consultation website is at: <http://consultationenergie.gouv.qc.ca/english/> (English version), and

<http://consultationenergie.gouv.qc.ca/> (French version). The report and briefs presented to the Commission are available only in French.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Emissions reduction targets**, **Energy East pipeline**, **energy efficiency**, **Line 9B**, **Quebec**, **Quebec Energy Strategy**, **TransCanada**, **TransCanada Corporation** | [Leave a reply](#)

Fisheries in the News: Collaboration is Moving Newfoundland's Cod Fishery to Sustainability

Posted on **March 26, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

The Fishery Improvement Project (FIP) on the southern Newfoundland shore announced on March 13th that it has entered full assessment against the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) standard for sustainable and well-managed fisheries.

After the collapse of the cod fishery in the 1990's, this is an historic milestone, and according to World Wildlife Fund Canada (WWF) President David Miller: "It demonstrates that good management and collaboration can lead to the recovery of cod populations – and that struggling fisheries can once again thrive, not only in Atlantic Canada but across the world". The recovery of the fishery is indeed the result of extensive collaboration and co-operation- led by Icewater Seafoods Inc. and Ocean Choice International, partnering with WWF (formerly World Wildlife Federation) to manage the FIP, with additional financial support from the Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, the Resources Legacy Fund, and High Liner. The Fish, Food and Allied Workers Union (FFAW) and Fisheries and Oceans Canada are also cited as key supporters.

Read the press release at WWF at: <http://www.wwf.ca/newsroom/?14901/Newfoundland-cod-fishery-announces-milestone-sustainability-assessment>. Read about the FFAW Stewardship Program at: http://www.ffaw.nf.ca/?Content=Science_Research/Fisheries_Stewardship_Program, and an overview of the WWF Conservation Program in Atlantic Canada at: http://www.wwf.ca/conservation/oceans/atlantic_canada/.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Atlantic Cod Fishery**, **Commercial Fisheries**, **David Miller**, **Fisheries**, **Fishery Improvement Project (FIP)**, **Icewater Seafoods Inc.**, **Marine Stewardship Council (MSC)**, **Newfoundland**, **World Wildlife Fund (WWF)** | [Leave a reply](#)

Commercial Fisheries Still on Hold in the Arctic

Posted on **March 26, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

Although there is currently no commercial fishing in the Arctic, the rapidly warming waters may allow for one to develop. In 2012, scientists from 67 countries called for a moratorium on such fishing pending more research, to avoid damage to fish stocks. In February 2014, the five Arctic coastal countries – Canada, the United States, Russia, Denmark and Norway – agreed to avoid commercial fishing themselves and to work to include other countries in the agreement. In March, the European Parliament passed a resolution calling for protection of the High Arctic, prohibiting fishing, and prohibiting pollution from ships and oil rigs. See “Canada agrees to work to prevent fishing in High Arctic” on the CBC website at: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/canada-agrees-to-work-to-prevent-fishing-in-high-arctic-1.2554332>. As part of its extensive work on ocean conservation, The Pew Charitable Trust provides many studies on the Arctic at: http://www.pewtrusts.org/our_work_detail.aspx?id=606; documents on Ocean Conservation and overfishing are at: http://www.pewtrusts.org/our_work_category.aspx?id=134.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Arctic, Arctic Development, Commercial Fisheries, Fisheries** | [Leave a reply](#)

On its 20th Anniversary, Criticism of NAFTA for Environmental, Economic Damage

Posted on **March 26, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

A new report from the Sierra Club, the Council of Canadians and others, condemns the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) for failing to improve economic and environmental conditions for most Canadian, American, and Mexican citizens.

According to the report, exports from Canada to the U.S. increased by 200 percent from 1994 to 2008, yet wages stagnated. Further, NAFTA contract obligations for oil encouraged development of the oil sands, while alternative energy sectors suffered, and NAFTA restricted Canada’s ability to regulate oil sands emissions. Pollution increased in the U.S. due to growth in dirtier manufacturing sectors, although employment in American manufacturing dropped overall.

In Mexico, small farmers were unable to compete with large-scale, export-oriented intensive agriculture. Many failed in attempts to improve profits by converting carbon-sequestering forest to arable land. While the mining industry in Mexico did enjoy a boom, smallholders lost out to

associated industrial pollution. Wages in the maquila manufacturing sector near the U.S. border simultaneously stagnated, even as operations and pollution levels grew.

Other environmental impacts noted by the report include a significant jump in North American greenhouse gas emissions, unsustainable water use, and the rippling effects of NAFTA clauses that provide corporations with legal avenues to challenge environmental regulations, such as Lone Pine Resources' ongoing lawsuit against Canada over the Québec fracking moratorium (see our previous report at: <https://workandclimatechangereport.org/2013/11/22/fracking-company-suing-for-lost-profits-in-quebec/>).

See *NAFTA: 20 Years of Costs to Communities and the Environment* at: <http://www.sierraclub.ca/en/main-page/new-report-reveals-environmental-costs-north-american-free-trade-agreement-environmental-d>, and "NAFTA Report Warns of Trade Deal Environmental Disasters" from the Huffington Post at: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/03/11/nafta-environment_n_4938556.html.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Agriculture, Canadian Emissions, Council of Canadians, Emissions Regulations, Food and Agriculture, Fracking Moratorium, Lone Pine Resources, Manufacturing, Maquila Sector, Mexico, NAFTA, NAFTA Chapter 11, Quebec, Sierra Club, Water Politics, Water Sustainability** | [Leave a reply](#)

Capacity for Climate Change Action Diminishes in Canada, Grows in the U.S.

Posted on **March 26, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

More cuts to Environment Canada were made public with the release of the annual departmental Plans and Priorities document for 2014-2015 in March. Although almost all programs are targeted for reduction, the 69% cut to climate change programs between now and 2016/17 speaks volumes about the current government's attitude to climate change. See Environment Canada Plans and Priorities 2014-15 document at: <https://www.ec.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=024B8406-1>. Read commentary at the Toronto Star at: http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2014/03/12/environment_canada_braces_for_belttightening.html, or at The Tyee at: <http://thetyee.ca/News/2014/03/15/Environment-Canada-Cuts/>.

Cuts to Statistics Canada are also on the books amidst talk of "alternative data sources". In contrast, the U.S. White House announced on March 19th that "we are launching the Climate Data Initiative, an ambitious new effort bringing together extensive open government data and design competitions with commitments from the private and philanthropic sectors to develop data-driven planning and resilience tools for local communities....Data from NOAA, NASA, the U.S. Geological Survey, the Department of Defense, and other Federal agencies will be featured on

climate.data.gov, a new section within data.gov that opens for business today". See <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2014/03/19/climate-data-initiative-launches-strong-public-and-private-sector-commitments>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Plans and Priorities Document, Statistics Canada, U.S. Climate Action Plan** | [Leave a reply](#)

Global Survey of National Climate and Energy Legislation Ranks Canada as a Laggard

Posted on **March 26, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

A February report surveys the development of climate change and energy legislation in 66 countries which account for 88% of the world's emissions. The survey, co-authored by the Global Legislators Organisation (GLOBE) and the Grantham Research Institute at the London School of Economics, finds that 62 of the 66 countries have passed, or are in the process of passing, significant legislation; the countries lagging are Venezuela, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Canada. China and Mexico are held up as examples of progress; Japan and Australia are judged to have regressed.

See the 700-page GLOBE Climate Legislation Study: A Review of Climate Change Legislation in 66 Countries (4th edition) at: <http://www.lse.ac.uk/GranthamInstitute/publications/Policy/docs/Globe2014.pdf>; the GLOBE website is at: <http://www.globeinternational.org/>. And, for a further review of Canadian policy initiatives, see Regulating Carbon Emissions in Canada: Climate Policy Year in Review and Trends, 2013 at: http://www.iisd.org/pdf/2014/canadian_carbon_policy_review_2013.pdf. This annual review by the International Institute on Sustainable Development was released in February 2014, summarizing landmark policy initiatives and predicting issues to watch in 2014. For the coming year, it emphasizes the importance of provincial action, in the absence of central, federal leadership.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Climate Legislation, Global Legislators Organization (GLOBE), London School of Economics** | [Leave a reply](#)

The Social Cost of Carbon Attacked and Defended

Posted on **March 26, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

The Social Cost of Carbon (SCC) is an important analytical tool which estimates the economic harm caused by one additional metric ton of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions. It has been used in the U.S. and Canada to evaluate the costs of activities that produce greenhouse gas emissions, and the benefits of policies that reduce those emissions. See the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency webpage which lists the regulations which have used the SCC at:

<http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/EPAactivities/economics/scc.html>.

A review of the SCC is currently underway in the U.S., led by the Office of Management and the Budget (the public comments period closed on February 27, 2014). Inevitably, this has been controversial, with oil and gas interests leading the push to prohibit the use of the SCC, on the grounds that it is imprecise and inaccurate. A joint submission by the Environmental Defense Fund, Institute for Policy Integrity at New York University School of Law, Natural Resources Defense Council, and the Union of Concerned Scientists supports the use of the SCC and refutes the arguments of its critics; their statement is available at:

http://www.ucsusa.org/assets/documents/global_warming/Joint-Comments-to-OMB.pdf. See the terms and links to the Technical document at:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2014/01/27/2014-01605/technical-support-document-technical-update-of-the-social-cost-of-carbon-for-regulatory-impact>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Environmental Defense Fund (U.S.), EPA, Natural Resources Defense Council, SCC, Social Cost of Carbon, Union of Concerned Scientists** | [Leave a reply](#)

Public Opinion on Climate Change Issues: North American and European

Posted on **March 26, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

In March, Canada 2020 published key findings from polling, comparing U.S. and Canadian attitudes in 2013 and 2011. The results show that 81% of Canadians and 76% of Americans feel that humans have played a role in causing global warming. 77% of Canadians and 57% of Americans were “very concerned” or “somewhat concerned” about climate change. Canadian respondents ranked the importance of domestic policy priorities in the following order: #1: protect the environment (ranked 8.2), #2: strengthen economy and jobs (8.1), #3: show leadership on climate change (7.4), and #4: reduce taxes (6.3) (see <http://canada2020.ca/publications/2013-canada-us-comparative-climate-opinion-survey/>, or the complete results at: <http://canada2020.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Canada-2020-Background-Paper-Climate-Poll-Key-Findings-March-3-2014.pdf>).

The Canada 2020 poll surveyed attitudes to policies to promote renewable energy, and found that Canadians are more likely than Americans to support a carbon tax and are more willing to pay a premium for renewable energy. A new poll of Albertans commissioned by the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment, found that two-thirds of Albertans are willing to pay higher prices for electricity generated by wind and solar power (a majority believed that there are negative health effects related to burning coal) (Reported in the Edmonton Journal at:

<http://www.edmontonjournal.com/news/Poll+shows+most+Albertans+favour+renewable+energy+over+coal/9584222/story.html>).

Contrast these North American attitudes with the responses from a survey reported by the European Commission on March 3rd. Data is provided for the EU, by country, and in some cases by socio-economic and demographic characteristics, with trends since the last survey in 2011. Amongst Europeans, 16% currently feel that climate change is the most important problem facing the world today and 50% feel that it is one of the three most important problems (in Sweden, 39% rank it as the top problem and 81% rank it as one of the top 3). When asked who bears the responsibility for tackling climate change, 48% of Europeans look to their national governments, 41% say with business and industry, and 25% consider themselves to have a personal responsibility for preventing climate change. 80% of European respondents agreed that fighting climate change and using energy more efficiently can boost the economy and jobs in the EU (see a summary at: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-201_en.htm, and the full 97-page report at: http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_409_en.pdf).

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Canada 2020**, **Public Opinion Poll** | [Leave a reply](#)

American Scientists Frame Climate Change as a Risk Management Issue

Posted on **March 26, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

In the war for public support for action against climate change, a new campaign from the prestigious American Association for the Advancement of Science was launched with the document: What we Know: The Reality, Risks and Response to Climate Change (at: <http://whatweknow.aaas.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/AAAS-What-We-Know.pdf>). From the AAAS press release: “Scientists have developed a solid understanding of how the climate is responding to the build-up of greenhouse gases, but they recognize the considerable uncertainty about the long-run impacts – especially potential economic damages. Economists understand how to create incentives to limit pollution production with maximum effect and minimum collateral damage, but crafting the appropriate response is a complex valuation process that requires quantifying those same uncertainties...To do so requires scientists and economists to work together, ask tough questions, and break the boundaries of their professional silos. That’s what’s this initiative aims to do”.

B.C. Engineers Recognize Professional Challenges of Climate Change

Posted on **February 28, 2014** by [Ava Lightbody](#)

The Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of British Columbia (APEGBC) has published a position paper which asserts that the sector's professional standards and duty to protect public safety now imply a need to consider climate change as part of engineering and geosciences practice. *A Changing Climate in British Columbia: Evolving Responsibilities for APEGBC and APEGBC Registrants* states that engineers and geoscientists in particular face new professional challenges in light of uncertainty surrounding the climatic future. Fulfilling the professional standards outlined in the *Engineers and Geoscientists Act* has become more complicated, as project planning and providing advice to decision makers now must account for potential extreme weather events or unprecedented ongoing climatic stresses which may impact long-term safety and resilience. Some engineers are already being asked to consider climate change by their employers and clients, as they were during the development of legislated flood assessments in B.C.

In recognition of the gaps in current knowledge, training, and professional codes, APEGBC states it will implement professional development opportunities, update training procedures and codes, and ensure improved access to sound climate change data along with recommendations about its appropriate use. Entirely new professional guidelines may eventually be introduced. In the position paper, APEGBC instructs its registrants to remain informed and states that engineers and geoscientists are uniquely positioned, given their technical expertise, to help navigate the process of adaptation and building resilient communities.

LINKS

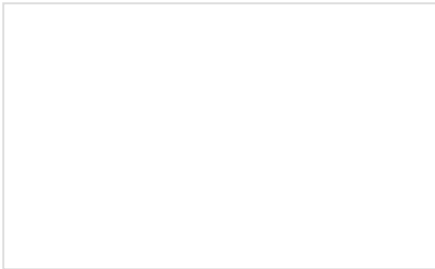
A Changing Climate in British Columbia: Evolving responsibilities for APEGBC and APEGBC Registrants is available at: <https://apeg.bc.ca/News/News-Releases/APEGBC-Releases-Climate-Change-Position-Paper>

"Engineers Leading the Way on Climate Change" Blog post at the West Coast Environmental Law website at: <http://wcel.org/resources/environmental-law-alert/engineers-leading-way-climate-change>

Government Scientists Have their Say Through their Union's Survey

Posted on **February 28, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

The Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada released a new report with insights into the effects of the Harper government's attitude to environmental issues. *Vanishing Science: The Disappearance of Canadian Public Interest Science* summarizes the results of two surveys by Environics – one, a survey of



scientists who work for the federal government, and the other a survey of Canadians. Nearly 73% of Canadians believe public health, safety and protection of the environment should be a top government priority. Yet the survey states that “Over three-quarters of federal scientists (78%) report cuts to capacity in their own workplace. Nearly 7 out of 10 scientists (69%) at Environment Canada and over 8 out of 10 (83%) at the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) believe Canada is doing a worse job of environmental protection and sustainable resource management than 5 years ago”. An article by Andrew Nikoforuk in *The Tyee* gives voice to specific prominent scientists who have been let go.

LINKS

Vanishing Science: The Disappearance of Canadian Public Interest Science is at:
<http://www.pipsc.ca/portal/page/portal/website/issues/science/vanishingscience>

“Report Lists Top Scientists Who Lost Jobs Due To Federal Cuts” in *The Tyee* (Feb. 12) at:
<http://thetyee.ca/Blogs/TheHook/2014/02/12/Federal-Science-Cuts/>

New Evidence About the Climate Impacts of Methane Leaks Sparks a Union Call for a Global Moratorium on Fracking

Posted on **February 28, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

The January 28 meeting of the Global Advisory Group of Trade Unions for Energy Democracy considered a draft paper concerning fracking. The paper, prepared by the Cornell Global Labor Institute states, “This paper has been prepared to assist unions and their close allies who wish to better understand the impacts of shale gas drilling, or ‘fracking’, and want to develop a position or approach to fracking that protects workers, communities and the environment...” It is an extensive review of the core issues driving anti-fracking activism, and the current activities of social movement groups and unions (chiefly in the U.S. and Canada, but also in Europe and Argentina). It highlights the pro-fracking position of the AFL-CIO Building Trades union in the U.S. and the anti-fracking statements of Canada’s Unifor and CUPE. About Unifor and CUPE, the paper states: “their perspective on fracking combines a social movement approach that prioritizes solidarity with other movements but it is also grounded in a pragmatic approach to Canadian energy policy involving the use of their natural resources in ways that are responsible and beneficial for the Canadian economy as a whole”.

In a separate document, the Trades Union Congress of the U.K. reiterated its 2012 position in its February 13, 2014 presentation to an Inquiry of the House of Lords into shale gas. It encapsulates two competing interests of trade unions on the issue: the TUC “... wishes to focus on two issues of concern...the need for reliable forecasts of economic and employment benefits; and setting the highest standards for occupational health and safety at work”. It follows up on the TUC policy statement which is based on the precautionary principle and effectively calls for a moratorium on fracking.

Although water consumption and contamination were the initial concerns of anti-fracking activism, the TUED paper states that recent scientific research reveals that methane (the major component of natural gas) is “34 times stronger as a heat-trapping gas than CO₂ over a 100-year time scale, and 86 times more powerful over a 20-year time frame”. Reinforcing the TUED summary, a new paper published in Science in February analyzed more than 200 technical publications examining methane leakage in the natural gas industry, and by expanding the focus to include the production and delivery stages, the authors conclude that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is underestimating the amount of methane emitted in the United States by about 50 percent.

The TUED draft paper argues that natural gas can no longer be promoted as a “bridging” fuel towards a lower carbon energy system, and it is no longer appropriate for the fight against shale gas production to be led by local groups at the level of local government. The paper calls for a

“global conference sponsored by one or more global trade union bodies”, [to] “work towards a common trade union approach, with the ‘precautionary principle’ as a point of departure”. The paper concludes by proposing a draft resolution for a global moratorium.

LINKS

Global Shale Gas and the Anti-Fracking Movement: Developing Union Perspectives and Approaches is available from the Trade Unions for Energy Democracy website from a link at: <http://energydemocracyinitiative.org/professor-robert-w-howarths-presentation-for-trade-unions-for-energy-democracy/>

An additional summary of scientific research on methane leakage in natural gas and fracking is at: <http://energydemocracyinitiative.org/professor-robert-w-howarths-presentation-for-trade-unions-for-energy-democracy/>

TUC press release regarding the House of Lords Inquiry into Shale Gas is at: <http://www.tuc.org.uk/node/119642>

“Methane Leaks from North American Natural Gas Systems” by Brandt et al. in *Science* (Feb. 14, 2014) is available at: <http://www.sciencemag.org/content/343/6172/733.summary?sid=7f1c6729-6268-488d-9c49-88bdd0b553a1>, or summarized in “Study Finds Methane Leaks Negate Benefits of Natural Gas as a Fuel for Vehicles”, (*New York Times*, Feb. 14) at: http://www.nytimes.com/2014/02/14/us/study-finds-methane-leaks-negate-climate-benefits-of-natural-gas.html?_r=1

For those involved in community-level action in Canada, see the February publication by the Council of Canadians, *The Fractivist's Toolkit*, at: <http://www.canadians.org/publications/fractivists-toolkit>

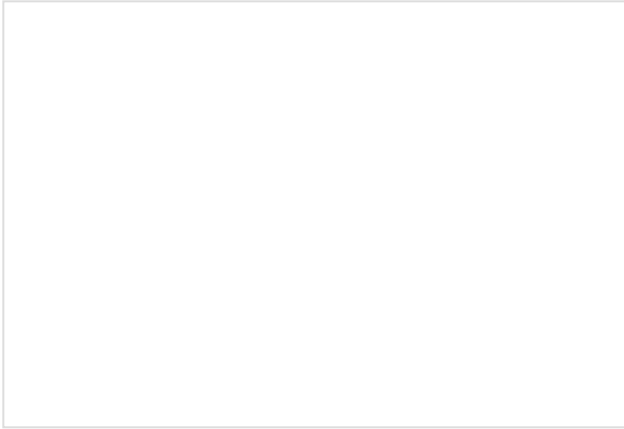
Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Cornell Global Labor Institute, Fracking, Fracking Moratorium, Labour Unions, Methane, Occupational Health and Safety, Trade Unions for Energy Democracy, Trades Union Congress** | [Leave a reply](#)

Job Losses and Bankruptcies Result from California's Drought

Posted on **February 28, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

The worst drought in recorded California history will take a severe toll on the regional and American economy, particularly in the agricultural, fishing, tourism, and even energy industries. The drought, which President Obama and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack have linked to climate change, may result in an \$11 billion loss in annual state revenue from agriculture according

to the California Farm Water Coalition. Farmers may be forced to fallow up to 500,000 acres of land during this year's planting season, threatening some with bankruptcy and endangering the livelihoods of the 117,000 Californians who work in farm production, processing and transporta



tion. While the wine industry and its associated tourism is suffering, livestock farmers may be taking the hardest hit as parched pasture is replaced with expensive imported feed. In the highly fertile Central Valley jobs directly related to agriculture comprise nearly 40% of employment. Previous droughts have seen unemployment in some towns skyrocket as high as 45%, while the 2011 to 2012 drought took an estimated \$50 billion toll on the American economy as a whole.

The availability of hydroelectric power, the state's cleanest and cheapest energy supply, has also been adversely affected. The state's salmon population could be severely affected, particularly if legislation from four California and Oregon senators is passed that would allow more water to be diverted to farms. The bill would contradict EPA regulations that protect fish stocks in the Bay-delta estuary. According to the National Resources Defense Council, the regulations themselves sustain thousands of jobs associated with the fishing industry and preserve water quality for regional farmers.

California Governor Jerry Brown has announced \$687.4 million in drought relief funding drawn partly from voter-approved bonds and the state's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. Money will go to local governments and agencies for water conservation and efficiency projects, food assistance, and emergency drinking water initiatives for communities facing severe water shortages. President Obama's response to the drought includes \$100 million in federal aid to livestock ranchers, as well as \$15 million for areas hit hardest by the drought, and \$60 million for California food banks.

LINKS

California Seeing Brown where Green Used to be" in the *New York Times* is at:

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/02/14/us/california-seeing-brown-where-green-used-to-be.html?_r=0

"Punishing Drought has California Fearing the Worst" article from the *Globe and Mail* is available at: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/punishing-drought-has-california-fearing-the-worst/article16650342/>

“Drought Forces California Farmers To Idle Cropland” article from Reuters available at:
<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/02/06/usa-drought-california-idUSL2N0LB00U20140206>

“California, Oregon Senators Introduce Drought Relief Legislation” from Senator Feinstein available at: <http://www.feinstein.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/press-releases?ID=e7668832-d0be-4329-a30f-d1e5e47863aa>

“California Drought: Gov. Jerry Brown proposes \$687 million Aid Plan” from the *San Jose Mercury News* is available at: http://www.mercurynews.com/california/ci_25181590/california-drought-aid-plan-set-687-million-plan

Posted in **United States** | Tagged **Agriculture, California, Drought** | **1 Reply**

Solar Jobs Growing at Almost 20% in the U.S.

Posted on **February 28, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

The U.S.-based Solar Foundation released its annual National Solar Jobs Census for 2013 on January 27 followed by the State Solar Jobs Map on February 11. According to the Solar Foundation there are now 142,000 workers employed in the solar industry. Employment has increased by 24,000 jobs since 2012 nationally, a growth rate of almost 20% (compared to a rate of 1.9% for the economy as a whole). Employment growth in the coming year is estimated at 15.6%. The average solar installer earns between \$20.00 (median) and \$23.63 (mean) per hour – comparable to skilled electricians and plumbers in the U.S. Wages for production and assembly workers averaged \$15.00 (median) to \$18.23 (mean) per hour, slightly more than the national average for electronic equipment assemblers.

California continues to lead the U.S. in the number of solar workers at 47,223. And on Feb. 13th, after more than 3 years in construction, the world’s largest solar thermal energy project went live in California: the Ivanpah Solar Electricity Project, a joint effort between NRG, Google, and BrightSource Energy.

We have no comparable measures for the Canadian solar industry. The latest report appeared in November 2013, from the Renewing Futures research project, which assessed the capacity of Canada’s skilled workforce to meet the labour needs of all electricity-related renewable energy systems, including solar. It estimated that there were 41,000 employees in the entire renewable electricity sector in Canada in 2012. The latest labour market survey conducted by the Canadian Solar Industries Association was published in 2009.

LINKS

National Solar Jobs Census 2013, the State Solar Jobs Map, and detailed reports for California, Arizona, and Minnesota are all available at: <http://thesolarfoundation.org/>

A summary of the Renewing Futures reports appeared in the November issue of Work and Climate Change Report at: <https://workandclimatechangereport.org/2013/11/22/a-strategy-for-growth-for-human-resources-and-training-in-renewable-electricity-sectors/>

Canadian Solar Industries Association is at: <http://www.cansia.ca/market-intelligence/labour-force-market>

Press release regarding Ivanpah is at: <http://www.brightsourceenergy.com/ivanpah-achieves-commercial-operation#.UwIw4Uz33V>

Posted in **United States** | Tagged **Job Creation, Solar Energy** | [Leave a reply](#)

Advancing the Role of Women in Ontario's Renewable Energy Sector

Posted on **February 28, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

Women in Renewable Energy (WiRE) is a new group, launched at the 2013 CanWEA conference, with the aim to highlight, enhance, and expand the role of women in the renewable energy sector in Ontario. WiRE is taking over from the Greater Toronto Chapter of Women of Wind Energy (WoWE) and is led by women working in diverse sectors of the clean energy economy, including the engineering, legal, insurance, technology, environmental assessment and services, permitting, project and business development fields. WiRE focuses on advancing the knowledge base and professional development of its members and conducting community outreach.

Future initiatives will likely involve connecting women who work in the sector with students and others not currently involved in renewable energy. Related organizations worldwide include: Women in Renewable Energy Scotland and Women in Renewable Energy Hawaii. WoWE also continues to connect women working in wind energy through local chapters across North America.

See Women in Renewable Energy website at: <http://womeninrenewableenergy.ca/>; "New Ontario Organization is Advancing the Role of Women in Renewable Energy" Blog post at the *Alternatives Journal* website at: <http://www.alternativesjournal.ca/community/blogs/renewable-energy/new-ontario-organization-advancing-role-women-renewable-energy>.

Women of Wind Energy website is at: <http://www.womenofwindenergy.org/>; Women in Renewable Energy Scotland website is at: www.wirescotland.com/; Hawaii Women in Renewable Energy website is available at: <http://hawaiiwire.org/>.

After 14 Years, Forestry Companies and Environmentalists Reach Joint Recommendations to the B.C. Great Bear Forest Agreement

Posted on **February 28, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

On January 29th, recommendations were announced by the parties of the Joint Solutions Project, comprised of the forest companies operating in the Great Bear Rainforest (Western Forest Products, Interfor, Howe Sound Pulp and Paper, BC Timber Sales and Catalyst) and three environmental groups (ForestEthics, Greenpeace and Sierra Club of BC). Highlights of the 82-page document include: an additional 500,000 ha to be set aside for conservation; a harvest level consistent with a “viable forest industry”; changes to landscape planning that better account for old growth, cultural values, key wildlife habitat and riparian zones; and a legal and policy framework for implementation. The recommendations will be considered by the province of British Columbia and the Nanwakolas Council and Coastal First Nations, who are the decision-makers in the Great Bear Rainforest Agreement, and in consultation with 12 other First Nations. The Joint Solutions Project was established in 2000 and the Great Bear Forest Agreement was reached in 2006.

See the ForestEthics press release at: <http://forestethics.org/news/forest-companies-and-environmental-groups-deliver-joint-recommendations-great-bear-rainforest>. The B.C. government press release is at: <http://www.coastforestconservationinitiative.com/pdf2014/2014FLNR0005-000099.pdf>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Aboriginal Peoples, British Columbia, ForestEthics, Forestry Industry, Great Bear Rainforest, Greenpeace, Sierra Club, Sustainable Forestry** | [Leave a reply](#)

Keystone Pipeline: Protests Continue: Obama Takes his Time

Posted on **February 28, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

The U.S. State Department released its Final Environmental Impact Report regarding the Keystone XL pipeline on January 31 (see: <http://keystonepipeline-xl.state.gov/finaiseis/index.htm>),

yet a date for the final decision is still unclear, and at the North American leaders summit in Mexico on February 18, President Obama rebuffed Prime Minister Harper's attempts to elicit approval. On February 19th, a court in Nebraska ruled that a 2012 law did not give the governor the authority to approve the Keystone route through the state. As a result TransCanada would have to negotiate with each landowner directly to build the pipeline through that state. See:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/business/keystone-xl-access-through-nebraska-shut-down-by-judge-1.2543898>.

In the U.S., Keystone continues to be a rallying point for environmental groups with an estimated 10,000 people attending anti-Keystone XL vigils in 280 locations across the U.S. shortly after the State Department release, and a planned "act of civil disobedience" announced by 350.org for Washington D.C. on March 2. Read the Inside Climate News report at:

<http://insideclimatenews.org/news/20140210/environmental-movement-test-its-muscle-keystone-final-stretch>.

"Keystone XL and the Tar Sands: Voices from the Front lines" (Feb. 4) at:

<http://www.thenation.com/blog/178224/keystone-xl-and-tar-sands-voices-front-lines>, includes a profile of Alberta Chippewa activist Eriel Deranger and her comments to the Tar Sands Exposed Tour in Boston and outlines the Chippewa First Nations arguments and actions against Keystone XL.

According to an article at the Trade Unions for Energy Democracy website, five U.S. unions are on the record as opposing Keystone XL, while the Laborers' International Union (LIUNA) and the AFL-CIO Building Trades support it. See "U.S. Unions Still Divided On Keystone XL Pipeline" at: <http://energydemocracyinitiative.org/u-s-unions-still-divided-on-keystone-xl-pipeline/>.

Posted in **United States** | Tagged **350.org**, **Chipewyan First Nation**, **Keystone XL**, **Protests & Rallies**, **Trade Unions for Energy Democracy** | [Leave a reply](#)

Oil Sands Emissions – Even Greater than we Thought

Posted on **February 28, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

From researchers at the University of Toronto, a paper published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences on February 3 finds that emissions of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) from tar sands operations may be two or three times higher than previously reported in official estimates if fumes coming from tailings ponds are included in measurements. A summary of the study is at the CBC website at:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/oilsands-air-pollutants-underestimated-researchers->

[find-1.2521134](#). The full article, “Evaluating Officially Reported Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon Emissions In The Athabasca Oil Sands Region With A Multimedia Fate Model” is available at: <http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2014/01/29/1319780111>.

A second article published in *Environmental Science and Technology*, the journal of the American Chemical Society, uses new technology to measure and differentiate between naturally occurring pollution from bitumen deposits and pollution from oil sands processing. The authors conclude that “oil sands process-affected water (OSPW)” from tailings ponds is reaching the Athabasca River system. The research was conducted under Environment Canada’s regular research program – and not surprisingly, Environment Canada told the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation that it was unable to provide an interview with the report’s main author, Richard Frank.

“Profiling Oil Sands Mixtures from Industrial Developments and Natural Groundwaters for Source Identification” appears in *Environmental Science and Technology* Article ASAP (Jan. 21, 2014); an abstract is available at: <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/es500131k> (full text available for a \$35 fee). The *Edmonton Journal* summary is at: <http://www.edmontonjournal.com/health/Federal+study+confirms+oilsands+tailings+found/9530481/story.html>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Environment Canada, Oil Sands Emissions, Water pollution** | [Leave a reply](#)

Energy East Pipeline Could Increase Canada’s Emissions More than Keystone

Posted on **February 28, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

A new report from the Pembina Institute says that TransCanada’s Energy East pipeline could increase Canada’s greenhouse gas emissions by 32 million tonnes per year, surpassing estimates for Keystone XL. The new pipeline would have the capacity to transport 1.1 million barrels of crude oil per day from Alberta to New Brunswick. Terminals near Rivière-du-Loup and in Saint John would likely export crude by tanker. *Climate Implications of the Proposed Energy East Pipeline* argues that because the oil sands are “land-locked”, pipelines are a vital component of accessing international markets and are therefore directly linked to rising oil sands emissions. Pembina asserts that the National Energy Board should consider those “upstream” effects as part of Energy East’s environmental impact assessment, though it has neglected to do so for past pipelines.

See *Climate Implications of the Proposed Energy East Pipeline* and the media release at: <http://www.pembina.org/pub/2519>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Energy East pipeline, Greenhouse gas emissions, Oil Sands Emissions, Pembina Institute** | [Leave a reply](#)

Industry Estimates of the Economic Impact of the Oil Sands

Posted on **February 28, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

From the industry point of view, a study by consultants IHS CERA was published in January reporting focus group discussions by the oil sands multinationals in Calgary in summer 2013. The report projects that the oil sands' contribution to Canadian GDP could reach \$171 billion in 2025, with total contribution to employment in Canada reaching 753,000 jobs by 2025.

See *Oil Sands Economic Benefits: Today and in the Future* (Jan. 2014) at: <http://www.ihs.com/pdfs/OSD-2013-Economic-Benefits-Jan-2-2014.pdf>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Canadian GDP, Economic impacts, Job Creation, Oil Sands** | [Leave a reply](#)

Concerns over Spills if Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain Pipeline Allowed to Triple Volume

Posted on **February 28, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

Applications to participate in hearings on the proposed twinning of the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain pipeline have flooded the National Energy Board. The expansion would triple the amount of oil shipped through the pipeline from Strathcona County, Alberta to Burnaby, B.C. Over 40 First Nations, including some coastal nations in the U.S., cite concerns over the impact of potential spills on the salmon and shellfish stocks they depend upon for their livelihoods. The city of Vancouver has filed a submission that identifies increased tanker traffic and potential spills as threats to its \$3.6-billion a year tourism industry and the port's massive contribution to the overall Canadian economy. The province of BC has filed for status as an intervener, which Environment Minister Mary Polak says will ensure the province has a say in environmental and public health protection standards.

See "First Nations Sign Up For Kinder Morgan Pipeline Hearing" in *The Globe and Mail* at: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/british-columbia/first-nations-sign-up-for-kinder-morgan-pipeline-hearing/article16888886/>; "Vancouver Cites Environmental Impact, Tanker Traffic Concerns In Trans Mountain Submission" in *The Globe and Mail* at: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/british-columbia/vancouver-cites-environmental-impact-tanker-traffic-concerns-in-trans-mountain-submission/article16820452/>; and a National Energy Board press release listing issues surrounding the pipeline is available at: <http://www.neb-one.gc.ca/clf-nsi/rthnb/nws/nwsrls/2013/nwsrls22-eng.html>, with more information at: <http://www.neb-one.gc.ca/clf-nsi/rthnb/pplctnsbfrthnb/trnsmntnxpnsn/trnsmntnxpnsn-eng.html>.
Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Kinder Morgan, National Energy Board, Oil Spills, Trans Mountain Pipeline, Vancouver** | [Leave a reply](#)

'Intense' Government Audits Threaten Canadian Environmental Groups

Posted on **February 28, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

CBC reported on February 6th that since 2012 the Canadian Revenue Agency (CRA) "has conducted additional review activities focused on political activities. Audits are being conducted in addition to our regular audit activities, and will include charities from across the entire spectrum of charitable activity". Chief among the targets are environmental groups, including Environmental Defence, the David Suzuki Foundation, Tides Canada, West Coast Environmental Law, the Pembina Foundation, and Equiterre and the Ecology Action Centre. If the CRA determines that an organization has directed more than 10% of its resources to political activities, the organization loses its status as a "non-profit", and would be subject to taxation, and its donors would lose the ability to claim tax exemptions for their donations. According to Inside Climate News, the audits were triggered by complaints from a group called Ethical Oil, which was co-founded in 2011 by Alykhan Velshi after he left a job in the government of Stephen Harper. Mr. Velshi has since left Ethical Oil and is now the director of issues management for Prime Minister Harper.

See the CBC report at: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/7-environmental-charities-face-canada-revenue-agency-audits-1.2526330>.

Mark Winfield of York University has written a thoughtful blog, pointing out the dangers of these CRA audits, at: marksw.blog.yorku.ca/2014/02/11/five-functions-of-non-governmental-organizations-in-a-democratic-society/

Posted in **Government Policy** | Tagged **Canadian Revenue Agency, ENGOS, Environmental Science, Government Auditing** | [Leave a reply](#)

World Cities Filling the Gap with Climate Change Initiatives

Posted on **February 28, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

A February 2014 report from C40, a leading climate action group that links megacities around the world, captures the importance of cities as climate actors. The report highlights the unique potential held by cities where innovations in efficiency and technology are more forthcoming, threats to economic and public wellbeing are often felt more immediately, and leaders have enough local power to respond effectively. The report indicates that mayors worldwide are already doing twice as much to build resilience and reduce emissions than they were in 2011. Nearly half of the 63 major cities surveyed used local green development funds to finance climate action commonly furnished through property, municipal, and local business taxation. Cities that reported addressing climate change as part of economic development commonly did so through the green manufacturing, green infrastructure, and clean technology sectors. The full report is available at: http://www.c40.org/blog_posts/CAM2.

The report was accompanied by the appointment of former mayor of New York and President of the C40 Board of Directors to the position of UN envoy for Cities and Climate Change. Michael Bloomberg pledged to harness the global mayoral power to raise political will and bring “concrete solutions” to the 2014 Climate Summit. Bloomberg, whose contributions in New York included rebuilding aging water mains and creating energy-efficient buildings, asserted that cities are “forging ahead” as progress at international levels stalls. The UN news release on the appointment is available at: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp/story.asp?NewsID=47055&Cr=climate+change&Cr1#.UwaSNIXPxkW>.

The Guardian coverage including Bloomberg’s reaction is available at:

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/feb/05/michael-bloomberg-world-leaders-climate-deal>.

According to a new report from the National Municipal Adaptation Project (NMAP) large Canadian cities are keeping pace with the global trend and have climate action plans. However, 65% of smaller communities have no plan in place despite the fact that many have already faced damage from flooding or extreme rainfall in the last ten years. The report is available at:

<http://www.localadaptation.ca/results-of-the-nmap-survey-of-local-governments.php>. An online library of climate change adaptation policies from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities is available at: <http://www.fcm.ca/home/programs/partners-for-climate-protection/program-resources/municipal-reports.htm>.

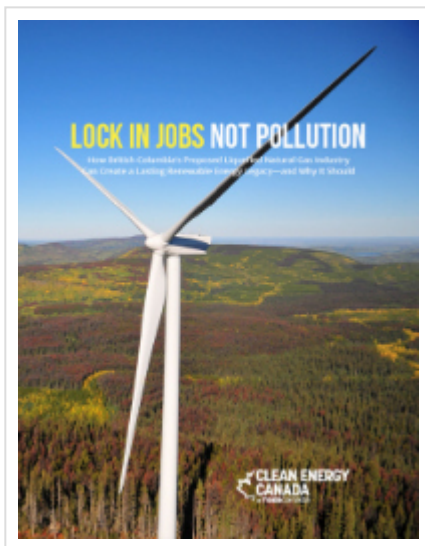
The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) has launched an initiative called “Urban Solutions” to help American cities become cleaner and more resilient by tackling food systems and clean energy, transportation, and storm-water infrastructure. Mayors from 10 major American cities also announced their participation in the City Energy Project, a partnership between the NRDC and the Institute for Market Transformation. The cities are expected to save a combined \$1 billion

in energy bills, cut 5 million to 7 million tons of annual carbon emissions, and create jobs in architecture, engineering, construction, and more. Read more about Urban Solutions at: http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/spoticha/reconnecting_america_legacy_co.html. The NRDC press release regarding the City Energy Project is available at: <http://www.nrdc.org/media/2014/140129a.asp>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Adaptation, C40, Cities and Climate Change, City Energy Project, Climate Resilience, Michael R. Bloomberg, Municipal Government, National Municipal Adaptation Project, National Resources Defense Council** | [Leave a reply](#)

LNG Production Powered by Renewables would Create More Jobs, Less Pollution, without Sacrificing Competitiveness

Posted on **January 28, 2014** by **elizabethperry493**



On January 15, CleanEnergy Canada released the latest in its reports regarding the production of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) in British Columbia. *Lock in Jobs, Not Pollution* urges the government of British Columbia to use renewable electricity to power the LNG facilities. The report explains that the heart of LNG facilities are their compressors, which can be powered by the traditional technology of gas turbine drives (also called direct drives or D-drives), or by the more innovative electric motor drives (E-drives), now in use in Norway. The report contends that, in comparison to the use of fossil fuels, the use of renewable energy to power e-drives would “increase regional permanent employment by 45 percent, decrease carbon pollution by 33 percent, reduce smog, and build the foundations of a renewable energy economy in Northwestern British Columbia.” The

report contains detailed appendices of the methodology by which job projections and estimates of cost and competitiveness were calculated.

The report quotes numerous government statements that claim that the LNG initiatives will be the “cleanest in the world”; notably, Premier Clark stated at the World Economic Forum in China in 2012, “We want our LNG plants to be principally fuelled by renewables.” Yet in a radio interview in response to the report’s release, the B.C. Minister of Energy stated, “If we were to introduce a brand new condition, at this stage of our discussions with these LNG proponents, it would first of all be foolhardy, it would be unprofessional.” Two government-industry agreements for LNG development were announced in January, one for Kitimat and one for Prince Rupert.

For a broader discussion of the many potential sources of carbon emissions from LNG production (including the extraction of shale oil gas and transportation to the LNG processing facilities), see a recent OpEd by Alison Bailie. According to Pembina Institute estimates, if LNG development is to achieve the revenue claims made by the B.C. government, B.C.’s LNG sector would produce three-quarters as much carbon pollution as the oil sands, by 2020. The author contends that the government could reduce the carbon footprint by limiting the growth of the LNG sector, prioritizing low-carbon job creation, and setting high standards for emissions reductions technology for any projects that are allowed to proceed.

LINKS:

Lock in Jobs, Not Pollution is at CleanEnergy Canada at: <http://cleanenergycanada.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Lock-in-Jobs-Not-Pollution.pdf>, with links to previous CleanEnergy Canada reports about LNG at: <http://cleanenergycanada.org/category/news-coverage/>

Carbon Footprint of B.C. LNG Boom Could Rival Alberta’s Oilsands, OpEd by Alison Bailie, from Pembina Institute, originally posted at *The Tyee*, (Jan. 13), at: <http://www.pembina.org/op-ed/2515>

B.C. Government press releases re industry agreements for LNG facilities are at: <http://www.newsroom.gov.bc.ca/2014/01/major-lng-contract-awarded.html> (Jan. 13, Kitimat) and <http://www.newsroom.gov.bc.ca/2014/01/second-lng-agreement-reached-for-grassy-point-with-woodside.html> (Jan. 16, Grassy Narrows, Prince Rupert).

Radio interview with Energy Minister Bennett in response to the CleanEnergy report is at: <http://www.cknw.com/2014/01/16/energy-minister-says-no-to-electricity-powered-lng-plants/>, with response from CleanEnergy Canada at: <http://cleanenergycanada.org/2014/01/16/media-statement-re-minister-bennett-remarks-powering-lng-plants/>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **British Columbia, Canada, Clean Energy, Liquified Natural Gas, LNG** | [Leave a reply](#)

Unifor Condemns Northern Gateway & Keystone XL, Supports Line 9, and Establishes a New Energy Council within the Union

Posted on **January 28, 2014** by [elizabethperry493](#)

In December, Unifor released a “primer” explaining its opposition to the Northern Gateway and Keystone XL pipelines, and support for the smaller Line 9 pipeline. The national union condemns all recent major export pipelines on both economic and environmental grounds, asserting that export pipelines do not prioritize Canadian consumers or maximize Canadian jobs. It also fears massive exports will harm other sectors, such as manufacturing, as the Canadian dollar rises.

Unifor asserts that the smaller Line 9 pipeline does not suffer from the same problems as the enormous export pipelines. Provided Line 9 oil is not shipped to Maine, and pending strict environmental and safety measures and First Nations approval, the union backs the Line 9 promise of energy independence and value-added manufacturing jobs, especially in Quebec. Unifor’s position echoes a statement issued by the Alberta Federation of Labour in October, which also contraposed Line 9 and major export pipelines.

In contrast to the Unifor and AFL positions, some labour activists continue to dismiss Line 9 benefits as “myths”, instead emphasizing the magnitude of safety, environmental, and economic threats. January revelations regarding an influx of Enbridge maintenance notices filed with the NEB has reinforced concerns regarding the age and fragility of the pipeline.

Delegates to Unifor’s Ontario Regional Council meeting in December approved recommendations for a long-term national energy strategy, including emissions targets and a climate action plan, energy independence, and a national energy grid. They also endorsed the National Executive Board’s call for a moratorium on unconventional fracking, until environmental and First Nations concerns have been addressed. Arriving at a national energy and environmental strategy for Unifor will be the task of its new Energy Council, soon to be constituted by delegates from all energy-related locals in the union.

LINKS:

Debating Pipelines: A Primer is available at the Unifor website at:

http://www.unifor.org/sites/default/files/documents/document/pipeline_primer_dec_2013.pdf

Press release regarding Unifor Ontario Council Recommendation for a National Energy and Environmental Policy is at: <http://www.unifor.org/en/whats-new/news/unifor-ontario-council-calls-national-energy-and-environmental-strategy>.

The official statement of Recommendations is available at:

http://www.unifor.org/sites/default/files/attachments/ont_council_energy_recommendation.pdf

The Alberta Federation of Labour statement is available at: <http://www.afl.org/index.php/Press-Release/afl-makes-final-argument-in-favour-of-enbridge-line-9-pipeline.html>.

“Six reasons why some labour is rallying against Line 9”, a Rabble.ca blog (Nov. 2013) is available at: <http://rabble.ca/blogs/bloggers/jesse/2013/11/six-reasons-why-some-labour-rallying-against-line-9>

Enbridge launches hundreds of digs for cracks in Line 9 (Jan. 21, 2013) at CBC Hamilton website at: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/news/enbridge-launches-hundreds-of-digs-for-cracks-in-line-9-1.2504175>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Fracking, Keystone XL, Line 9, Northern Gateway, Unifor** | **Leave a reply**

Coalition for Infrastructure Investment Adopts Framework with Community Labour Standards

Posted on **January 28, 2014** by **elizabethperry493**

The West Coast Infrastructure Exchange (WCX) is a partnership between Oregon, California, Washington state, and British Columbia. Its goal is “to promote near-term job creation and long-term economic competitiveness by improving and accelerating infrastructure development, as we look to make \$1 trillion in infrastructure investments along the West Coast in the next 30 years in a time of fiscal uncertainty and climate change.” On January 2nd, WCX released the final version of its Framework document to define the types of public infrastructure projects they will seek and how they will structure investments. WCX states that it has chosen to use the terms “Infrastructure Investment Partnership (IIPS)” and “Performance-Based Infrastructure Solution (PBIS)”, on the grounds that the traditional term, Public Private Partnership (P3), is misunderstood and misinterpreted. The Framework document uses these terms in Section 1.6.7 relating to Community Labor Standards: “Projects executed through IIPs or PBISs should adopt labor standards as would be afforded under the traditional public procurement and operations model, providing comparable wages, benefits, and worker protections, including the right to organize and collectively bargain, as well as ensuring that contractors have a history of compliance with community health and safety, wage and working hour standards. All projects should follow the relevant labor requirements of the sponsoring jurisdiction, including working with labor representatives to provide continued

employment opportunities for the existing workforce and to maintain wages and benefits where relevant.”

LINKS:

West Coast Infrastructure Exchange website is at: <http://westcoastx.com/Infrastructure> Project Certification – Principles and Framework is at: <http://westcoastx.com/home/discussion-forum.html>

An explanatory press release is at: <http://westcoastx.com/news/wcx-releases-final-project-standards.html>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **British Columbia, Community Labor Standards, Infrastructure, International cooperation, Job Creation, Labour Standards, West Coast Infrastructure Exchange** | [Leave a reply](#)

Disputing Oil and Gas Industry Claims for Job Creation in the U.S. and in California

Posted on **January 28, 2014** by **elizabethperry493**

The Center for American Progress has taken issue with the claims made by the American Petroleum Institute (API) in its 2013 testimony before the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The API stated that the natural gas and oil industry supports 9.2 million U.S. jobs and accounts for 7.7 % of the U.S. economy, based on two studies which estimated direct, indirect, and induced job effects in the oil and gas industry. The studies were conducted by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) and commissioned by API. The Center for American Progress disputes these claims, basing their own analysis on Bureau of Labor Statistics data for employment in upstream activities (oil and gas extraction, well drilling, and operation support), and downstream activities (petroleum refining, product sales through dealers and gas stations, and pipeline construction and transportation). CAP did not include indirect jobs. CAP estimates that there are less than 2 million direct jobs in the oil and gas industry, and nearly 50% of those jobs occur in gas stations. Their analysis also shows that BP, Chevron, ExxonMobil, and Shell have shed a net total of nearly 12,000 U.S. jobs since 2007.

Another U.S. research centre, NextGeneration, has waded into California’s political discussion about the Monterey Shale development by publishing a series of six articles. In one of these articles, *Too Big to Believe*, five prominent economists from California universities critique the methodology and results of an influential study published in March 2013, *Powering California*. *Powering California*, conducted at the University of Southern California and sponsored by Western States Petroleum Association (WSPA), included optimistic and widely publicized estimates of an

increase of 512,000 net new jobs by 2015 and 2.8 million net new jobs by 2020. Yet *Too Big to Believe* states: “Each of the economists said the study’s findings were unreliable and inflated. They cast doubt on its methodology, which did not base its estimates on any projections for oil production or capital investment in California oil; instead, the study’s authors said they extrapolated from the effects of economic growth in North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming.”

In *Keeping the Story Straight*, the final article in the NextGeneration series, the results of *Powering California* are contrasted with two other economic impact studies done by industry-related organizations: one by IHS Consultants, and another commissioned by the Western States Petroleum Association and conducted by California State University at Fresno. In both cases, estimated job impacts were “negligible” or modest.

LINKS:

Big Oil, Small Jobs: A Look at the Oil Industry’s Dubious Job Claims is at the Center for American Progress at: <http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/green/news/2014/01/22/82571/big-oil-small-jobs-a-look-at-the-oil-industrys-dubious-job-claims/>

Too Big to Believe: Top Economists Doubt California Oil Industry’s Jobs Figures at: <http://thenextgeneration.org/blog/post/top-economists-doubt-california-oil-industrys-jobs-figures>, and *Keeping the Story Straight: Industry Reports at Odds in California Oil* at: <http://thenextgeneration.org/blog/post/industry-reports-at-odds-on-california-oil>

Powering California: The Monterey Shale and California’s Economic Future is at: <http://wms.communicationsinstitute.org/energy/powering-california-project/powering-california-the-monterey-shale-californias-economic-future/>

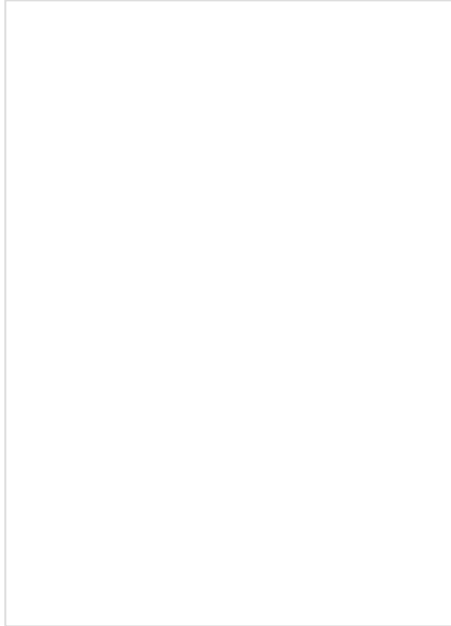
Posted in **United States** | Tagged **American Petroleum Institute, Center for American Progress, Economic impacts, Fracking, Job Creation, Oil and Gas** | [Leave a reply](#)

The Business Case for a Circular Economy: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle as a Solution to Coming Shortages of Raw Materials

Posted on **January 28, 2014** by **elizabethperry493**

On January 24 at the the World Economic Forum, the Ellen MacArthur Foundation launched Project Mainstream, a collaborative project involving large enterprises capable of bringing the circular economy from small-scale pilot projects to the mainstream of business. The press release

states: “With commodity prices almost tripling in the last 10 years, businesses and governments are now recognizing this as an opportunity to manage input cost volatility, as this approach decouples economic growth from finite supplies of primary resources.” *Towards the Circular Economy*, the report which accompanied the launch, finds that “over US\$1 trillion a year could be generated by 2025 for the global economy and 100,000 new jobs created for the next five years if companies focused on encouraging the build-up of circular supply chains to increase the rate of recycling, reuse and rem



anufacture.” As an article in *The Guardian* points out, this initiative intends to tackle the scale and complexity of global supply chains—as well as a crucial stumbling block in recycling – the toxic contents of some products. Canadian readers will be familiar with these concepts from the 2013 report, *Closing the Loop: Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions Through Zero Waste in BC*, which focused on the benefits to consumers and the environment. The Ellen MacArthur Foundation has published reports on the Circular Economy since 2010.

LINKS:

Towards the Circular Economy Vol.3: Accelerating the Scale-up Across Global Supply Chains is available from a link at: <http://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/business/reports/ce2014>, and previous reports are available at: <http://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/business/reports>

“Circular Economy offers Business Transformation and \$1tn of Savings” (Jan. 24) in *The Guardian* at: <http://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/circular-economy-business-transformation-one-trillion-savings>

Closing the Loop: Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions Through Zero Waste in BC, published by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives Climate Justice Project (March 2013) is available at: <http://www.policyalternatives.ca/publications/reports/closing-loop>

Canada Reports Climate Progress: 2020 Targets Further out of Reach as Oil Sands Emissions Rise

Posted on **January 28, 2014** by [elizabethperry493](#)

In late December, Canada quietly submitted its sixth report to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), opting not to accompany the submission with an announcement or press release. The government reported a trend of increasing greenhouse gas emissions, largely attributable to the rapidly expanding oil sands, and admits that Canada is on track to miss the 2020 emissions reduction targets committed to in Copenhagen. The report emphasizes the “sector-by-sector” approach to emissions reduction programs, but also indicates that a lack of policy intervention in the oil and gas industry could mean Canada’s emissions will exceed the 2020 target by 20%, and continue to grow another 33% by 2030. Canada has not indicated how it plans to address its difficulties with meeting its targets, and in December, Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced that the long-awaited release of oil and gas regulations could be delayed for another two years. The issue may be a factor in President Obama’s Keystone XL pipeline decision, which he has said would be influenced by Canada’s climate plan.

By contrast, the US submission to the UNFCCC contains specific goals associated with the Climate Action Plan implemented by President Obama last summer. The submission was further substantiated by the January 16th release of a progress report on the Plan, outlining US federal initiatives to reduce carbon pollution and increase energy efficiency.

LINKS:

Canada’s Sixth National Communication and First Biennial Report on Climate Change (January 2014): The Executive Summary is available at: <http://www.ec.gc.ca/Publications/default.asp?lang=En&xml=109109A8-6636-418C-B743-94CD3459FB6B>, and the full report is available at: http://www.unfccc.int/files/national_reports/non-annex_i_natcom/submitted_natcom/application/pdf/final_nc_br_dec20,_2013%5B1%5D.pdf.

“Emissions will Soar after 2020 without Oil-sector Regulation, Federal Report Says” in the *Globe and Mail* (Jan. 8, 2014) at: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/emissions-will-soar-after-2020-without-oil-sands-regulation-federal-report-says/article16250220/>.

"Canada's New Emission Rules on Hold Again, Harper Says" in the *Globe and Mail* (Dec. 19, 2013) is at: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/canadas-new-emissions-rules-on-hold-again-harper-says/article16065033/>.

2014 U.S. Climate Action Report to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is available at: <http://www.state.gov/e/oes/rls/rpts/car6/index.htm>.

January 2014 Progress Report: President Obama's Climate Action Plan is at: http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/fact_sheet_-_cap_progress_report_2014-01-16.pdf.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Canadian Emissions, Climate change policy, Emissions reduction targets, Greenhouse gas emissions, Oil Sands Emissions, UNFCC** | [Leave a reply](#)

Was the Oil and Gas Lobby Behind Bill C-38?

Posted on **January 28, 2014** by **elizabethperry493**

A report released in December 2013 by ForestEthics alleges that recent changes to Canada's *Environmental Assessment Act* under Bill C-38 were drawn from a report from the Energy Policy Institute (EPIC), an organization whose members include all the major oil and gas companies. EPIC's recommendations, written in August 2012 but only recently uncovered, included eliminating external costs including climate change, greenhouse gas emissions, and upstream and downstream effects from energy project analysis, completing assessments early and only asking for details later, and excluding effects that are common to other projects. *Who Writes the Rules? A Report on Oil Industry Influence, Government Laws and the Corrosion of Public Process* asserts that Bill C-38 violates the public right to voice opinions during project review processes. The bill granted the National Energy Board (NEB) the authority to select hearing participants from those who submitted a newly-required nine-page application. Further, all concerns regarding external costs, such as downstream health effects, can no longer be included in project analysis.

Similar concerns were voiced in a December 2012 report from the Polaris Institute, which said federal cabinet ministers met six major oil industry players 53 times during the year Bill-38 was being developed. During the same period, a minister met an environmental group only once.

Read the backgrounder for *Who Writes the Rules? A Report on Oil Industry Influence, Government Laws and the Corrosion of Public Process* at: http://www.forestethics.org/sites/forestethics.huang.radicaldesigns.org/files/ForestEthicsAdvocacy_Who-Writes-The-Rules-BACKGROUNDER.pdf, and the full report at: http://forestethics.org/sites/forestethics.huang.radicaldesigns.org/files/Who_writes_the_rules.pdf.

Big Oil's Oily Grasp (2012) by the Polaris Institute is available at:
<http://polarisinstitute.org/bigoilsoilygrasp>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Bill C-38, Energy Policy Institute, Environmental Assessment Act, National Energy Board, Oil and Gas Lobby** | [Leave a reply](#)

Rail Transport of Oil and Gas is an Issue for Worker Safety as well as Public Safety

Posted on **January 28, 2014** by **elizabethperry493**

In a communique released on January 23, the Transportation Safety Board of Canada (TSB) and the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) jointly issued recommendations to improve the safe transportation of crude oil by rail. The recommendations – described as strong, urgent, and unprecedented – spring from their investigations into the Lac-Mégantic disaster, which identified critical weaknesses in the North American rail system. “Today we are making three recommendations calling for tougher standards for Class 111 tank cars; route planning and analysis; and emergency response assistance plans.” Transport Minister Raitt committed only to review the recommendations, and highlighted the steps already taken, including to hire more rail inspectors and “to set the groundwork for creating whistleblower protection for employees who raise safety concerns.” Transport Canada already issued new regulations for Class 111 tank cars on January 10th and appointed a Railway Safety Advisory Committee, composed of railway companies, Transport Canada, the Railway Association of Canada, provinces, shippers, suppliers and municipalities. The Advisory Committee is tasked to look at issues including operator fatigue and crew sizes, yet there is no inclusion of labour unions, even though the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference (TCRC) and their Maintenance of Way Employees Division (TCRC-MWED) represent 12,000 workers who operate the trains and repair the tracks, and Unifor Rail Division represents another 9,000 rail workers in Canada. The Teamsters have launched their own rail safety campaign, *Things are Falling off the Rails*, at: <http://teamstersrail.ca/background.htm>.

Read the Canadian Transportation Safety Board communique at:
<http://www.tsb.gc.ca/eng/medias-media/communiques/rail/2014/r13d0054-20140123.asp>. The response by Transport Canada Minister Lisa Raitt to the TSB communique is at:
<http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=811029>. See also the January 10 press release re: rail car regulations at: <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=advSrch&crtr.page=2&crtr.dpt1D=6695&nid=808769> and the appointment of the Rail Safety Advisory Committee (Oct. 2013) at: <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?crtr.sj1D=&crtr.mnthndVI=1&mthd=advSrch&crtr.dpt1D=&nid=783579>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Canadian Transportation Safety Board, Lac Megantic, Occupational Health and Safety, Oil and Gas, Oil Transport, Public Safety, Teamsters**

WikiLeaks Releases Environmental Chapter in the Transpacific Trade Talks, Labelling it a “Public Relations Exercise”

Posted on **January 28, 2014** by [elizabethperry493](#)

On January 15th, Wikileaks released the draft Environmental Chapter of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement. The Chapter was written on Nov. 24, 2013, in advance of the December 10th Singapore meetings of the participant countries: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the United States, and Vietnam. Wikileaks had this to say about the proposed environmental provisions of the trade deal: “The dispute settlement mechanisms it creates are cooperative instead of binding; there are no required penalties and no proposed criminal sanctions. With the exception of fisheries, trade in ‘environmental’ goods and the disputed inclusion of other multilateral agreements, the Chapter appears to function as a public relations exercise.” (see <http://wikileaks.org/tpp-enviro/pressrelease.html>). Wikileaks also posted an analysis of the Environment Chapter from a New Zealand perspective, by Professor Jane Kelsey, at: <http://wikileaks.org/tpa-environment-chapter.html>.

In a blog by Stuart Trew of the Council of Canadians, the provisions in the TPP draft chapter are likened to the current environmental protections under NAFTA (see <http://www.canadians.org/blog/climate-change-safeguarded-tpp-environment-chapter>). This is a point of view also expressed in a 2013 report by the Sierra Club, which reviewed all chapters of the TPP (see *Raw Deal: How the Trans-Pacific Partnership threatens our Climate* at: <http://sc.org/RawDealReport>).

The more recent response to the leaked Environment chapter from the Sierra Club, in conjunction with Natural Resources Defence Council and the WWF, describes the dispute resolution process as a “vastly insufficient process” “...an unacceptable rollback of previous commitments and renders the obligations in this chapter virtually meaningless.” (see <http://sc.org/TPPEEnvironment>). Even before the Wikileaks revelations, BlueGreen Alliance, like many others in the U.S., was protesting the attempt to “fast-track” the TPP approval process through the U.S. Congress; see <http://www.bluegreenalliance.org/news/latest/bluegreen-alliance-statement-fast-track-bill-strips-transparency-restricts-democratic-process>. The Council of Canadians is one of more than 30 organizations participating in a January 31 Intercontinental Day of Action against the TPP and Corporate Globalization. (see <http://www.flushthetpp.org/inter-continental-day-of-action-against-the-tpp-corporate-globalization/>).

EU Proposes New Emissions Targets for 2030, Weak Regulation of Fracking, and No Extension to the European Fuel Quality Directive

Posted on **January 28, 2014** by [elizabethperry493](#)

After hard-fought negotiations, the members of the European Union finally agreed on January 22 to a compromise Framework proposal to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2030, compared with 1990 levels, and a goal of producing 27% of all energy from renewable sources by 2030. The European carbon emissions trading system (EUTS) will be reformed, and the goal of improving energy efficiency by 25% by 2030 will be an “indicative target”, not legally binding. Fracking will also be governed by non-binding recommendations rather than regulation. Most significantly for Canada, the Fuel Quality Directive will not be renewed after its expiry in 2020 – a move away from the support of biofuels, and which might allow for Alberta oil to enter the European fuel supply chain. The Canadian government has lobbied actively for such a change.

See “EU May Scrap Green Fuel Law in Boon for Tar Sands Industry” at *Inside Climate News* <http://insideclimatenews.org/content/eu-may-scrap-green-fuel-law-boon-tar-sands-industry>, and for background, the Natural Resources Defense Council blog, *Canadian Tar Sands Exports to Europe could Grow from a Trickle to a Flood Undermining Europe’s Climate Goals* (Jan. 2014) at: http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/aswift/canadian_tar_sands_exports_to.html

The European Council will consider the framework proposals at its spring meeting in March.

From the EU Commissioner on Climate Action: “...The details of the framework will now have to be agreed, but the direction for Europe has been set. If all other regions were equally ambitious about tackling climate change, the world would be in significantly better shape.” Read the analysis from *The Guardian* (U.K.) (Jan. 22) at: <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/jan/22/eu-carbon-emissions-climate-deal-2030> and the *New York Times* (Jan. 22) at: <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/01/23/business/international/european-union-lowers-ambitions-on-renewable-energy.html?hp>. The press release, with links to official documents, is at the European Commission website at: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-54_en.htm.

Environmental groups disagree with the positive spin: according to the Friends of the Earth Europe, the negotiators “...seem to have fallen for the old-think industry spin that there must be a

trade-off between climate action and economic recovery. This position completely ignores the huge financial cost of dealing with the impacts of climate change and the €500 billion the EU is spending every year on oil and gas imports”. (at:

https://www.foeeurope.org/2030_climate_energy_plan_220114). About fracking, the FOE had this to say: “... attempts to regulate the fracking industry have been undermined by heavy corporate lobbying and pressure from certain member states intent on fracking their lands.” ... “With the heavy support from José Manuel Barroso, the United Kingdom, Poland, and Romania have all played a leading role in undermining shale gas legislation, with allies Hungary, Lithuania, Czech Republic and Slovakia.” See https://www.foeeurope.org/shale_gas_framework_220114. An article in *The Guardian* (Jan. 14) offers a detailed analysis of the significant role played by the U.K. to weaken the fracking regulations (see at: <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/jan/14/uk-defeats-european-bid-fracking-regulations>).

Posted in **Energy Policy, Government Policy** | Tagged **Biofuels, Cap and Trade, Emissions Trading, EU, EU Emissions Trading Scheme, EUTS, Fracking Regulations, Friends of the Earth, Fuel Quality Directive, Natural Resources Defense Council** | [Leave a reply](#)

UN Climate Chief Urges Institutional Investors to Move to Low-Carbon Assets

Posted on **January 28, 2014** by [elizabethperry493](#)

According to CERES, a non-profit advocacy coalition, “Since 2003, the biennial *Investor Summit on Climate Risk* at the United Nations has been the pre-eminent forum for leading institutional investors in North America, Europe and the rest of the world to discuss the implications of climate change for capital markets and their portfolios.” At this year’s summit on January 15, Christine Figueres, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), told the audience of 500 global leaders: “The pensions, life insurances and nest eggs of billions of ordinary people depend on the long-term security and stability of institutional investment funds. Climate change increasingly poses one of the biggest long-term threats to those investments and the wealth of the global economy.” She urged investors to move out of high-carbon assets and into assets built on renewable energy, energy efficiency and more sustainable ways of business that green global supply chains.

A related report by CERES, *Investing in the Clean Trillion: Closing the Clean Energy Investment Gap*, was released at the Summit. It provides recommendations for investors, companies and policymakers to increase annual global investment in clean energy to at least \$1 trillion by 2030-up from a current investment level of approximately \$300 billion. A related report by Cleantech Group pegs the level of worldwide global investment in cleantech venture companies at \$6.8 billion in 2013.

LINKS:

2014 Investor Summit on Climate Risk website is at <http://www.ceres.org/investor-network/investor-summit>

UNFCCC press release regarding Christine Figueres' statement is at:

http://unfccc.int/files/press/press_releases_advisories/application/pdf/pr20140115_ceres_final1.pdf

. Watch a 2-minute video of an interview with Ms. Figueres' at: <http://climatedesk.org/2014/01/un-climate-chief-calls-for-tripling-of-clean-energy-investment/>

To download the CERES Report: *Investing in the Clean Trillion: Closing the Clean Energy Investment Gap*, or the Executive Summary go to:

<http://www.ceres.org/resources/reports/investing-in-the-clean-trillion-closing-the-clean-energy-investment-gap/view> – registration required.

Summary of the Cleantech Groups Investment report is at

<http://www.cleantech.com/2014/01/08/i3-quarterly-investment-monitor-reports-6-8-billion-cleantech-venture-investment-2013/>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **CERES, Clean Technology, Cleantech Group, Fossil Fuel Divestment, Investor Summit on Climate Risk, Low-Carbon Investment, UNFCC** | [Leave a reply](#)

Davos World Economic Forum has Leaders Talking Climate Investment

Posted on **January 28, 2014** by **elizabethperry493**

Climate change and the green economy represented major issues at the 2014 World Economic Forum at Davos, from January 22nd to 25th. UNFCCC Executive Secretary Christiana Figueres and World Bank president Jim Yong Kim called for strong climate action, and Figueres warned that failure to establish a binding international agreement on climate change by 2015 would place the global economy at risk. Talks that addressed global finance and the green economy noted the potential of green bonds to fund adaptive and mitigative efforts while stimulating the economy. Kim suggested doubling the size of the green bond market to \$20 billion before the next Climate Summit, and doubling it again before the following summit in December 2015.

In early January, WEF released *Climate Adaptation: Seizing the Challenge* that similarly emphasized the role of investment and the private sector in addressing climate change. According to the report, investing in adaptation measures could help avert up to 65% of the projected increase in losses due to climate change. The report presents a framework developed by

Economics of Climate Adaptation (ECA) to assist the public and private sector to quantify possible losses and the cost of adaptation projects, as well as attract private investors to fund those projects. The final day of Davos focussed on discussion of the circular economy – the use of circular supply chains, and increased re-use, recycling, and remanufacture. (See the feature item above for more).

For highlights of speeches, blogs and press releases related to climate change and sustainability at the WEF, see: <http://forumblog.org/topic/sustainability/>

Climate Adaptation: Seizing the Challenge is available at:

<http://www.weforum.org/reports/climate-adaptation-seizing-challenge>

For coverage by the Globe and Mail, see "Davos summit Aims to Press Reset Button" (Jan 20) at: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/economy/davos-summit-aims-to-press-reset-button/article16419504/>; "Davos summit calls for cleaner energy, focus on climate change" (Jan. 22) at: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/davos-summit-calls-for-cleaner-energy-focus-on-climate-change/article16457713/>; "Sovereignty is Canada's top priority in the North, Baird tells Davos forum" (Jan. 23) at: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/sovereignty-is-canadas-top-priority-in-the-north-baird-tells-davis-forum/article16470142/>.

Live Coverage by *The Guardian* (U.K.) is at:

<http://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/2014/jan/24/davos-2014-climate-change-resource-security-sustainability-day-three-live?INTCMP=ILCNETTXT3487> and <http://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/2014/jan/25/davos-2014-climate-change-resource-scarcity-sustainability-day-four-live>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Fossil Fuel Divestment, Green Bonds, World Bank** | [Leave a reply](#)

Northern Gateway Headed to Court as NEB Approval Provokes Criticism of Review Process

Posted on **January 28, 2014** by **Ava Lightbody**

On December 19th, the National Energy Board granted conditional approval to the controversial Enbridge Northern Gateway pipeline, citing 209 conditions. The federal NDP and Green parties criticized the decision, while some opponents of the pipeline allege the joint review panel itself has been "undemocratic" and has undermined the integrity of the environmental review process in general, echoing an August 2013 lawsuit in which NGO ForestEthics claimed NEB public participation rules were unconstitutional. A series of at least 10 lawsuits has been launched in response to the NEB approval, notably one by B.C. Nature and one by a coalition of NGOs including EcoJustice, ForestEthics, Living Oceans Society, and Rainforest Conservation Foundation. The environmental groups allege the Joint Review Panel (JRP) final report contains serious legal and scientific gaps, such as uncertainty regarding geohazards along the pipeline route and the behaviour of spilled bitumen in marine environments. They claim the JRP also failed

to address legal obligations to the humpback whale and caribou populations whose habitats lie in the pipeline path, both of which are protected under the Species at Risk Act.

Three First Nations, Gitxaala, Git'gat, and Haisla, have launched lawsuits of their own calling for federal review of the NEB decision. They claim their unique constitutional rights regarding development on their lands were also neglected during the review process.

Read the press release from EcoJustice on their lawsuit at: <http://www.ecojustice.ca/media-centre/press-releases/environmental-groups-launch-lawsuit-over-flawed-northern-gateway-report>.

CBC coverage of lawsuits from environmental groups is available at:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/northern-gateway-pipeline-report-draws-lawsuit-1.2501051>; coverage of First Nations lawsuits is available at:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/gitga-at-northern-gateway-lawsuit-joins-9-other-challenges-1.2507155>.

According to West Coast Environmental Law, Enbridge may be experiencing difficulty attracting investment to the project in light of persistent opposition. See: NEB's Thumbs Up Ignores Wall of Opposition that will Stop Enbridge (Jan. 16) is at: <http://wcel.org/resources/environmental-law-alert/neb%E2%80%99s-thumbs-ignores-wall-opposition-will-stop-enbridge>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **B.C. Nature, EcoJustice, Enbridge, First Nations, ForestEthics, Gitga'at Nation, Gitxaala Nation, Green Party, Haisla Nation, Indigenous Peoples, Living Oceans Society, National Energy Board, NDP, Northern Gateway, Pipelines, Species at Risk Act (SARA), West Coast Environmental Law** | [Leave a reply](#)

Work and Climate Change Report

The green transition of work and workplaces: Research and News from a Canadian viewpoint

YEARLY ARCHIVES: 2013

International Meeting Addresses the Role of Labour in Reducing Climate Change

Posted on **December 19, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

Labour, Climate Change, and Social Struggle was the theme of the international conference in Toronto from November 29 to December 1, organized and hosted by the Work in a Warming World project at York University. The presentations at the 3-day event reflected the participants: trade unionists, academics, and representatives of social justice organizations from Canada, U.S. U.K., EU, Sweden, India, Australia, New Zealand, Africa and Asia. Keynote addresses made by David Miller, former Mayor of Toronto and now CEO and President of the World Wildlife Fund Canada, and Philip Jennings, General Secretary of UNI Global Union, the international union federation which includes 20 million members. The plenary speakers were Hassan Yussuff, Secretary-Treasurer of the Canadian Labour Congress and Chris Tollefson, Professor and Executive Director of the Environmental Law Centre in Victoria, British Columbia. Other union speakers and panellists included representatives from the Canadian Union of Public Employees, Canadian Union of Postal Workers, Public Service Alliance of Canada, British Columbia Federation of Labour, and the Labour Network for Sustainability (U.S.).

Speakers and workshops throughout the conference reflected a healthy balance and respect for both academic research and practical experience in striving for a worker-led strategic response to climate change. A broad range of topics were covered – to name a few: the role of worker capital and pensions funds, greening the built environment, the energy sector, power relationships between the global south and north, the emerging model of climate change law, gender and climate change, and greening the healthcare sector. A constant theme throughout the conference was the crucial leadership role that organized labour can play in the struggle for a sustainable, just economy, and the need for understanding and relationship-building with allies in the environmental movement.

A strategy meeting in Toronto in November brought together just such a gathering of like-minded union and environmental groups of the Green Economy Network: participants included the Council of Canadians, the Polaris Institute, the Climate Action Network, KAIROS, and unions including the Public Service Alliance of Canada, Canadian Union of Public Employees, Unifor and the National Union of Public and General Employees (NUPGE).

LINK

Labour, Climate Change, and Social Struggle (W3 international conference): full list of speakers and topics is now available at: <http://www.workinawarmingworld.yorku.ca/w3conference/program/program-details/>; Papers will be available online in 2014.

Activists Rally around Green Jobs press release (summarizing the Green Economy Network Strategy Meeting) is at the CUPE website at: <http://cupe.ca/green-jobs/Rally-green-jobs>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **International cooperation, Labour Unions, Work in a Warming World, Work in a Warming World Conference, York University** | [Leave a reply](#)

On the Eve of the NEB Decision Re Northern Gateway Pipeline: Eyford Report Addresses First Nations and Energy Development

Posted on **December 19, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

On December 5th, Prime Minister Harper's Special Representative, Douglas Eyford, presented his report about how to engage with First Nations communities and governments in British Columbia and Alberta on future energy infrastructure development. The recommendations of *Forging Partnerships, Building Relationships*, are summarized in the Executive summary as:

"Building Trust: identifies the efforts needed to establish constructive dialogue about energy development, to demonstrate commitment to environmental sustainability, and to enhance understanding of and participation in pipeline and marine safety.

Fostering Inclusion: proposes focused efforts to realize Aboriginal employment and business opportunities, to establish collaborations among Aboriginal communities that allow for better outcomes, and to facilitate the financial participation of Aboriginal communities in energy projects.

Advancing Reconciliation: recommends targeted efforts to build effective relationships including refinements to Canada's current approach to consultation and engagement, to explore mutually beneficial initiatives that support reconciliation, and to encourage Aboriginal communities to resolve shared territory issues.

Taking Action: recommends the establishment of a Crown-First Nations tripartite energy working group to create an open and sustained dialogue and action on energy projects."

The official response to the Eyford report from Assembly of First Nations (AFN) National Chief Shawn Atleo states: "First Nations are not anti-development but if any project is going to proceed it must be responsible, sustainable, we must be involved, our rights must be respected and there must be meaningful engagement consistent with the principles of free, prior and informed consent as set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples." The official response of the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs is more strongly worded. Grand Chief Stewart Phillip states: "It is clear that Mr. Eyford listened to our communities as many, if not all, of his recommendations reflect the public positions and statements of many First Nations standing against Enbridge's proposed Northern Gateway Pipeline and Kinder Morgan's proposed expansion of their Trans Mountain pipeline. Unfortunately, many of his recommendations will be ignored. The Harper Government has time and time again demonstrated their jobs agenda trumps, ignores and arrogantly dismissed our constitutionally-enshrined, judicially-recognized inherent Title, Rights and Treaty Rights."

Almost 1,000 delegates met in Gatineau, Quebec for the Assembly of First Nations Special Chiefs Assembly, from December 10-12, coinciding with the first anniversary of the Idle No More protests. Their press release states that they discussed and made progress on a policy towards a First Nations Energy Policy, although their first priority was the recent government proposals regarding aboriginal education. An article in the Globe and Mail Report on Business on December 14th is an on-the-ground profile of "a community in conflict", the Fort McKay First Nation in

Alberta, as it tries to balance the economic benefits of oil sands development with the resulting environmental damage.

LINKS

Forging Partnerships Building Relationships: Aboriginal Canadians and Energy Development. A Report to the Prime Minister. (The Eyford Report) is at:

<http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/sites/www.nrcan.gc.ca/files/www/pdf/publications/ForPart-Online-e.pdf>

"First Nations Leaders Cool to Blueprint for Garnering their Support on Energy Projects" in *Globe and Mail* (December 5, updated Dec. 6) at:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/british-columbia/first-nations-support-for-energy-projects-hinges-on-ottawa-changing-its-ways-pm-told/article15784461/>

Assembly of First Nations Chief Welcomes Eyford Report and calls for Action... is at:

<http://www.afn.ca/index.php/en/news-media/latest-news/assembly-of-first-nations-national-chief-welcomes-eyford-report-and-ca>

UBCIC Responds to Forging Partnerships Building Relationships is at:

http://www.ubcic.bc.ca/News_Releases/UBCICNews12061301.html#axzz2nNjdoHsH

Assembly of First Nations Special Chiefs Assembly Concludes press release is at:

<http://www.afn.ca/index.php/en/news-media/latest-news/assembly-of-first-nations-special-chiefs-assembly-concludes-reaffirmed>

"A Line in the Oil Sands: the Dispute the entire Oil Industry is Watching" in the *Globe and Mail* (Dec. 14th) at: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/industry-news/energy-and-resources/the-fort-mckay-first-nation-a-line-in-the-oil-sands/article15968340/>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Aboriginal people, Alberta, Assembly of First Nations, British Columbia, Energy policy, First Nations, National Energy Board, Northern Gateway** | [Leave a reply](#)

The Jobs Argument and the Costs of Energy Development: Two Views

Posted on **December 19, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

A December study by the right-wing Fraser Institute starts from two foundations: "every proposed oil and gas project in Canada affects at least one First Nation's community and secondly, these young and highly unemployed communities are sorely in need of jobs. Oil and gas development can provide those jobs and a way out of poverty and into prosperity." To bolster its arguments, the study states that "In 2010, more than 1,700 aboriginal people were directly employed in oilsands operations. Over the past 12 years aboriginal-owned companies have secured more than \$5 billion worth of contracts from oilsands developers in the region."

The David Suzuki Foundation has released an alternative view in a report about industrial development in the Peace River Region. *Passages from the Peace* states that there are 16,267 oil and gas wells, 28,587 kilometres of pipeline, 45,293 kilometres of roads and 116,725 kilometres of seismic lines packed into the region, and the lives and well-being of local First Nations and non-aboriginal farming communities is being adversely affected. Suzuki will present the report during the public consultation period (December and January) of a 3-person joint federal and

provincial Environmental Assessment Panel which is touring the Peace River Region in Northern British Columbia. The Site C Dam proposed by B.C. Hydro is a \$7.9-billion hydroelectric dam proposed to be built seven kilometres downstream from Fort St. John, and would flood an 83-kilometre stretch of the Peace River upstream, as well as the mouth of the Moberly and Halfway Rivers. Opponents are also concerned about the impact downstream, on Wood Buffalo National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site. As yet there is no First Nations consensus position, and B.C. Hydro is arguing that the project is expected to produce 10,000 direct jobs and employment for thousands more indirectly.

LINKS

Opportunities for First Nation Prosperity through Oil and Gas Development is at:

<http://www.fraserinstitute.org/uploadedFiles/fraser-ca/Content/research-news/research/publications/opportunities-for-first-nation-prosperity-through-oil-and-gas-development.pdf>

Passages from the Peace, is at the David Suzuki Foundation website at:

<http://www.davidsuzuki.org/publications/reports/2013/passages-from-the-peace-community-reflections-on-changing-peace-region/>

"First Nations welcome Site C review panel" (Dec. 9) in the *Globe and Mail* at:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/british-columbia/first-nations-welcome-site-c-review-panel/article15835573/>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Aboriginal employment, British Columbia, David Suzuki Foundation, First Nations, Fraser Institute, Peace River Region, Site C Dam** | [Leave a reply](#)

A Strategy for the U.S. to Lead the Global Green Industrial Revolution

Posted on **December 19, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

On December 10th, the BlueGreen Alliance, the Institute for America's Future, and the Center for American Progress released *The Green Industrial Revolution and the United States: In the Clean Energy Race, Is the United States a Leader or a Luddite?* The report acknowledges and summarizes the strong U.S. position in clean energy development, and proposes to exert a competitive advantage over its closest rivals, China and Germany, by innovating from the state and local levels "up", combining regional policies that work into a national energy strategy that is based on "an integrated set of regional energy strategies." Citing the examples of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), and the currently uncertain Production Tax Credit program for wind energy projects, the report charges that "U.S. clean energy policies have been time limited, underfunded, and politically charged." The strategy argues that the relatively small U.S. Department of Commerce should take the lead: "With solid leadership and increased capacity, Commerce could be the central department ensuring that energy programs out of the Department of Energy, environmental programs out of the Environmental Protection Agency, and workforce training and standards programs out of the Department of Labor, all work together to support regionally specific economic development plans that will help America consolidate global leadership in the green industrial revolution." BlueGreen earlier released a Policy Statement calling for a state-level Clean Energy Transition Fund, to first and foremost, "ensure that displaced workers from closing power plants and affected fossil fuel extraction sites receive transition support, including wages, benefits, and retraining."

BlueGreen has also launched a Repair America campaign, urging investment in infrastructure building and repair; a report about job creation potential in Minnesota was released on December 11th to launch the campaign. The

Repair America theme will also be reflected in the Good Jobs Green Jobs 2014 conference in Washington, D.C. in February 2014.

LINKS

The Green Industrial Revolution and the United States: In the Clean Energy Race, Is the United States a Leader or a Luddite? is available at: <http://www.bluegreenalliance.org/news/publications/document/GreenIndustrialRev.pdf>

BlueGreen Policy Statement for a Clean Energy Transition Fund is at:
<http://www.bluegreenalliance.org/news/publications/Clean-Energy-Transition-vFINAL.pdf>

Repair Minnesota: Creating Good Jobs While Preparing Our Systems for Climate Change is available at:
<http://www.bluegreenalliance.org/news/publications/repair-minnesota>. For Good Jobs Green Jobs 2014 conference information, see: <http://www.greenjobsconference.org/>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **BlueGreen Alliance, Labour Rights, Low-Carbon Transition** | [Leave a reply](#)

Trades Union Congress Issues New Green Policy Statement

Posted on **December 19, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

The U.K.'s Trades Union Congress has posted *Green Growth – No Turning Back*. This consolidation and updating of TUC policies about climate change and energy was prompted by the latest scientific evidence, as well as Britain's current concerns with energy security and the affordability of energy for citizens. Recommendations include: parliament should adopt the Committee on Climate Change's Fourth Carbon budget as a framework for carbon emissions action; move to fund energy subsidies through income and corporate tax and eliminate regressive consumer taxes; make significant reforms to the existing Energy Bill, including a 2030 decarbonisation target to attract investment in low carbon technologies; and further encourage investment through a "properly funded" Green Investment Bank, state support for strategically important low-carbon sectors such as renewables, electric vehicles and carbon capture and storage, and a skills strategy for a low carbon economy. The policy also calls for no further investment in fracking or "unabated fossil fuels".

LINKS

Green Growth – No Turning Back is available at:
http://www.tuc.org.uk/sites/default/files/EC%20Green%20Growth%20No%20Turning%20Back%20-%20pdf_0.pdf. The Summary of Recommendations is at: <http://www.tuc.org.uk/node/119323>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Fracking, labour union policies, Trades Union Congress, United Kingdom** | [Leave a reply](#)

The Jobs Argument of the Keystone Pipeline

Posted on **December 19, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

A newly-released report by the Labor Network for Sustainability and Economics for Equity and Environment compares the jobs that would be created by the proposed Keystone pipeline to the jobs that could be created if investment was placed in water, sewer, and gas infrastructure projects in the five states the pipeline crosses. The report concludes that the infrastructure investment would create more than 300,000 total jobs across all sectors: five times more jobs, and better jobs.

LINK

The Keystone Pipeline Debate: an Alternative Jobs Strategy is available at:
http://www.labor4sustainability.org/files/_kxl_main3_11052013.pdf

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Economics for Equity, Infrastructure Investment, Keystone XL, Labour Network for Sustainability** | [Leave a reply](#)

OECD Analysis of Innovation for Clean Energy Emphasizes the Importance of Human Capital

Posted on **December 19, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

A recent OECD working paper reviews case studies of renewable energy initiatives in Australia, Brazil, China, Mongolia, Spain and the United Kingdom, and emphasizes the importance of local governments in the transition to low-carbon economies. "What sets a region on a path to innovation is openness to new ideas of business...their ability to source and absorb new ideas; in effect, a region's ability to learn. This is also strongly related to the training and skills ecosystem present in the region. A region's capacity to innovate relates to the stock and quality of human capital embodied in its workforce. The successful transition to a low-carbon economy will only be possible by ensuring that the labour force is able to transfer from areas of decreasing employment to other industries, and if adequate human capital exists to develop new industries that will grow as a result of climate change mitigation and adaptation activities. Skills development activities will play a major role in each of these transitions."

LINKS

Improving the Effectiveness of Green Local Development: The role and Impact of Public Sector-led Initiatives in Renewable is available from a link at: http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/environment-and-sustainable-development/improving-the-effectiveness-of-green-local-development_5k3w6ljtrj0q-en

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Human Capital, Low-Carbon Transition, OECD, Renewables** | [Leave a reply](#)

Ontario Updates its Long-Term Energy Plan

Posted on **December 19, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

On December 2, the Ontario government waded into the highly-politicized and controversial field of energy in the province, with the release of *Achieving Balance*, its updated long-term energy plan which emphasizes energy conservation, maintains the policy of ending coal-generated electricity, and holds the line on investment in new

nuclear power facilities. The plan acknowledges Ontario's reduced energy demands and sets a target of about half of Ontario's installed generating capacity to come from renewable sources by 2025. See the Ontario government news release, with links to supporting backgrounders at: <http://news.ontario.ca/mei/en/2013/12/ontario-releases-long-term-energy-plan-1.html>

The Plan, *Achieving Balance* is at: http://www.energy.gov.on.ca/docs/LTEP_2013_English_WEB.pdf

A series of Backgrounders focusing on topics such as Conservation initiatives at:

<http://news.ontario.ca/mei/en/2013/12/conservation-and-demand-management.html>, First Nations and Metis initiatives at: <http://news.ontario.ca/mei/en/2013/12/first-nation-and-metis-communities.html>, and Northwestern Ontario programs (to support mining projects and First Nations) at: <http://news.ontario.ca/mei/en/2013/12/meeting-northwestern-ontarios-energy-needs.html>.

Reaction from Environmental Defence is at: <http://environmentaldefence.ca/articles/statement-gillian-mceachern-environmental-defence-regarding-ontario%E2%80%99s-new-long-term-energy->; From the Pembina Institute at: <http://www.pembina.org/media-release/2508>, and from the Society of Energy Professionals at: <http://www.newswire.ca/en/story/1272509/long-term-energy-plan-is-low-voltage-say-energy-professionals>: "The Society of Energy Professionals supports the government's decisions to continue with plans for nuclear refurbishment at Darlington and Bruce Power, maintain Pickering until 2020, and move forward with the conversion of the Thunder Bay Generating Station from coal to advanced biomass."

Posted in **Energy Policy** | Tagged **Achieving Balance**, **energy conservation**, **Ontario Coal Phase-Out**, **Ontario Long-term Energy Plan** | [Leave a reply](#)

Quebec Government gives Conditional Support to Enbridge Line 9B

Posted on **December 19, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

In the first week of December, a Quebec parliamentary committee came out in favour of Enbridge's proposal to reverse the flow of the Line 9B pipeline, allowing crude oil and bitumen to flow across Quebec to refineries in Montreal. The committee stipulated 18 conditions, including: the creation of an oversight committee composed of federal, provincial and Enbridge representatives; Enbridge must provide Quebec's environment department with its inspection data and its inspection and maintenance practices, so that an independent expert can evaluate the integrity of the pipeline; Enbridge must conduct hydrostatic studies on the integrity of the pipeline; Enbridge must provide a sufficient financial guarantee to pay for any damage in the event of a disaster, including after the pipeline is no longer in operation; and Enbridge must develop an emergency plan for drinking water. See the summary at Equiterre website at: <http://www.equiterre.org/en/news/quebec-parliamentary-committee-approves-line-9b-reversal>, with a link to the full report of the Committee (French only). For background to the controversy, see "6 Reasons why some Labour is Rallying against Line 9" at Rabble.ca at: <http://rabble.ca/blogs/bloggers/jesse/2013/11/six-reasons-why-some-labour-rallying-against-line-9>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Line 9**, **Montreal Refineries**, **Pipelines**, **Quebec** | [Leave a reply](#)

Green Awards for Cities: Vancouver for Green Building Practices

Posted on **December 19, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

On November 20, the World Green Building Council (WGBC) gave its Government Leadership Award for Best Green Building Policy to the City of Vancouver, recognizing international best practice for green building initiatives at the city level. Under Vancouver's Greenest City 2020 Action Plan, existing buildings must reduce their energy use and GHG emissions by 20% from 2007 levels, by 2020. New buildings constructed after 2020 must be carbon neutral. Read the press release, with links to the Action Plan and supporting documents at: <http://vancouver.ca/green-vancouver/greenest-city-2020-action-plan.aspx>. And on Dec. 20, new energy efficiency requirements will come into effect under the B.C. Building Code. Developers will have a choice of energy efficiency standards for "complex buildings" (this includes large residential, industrial, commercial and institutional buildings, but not houses or small buildings). Developers can choose to use either the 2011 National Energy Code for Buildings or ASHRAE 90.1 (2010), creating greater flexibility for the construction industry.

Press release at:

<http://www.newsroom.gov.bc.ca/2013/12/new-energy-efficiency-requirements-for-the-bc-building-code.html>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Cities and Climate Change, Green Building, Vancouver, World Green Building Council** | [Leave a reply](#)

European Green Capital Award for 2013: Nantes, France

Posted on **December 19, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

Nantes was chosen for the 2013 Award on the strength of its public transport policy. It was the first city in France to successfully re-introduce electric tramways, and plans to encourage bicycle and public bus infrastructure. The Award, begun in 2010 by the European Commission, recognizes a consistent record and a commitment to future goals and ambitions for environmental improvement and sustainable development.

See: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/europeangreencapital/winning-cities/2013-nantes/index.html>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Cities and Climate Change, European Green Capital Award, Nantes, Public Transportation** | [Leave a reply](#)

Another Assessment of Canada's Energy Gridlock from Business, Environmentalists, and First Nations

Posted on **December 19, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

A report released on December 13 is the result of five meetings of a unique gathering of perspectives: business, government, environmental groups, and First Nations. Each of the 21 participants was said to speak as an individual, not representing their constituencies. The project, the Charrette on Energy, Environment and Aboriginal Energy Resource Development in Canada, defined both the problems and the opportunities of Canada's energy and electricity systems, and concludes that we are in a state of "energy development gridlock." The path forward, they state, must build on a respect for First Nations concerns and the environment. The report recommends that First Nations be included early in project consultations, that assessments should address cumulative impacts of

resource development on traditional lands, (not just project-specific impacts); that First Nations are entitled to greater benefits from resource development, including some form of revenue sharing; that government and industry should monitor the impacts of resource development; all energy companies should be incorporating the best environmental technology to minimize impacts, and that there is a “pressing need for a credible and substantive commitment to reduce Canada’s carbon footprint.”

LINK

For *Responsible Energy Resource Development in Canada: Summary of the Dialogue of the Charrette on Energy, Environment and Aboriginal Issues* see

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/incoming/article15936361.ece/binary/Responsible%20Energy%20Resource%20Development%20in%20Canada%20-final.pdf>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Aboriginal Energy Development, First Nations** | [Leave a reply](#)

Canada’s Environmental Prestige at a New Low

Posted on **December 19, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

Two new reports reflect the global dismay for Canada’s environmental performance. *Climate Change Performance Index Results 2014*, released by the Climate Action Network Europe and Germanwatch, ranks Canada at 58th in their index, “the worst performer of all industrialised countries”. Even China, the world’s highest CO2 emitter, ranked 46th, thanks to its heavy investment in renewable energies. See *Climate Change Performance Index Results 2014* at: <http://germanwatch.org/en/download/8599.pdf> . And in *Race to the Bottom*, the 2014 report of the international Climate Action Tracker project, Japan, Australia and Canada are singled out for poor performance.

See: <http://climateactiontracker.org/news/151/In-talks-for-a-new-climate-treaty-a-race-to-the-bottom.html> with the 8 page policy brief

at: http://climateactiontracker.org/assets/publications/briefing_papers/CAT_Policy_brief_Race_to_the_bottom.pdf.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Canada, Canadian Emissions, Climate Change Performance Index** | [Leave a reply](#)

Carbon Pricing is Gaining Acceptance Among U.S. Businesses

Posted on **December 19, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

A *New York Times* article reports that at least 29 companies are incorporating a price on carbon into their long-term financial plans. The list of companies includes many with ties to the Republican Party: ExxonMobil, Walmart, American Electric Power, Microsoft, General Electric, Walt Disney, ConAgra Foods, Wells Fargo, DuPont, Duke Energy, Google and Delta Air Lines. The article focuses on the political divide that this development represents, and concludes that: “The divide, between conservative groups that are fighting against government regulation and oil companies that are planning for it as a practical business decision, echoes a deeper rift in the party, as business-friendly establishment Republicans clash with the Tea Party.” The article is based on a report by environmental data company CDP. See “Large Companies Prepared to pay Price on Carbon” in the *New York Times* at:

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Business attitudes, Carbon Pricing, Carbon Tax, United States** | [Leave a reply](#)

90 Companies Account for Two-Thirds of Global Emissions: a New Look at who is Responsible

Posted on **December 19, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

A widely-cited article in the November issue of *Climatic Change* analyzed the greenhouse gas emissions produced by the largest investor-owned and state-owned companies, rather than the usual metric of national emissions. The results show that nearly two-thirds of carbon dioxide and methane emissions from 1854 to 2010 can be attributed to 90 companies, with almost 30% of emissions produced by the top 20 companies. Among state-owned companies, Russian enterprises produced 8.9% of the total emissions, with China accounting for 8.6% of total global emissions. Among investor-owned companies, ChevronTexaco was the leading emitter, causing 3.5% of global emissions, with Exxon causing 3.2% and BP causing 2.5%. The data in the article was constructed using public records and data for the period 1854 to 2010, from the U.S. Department of Energy's Carbon Dioxide Information and Analysis Centre. Author Richard Heede states, "the present analysis...invites consideration of the suggestion that some degree of responsibility for both cause and remedy for climate change rests with those entities that have extracted, refined, and marketed the preponderance of the historic carbon fuels." Read "Tracing anthropogenic carbon dioxide and methane emissions to fossil fuel and cement producers, 1854-2010" in *Climatic Change* (November 2013) at: <http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10584-013-0986-y>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **BP, ChevronTexaco, China, Exxon, Greenhouse gas emissions, responsibility for climate change, Russia** | [Leave a reply](#)

James Hansen Challenges the 2 Degrees Target

Posted on **December 19, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

A new paper by James Hansen and Jeffrey Sachs was published in the Open Access journal *PLOS One*, arguing that a global warming target of 2 degrees Celsius is not acceptable and will lead to disastrous consequences. According to a summary at *The Climate Desk*, Hansen has said that the paper is intended as "a tool for the courthouse, rather than the scientific debate hall"... "We started this paper to provide a basis for legal actions against governments in not doing their jobs in protecting the rights of young people and future generations." See: <http://climatedesk.org/2013/12/scientists-current-international-warming-target-is-disastrous/>. The full article, "Assessing Dangerous Climate Change: Required Reduction of Carbon Emissions to Protect Young People, Future Generations, and Nature" is at *PlosOne* at: <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/876989-hansen-plos-one.html>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **2 Degree Target, James Hansen, responsibility for climate change** | [Leave a reply](#)

A Strategy for Growth for Human Resources and Training in Renewable Electricity Sectors

Posted on **November 22, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

The Renewing Futures research project aims to assess the capacity of Canada's skilled workforce to meet the labour needs of the electricity-related renewable energy systems. The research project is a collaboration of Electricity Human Resources Canada (formerly the Electricity Sector Council), Employment and Social Development Canada, and industry stakeholders. Several documents from the project were released in November – the documents listed below are all free, but are mostly Executive summaries of priced reports.

A *Technology Review* report creates a profile of the seven technologies – wind, solar, bioenergy, geothermal, marine/tidal, small and large hydro, and transmission, storage and distribution. It also includes provincial energy market assessments that project renewable electricity capacity from 2011 to 2022.

The *Labour Market Information System* is based on a synthesis of 5 different models; it focuses on eighteen key occupations, grouped in three broad groups; leaders and managers, engineers and technologists, and skilled trades. In 2012, approximately 41,000 employees are estimated to work in renewable electricity jobs. The LMIS forecasts 3 different scenarios of growth: Utility case, Reference case (based on the National Energy Board 2011 Energy Supply and Demand Projections to 2035), and the most optimistic, the "Vision" case. The Vision case projects the creation of 620,000 person years of short term employment in manufacturing, construction and installation, and another 34,000 full time and long term operator jobs by 2022. Most of the jobs that are created are "good jobs" – high-skilled, well paid, with opportunities for advancement.

A *National Human Resources Strategy for Renewable Electricity*. Since even the Utility case rate of growth may result in labour shortages in the renewable electricity sector, the Human Resources Strategy proposes joint action by the employers, trainers, unions and governments to expand the breadth and depth of the skilled workforce. The strategy acknowledges that "Collaboration is not an obvious outcome", noting the large number of small companies spread across the supply chain, many of whom are currently satisfied with their HR operations and who prefer to focus their attention on the challenges of government policy and business conditions. "The implementation of the any national strategy faces a significant challenge in convincing many employers that there is a problem to solve."

The project also reviews post-secondary training and certification across Canada and makes recommendations for general and sector-specific initiatives. The *Strategy* document suggests changes to the education of professional engineers, including curriculum changes and increased co-op programs. The report identified 95 community colleges programs for engineering technicians and technologists, and commends this as an important beginning, but recommends bringing together unions, provincial labour market planners, college faculty and employers to consider new objectives, such as "new curriculum, registration targets, specializations related to sectors and to occupations. The latter content might target training in preparation for sales, design, project and cost management, construction estimation and other non-technical jobs." Noting that there are no apprenticeship programs targeted to renewable electricity, the Strategy recommends a long-term goal of creating Red Seal trades specializing in Renewable Electricity, as well as national occupational standards, and certification to improve mobility across provinces.

LINKS:

Trends and Technology Review: Executive Summary is at: <http://renewingfutures.ca/CMFiles//EHRCrfttr.pdf>

Renewing Futures Labour Market Information System is at: <http://renewingfutures.ca/CMFiles//EHRCrflmis.pdf>

A National Human Resources Strategy for Renewable Electricity is at:

<http://www.renewingfutures.ca/CMFiles//EHRCrfs.pdf>

Analysis of the Renewing Futures Employer Survey is at: <http://www.renewingfutures.ca/CMFiles//RFES.pdf>

Posted in **Energy Policy** | Tagged **Electricity Human Resources Canada, Employment and Social Development Canada, Good Jobs, Renewables** | [Leave a reply](#)

Québec's New Job Creation Strategy Capitalizes on Surplus Electricity

Posted on **November 22, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

On October 7, the government of Quebec released a new job creation statement: "Economic Policy – Putting Jobs First". The strategy includes an "investment-job pricing offer", which offers reduced electricity rates to industries related to natural resource processing, renewable energy component manufacturing, green technologies and transportation electrification, and information technology. This initiative is projected to attract investments of \$1.6 billion and create 10,300 jobs in the short term. The program will remain in effect as long as Hydro Quebec has surplus electric capacity, which the government estimates is until 2027. In addition, \$111.5 billion was announced to stimulate green renovation through EcoRenov, a refundable tax credit program which will be offered to individuals for residential green renovations done by October 31, 2014, up to a maximum tax credit of \$10,000. In addition, funding for the existing Rénoclimat program will be increased by \$37 million to add a component for the replacement of fossil fuel-burning heating systems.

LINKS:

"Quebec to invest \$2 billion in jobs to stimulate sluggish economy" in the *Globe and Mail* (Oct. 7) at:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/quebec-to-invest-2-billion-in-jobs-plan/article14725423/>

Press releases are at: http://www.finances.gouv.qc.ca/documents/Communiqués/en/COMEN_20131007-1.pdf and http://www.finances.gouv.qc.ca/documents/Communiqués/en/COMEN_20131007-2.pdf

Posted in **Energy Policy, Government Policy** | Tagged **Electricity, Job Creation, Quebec, Surplus Energy** | [Leave a reply](#)

Oil Sands Economics: The Latest Facts and Some New Recommendations

Posted on **November 22, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

A new report released by the Pembina Institute and Equiterre focuses on economic debate surrounding the oil sands, updating *In the Shadow of the Boom*, published by Pembina in May 2012. The new report, *Booms, Busts, and Bitumen* examines several economic risks associated with natural resource booms, including the decline of the manufacturing sector, known as Dutch disease, and GDP instability caused by Alberta's overreliance on the oil sands. The report questions the benefits accrued outside of Alberta, stating that only 14% of the employment opportunities created by oil sands development will be outside Alberta, and citing a CERI analysis that indicates the U.S. may stand to gain more than the rest of Canada. It also points to increasing worldwide pressure to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the uncertainty of future oil sands markets. Finally, the report calls for better

government management to ensure long-term gain from the one-time exploitation of non-renewable resources, for example through capital investment that focuses on reducing fossil fuel dependency in Canada, elimination of preferential tax treatment for the fossil fuel industry, and a mandate for the House of Commons Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology to study the current restructuring of the Canadian economy, and the associated regional disparities, with an aim to identify a course of action to diversify economic growth and aid competitiveness across the whole country.

LINK

Booms, Busts, And Bitumen: The Economic Implications of Canadian Oilsands Development is available in French and English versions from: <http://www.pembina.org/pub/2494>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Alberta, Canadian GDP, Dutch Disease, Oil Markets, Oil Sands, Pembina Institute, Resource Dependence** | [Leave a reply](#)

Is Emissions Intensity, not Green Job Creation, the Best Metric of Greening Economies?

Posted on **November 22, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

A research paper released in October by the University of Calgary provides yet another discussion of the difficulties of defining “green jobs”. The authors provide an up to date summary of studies which define or measure green jobs, and the cost of green job creation in Canada and the U.S., with special attention to Ontario’s Green Energy Act. The authors propose an alternative in the green job discussion: “We avoid the issue of “what is a green job” by considering dirty inputs (energy) and dirty outputs (greenhouse gas emissions) to evaluate the relative “greenness” of Canadian industries.” Their calculations rank the three most energy-intensive industries as 1) “Utilities”, 2) “Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting”, and 3) “Mining and Oil and Gas Extraction”. They conclude that, given the decrease in emission-intensity of these highly polluting industries, “it is highly likely that the utilities sector created far more green jobs than many of the other Canadian sectors.” It follows, in their analysis, that measuring and monitoring the greening of economies can be best accomplished by using the metric of greenhouse gas emission intensity.

LINK

Green Jobs Fantasy: Why the Economic and Environmental Reality can Never Live up to the Political Promise (Volume 6, Issue 31 of the University of Calgary School of Public Policy Research Paper Series) is at: <http://www.policyschool.ucalgary.ca/?q=content/green-jobs-fantasy-why-economic-and-environmental-reality-can-never-live-political-promise>

Posted in **Energy Policy, United States** | Tagged **Emissions Intensity, Job Creation, Ontario Green Energy Act** | [2 Replies](#)

Canadians are as Concerned about the Environment as the Economy

Posted on **November 22, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

On November 6th, the results of a new public opinion poll about climate change, carbon taxes, and the relationship between the environment and the economy were showcased at a series of events titled *The Politics of Climate and the Climate of Politics* in Ottawa. The poll, conducted by think-tank Canada 2020 and the Université de Montréal, measured Canadian and American opinions, and showed that 71% of Canadians believe that climate change should be a top priority for the Conservative federal government – while only 16% of Canadians believe it actually is. 26% of Canadians believe that the Conservative government is doing a good job at addressing economic and employment issues, only 19% think the government is adequately addressing environmental issues, and only 16% believe Canada is showing international leadership on climate change.

LINK

The Canada 2020/Université de Montréal National Survey of Canadian Opinions on Climate Change is available at: http://www.canada2020.ca/climatepoll/docs/Cross_Tabs-Canada_2020_U_of_M_Climate_Poll.pdf, with Highlights and links to interactive maps at: <http://canada2020.ca/latestnews/new-poll-canadians-want-federal-leadership-on-climate-change/>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Canada 2020, Public Opinion Poll** | [Leave a reply](#)

U.S. Estimates Economic and Jobs Impact of Wilderness and Ecotourism

Posted on **November 22, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

A new report by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services says visitors to federal wildlife refuges generate more than \$2 billion a year in economic activity, helping to employ more than 35,000 people and produce about \$343 million in local, state and federal taxes. Recreational activities such as birding, hiking and picnicking account for nearly 75 % of total expenditures at wildlife refuges across the country, the report says, while fishing and hunting account for about 28 % of expenditures.

LINK

Banking on Nature is available at: <http://www.fws.gov/refuges/about/RefugeReports/index1.html>

Posted in **United States** | Tagged **Eco-Jobs, Eco-tourism** | [Leave a reply](#)

ILO Statisticians Adopt New Guidelines to Measure the Greening Economy

Posted on **November 22, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

At the 19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) in Geneva in early October, labour statisticians discussed and adopted new guidelines for the statistical definition of employment in the environmental sector. The guidelines define the environmental sector as consisting of “all economic units producing, designing and manufacturing goods and services for the purposes of environmental protection and resource management”. The discussion identified as two distinct concepts: 1) employment in production of environmental output, and 2) environmental processes. While both are aspects of greening of employment, the report states that they are different targets for policy-making, and should be measured separately using different methods.

LINK:

Green jobs: Draft guidelines for the Statistical Definition and Measurement of Employment in Environmental Sector is available at: http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/—dgreports/—stat/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_223914.pdf

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Economic Measures, Green Jobs, International Conference of Labour Statisticians, International Labour Organization, Labour and Greens, Labour Statistics** | [Leave a reply](#)

Western Climate Pact Seen as an International Model

Posted on **November 22, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

On October 29, the Pacific Coast Action Plan on Climate and Energy was announced by its signatories: California, Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia. The Preamble of the official document: affirms “our shared vision of Pacific North America as a model of innovation that sustains our communities and creates jobs and new economic opportunities for our combined population of 53 million”... and recalls “the findings of the 2012 West Coast Clean Economy report which projected 1.03 million new jobs could be created in key sectors, such as energy efficiency and advanced transportation, assuming the right policy environment”. The Plan is voluntary, but pledges the parties: to account for the cost of carbon (with B.C. and California retaining their existing carbon pricing programs and clean fuel standards, and Oregon and Washington pledging to follow suit); harmonize 2050 targets for greenhouse gas reductions and develop mid-term targets needed to support long-term reduction goals; to inform policy with findings from climate science, including the IPCC 5th Assessment Reports of 2013; to co-operate to press for international agreement on climate change policy in 2015; to ensure support for research, and take action on, ocean acidification,. An article in *Quartz* appraises the group as “the new Pacific Rim Environmental Superpower”. The Action Plan will be administered by an organization called the Pacific Coast Collaborative.

See the Plan document at:

<http://www.pacificcoastcollaborative.org/Documents/Pacific%20Coast%20Climate%20Action%20Plan.pdf>. For reaction, see the Clean Energy blog at: <http://cleanenergycanada.org/2013/10/28/west-coast-economies-sign-landmark-action-plan-climate-clean-energy/>; Pembina Institute blog at: <http://www.pembina.org/blog/759>; Blue Green Alliance US at: <http://www.bluegreenalliance.org/news/publications/david-fosters-remarks-at-pacific-collaborative-climate-pact-event>; *Quartz* at: <http://qz.com/141148/meet-the-pacific-rims-new-environmental-superpower/>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **British Columbia, California, Cap and Trade, Carbon Pricing, International cooperation, Pacific Coast Action Plan on Climate and Energy, Pacific Coast Collaborative** | [Leave a reply](#)

CBC Provides First Public Access to Pipeline Safety Data

Posted on **November 22, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

Through an access-to-information request, CBC News obtained a data set of every pipeline safety incident reported to the National Energy Board between 2000 and 2012. The NEB only oversees 71,000 pipelines that cross provincial or international borders (about a tenth of the overall network. The remaining 760,000 kilometres are

monitored by the provinces). The NEB data is based on the requirement that companies must report safety issues including the death or serious injury of a worker, fires, explosions, liquid product spills over 1,500 litres and every gas leak, but it is clear from the discussion of the data that Canada lacks a transparent and accurate reporting system, despite the recommendation for improvements from a Senate committee. The data provided to the CBC show that there were 142 pipelines safety incidents in 2011, and that the rate of pipeline incidents has doubled in the past decade. Most incidents have occurred in B.C., followed by Alberta, followed by Ontario.

The interactive map at: <http://www.cbc.ca/news2/interactives/pipeline-incidents/> and allows you to specify the category of “serious accidents” or “fatalities” to see brief summaries of incidents, usually relating to worker safety.

For an explanation of the limitations of Canadian data see: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/pipeline-safety-canada-lags-u-s-on-making-data-public-1.2254793> and <http://www.cbc.ca/news/pipeline-safety-incidents-how-we-organized-the-data-1.2251835>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Alberta, British Columbia, National Energy Board, Occupational Health and Safety, Oil Sands, Oil Spills, Ontario, Pipelines** | [Leave a reply](#)

Ontario Proposes Green Bonds for Transportation

Posted on **November 22, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

An October 30 announcement from Ontario's Premier states that Ontario will become the first Canadian province to implement a “green bonds” program to help fund environmentally-friendly transportation. According to the government, the bonds would help address critical infrastructure needs, create jobs, and strengthen the economy while keeping funding interest rates low and minimizing costs for consumers. The bonds would also be internationally certified, so they could be officially recognized as investments in sustainability. Green bonds are securities that raise capital for specific projects with environmental benefits. According to think-tank Clean Energy Canada, green bonds are in high demand which, combined with Ontario's attractive credit rating, may result in substantial benefit to Ontario's sustainable transportation sector.

See the government press release at: http://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2013/10/province-proposes-new-way-to-fund-infrastructure.html?utm_source=ondemand&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=p, and see the Clean Energy response at “Green Bonds: an Investment to Write Home About” at: <http://cleanenergycanada.org/2013/11/01/green-bonds-investment-write-home/>.

For background on green bonds in Canada, see the articles at the Initiative Climate Bonds website at: <http://www.climatebonds.net/category/canada/>

Posted in **Energy Policy, Government Policy** | Tagged **Green Bonds, Green Infrastructure, Infrastructure, Infrastructure Investment, Ontario, Public Transportation, Transit, Transit Policy, Transportation, Transportation Investment** | [Leave a reply](#)

Federal Government Weakens Environmental Assessment Rules Further

Posted on **November 22, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

Environmentalists are up in arms after the federal government amended the rules dictating which natural resource extraction projects require federal environmental assessments in late October. According to Greenpeace, many activities associated with oil sands expansion are absent from the new list, notably *in situ* oil extraction, which uses steam to pump up oil from reservoirs that are deep underground. The method is expected to comprise 80% of oil sands extraction.

See the very brief government announcement of the changes at the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency website at: <http://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=en&xml=0DDF9560-6A8A-4403-B33A-B906AC6A1D93>, and the National Energy Board summary at: <http://www.neb-one.gc.ca/clf-nsi/rthnb/nws/nwsrsls/2013/ceaa-acee2013-10-25-eng.html>.

“New environmental review rules anger oilsands critics” at the CBC website at: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/new-environmental-review-rules-anger-oilsands-critics-1.2252074> summarizes reaction and history.

Posted in **Environmental Policy** | Tagged **Environmental Assessment Act, Environmental Impact Assessment, Environmental Science, Greenpeace, In Situ Oil Extraction, National Energy Board, Oil Sands, Stephen Harper** | [Leave a reply](#)

UN COP-19 underway in Warsaw from November 11-22

Posted on **November 22, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

The first week of the UN COP19 proceeded with a sombre air following the devastation of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines. Despite this, talks faced significant difficulties as Japan announced a reduction to its emission targets and Australia declared its decision to axe the country's carbon tax.

Canada has come under criticism for applauding Australia and encouraging other countries to follow suit. The WWF condemned Canada for undermining progress at the talks, while NDP Environment Critic Megan Leslie asserted that “the Conservatives are still asleep at the wheel” in a statement issued November 13th.

Delegates from Warsaw have indicated that the new accord will likely abandon the international treaty model of past agreements and instead resemble a “patchwork” of national emissions reduction targets that are governed by domestic law. COP19 is seen as a precursor to the more important international conference in Paris in 2015.

See the speeches and documentation from COP19 at the UNFCCC website at: <http://unfccc.int/2860.php>; See WWF condemns Canada at: <http://www.wwf.eu/index.cfm?212403/WWF-condemns-Japan-Australia-Canada-undermining-progress-climate-talks>, and the NDP statement on Canada at COP19 at: <http://www.ndp.ca/news/statement-ndp-cop19-united-nations-framework-convention-climate-change>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Australia, Carbon Tax, COP19, International Climate Summit, UNFCCC, Warsaw, WWF** | [Leave a reply](#)

Pipeline Politics from Ontario's Point of View

Posted on **November 22, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

The Politics of Pipelines: Ontario's Stake in Canada's Pipeline Debate, was released on November 12 by University of Toronto-based Mowat Centre, taking a climate change policy perspective on the issue of pipeline development and its impact on Ontario. It says that provinces who don't necessarily receive adequate economic benefit from the oil sands are obligated to contribute to the nationwide effort to reduce greenhouse gases, and recommends either a national carbon tax or a cap and trade policy to satisfy the "polluter pays" principle. The report does note that local and First Nations communities across Canada will likely benefit from an increase in construction, maintenance, and management jobs, as well spin-off projects near pipeline routes. However, manufacturing sectors may suffer from inflated exchange rates and Dutch Disease. In Ontario, the conversion of the Line 9 gas pipeline to oil sands bitumen would decrease the capacity of the natural gas sector and may increase the consumer cost, while taxpayers would be forced to fund equalization payments.

LINK

The Politics of Pipelines: Ontario's Stake in Canada's Pipeline Debate is at: <http://mowatcentre.ca/research-topic-mowat.php?mowatResearchID=96>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Aboriginal Peoples, Cap and Trade, Carbon Markets, Dutch Disease, Emissions Trading, First Nations, Job Creation, Line 9, Ontario, Pipelines** | [Leave a reply](#)

No Carbon Leakage in Europe as a Result of Cap and Trade Policies

Posted on **November 22, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

A study commissioned by the European Commission has concluded that Europe's cap-and-trade program has not caused industry to relocate to countries without greenhouse gas regulation in a process known as "carbon leakage". In a series of sectoral "factsheets", the report presents historical data on the structure, performance, and competitiveness of sectors (including iron and steel, chemicals, paper, cement, refined petroleum) and assess the degree to which carbon leakage may have occurred. Although the study found that no companies left Europe for unregulated territory between 2005 and 2012, the authors indicate they suspect this may change.

Read *Carbon Leakage Evidence Project Report* by Ecorys Consultants, Netherlands at: http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/ets/cap/leakage/docs/cl_evidence_factsheets_en.pdf, or read a summary at Bloomberg news at: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-10-31/carbon-curbs-haven-t-spurred-production-exodus-eu-study-shows.html>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Cap and Trade, Carbon Leakage, EU** | [Leave a reply](#)

GHG Emissions around the World: the Latest Statistics

Posted on **November 22, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

On November 6, the World Meteorological Organization released the 2013 edition of its annual *Greenhouse Gas Bulletin*, showing that "between 1990 and 2012 there was a 32% increase in radiative forcing – the warming effect on our climate – because of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other heat-trapping long-lived gases such as methane and

nitrous oxide." The volume of CO₂ grew faster in 2012 than in the previous decade, reaching 393.1 parts per million (ppm), 41 % above the pre-industrial level. Read the WMO press release, with links to related documents in English and French, at: http://www.wmo.int/pages/mediacentre/press_releases/pr_980_en.html

Posted in [Energy Policy](#), [Government Policy](#) | Tagged [Emissions reduction targets](#), [WMO](#), [World Meteorological Organization](#) | [Leave a reply](#)

GHG Emissions in Canada

Posted on **November 22, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

In releasing the *2013 Emissions Trends* report in October, the Canadian government stated: "as a result of the combined efforts of federal, provincial and territorial governments, consumers and businesses, GHG emissions in 2020 will be 734 megatonnes (Mt). This is 128 Mt lower than where emissions would be in 2020 if no action were taken to reduce GHGs since 2005." (The report did not state that it is also 122 Mt *above* Canada's target level of 612 Mt.) The government will maintain its current course of regulating emissions on a sector-by-sector basis- in other words, no improvement, no national leadership. Canada's *Emissions Trends 2013* report (and those from 2011 and 2012) are at: <http://www.ec.gc.ca/ges-ghg/default.asp?lang=En&n=985F05FB-1>. See the Pembina reaction to the government report at: <http://www.pembina.org/media-release/2488>; and the Pembina October backgrounder concerning how the oil sands contribute to Canadian emissions, at: <http://www.pembina.org/pub/2486>.

Posted in [Energy Policy](#), [Environmental Policy](#) | Tagged [Canadian Emissions](#), [Emissions reduction targets](#), [Greenhouse gas emissions](#) | [Leave a reply](#)

GHG Emissions in United States

Posted on **November 22, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

On October 23, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released greenhouse gas data from its Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program, which provides information from over 8,000 facilities in the largest emitting industries, including power plants, oil and gas production and refining, iron and steel mills, and landfills. It provides carbon pollution emissions and trends broken down by industrial sector, greenhouse gas, geographic region, and individual facility. It also measures production and consumption of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) predominantly used in refrigeration and air-conditioning. See the program homepage at: <http://www.epa.gov/ghgreporting/>; a press release at: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/d0cf6618525a9efb85257359003fb69d/ee6b62db73ee67b485257c0d0058936b!OpenDocument>. Note that the more comprehensive U.S. Greenhouse Gas Inventory data was released in April 2013; see: <http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/ghgemissions/usinventoryreport.html>.

Posted in [Government Policy](#), [United States](#) | Tagged [Emissions reduction targets](#), [Environmental Protection Agency](#), [EPA](#), [Greenhouse gas emissions](#) | [Leave a reply](#)

International GHG Emissions

Posted on **November 22, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

The *Emissions Gap Report 2013* released on Nov. 5 by the United Nations Environment Program is the fourth produced. It reviews the latest estimates of current global greenhouse gas emissions; national emission levels, both current (2010) and projected (2020), and global emission levels consistent with the 2°C target for emissions in 2020, 2030 and 2050. New to this report is an assessment of the extent to which countries are on track to meet their national pledges, and also a description of the many cooperative climate initiatives being undertaken internationally. Also, noting that agriculture accounts for approximately 11% of GHG emissions, the report includes a chapter on the agricultural sector, including policies for reducing emissions. Read the press release at: <http://www.unep.org/newscentre/Default.aspx?DocumentId=2755&ArticleId=9683>

With the full report at: <http://www.unep.org/pdf/UNEPEmissionsGapReport2013.pdf>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Agriculture, Climate change policy, Emissions Gap Report, Emissions reduction targets, Greenhouse gas emissions** | [Leave a reply](#)

Overseas Development Institute Urges Phasing out of Fossil Fuel Subsidies

Posted on **November 22, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

Citing the latest estimates by the International Energy Association that subsidies to fossil fuel producers totaled \$523 billion worldwide in 2011, the Overseas Development Institute urges the phase-out of such subsidies (by 2020 for G20 countries). This “would eliminate the perverse incentives that drive up carbon emissions, create price signals for investment in a low-carbon transition and reduce pressure on public finances.” See *Time to Change the Game: Fossil Fuel Subsidies and Climate Executive Summary* at: <http://www.odi.org.uk/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/8669.pdf>; full report is available from: <http://www.odi.org.uk/subsidies-change-the-game>. A similar message was contained in related report by the International Monetary Fund, *Energy Subsidy Reform: Lessons and Implications*, published in Spring 2013, and summarized at the WCR archive at: <https://workandclimatechangereport.org/2013/04/23/the-imf-decries-the-distortions-of-fossil-fuel-subsidies-working-at-a-cross-purpose-with-climate-compatible-investment/>.

Posted in **Energy Policy, Government Policy** | Tagged **Fossil Fuel Subsidies, International Energy Association, Overseas Development Institute** | [Leave a reply](#)

Council of Canadians focus on Fracking

Posted on **November 22, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

The Council of Canadians has published its Fall 2013 issue of *Perspectives*, which focused on fracking at: <http://www.canadians.org/canadian-perspectives-fall-2013>.

Posted in **Energy Policy** | Tagged **Council of Canadians, Fracking** | [Leave a reply](#)

Protests Continue in New Brunswick; UNIFOR Supports First Nations with a Call for a National Moratorium

Posted on **November 22, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

The government of New Brunswick continues to support fracking despite First Nations protests, according to New Brunswick's Energy Minister, quoted in the *Globe and Mail*. Read "Anti-fracking protests shouldn't hinder shale-gas sector, N.B. Energy Minister says" (Nov. 14) in the *Globe and Mail* at:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/anti-fracking-protests-shouldnt-hinder-shale-gas-sector-nb-energy-minister-says/article15447462/>. But UNIFOR, the union which represents energy workers, expressed support for the First Nations protests and called for a national moratorium on fracking. Read the press release at:

<http://www.unifor.org/en/whats-new/news/unifor-calls-national-moratorium-fracking> and the full statement by the National Executive Board (November 12) at:

http://www.unifor.org/sites/default/files/attachments/neb_resolution_on_fracking_nov2013_e.pdf.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Aboriginal Peoples, Elsipogtog, First Nations, Fracking, Fracking Moratorium, labour union policies, New Brunswick, Protests & Rallies, Shale gas, Unifor** | [Leave a reply](#)

Newfoundland says No to Fracking, for now

Posted on **November 22, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

The Newfoundland Minister of Natural Resources announced on November 4th that the government "will not be accepting applications for onshore and onshore to offshore petroleum exploration using hydraulic fracturing". The suspension will allow the government time to review fracking rules in other jurisdictions, fully assess potential environmental impacts, and allow for public comments. See the press release at:

<http://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2013/nr/1104n06.htm>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Fracking, Fracking Moratorium, Natural Gas, Newfoundland** | [Leave a reply](#)

Canada's New Voluntary Fracking Code of Conduct

Posted on **November 22, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

The Petroleum Services Association of Canada has unveiled a new voluntary fracking code of conduct, signed by 11 companies. The code, which covers technical and environmental standard practice and guidelines for company engagement with stakeholders, comes after six months of nation-wide meetings with environmental and community groups, local governments and land owners. Industry representatives claim that most companies already follow the standards in the code, and that compared to other jurisdictions, Canada has long had stricter regulations on fracking. Read the press release by the Petroleum Services Association of Canada at: http://www.psac.ca/wp-content/uploads/PSAC_Media_Release_October_30.pdf and the Statement of Principles and full Code of Conduct from a link at: <http://www.oilandgasinfo.ca/working-energy-commitment/hydraulic-fracturing-code-of-conduct/>.

B.C. Court Challenge to Water Use in Fracking

Posted on **November 22, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

EcoJustice, Sierra Club B.C., and The Wilderness Committee announced on November 13th that they have launched a lawsuit in the B.C. Supreme Court. The suit aims to stop the British Columbia Oil and Gas Commission from granting repeated short-term water use approvals to oil and gas companies. This practice allows the gas industry to exploit fresh water for fracking operations (among other things). See the EcoJustice press release at: <http://www.ecojustice.ca/media-centre/press-releases/water-usage-by-fracking-operations-challenged-in-b.c.-supreme-court>.

Posted in **Environmental Policy, Government Policy** | Tagged **British Columbia, British Columbia Oil and Gas Commission, EcoJustice, Fracking, Sierra Club, Wilderness Committee** | [Leave a reply](#)

Fracking Company Suing for Lost Profits in Québec

Posted on **November 22, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

On September 6, 2013 Lone Pine Resources quietly submitted its formal request for arbitration against Canada, arguing that Québec's moratorium against fracking deprives Lone Pine of its right to profit in the Saint Lawrence Valley. Under NAFTA rules, the case will be argued in front of a panel of 3 judges. The Notice of Arbitration is available at: <http://www.international.gc.ca/trade-agreements-accords-commerciaux/assets/pdfs/disp-diff/lone-02.pdf>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Fracking, Fracking Moratorium, Lone Pine Resources, NAFTA, Quebec** | [Leave a reply](#)

Anti-Fracking Regulations in California

Posted on **November 22, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

California Governor Jerry Brown signed the State's first fracking bill on September 20th, and released proposed regulations on November 15, launching a 60-day public comment period. The regulations, effective January 1, 2015, will require companies to obtain a permit before fracking, notify neighbours, disclose chemicals used, and monitor air and water quality; they also require independent scientific studies. Industry calls the new rules "extensive" while environmental groups have criticized the law for being too weak.

"Proposed Oil Well Fracking Regulations Released" from the *Los Angeles Times* (Nov.15) at: <http://www.latimes.com/business/money/la-fi-mo-oil-well-fracking-regulations-released->

20131115,0,1871535.story#axzz2kIA1sM4A. Background and a link to the regulations are at the Department of Conservation website at: <http://www.conservation.ca.gov/Index/Pages/Index.aspx>.

Posted in **United States** | Tagged **California, Fracking, Fracking Regulations, Jerry Brown** | [Leave a reply](#)

Presidential Executive Order Follows Up on U.S. Climate Action Plan

Posted on **November 22, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

On November 1, U.S. President Obama signed an Executive Order to implement the goals announced in his Climate Action Plan. The Executive Order establishes an inter-agency Council on Climate Preparedness and Resilience, chaired by the White House and including more than 25 agencies, to develop, coordinate, and implement priority Federal actions related to climate preparedness. It will supervise a new Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience, to be composed of state, local, and tribal leaders, who will advise on how the Federal Government can respond at the community level. In an initiative that Canadians can only dream of, the Executive Order also instructs Federal agencies “to work together and with information users to develop new climate preparedness tools and information that state, local, and private-sector leaders need to make smart decisions. In keeping with the President’s Open Data initiative, agencies will also make extensive Federal climate data accessible to the public through an easy-to-use online portal.”

Read the full Executive Order at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2013/11/01/executive-order-preparing-united-states-impacts-climate-change>, or the Fact Sheet at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2013/11/01/fact-sheet-executive-order-climate-preparedness>.

Posted in **United States** | Tagged **Adaptation, Barack Obama, Climate change policy, Climate Preparedness, Climate Resilience, U.S. Climate Action Plan** | [Leave a reply](#)

U.K. Trades Union Congress Holds its Climate Change Conference

Posted on **November 22, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

Over 200 delegates took part in the TUC’s climate change conference, *Green Growth: No Turning Back*, on 21 October 2013. Videos of speeches and workshops are available at: <http://www.tuc.org.uk/node/118958>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Green Growth, Labour Unions, Trades Union Congress, TUC** | [Leave a reply](#)

Safety for Pipeline Workers Raised as Part of the Pipeline Debate

Posted on **October 23, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

The recent oil spills in Alberta and Lac Megantic have raised the public profile of rail transport of oil and gas products in Canada. The Fraser Institute, apparently in response to the worsening prospects of U.S. approval of the Keystone XL Pipeline, released a report on *Intermodal Safety in the Transport of Oil* on October 15. Although the paper cites summary data from the National Energy Board about oil spills and injuries in Canada, the conclusions are based on data from the U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) for the period 2005-2009. The paper compares injury statistics amongst workers in the pipeline, rail, and road modes of transport and finds that the rate of injury requiring hospitalization among oil pipeline workers was 30 times lower than that of rail workers, and 37 times lower than trucking workers. The paper concludes, "The evidence is clear: transporting oil by pipeline is safe and environmentally friendly. Furthermore, pipeline transportation is safer than transportation by road, rail, or barge, as measured by incidents, injuries, and fatalities- even though more road and rail incidents go unreported." The paper does NOT address the environmental damage caused by spills, or injury to citizens.

LINKS

Intermodal Safety in the Transport of Oil is available at the Fraser Institute at: <http://www.fraserinstitute.org/uploadedFiles/fraser-ca/Content/research-news/research/publications/intermodal-safety-in-the-transport-of-oil.pdf>

U.S. Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) website provides data and statistics at: <http://phmsa.dot.gov/pipeline/library/data-stats>

Canada's National Energy Board Pipeline Spills information is available at: <http://www.neb-one.gc.ca/clf-nsi/rsftyndthnvrnmnt/sfty/pplnncdntgrprtng/pplnncdntshydrbnsplls/pplnncdntshydrbnsplls-eng.html>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Keystone XL, Lac Megantic, National Energy Board, NEB, Occupational Health and Safety, Oil Spills, Oil Transport, Pipelines** | [Leave a reply](#)

Ontario's Fit 3.0 Program Lowers Domestic Content Requirements for Renewable Energy, Discourages Wind Projects

Posted on **October 23, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

The final version 3.0 of Ontario's Feed-in Tariff Rules, posted on October 9th, includes reductions to the minimum domestic content requirement levels (MDCR) in order to move towards compliance with the World Trade Organization ruling of May 2013. The levels of domestic content have been lowered from 50% to 28 – 19%, depending on the solar (PV) technology used. For on-shore wind projects, the MDCR has been lowered from 60% to 20%. Furthermore, minimum domestic content levels will no longer be required throughout the entire project, but only during the development and construction phases. According to the Minister's letter of direction, further changes will follow.

An article in *North American Wind Power* discusses the new FIT program and concludes that wind power projects will suffer. He notes, "As long as the Small FIT cap remains at 500 kW, the FIT program is no longer accessible to wind developers, except for those using small-scale turbines", and "The greater latitude given to municipalities in the location and siting of wind farms may make permitting more difficult for developers and preclude the siting of wind farms in municipalities that have a strong anti-wind bias."

LINKS

Ontario Power Authority FIT 3.0 documents are available at:<http://fit.powerauthority.on.ca/newsroom/october-9-2013-FIT-3-final-documents>, with an August 16, 2013 background document about Domestic Content Regulations at:<http://fit.powerauthority.on.ca/newsroom/august-16-2013-program-update>, and the Minister's Letter of Direction at:<http://powerauthority.on.ca/sites/default/files/page/DirectionAdministrativeMatters-renewables-Aug16-2013.pdf>

"Political Football: Ontario Sacks Large-scale Wind" in *North American Wind Power* (October 2013)
at: http://nawindpower.com/issues/NAW1310/FEAT_01_Political-Football-Ontario-Sacks-Large-Scale-Wind.html
Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Feed-in Tariffs, FIT 3.0, Local Content Requirements, Ontario, Renewables, Wind Farms** | [Leave a reply](#)

How Green are Solar Jobs? Solar Scorecard Ranks Manufacturers on Working Conditions and Health and Safety

Posted on **October 23, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

The Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition Annual Scorecard measures and ranks how solar manufacturing companies around the world perform on sustainability and social justice benchmarks, including extended producer responsibility, emissions transparency, chemical reduction policies, use of prison labour and conflict minerals, water policies, and the presence of internal policies for worker health and safety. In 2013, despite low survey response levels, the Scorecard ranked 40 companies, representing over 80% of the market share in the photovoltaic industry. Of those 40, only 7 have comprehensive internal policies that address worker rights and health and safety. These were: Astronergy (China), Sharp (Japan), SolarWorld (U.S.), SunPower (U.S.), Suntech (Japan), Trina (China), and Yingli (China). Solar Valley Toxics Coalition is a San Francisco-based advocacy group with the stated goals of reducing the use of toxic chemicals in the photovoltaic solar manufacturing industry, developing responsible recycling systems, and protecting workers throughout the global PV supply chain.

Another source of information may soon be available. In May 2013, the U.S.-based Solar Energy Industry Association finalized a Solar Commitment – a voluntary agreement which sets out “solar-specific and general best practice provisions regarding the environment, labor, ethics, health and safety, and management practices of the company.” Labour guidelines include freedom of association, hours and wages, and protection from sexual harassment. Health and safety standards include machine protection, training, protection from toxic substances, and protection from discipline for raising safety concerns. Companies that sign on to the Solar Commitment must provide an annual report on key performance indicators – no reports have been released yet. Signatories to date are: Dow Solar, Gerhlicher Solar America, PV Recycling, SunEdison, SunPower, Suntech, Trina, and Yingli Solar.

LINKS

Solar Valley Toxics Coalition Solar Scorecard is available at<http://www.solarscorecard.com/2013/2013-SVTC-Solar-Scorecard.pdf>

Background discussion, and links to solar companies featured in the SVTC Scorecard is at CleanTechnica at: <http://cleantechnica.com/2013/08/13/silicon-valley-toxics-coalitions-2013-solar-scorecard-just-release/>

SEIA Solar Commitment Factsheet is
at:http://www.seia.org/sites/default/files/Solar%20Commitment%20factsheet_2013.pdf

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Occupational Health and Safety, Renewables, Solar Energy, Solar Energy Industry Association, Working Conditions** | [Leave a reply](#)

TD Bank Report on Canada's Green Economy: Reconcile the Economy and Environment

Posted on **October 23, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

On October 2nd, one of Canada's Big Five banks, the TD Bank, released a report on "green economics" in Canada. TD found that environmental considerations have already become entrenched in corporate decision-making in Canada, and that reducing environmental impact often reduces costs, drives innovation, and stimulates growth. TD's preliminary analysis indicates a recent "decoupling of economic growth from environmental degradation", wherein the percentage of GHG emissions per 1% GDP increase has fallen, while improved air and water quality, recycling rates and protected lands have accompanied strong overall growth. The report suggests that in order to better understand and encourage these trends, Canada needs a holistic focus on the "greening of the economy" in all sectors, rather than dichotomizing "green" and "brown" economics. To this end, TD calls for the development of environmental, economic, and government policy, and corporate responsibility indicators to help measure gains across industries and at all levels.

LINKS

The Greening of the Canadian Economy is

at:<http://www.td.com/document/PDF/economics/special/TheGreeningOfTheCanadianEconomy.pdf>BlueGreen

Canada response to the TD Report is at:<http://bluegreencanada.ca/blog/we%E2%80%99re-greener-we-think>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Business attitudes, Canadian Emissions, Canadian GDP, Climate change policy, Decoupling, Environment-Economy Dichotomy, Green Growth** | [Leave a reply](#)

York's Schulich School Tops New Survey of Global Green MBA Programs

Posted on **October 23, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

The Corporate Knights survey for 2013 was released on September 23, ranking business schools for their integration of sustainability into the academic experience. This year, the survey expanded beyond its Canada-only focus to include MBA programs from 17 countries. The Schulich School of Business at York University (Toronto) ranked first, followed by John Molson School of Business at Concordia University (Montreal). Third place went to the University of Exeter Business School in the U.K., followed by the Haskayne School of Business, University of Calgary, and the Nottingham University Business School in the U.K. 30 schools were ranked in the main survey, with a further 10 small schools in a separate ranking.

The Corporate Knights survey is based on the methodology of the pioneering Beyond Grey Pinstripes survey of the Aspen Institute (which ceased in 2012). The rankings follow three categories: faculty research, course content, and institutional support. Responses are from faculty and administrators, with the student perspective reflected in measures of student-led initiatives (e.g. student groups, consulting clubs, faculty groups, and student committees/task forces). Unlike many other surveys of MBA programs, the Corporate Knights survey does not

include alumni salaries in their metrics, on the grounds that rankings could be skewed because students entering the non-profit sector typically earn less after graduating.

LINKS

Global Green MBA website is at: <http://ggmba.corporateknights.com/>

Beyond Grey Pinstripes website is at: <http://www.beyondgreypinstripes.org/>

Posted in **Business Policy** | Tagged **Concordia University, Corporate Knights, Exeter Business School, Green MBA, Schulich School of Business, York University** | [Leave a reply](#)

New Strategy and Blueprint for European Forest Industries Considers Aging Workforce

Posted on **October 23, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

In late September, the European Union announced a new forest strategy which takes into account the effects of climate change on the forest ecosystem. Surprisingly, the EU press release states that “forests cover more than 42% of the EU’s land area and forest biomass...supplies half the EU’s total renewable energy. ” The new strategy calls for sustainable management of woodlands, and is accompanied by a “Blueprint” document to guide forest industries, (wood-processing, furniture, pulp and paper, and printing) to increase efficiency and create jobs. The Blueprint outlines the economic and technological state of the art for these four forest sub-industries, and discusses their challenges, including the aging demographic of the workforce, the need for training, and possible mechanisms for training delivery.

LINKS

European Commission Forest Strategy press release is at:http://ec.europa.eu/news/agriculture/130924_en.htm
EU Forest-based Industries: A Blueprint to Unleash their Economic and Societal Potential is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/_getdocument.cfm?doc_id=8129

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **EU, Forestry Industry, Forestry Management, Labour Training, Sustainable Forestry, Workforce Aging** | [Leave a reply](#)

Energy Efficiency in the U.K.: Has the Green New Deal Worked?

Posted on **October 23, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

Marking five years after the launch of Britain’s Green New Deal, two recent reports examine the experience: First, from the Green New Deal Group, a report which states that government support for renewable energy has melted away in the face of austerity programs and the lingering uncertainty in the global financial system. The authors propose a systematic programme of investment in green infrastructure of at least £50 billion a year, beginning with a nationwide effort to retrofit existing buildings and to build new, affordable, sustainably-sited, energy-efficient

homes. The authors contend that thousands of jobs will be created by their proposals, and support that contention by citing numerous sectoral employment impact studies in Appendix 1 and in their bibliography.

A second report from the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Excellence in the Built Environment was released on October 8, reflecting the hearings and submissions to the government inquiry into sustainable construction and the Green Deal. The report found that the Green Deal provisions are over-complicated and uncompetitive, with little financial incentive for participation. "Without regulation and financial incentives in place, households and businesses retain the status quo...Hand in hand with this, the integration of construction skills, knowledge and work practices are of concern in the construction industry." One of the key stakeholders in the process, the UK Green Building Council, welcomed the report as a credible voice urging improvements to the existing program, and also commended its expansion to social housing.

LINKS

A National Plan for the UK: From Austerity to the Age of the Green New Deal by the Green New Deal Group, published by the New Weather Institute, is at: <http://www.greennewdealgroup.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/Green-New-Deal-5th-Anniversary.pdf>

Re-energizing the Green Agenda, Report of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Excellence in the Built Environment is at: <http://www.cic.org.uk/admin/resources/sustainable-construction-and-the-green-deal-report.pdf>

All Party Parliamentary Group for Excellence in the Built Environment website is at: <http://www.appgebe.org.uk/>; Information about their Inquiry into Sustainable Construction and the Green Deal is at: <http://www.appgebe.org.uk/inquiry.shtml>, with submissions at: <http://www.appgebe.org.uk/submissions-into-Sustainable-Construction-and-the-Green-Deal.shtml>

UK Green Building Council response is at: <http://www.ukgbc.org/press-centre/press-releases/uk-gbc-welcomes-all-party-group-report-green-deal>

Details of the U.K. Green Deal are at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/helping-households-to-cut-their-energy-bills/supporting-pages/green-deal>

Posted in **Energy Policy** | Tagged **Austerity**, **energy efficiency**, **Energy policy**, **Green New Deal**, **Infrastructure**, **Job Creation**, **retrofitting**, **United Kingdom** | **Leave a reply**

Will the IPCC 5th Assessment Report Inspire Change?

Posted on **October 23, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

The 5th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change was released on September 27. Dealing with the physical sciences, the report projects future weather, ocean levels, global warming and carbon dioxide levels. According to U.K.'s *Guardian* newspaper, the report provided the first "carbon budget" – how much carbon dioxide we can emit before global temperature increase exceeds 2°C and the planet overheats. The bad news? We'd already used half of it by 2011, and could now be approaching two-thirds. Thomas Stocker, co-chair of the IPCC working group, points out that more fossil fuels exist than can be burned if we are to remain within the budget. In other words, some valuable reserves will need to remain untapped.

The *Globe and Mail* summarized early Canadian reactions to the IPCC report, and cited the absence of comment from Prime Minister Stephen Harper's office. Provincial premiers have been similarly silent. The David Suzuki

Foundation is one of the few Canadian organizations to have commented, highlighting provincial successes and calling for the federal government “to prioritize clean energy and eliminate the billions of dollars in fossil fuel subsidies.” The Climate Justice Project at the Canadian Centre for Policy Analysis analyzed the IPCC report in relation to British Columbia, and asks, “will LNG development blow B.C.’s carbon budget?”. The Pembina Institute released a brief statement. A call to arms can be found in the Opinion piece by Andrew Weaver in the *Globe and Mail*, which states, “While the U.S., the E.U. and even China are making a profound shift to address the root causes of climate change, the Canadian government continues to focus our economy predominantly around the extraction, transportation and combustion of fossil fuels. Even British Columbia, which used to be considered a leader in the development of climate policies, is now moving in the opposite direction with its focus on the development of a Liquefied Natural Gas industry. The IPCC report could and should inspire us to take a different approach.”

LINKS

IPCC 5th Assessment Report documentation is available at: <http://www.ipcc.ch/>

“IPCC: 30 Years to Climate Calamity If We Carry on Blowing the Carbon Budget” in *The Guardian* (Sept 27) at: <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2013/sep/27/ipcc-world-dangerous-climate-change>

“Around the World: Strong Reactions To Climate Change Report” (Sept. 27) in the *Globe and Mail* at: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/around-the-world-strong-reactions-to-climate-change-report/article14566793/>

David Suzuki Foundation media backgrounder on the IPCC 5th Report is at:http://www.davidsuzuki.org/media/news/downloads/DSF_IPCC_WG1_Backgrounder.pdf

“Will LNG Development Blow BC’s Carbon Budget?” is at the Climate Justice Project at:<http://www.policyalternatives.ca/publications/commentary/will-lng-development-blow-bcs-carbon-budget>

Pembina Institute response is at: <http://www.pembina.org/media-release/2483>

“Now That Climate Change is Beyond Doubt, Focus on Fixing It” (September 28) at the *Globe and Mail* at: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/commentary/now-that-climate-change-is-beyond-doubt-lets-focus-on-solving-it/article14588647/>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **British Columbia, Carbon Budget, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, IPCC Reports, Pembina Institute** | [Leave a reply](#)

Quebec and California Link Carbon Markets

Posted on **October 23, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

On October 1, the governments of Quebec and California announced an agreement outlining the steps and procedures to fully harmonize and integrate the cap-and-trade programs of their two jurisdictions, effective January 1, 2014. It is hoped that this will be a model for more such partnerships. “The sale of emission allowances will generate at least \$ 2.5 billion in revenue by 2020 in Quebec. These funds will be fully reinvested in initiatives to fight climate change, including facilitating the conversion to renewable energy, promoting energy efficiency, improving industrial processes and preparing Quebec society to adapt to the impacts of climate change. The electrification of transportation is another major project on which our government will labour over the coming months”, said Minister Yves-François Blanchet. See the Quebec government press release at: <http://communiqués.gouv.qc.ca/gouvqc/communiqués/GPQE/Octobre2013/01/c6398.html>, and “Carbon Market:

Quebec and California Link Their Respective Cap And Trade Programs” (Oct. 1)
in *GlobeAdvisor* at:<https://secure.globeadvisor.com/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CNW/20131001/C6398>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **California, Cap and Trade, Emissions Trading, International cooperation, Quebec** | [Leave a reply](#)

Carbon Markets the Best Route to Low-Carbon Global Economies

Posted on **October 23, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

In a new report, *Climate and Carbon: Aligning Prices and Policies*, the OECD condemns fossil fuel subsidies and tax exemptions, and posits carbon markets as most effective mechanism for transitioning to a low-carbon economy and tackling climate change. The report, drawing on evidence from 15 countries (but not including Canada), points out that “carbon markets are more than 16 times cheaper at cutting greenhouse gases than renewable subsidies paid to power producers”. However, carbon markets worldwide are being undermined by a lack of coherence in government approaches to carbon pricing and financial support for fossil fuels. According to OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría, limiting global temperature increase to 2°C requires sending consistent carbon price signals to consumers, producers and investors alike. *Climate and Carbon: Aligning Prices and Policies* is available at:<http://www.oecd.org/environment/climate-carbon.htm>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Cap and Trade, Carbon Markets, Low-Carbon Investment, Low-Carbon Transition, OECD** | [Leave a reply](#)

Quebec Energy Review Aims to Encourage Renewables and Develop Hydrocarbons

Posted on **October 23, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

A review of Quebec’s energy strategy is underway, with public consultations from September to October 11, and the final strategy document promised in 2014. The six strategic objectives to the energy review are: “to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; promote the electrification of transportation and develop the industry; promote energy efficiency in all sectors ; rely on the production of renewable energies (hydroelectricity and wind energy) and develop alternative renewable energies (underwater generators, passive solar energy, geothermal energy, and so on) and foster development and innovation; responsibly explore and exploit Québec’s hydrocarbon reserves; and ensure the long-term security and diversity of Québec’s energy supplies.” The Public Consultation on Energy Issues in Quebec website is at: <http://consultationenergie.gouv.qc.ca/english/> (English) and <http://consultationenergie.gouv.qc.ca/> (French language).

The Consultation paper *From Greenhouse Gas Reduction to Québec’s Energy Self-Sufficiency – Consultation Paper*, is at: <http://consultationenergie.gouv.qc.ca/pdf/energy-issues-consultation-paper.pdf>. An archive of all written briefs submitted to the Commission is available at the French language section of the website only, at: <http://consultationenergie.gouv.qc.ca/documents/memoires.asp>

Posted in **Energy Policy** | Tagged **Emissions reduction targets, Energy Independence, Public Transportation, Quebec, Quebec Energy Strategy, Renewables** | [Leave a reply](#)

Canadian Wind Energy Update

Posted on **October 23, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

A special edition of British *reNews* was released on September 26, focussing on Canadian wind energy development. The report summarizes the policy environment for each province, with detailed tables showing the existing and planned wind energy installations for 2013 and 2014. Ontario remains the leader in wind energy in Canada. The president of the Canadian Wind Energy Association predicts “an average over the next three years of 1500MW of wind power installed per annum”, but with an uncertainty after 2016, given that Ontario, Quebec, B.C. and Alberta are reviewing and redrafting their energy policies. The “Canada Special Report 2013” by reNews is at: <http://renews.biz/wp-content/assets/reNewsCanada2013.pdf>

Where are wind energy technicians being trained? In the Summer 2013 edition of Windsight, the Canadian Wind Energy Association magazine, there is a feature article about training at Fanshawe College in London, Ontario – see http://www.canwea.ca/media/windsight_e.php. CanWEA also maintains a list (last updated in 2012) of wind training courses at colleges and universities at: <http://www.canwea.ca/pdf/Education-and-Training-Programs.pdf>.

On September 19th, wind turbine manufacturer Siemens opened a 40,000-square-foot, \$7 million training centre for technicians in Orlando Florida. The facility is one of four in the world operated by Siemens (the others are in Brande, Denmark; Bremen, Germany; and Newcastle, U.K.), and is intended to serve North and South America, training more than 2,400 wind service technicians annually. See: <http://theenergycollective.com/timholt/277131/siemens-inaugurates-new-state-art-wind-service-training-center-us>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **CanWEA, Education and Training, Labour Training, Renewables, Wind Farms** | **Leave a reply**

Climate Change Initiatives of Canadian Companies

Posted on **October 23, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

The 2013 Canadian report of the CDP (formerly the Carbon Disclosure Project), was released on October 1, ranking the Canadian companies doing the best job of investing to cut greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for climate change. The report was prepared by Accenture on behalf of the non-profit CDP, and is based on questionnaires sent to the 200 largest Canadian companies by market capitalization (the “Canada 200”), as listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX). Key results: 85% of respondents say that climate change is integrated into their business strategy (an increase from 77% in 2012); 64% of respondents offer incentives for “climate performance” (from 14% from 2012). The five top Climate Performance Leadership companies are: ARC Resources Ltd., Thomson Reuters, Bank of Montreal, Suncor Energy, and TD Bank.

See the *Canadian Report* at: <https://www.cdproject.net/CDPResults/CDP-Canada-200-Climate-Change-Report-2013.pdf>. The U.S. version of this report is based on the 500 S & P-listed companies and is available at: <https://www.cdproject.net/CDPResults/CDP-SP500-climate-report-2013.pdf>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Business attitudes, Canada, Carbon Disclosure Project, Corporate Climate Policy, Low-Carbon Investment** | **Leave a reply**

Global Aviation Industry Agrees to Develop Emissions Curbs

Posted on **October 23, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

At the meetings of the International Civil Aviation Organization in Montreal on October 4, the ICAO approved what they called an historic framework agreement, authorizing the development of global market-based measures to curb greenhouse gas emissions over the next three years, for implementation in 2020. The resolution encourages nations to develop new aircraft technology, adopt carbon-dioxide standards and use sustainable alternatives to jet fuels. By rejecting a European Union proposal to include aviation in the EU emissions trading system immediately, the ICAO drew criticism from green groups who criticize the slowness of the 2020 start date.

See the Bloomberg news summary at: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-10-04/first-global-emissions-market-for-airlines-wins-support.html> and <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-10-04/carbon-cuts-loom-for-airlines-as-icao-eyes-global-market.html>.

Canada's position is set out in *Canada's Action Plan on Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Aviation*, at: <http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/policy/aviation-emissions-3005.htm>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Aviation Industry**, **Corporate Climate Policy** | [Leave a reply](#)

Public Donations Save the Australian Climate Commission

Posted on **October 23, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

On September 23, the former head of Australia's Climate Commission announced that the axed organization would rise again as the Climate Council, a non-profit body funded by public donations. As of October 15th, the Council had raised \$1 million Australian to continue its mission "to provide authoritative, expert advice to the Australian public on climate change". See the Council website at: <http://www.climatecouncil.org.au/> and read a report in *The Guardian* at: <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2013/sep/23/climate-commission-resurrected-as-private-body>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Australia**, **Australia Climate Council** | [Leave a reply](#)

New Research Initiatives Underway

Posted on **October 23, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

1) In the U.S., a new research initiative led by hedge fund billionaire Tom Steyer, former U.S. Treasury secretary Henry Paulson, and outgoing mayor of New York Michael Bloomberg aims to calculate the true financial cost of climate change. In a report expected in summer 2014, "Risky Business" will "combine existing data on the current and potential impacts of climate change with original research to reveal the most vulnerable sectors and assist with

preparation". According to *Bloomberg Markets Magazine*, the team also hopes to show that the eventual consequences of "business as usual" will outweigh its short-term benefits. See <http://riskybusiness.org/about> or <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-10-01/climate-change-rescue-in-u-s-makes-steyer-converge-with-paulson.html>

2) Launched on September 24, the new Global Commission on the Economy and Climate, co-chaired by Nicholas Stern, will conduct a "year-long, \$9 million study to analyze the economic costs and benefits of acting against climate change". The study will use macroeconomic modeling techniques to analyze possible outcomes, factoring in potential policy mechanisms, economic growth, investment, employment, poverty reduction, income distribution, and the need for improved health, energy, and food security. The commission hopes to uncover pathways to a resilient, resource-efficient, low-carbon economy. See <http://newclimateeconomy.net/>

3) Wilfred Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario will launch a Centre for Sustainable Food Systems on November 14, to bring together researchers from the departments of Geography and Environmental Studies, Psychology, Biology, Global Studies, Religion and Culture as well as the School of Business and Economics. From their website at: https://www.wlu.ca/homepage.php?grp_id=13686: "Our vision is to conduct research that is both grounded in practice and theoretically informed, and to disseminate this co-generated knowledge through local, national and global networks to advance opportunities for and educate about more sustainable food systems."

Posted in **Business Policy** | Tagged **Adaptation, Agriculture, Climate Risk, Corporate Climate Policy, Economic Risk, Michael R. Bloomberg, Risky Business, Tom Steyer** | [Leave a reply](#)

Professional Associations have a Role to Play in Climate Change

Posted on **October 22, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

A report published by West Coast Environmental Law starts from the position that climate change is a cross-cutting issue that affects advice and decision-making in many different professions, including architects and engineers, professional foresters, biologists, insurance professionals, accountants, and city planners. The report calls for an enhanced role for professional associations using the existing tools, such as codes of conduct and ethics, standards of practice, requirements for continuing professional development, and policy statements. In one example, the author suggests a statement of ethical responsibility to "act in the public interest (including promoting sustainability); not speak beyond one's expertise or competence; not make misleading statements or falsify data; and act with due diligence". The report describes exemplary climate change initiatives underway by such groups as the Canadian Institute of Planners, Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC (APEGBC), and Greenhouse Gas Management Institute (GHGMI).

LINKS

Professionals and Climate Change: How professional associations can get serious about global warming, written by Andrew Gage and published by West Coast Environmental Law (WCEL), a British Columbia "non-profit group of environmental law strategists and analysts dedicated to safeguarding the environment through law". Available at: http://wcel.org/sites/default/files/publications/Professionals%20and%20Climate%20Change_0.pdf

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **APEGBC, Engineers, Professional Associations, Professional Codes and Guidelines, Professional Ethics, West Coast Environmental Law** | [Leave a reply](#)

Unifor Founding Convention Hears a Call for a Green Labour Revolution

Posted on **September 27, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

Canada's newest and biggest private sector union, Unifor, held its founding convention on August 31 and September 1, making official the merger of the Canadian Auto Workers Union (CAW) and the Communications, Energy, and Paperworkers Union (CEP). These two unions together represent approximately 300,000 workers, in almost all sectors of the economy, including auto and aerospace manufacturing, rail, energy, communications, forestry, fisheries, and mining – sectors which are on the front lines of climate change.

In her speech to the convention, Naomi Klein stated that the labour movement is needed to take the lead in the fight against climate change – environmentalists and political parties cannot do it alone. In outlining her own “genuine climate action plan”, she called for a democratically-controlled energy system and massive investment in public infrastructure. “I am not suggesting some half-assed token ‘green jobs’ program. This is a green labour revolution I’m talking about. An epic vision of healing our country from the ravages of the last 30 years of neoliberalism and healing the planet in the process.”... “Climate change – when its full economic and moral implications are understood – is the most powerful weapon progressives have ever had in the fight for equality and social justice.”

Environmental goals figure in some of the important official documents of the new union. Note Article 2.10 of the new Unifor Constitution: “Our goal is transformative. To reassert common interest over private interest. Our goal is to change our workplaces and our world. Our vision is compelling. It is to fundamentally change the economy, with equality and social justice, restore and strengthen our democracy and achieve an environmentally sustainable future. This is the basis of social unionism -a strong and progressive union culture and a commitment to work in common cause with other progressives in Canada and around the world.”

The Unifor Vision and Plan document strikes a more pragmatic note. The union promises to oppose the export of raw bitumen and the construction of massive pipelines, advocating for more “made in Canada” inputs and processing. It pledges to work with environmental allies to advocate for a Canadian energy policy which reduces GHG emissions, ensures a sustainable development of the oil sands and promotes value-added jobs in upgrading and refining petroleum products.

LINKS

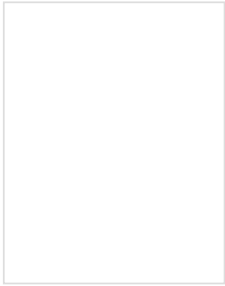
Why Unions Need to Join the Climate Fight, Naomi Klein's speech is at her website at: <http://www.naomiklein.org/articles/2013/09/why-unions-need-join-climate-fight>

Unifor website is at: <http://www.unifor.org/en> (English) and <http://www.unifor.org/fr> (French), including the Constitution at: <http://www.unifor.org/en/about-unifor/constitution> (English version) and <http://www.unifor.org/fr/a-propos-unifor/statuts> (French version).

A New Union for a Challenging World: Unifor's Vision and Plan is available at: the convention website at: <http://www.newunionconvention.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/682-New-Union-Vision-web-ENG.pdf> (English version) and <http://www.nouveausyndicatendirect.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/682-New-Union-Vision-FR-web.pdf> (French version).

Energy Conservation Can Deliver Jobs in Ontario

Posted on **September 27, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**



In a report released on August 22, BlueGreen Canada calls on the Ontario government to cut energy use by 25 per cent by 2025 ("25 by 25"). According to the economic analysis commissioned by BlueGreen and conducted by Stokes Economic Consulting, reducing consumption by 25% would result in 25,000 new jobs, \$3.7 billion more in GDP, lower deficits for both the federal and provincial governments, and a 9% reduction in carbon emissions by 2025. BlueGreen Canada states that a more aggressive conservation approach is supported by environmental groups, and by Enbridge and Union Gas companies, and the Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters.

The release of the BlueGreen report coincides with a formal review of the provincial government's long term energy plan, begun in July, with the results promised by Fall 2013. In announcing the review, Energy Minister Chiarelli wrote: "this government believes conservation must play a more prominent role in our energy planning. Conservation is the most efficient way to help ratepayers reduce their costs."

A related report released by Pembina Institute on September 13, *Renewable is Doable*, shows that past forecasts have overestimated Ontario's demand for electricity, resulting in plans for more unnecessary nuclear reactors. The authors argue that investing in conservation and green energy options is a more cost-effective way to meet Ontario's energy needs.

LINKS

More Jobs, Less Pollution: Why Energy Conservation is Common Sense for Ontario is available on the BlueGreen Canada website at: http://www.bluegreencanada.ca/sites/default/files/resources/BLUEgreen_engRPT-FINAL-web.pdf

The Economic Impacts of Reducing Natural Gas and Electricity Use in Ontario (Supporting Economic Analysis report by Stokes Economic Consulting) is available at: <http://www.bluegreencanada.ca/sites/default/files/Energy%20Efficiency%20Impact%20Study.pdf>

Ontario government Long term Energy Plan Review website is at: <http://www.energy.gov.on.ca/en/ltep/>; the Minister's remarks are at: <http://www.energy.gov.on.ca/en/ltep/making-choices/#conservation>

Renewable is Doable: Affordable and Flexible Options for Ontario's Long-Term Energy Plan is at: <http://www.pembina.org/pub/2479>

Posted in **Energy Policy** | Tagged **BlueGreen Canada**, **energy conservation**, **Ontario** | [Leave a reply](#)

British Columbia Liquified Natural Gas Strategy: Workforce Estimates Released, but Question Keep Coming

Posted on **September 27, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

A report released on July 23 by the government of British Columbia estimates that 60,000 workers will be needed to build five LNG plants and pipelines throughout 2016 and 2017, with a further 75,000 permanent skilled workers needed once the projects are operational. The B.C. *Natural Gas Workforce Strategy and Action Plan* is based on information from the *LNG Employment Impact Review*, conducted for the government by consultants Grant Thornton. However, on August 1, the Environmental Law Centre at the University of Victoria sent a 63-page letter to the federal and provincial Ministers of the Environment, stating, "On behalf of Northwest Institute for Bioregional Research, we hereby request that you direct that a Strategic Economic and Environmental Assessment be conducted of proposed massive new LNG developments in British Columbia." The economic questions from the Environmental Law Centre do not specifically relate to workforce impact, but rather to the costs to the taxpayer and the consumer, especially in light of the volatility of the high Asian price for natural gas. The letter also raises the issues of the GHG emissions associated with LNG production, along with other environmental concerns.

LINKS

LNG Workforce Strategy and Action Plan full report is at:

<http://www.rto.bc.ca/Assets/RTO+Assets/About+RTO/BC+NG+Strategy+2013JUL.pdf> (the government press release is available at: <http://www.newsroom.gov.bc.ca/2013/07/action-plan-released-for-bcs-lng-sector.html>).

Grant Thornton *Employment Impact Review* is at:

http://www.newsroom.gov.bc.ca/downloads/Grant_Thornton_LNG_Employment_Impacts.pdf

Letter from the Environmental Law Centre, requesting a Strategic Economic and Environmental Assessment of LNG developments in B.C. is available at: <http://www.elc.uvic.ca/documents/2013Aug1-Aglukkaq-Polak-Letter-ELC2013-02-01.pdf>

Posted in **Energy Policy** | Tagged **British Columbia**, **Labour Market Planning**, **Liquified Natural Gas**, **LNG**, **Natural Gas Employment** | [Leave a reply](#)

Energy East Pipeline: Job Creation Projections Provided by TransCanada

Posted on **September 27, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

TransCanada Pipelines released an economic analysis of their Energy East pipeline project on September 9, providing detailed estimates of direct, indirect and induced job creation, as well as the impact on tax revenues and Canadian GDP. The report was prepared by Deloitte and Touche LLP, using a Statistics Canada input/output model. It forecasts more than 10,000 full-time jobs will be directly supported during the development and construction phase (2013 to 2018), with approximately half of the jobs in construction, engineering, architectural, and oil and gas support services industries. In the operational phase, approximately 1,000 full-time jobs are forecast.

Despite the enthusiasm of federal politicians and New Brunswick Premier David Alward, CBC and the Globe and Mail have reported skepticism about the job creation numbers by New Brunswickers. There is also serious opposition from Ontario and Quebec, based on environmental and safety concerns.

LINKS

Energy East: The Economic Benefits of TransCanada's Canadian Mainline Conversion Project at the Deloitte website at:

<http://www.energyeastpipeline.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/Energy-East-Deloitte-Economic-Benefits-Report.pdf>; A briefer (2-page)

Backgrounder is available at: <http://www.energyeastpipeline.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/Energy-East-Economic-Analysis-Backgrounder.pdf>.

“TransCanada Touts National Benefits of Energy East Plan” (Sept. 10) in the *Globe and Mail* at: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/industry-news/energy-and-resources/energy-east-pipeline-will-create-2000-jobs-transcanada/article14213238/>

Energy East Pipeline may create 10,000 Jobs, Study Says (Sept. 10) is at the CBC website at: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/energy-east-pipeline-may-create-10-000-jobs-study-says-1.1699614>

“N.B. Mayor adds to Chorus of Dissent against Energy East Pipeline Plan” (Sept. 12) in the *Globe and Mail* at: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/nb-mayor-adds-to-chorus-of-dissent-against-energy-east-pipeline-plan/article14298359/>

“TransCanada’s Eastern Path hits Snag in Ontario”(Aug. 22) in the *Globe and Mail* is at: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/industry-news/energy-and-resources/transcanadas-eastern-path-hits-roadblock-in-ontario/article13909022/>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Deloitte, Energy East pipeline, Job Creation, New Brunswick, Oil Spills, Pipelines, Quebec, TransCanada Corporation** | [Leave a reply](#)

Job Analysis of U.S. Energy Legislation

Posted on **September 27, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

The American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE) released a September White Paper which assesses the job creation potential of the *U.S. Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act (Bill S.1392)* – also known as the Shaheen-Portman Bill. The bi-partisan bill includes provisions to strengthen building codes and train workers in energy efficient building technologies, and has the support of the U.S. National Association of Manufacturers. The ACEEE report finds that increased energy efficiency would create savings for industrial, commercial and residential users, which would translate into increased consumer spending. The authors forecast that the economy would be stimulated to support over 152,000 new jobs in 2025, increasing to 174,000 jobs by 2030. Unfortunately, debate on the bill during the week of September 16th was stalemated by Republican manoeuvres to delay implementation of ObamaCare, and passage is threatened.

LINKS

Economic Impacts of the Energy Efficiency Provisions in the Energy Savings & Industrial Competitiveness Act of 2013 and Select Amendments is at: <http://aceee.org/files/pdf/white-paper/shaheen-portman-2013.pdf>

Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act (Bill S.1392) is available at:

<http://beta.congress.gov/bill/113th/senate-bill/1392>

Posted in **Energy Policy, United States** | Tagged **ACEEE, American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, Building Codes, employment impacts, Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act (Bill S.1392), Green Building, Shaheen-Portman Bill, United States** | [Leave a reply](#)

Labour and Environmentalists in the U.S. – Recent Developments

Posted on **September 27, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

On the eve of the AFL-CIO 2013 Convention in September, the Climate Justice Alliance sent an open letter to AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka, to “implore Labor to join us in the fight against climate change.” (See <http://www.ourpowercampaign.org/an-open-letter-to-the-afl-cio/>).

Appealing for collaboration, the letter acknowledges the debt of all working people to the labour movement, and credits it for its skills in grassroots activism. Thus, “the environmental justice movement cannot halt climate change without organized labor. We need each other to win.” The letter concludes, “We request a meeting with the AFL-CIO leadership to discuss the Federation’s response to climate change and how to strengthen our collective struggles.” The AFL-CIO Convention website is at: <http://www.aflcio.org/About/Exec-Council/Conventions/2013>; their most recent Executive Council Statement on *Energy and Jobs* (Feb. 26, 2013) is at: <http://www.aflcio.org/About/Exec-Council/EC-Statements/Statement-on-Energy-and-Jobs>, with context and analysis about that statement by the Labor Network for Sustainability at: <http://www.labor4sustainability.org/articles/labor-climate-and-the-kxl-interpreting-the-new-afl-cio-statement-on-energy-and-jobs/>.

For more context, see “Will closer Partnership between Labor and Greens Help Build Both Movements?” at the Sierra Club website at: <http://sierraclub.typepad.com/compass/2013/09/will-closer-partnership-between-labor-and-greens-help-build-both-movements.html>, and also “When Fighting for Coal Plants is absolutely the Right Thing to Do”, at the Trade Unions for Energy Democracy website at: <http://energydemocracyinitiative.org/when-fighting-to-save-a-coal-plant-is-absolutely-the-right-thing-to-do/>

Posted in **United States** | Tagged **AFL–CIO**, **Climate Justice Alliance**, **Coal Industry**, **Environmental Groups**, **Just Transition**, **Labor Network for Sustainability**, **Labour and Greens**, **labour union policies**, **Sierra Club**, **Trade Unions for Energy Democracy** | [Leave a reply](#)

Canadians Take to the Courts to Fight for Freedom of Speech and Protest

Posted on **September 27, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

In mid-August, ForestEthics Advocacy and activist Donna Sinclair filed a constitutional challenge in the Federal Court of Canada, seeking to overturn the amendments to the *National Energy Board Act* which were passed in the 2012 omnibus budget bill C-238, and which make it more difficult for citizens to speak out in regulatory hearings. Clayton Ruby, Chair of the Board of ForestEthics, is also seeking an injunction to prevent the National Energy Board from making a recommendation to cabinet on Enbridge’s Line 9B application until the constitutional challenge has been dealt with.

See the *Globe and Mail* report of August 13th at: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/industry-news/energy-and-resources/activists-launch-suit-in-federal-court-over-ability-to-oppose-proposed-pipeline-projects/article13721850/>. The ForestEthics press release is at: <http://www.forestethics.org/blog/press-release-forestethics-advocacy-challenges-harper-government-energy-rules-court>, the 4-page Backgrounder is at: <http://www.forestethics.org/sites/forestethics.huang.radicaldesigns.org/files/Backgrounder-ForestEthics-Advocacy-Lawsuit.pdf>.

In Alberta, the Pembina Institute appeared in court on September 5, appealing a Government of Alberta decision which denied the Institute a voice in the 2009 regulatory review of the Southern Pacific Resource Corporation’s proposed oil sands project on the MacKay River near Fort McMurray. See the Pembina news report at: <http://www.pembina.org/media-release/2477>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Alberta**, **Bill C-238**, **Clayton Ruby**, **Enbridge**, **ForestEthics**, **Freedom of speech**, **Line 9B**, **National Energy Board**, **Pembina Institute**, **Pipelines**, **Protests & Rallies** | [Leave a reply](#)

Obama Announces a Climate Action Plan – and EPA Announces New Limits for Coal and Gas-Fired Power Plants

Posted on **September 27, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

On June 25, U.S. President Obama laid out a comprehensive plan to reduce greenhouse gas pollution, prepare for the impacts of climate change, and lead global efforts to fight it. He based his arguments on moral, health, and economic grounds, and emphasized his personal commitment by announcing steps that he could authorize, without Congressional approval. Read the plan at:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/energy/climate-change>. The first major step in this plan came on September 20, when the Environmental Protection Agency proposed limits on carbon dioxide emissions from existing coal- and gas-fired power plants. The rules are not likely to be finalized until Fall of 2014 and will face aggressive opposition from the U.S. coal industry.

See the *New York Times* article at: http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/20/us/politics/obama-administration-announces-limits-on-emissions-from-power-plants.html?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=edit_th_20130920 and also “Challenges Await Plan to reduce Emissions” at: <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/21/business/energy-environment/challenges-await-plan-to-reduce-emissions.html?src=un&feedurl=http%3A%2F%2Fjson8.nytimes.com%2Fpages%2Fpolitics%2Findex.jsonp>

Posted in **Energy Policy, United States** | Tagged **Barack Obama, Coal Industry, Electric power generation, Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Climate Action Plan** | [Leave a reply](#)

What does the New Obama Climate Change Plan Mean for Keystone – and what is Stephen Harper Doing about it?

Posted on **September 27, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

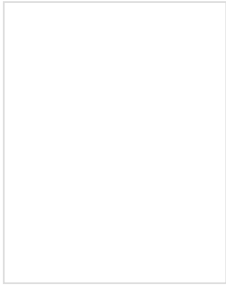
On what has become the defining issue of his climate policy, President Obama stated that he would approve the Keystone XL pipeline, only if it “does not significantly exacerbate the climate problem.” In a *New York Times* interview in July, the President downplayed the job creation impact of Keystone XL, saying that, after construction, “we’re talking about somewhere between 50 and 100 jobs in an economy of 150 million working people.” See “Obama Says He’ll Evaluate Pipeline Project Depending on Pollution” (*NY Times*, July 28) at: <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/07/28/us/politics/obama-says-hell-evaluate-pipeline-project-depending-on-pollution.html?ref=politics>

On July 23, a Natural Resources Defence Council White Paper on the Keystone’s impact calls for the denial of approval on the grounds that the pipeline would exacerbate global carbon pollution. Further, the paper states, “Canada is not pursuing climate policy that would effectively counteract significant growth in greenhouse gas emissions, or meet its international climate target. ... Current regulations in Alberta are inadequate, and despite promises from the last four Canadian federal environmental ministers, the Canadian federal government has not yet introduced rules to effectively limit greenhouse gas pollution from Canada’s oil and gas sector.” (See the White Paper at: http://docs.nrdc.org/energy/files/ene_13072301b.pdf).

Until now, the Canadian government has used the job creation and energy security arguments to promote oil sands development and the Keystone XL pipeline (as exemplified in its [Go with Canada Website](#)). But on September 6th, CBC reporter Chris Hall reported that Prime Minister Harper sent a letter to Obama in August, “formally proposing ‘joint action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the oil and gas sector’”. See *Harper offers Obama climate plan to win Keystone approval* (Sept. 6) at: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/story/2013/09/06/pol-harper-canada-us-climate-change-strategy-letter-keystone.html>.

So far, Obama has not responded to Harper's proposal, and the Canadian government has not announced any new policies or regulations for GHG emissions. The Keystone XL decision is now deferred till 2014, after the U.S. State Department's Inspector General confirmed a delay in the inquiry about potential conflict of interest in the environmental review process.

Meanwhile, the drumbeat of protest against Keystone XL goes on: a report released on August 29 by the Sierra Club and Oil Change International compiles data and



commentary "from oil industry experts, Wall Street analysts, and Canadian politicians who say on the record that without Keystone XL the industry cannot expand production of tar sands crude". Sources for the report include Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, Royal Bank of Canada, International Energy Agency, Standard & Poor, TransCanada, Government of Alberta, Scientific American, Financial Post, and others. Read the report: *FAIL: How the Keystone XL Tar Sands Pipeline Flunks the Climate Test* at: <https://content.sierraclub.org/beyondoil/sites/content.sierraclub.org/beyondoil/files/documents/kxl-climate-report.pdf>

Posted in **Energy Policy, Environmental Policy, Government Policy, United States** | Tagged **Job Creation, Keystone XL, Natural Resources Defence Council, Oil Sands, Pipelines, Sierra Club, Stephen Harper** | [Leave a reply](#)

Canada's Chamber of Commerce Weighs in on the Economic Need for More "Energy Infrastructure"

Posted on **September 27, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

In a report released in September, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce "highlights how Canada's lack of infrastructure to get its oil and gas to tidewater and overseas is preventing Canadians from maximizing their potential benefits in energy markets and is costing Canada as much as \$50 million a day in lost jobs, tax revenues and other economic benefits." The title of the report is based on a quotation from Natural Resources Minister Joe Oliver, and its economic arguments rely on secondary sources. It does not specifically address the issue of job creation or employment impacts. Importantly, the major sponsors of the report are Enbridge, Nexen, Shell, Suncor, and TransCanada corporations. *\$50 Million Dollars a Day* is available at: http://www.chamber.ca/media/blog/130917-50-Million-a-Day/1309_50_Million_a_Day.pdf

Posted in **Energy Policy** | Tagged **Canadian Chamber of Commerce, Pipelines** | [Leave a reply](#)

The Carbon Footprint of Food Production – and How to Reduce it – with an Example from the U.S.

Posted on **September 27, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

A report released by U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) on September 10 estimated that the carbon footprint of wasted food was equivalent to 3.3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide per year, with a direct economic cost estimated at \$750 billion U.S. In this global survey, the world is divided into 7 regions, and 8 major commodity groups. The survey considers the entire life cycle – land use, water

use, transportation, storage, loss and wastage. *The Food Wastage Footprint: Impacts on Natural Resources Summary Report* is at: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3347e/i3347e.pdf>; An accompanying document, *Toolkit: Reducing the Food Wastage Footprint*, is at: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3342e/i3342e.pdf> and urges improvement in food harvest, storage, processing, transport and retailing processes, some of which can be accomplished by better training for farmers, farmer co-operatives, infrastructure investment, and technological improvements.

In related news, the U.S. Energy Department proposed in August two major energy efficiency rules for new commercial refrigeration equipment, walk-in coolers and freezers, estimated to cut emissions by over 350 million metric tons of carbon dioxide over 30 years. See the official Department of Energy website for the rule change at:

http://www1.eere.energy.gov/buildings/appliance_standards/rulemaking.aspx/ruleid/27, or the NRDC commentary about it at: http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/mwaltner/more_cooling_with_less_global.html.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Agriculture, Consumer Behaviour, Energy Efficiency Standards, FAO, Farmers, Food Retail Industry, Food Wastage, Life Cycle, Refrigeration** | [Leave a reply](#)

Call for Protection of the Boreal Forest

Posted on **September 27, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

A report released in July by the International Boreal Conservation Science Panel emphasizes the importance of the Boreal forest, stating that scientific guidance dictates that no less than 50 percent of a region should be forever protected from development. Industrial activities taking place in the remaining unprotected areas should be carried out with the highest global sustainability standards. A network of large protected areas should be established before industrial development proceeds. Furthermore, both protected areas and industrial activities should only see development after free, prior, and informed consent of the affected Aboriginal communities. See *Conserving the World's Last Great Forest is Possible* at:

<http://borealscience.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/conserving-last-great-forests1.pdf>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Aboriginal Peoples, Boreal Forest, Conservation, Environmental Protection, Forest Management, Forestry Industry** | [Leave a reply](#)

Case Studies of Forest Management Practices, Both Good and Bad

Posted on **September 27, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

Greenpeace International published six case studies in August: "exposing controversial operations that are posing the greatest risk to the FSC's integrity...(and)...highlighting best practice operations that are meeting and/or exceeding the FSC's principles and criteria. These case studies will show the standards that must be consistently met if the FSC is to maintain its credibility." Topics include the operations of Resolute Forest Products in Canada (the bad) and Ecotrust Canada (the good), as well as operations in Finland, Indonesia, Africa (re palm oil plantations), and REDD. Go to: <http://www.greenpeace.org/international/en/publications/Campaign-reports/Forests-Reports/FSC-Case-Studies/>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Ecotrust Canada, Forest Management, Forestry Industry, REDD, Resolute Forest Products** | [Leave a reply](#)

Carbon Tax a Casualty of Australian Election

Posted on **September 27, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

Public dislike for the carbon tax was a key issue in the recent Australian election, which saw the victory of the Liberal Party under Tony Abbott. A key plank in Abbott's platform was to scrap the carbon tax, which has become his first order of business. He has also announced the abolition of the country's independent climate change commission, and scrapping of a fund to support green technology. See *Abbott Government begins Process to Repeal Carbon Tax* at the Australian Broadcasting Corporation website at: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-09-09/abbott-carbon-tax/4945330>, and *Tony Abbott sworn in as Australia Prime Minister* at the BBC-Asia website at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-24121938>

Posted in **Government Policy** | Tagged **Australia, Carbon Tax, Tony Abbott** | [Leave a reply](#)

British Columbia Carbon Tax Held Up as a Model for Canada

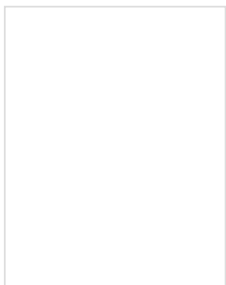
Posted on **September 27, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

After four years of experience with a carbon tax, British Columbia's per capita consumption of fuels subject to the tax has declined by 19% compared to the rest of Canada, while its economy has kept pace, according to analysis by Stuart Elgie and Jessica McClay at the University of Ottawa. The authors credit its success to the tax shift design – that is, the increase in carbon taxes is matched by an equivalent reduction in personal and business income taxes. Read “B.C.’s Carbon Tax is working Well after Four Years (Attention Ottawa)” in *Canadian Public Policy* (August 2013) at: <http://economics.ca/cgi/jab?journal=cpp&view=v39s2/CPPv39s2p001.pdf>.

Posted in **Energy Policy, Environmental Policy** | Tagged **British Columbia, Carbon Tax** | [Leave a reply](#)

Progress Report on Energy Efficiency Initiatives in B.C. Municipalities and First Nations Communities

Posted on **September 27, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**



An August report by QUEST B.C. shows that “BC’s 190 local governments are demonstrating remarkable momentum on ICES as are many First Nations”. Integrated Community Energy Solutions (ICES), are defined as initiatives “to meet energy needs at the community level by taking an integrated approach across the historical silos of Land Use and Community; Housing and Buildings; Local Community Services, Transportation, Energy Supply and Distribution and Industry.” The report provides details and case studies of energy efficiency initiatives in B.C. in areas including infrastructure, waste management, building codes, and vehicle emissions, and lists the legislative, regulatory, and policy tools that have enabled them. Although many metrics are well-developed, the report recommends improved measures for the economic development impacts of the energy efficiency initiatives. Read *Integrated Community Energy Solutions Progress Report Province of British Columbia* at: <http://questcanada.org/sites/default/files/publications/ICES%20Progress%20Report%20-%20Province%20of%20BC.pdf>.

Quality Urban Energy Solutions for Tomorrow (QUEST) is a national non-profit organization with provincial caucuses; its mission is to advocate for ICES; see <http://www.questcanada.org/>. For more on this theme, see Ellen Pond's September 13 blog, *British Columbia Needs local Government Innovation to Meet its Climate Targets* at Pembina Institute at: <http://www.pembina.org/blog/749>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Aboriginal Peoples, British Columbia, Building Codes, Community benefits, Community Integrated Solutions, First Nations, ICES, Municipal Government, Transit, Waste management** | [Leave a reply](#)

Coastal Cities at Risk from Climate Change: Vancouver, New York

Posted on **September 27, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

According to an article published in *Nature Climate Change* online in mid-August, Vancouver ranks 11th amongst the world's 136 large coastal cities at risk of flooding, as measured by annual average losses of people or "assets". Most at risk: Guangzhou, Miami, New York, New Orleans, and Mumbai. The article is part of an ongoing OECD project to explore the policy implications of flood risks due to climate change and economic development. *Future Flood Losses in Major Coastal Cities* is available for purchase (with a brief free preview) at the *Nature Climate Change* website at: <http://www.nature.com/nclimate/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nclimate1979.html#access>. Also see a summary at the OECD website at: <http://www.oecd.org/env/resources/future-flood-losses-in-major-coastal-cities.htm>

Vancouver adopted a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in July 2012 to guide building and maintenance of streets, sewers, building infrastructure, parks and greenspaces. See <http://vancouver.ca/green-vancouver/climate-change-adaptation-strategy.aspx> for links to *the Greenest City 2020 Action Plan*, plus implementation reports for 2011-2012, and 2012-2013.

In June 2013, New York unveiled a plan in response to Superstorm Sandy, which proposes more than 250 initiatives, costed at \$19.5 billion – most of which would be spent to repair homes and streets damaged by Sandy, retrofit hospitals and nursing homes, elevate electrical infrastructure, improve ferry and subway systems and fix drinking water systems. See *A Stronger, More Resilient New York*, at: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/sirr/html/report/report.shtml>

Posted in **Environmental Policy** | Tagged **Adaptation, Coastal Cities, Disasters, Flooding, Infrastructure, Municipal Government, New York, OECD, Risk Management, Vancouver** | [Leave a reply](#)

Engineers Consider Sustainable Infrastructure

Posted on **September 27, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

A recent article in the journal of the Ontario Centre for Engineering and Public Policy discusses sustainable infrastructure as a social and technical system, arguing that sustainable infrastructure requires consideration of the broader social and political context, in addition to the more traditional economic and physical aspects. See "Climate Change, Sustainable Infrastructure and the Challenges Facing Engineers" in *Policy Engagement* (Sept/Oct 2013) at: http://members.peo.on.ca/index.cfm/document/1/ci_id/93318/la_id/1

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Engineers, Green Infrastructure, Ontario Centre for Engineering and Public Policy, Professional Ethics** | [Leave a reply](#)

The Business Case for Adaptation

Posted on **September 27, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

A report published by WWF and the Carbon Disclosure Project of New York is directed to the business community, and argues that a 2020 “science-based” emissions reduction target can be reached profitably in steps of 3% per year reductions. The report strikes an urgent note, emphasizing the benefits of the “latent cost savings” of energy efficiency, and quantifying the costs of extreme weather and the necessity of pricing of carbon emissions. *The 3% Solution: Driving Profits through Carbon Reduction* is at: <https://www.cdproject.net/CDPResults/3-percent-solution-report.pdf>

Posted in **Business Policy** | Tagged **Adaptation, Carbon Footprint, Carbon Tax, Disasters, Green Business, Risk Management** | [Leave a reply](#)

Official IPCC 5th Report Releases Begin Sept. 27

Posted on **September 27, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

The Fifth Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change will be released soon, starting with the Working Group I report on the Physical Sciences, on September 27, and concluding in October 2014 with the Synthesis Report. See <http://www.ipcc.ch/> for a schedule and for links to the official documentation and background information. A draft of the report, leaked in August, prompted a flurry of news coverage: for example, see the *New York Times* at <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/08/20/science/earth/extremely-likely-that-human-activity-is-driving-climate-change-panel-finds.html?pagewanted=all>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, IPCC** | [Leave a reply](#)

Union Positions on Northern Gateway and Line 9 Pipelines

Posted on **June 19, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

The Joint Review Panel for the Enbridge Northern Gateway Project, mandated by the Minister of the Environment and the National Energy Board, is reaching the final stages, with a report expected by the end of 2013. The written process was completed on May 31; final oral arguments will be heard in Terrace, B.C., beginning June 17 and lasting approximately two weeks. On May 31, the Government of British Columbia submitted a written statement opposing the current proposal and setting five conditions, including that First Nations treaty rights must be respected, and B.C. must receive its “fair share” of the fiscal and economic benefits of the pipeline construction and operation, as they first demanded in 2012.

Receiving less coverage were the May 31 written submissions by the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union (CEP), the Alberta Federation of Labour, and the United Fishermen and Allied Workers' Union (UFAWU). All three unions oppose approval of the pipeline, arguing that refining jobs in Canada will be lost by shipping raw bitumen to Asia.

The CEP position in support of Enbridge's West-to-East Line 9 pipeline project is more controversial. As reported by the *Toronto Globe and Mail* and the *Montreal Gazette*, the CEP in Quebec is part of a campaign by the Coalition in Support of Line 9 Reversal, which includes the Quebec Employers Council, Montreal Board of Trade, and the Fédération des chambres de commerce du Québec. Representatives launched the coalition in Montreal on May 29, stating, “This project is essential for Montreal and the whole Quebec economy and has broad support from the Ontario and Quebec governments ... If refining does not remain competitive in Montreal East, then ultimately, there will be more closures and the specialized petrochemical plants will have to import their feedstocks or face closure.”

LINKS:

Full Joint Review Panel for Northern Gateway website is at: <http://gatewaypanel.review-examen.gc.ca/clf-nsi/hm-eng.html> (English) and <http://gatewaypanel.review-examen.gc.ca/clf-nsi/hm-fra.html> (French); all submitted documents are available under Section D: Intervenor/Intervenants.

B.C. Officially Opposes Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipeline (May 31), and multiple links to related stories, at the CBC website at: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/story/2013/05/31/bc-northern-gateway-rejected.html>

Written submissions to Northern Gateway hearings: by CEP is at: https://www.neb-one.gc.ca/ll-eng/livelink.exe/fetch/2000/90464/90552/384192/620327/624910/785392/959884/D39-13-1_CEP_-_Final_Argument_of_CEP_%2800519679%29_-_A3I1H1.pdf?nodeid=959885&vernum=0 ; by Alberta Federation of Labour at (and see further details of their position in a separate *Submission to the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future on The Study of the BRIK (Bitumen Royalty in Kind) Program* (March 2013) at: http://www.afl.org/index.php/component/option,com_sectionex/Itemid,118/id,7/view/category/.

Submission by the United Fishermen is at: https://www.neb-one.gc.ca/ll-eng/livelink.exe/fetch/2000/90464/90552/384192/620327/624910/697824/960959/D203-14-1_United_Fishermen_and_Allied_Workers%27_Union_-_CAW_-Final_Arg_May_31.13_-_A3I2A8?nodeid=960822&vernum=0

RE LINE 9:

"Refinery union warns against TransCanada exports of crude through Quebec " in *Globe and Mail* (May 29,2013) by Nathan Vanderklippe at:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/industry-news/energy-and-resources/refinery-union-warns-against-transcanada-exports-of-crude-through-quebec/article12244539/>

"Line 9 pipeline reversal last chance to save 2,000 jobs: lobby group" in the *Montreal Gazette* (May 29)
at:<http://www.montrealgazette.com/business/Line+pipeline+reversal+last+chance+save+jobs+lobby+group/8451769/story.html>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Alberta Federation of Labour**, **British Columbia**, **CEP**, **Job Creation**, **labour union policies**, **Northern Gateway**, **Pipelines**, **United Fisherman and Allied Workers Union** | [Leave a reply](#)

Job Creation Benefits of Ontario's Proposed Waste Management Strategy

Posted on **June 19, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

On June 5, the new Liberal government in Ontario proposed a new waste management strategy, launched with a public consultation period that runs from June 6 to September 4. Among the highlights: a proposed *Waste Reduction Act* which makes individual producers responsible for the end-of-life management of their products and packaging; creation of the Waste Reduction Authority to oversee activities and enforce compliance; phase-in of individual producer responsibility for paper and packaging supplied into the Industrial, Commercial and Institutional sectors; expanded use of disposal bans to encourage recycling. The government press release emphasizes the job creation advantages of waste reduction, stating that "Recycling generates ten times more jobs than disposal", and "Every additional 1,000 tonnes of recycled waste generates seven new jobs." These estimates are drawn from *The Economic Benefits of Recycling in Ontario*, a report prepared for the Ministry of the Environment by consulting group AECOM in 2009, but not publicly released.

LINKS

Waste Reduction Strategy notice in the Environmental Register is at:<http://www.ebr.gov.on.ca/ERS-WEB->

[External/displaynoticecontent.do?noticeId=MTE5NzM1&statusId=MTc5MTM2&language=en](http://www.ebr.gov.on.ca/ERS-WEB-External/displaynoticecontent.do?noticeId=MTE5NzM1&statusId=MTc5MTM2&language=en); Waste Management Strategy Document is at: http://www.downloads.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/env_reg/er/documents/2013/011-9262.pdf;

Text and debates concerning Bill 91, the proposed *Waste Reduction Act, 2013* are at: http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/bills/bills_detail.do?locale=en&Intranet=&BillID=2818

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Extended Producer Responsibility, Job Creation, Ontario, Recycling, Waste management** | [Leave a reply](#)

Local Content Requirements Promoting Green Growth in China and Around the World

Posted on **June 19, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

A paper released on June 3rd by the International Centre on Trade and Sustainable Development “attempts to refocus the LCR debate around the ultimate question of whether this measure can play a role in achieving green industrial growth in general, and RE deployment and innovation in particular. ” The authors set out the arguments for and against the use of LCR’s, examine their use by China in the wind energy industry, and describe (in less detail) examples in Ontario, Quebec, Spain, Italy, France, Greece, Croatia, the US, India, Brazil, South Africa and Turkey. A concluding section deals with the WTO role. Ultimately, the authors call for more rigorous research into the effect of local content requirement policies on the creation of jobs in the renewable energy industry.

LINK

Local Content Requirements and the Renewable Energy Industry – A Good Match? By Jan-Christoph Kuntze and Tom Moerenhout is available at: <http://ictsd.org/i/publications/165193/?view=details>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **China, Green Growth, Local Content Requirements, Ontario, Trade Policy, World Trade Organization** | [Leave a reply](#)

OECD Sees Job Benefits of Green Cities like Chicago

Posted on **June 19, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

This report presents case studies of urban green growth policies, four at city level (Paris, Chicago, Stockholm, Kitakyushu) and two at the national level (China, Korea), with a framework for analysis for different types of cities. It demonstrates the importance of urban policies for achieving national environmental policy goals and discusses policy goals and approaches – including the priorities of job creation and attracting business and workers. The case study of Chicago highlights that city’s initiative to develop a regional specialty in green building and design, which in 2010 employed 45,000 people in direct and indirect jobs. Efficient public transport networks, such as in Paris, are valuable for their environmental contribution and to attract businesses and workers.

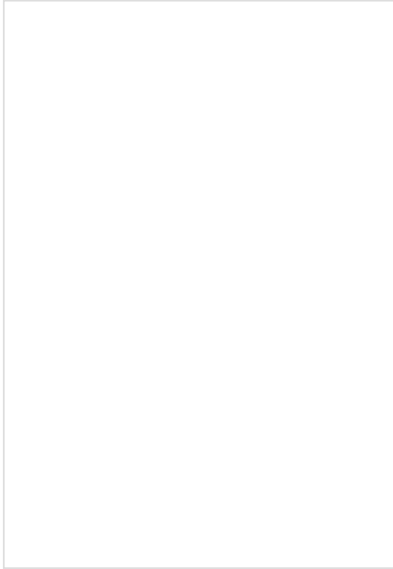
LINKS

Green Growth and Cities is summarized, with ordering information, at: http://www.oecd.org/regional/green-growth-in-cities.htm#About_the_Publication

A working paper with more details about the Chicago labour market experience and green jobs is available from: <http://www.oecd.org/greengrowth/oecdworkongreengrowth.htm>

Climate@Work Released

Posted on **June 19, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**



Released in May 2013, *Climate@Work*, edited by Carla Lipsig Mumme, presents research by members of the Work in a Warming World project (W3). The focus of the book is on the Canadian scene and the current and potential role for workers and unions to contribute to a growing, green economy with good, green jobs. It examines six sectors in detail – construction, energy, transportation equipment, forestry, tourism, and the postal sector. Yet because of the global nature of the climate change struggle, the introductory section sets Canada in international context, looking at the role of international agreements, public policy, and the puzzling silence of English-language scholarly research on climate change and work. See the Fernwood Press website for a summary, list of chapters, and ordering information, at: <http://www.fernwoodpublishing.ca/Climate-at-Work/>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Green Jobs, Labour Unions, Work in a Warming World** | [Leave a reply](#)

Recommendations from Ontario's Environmental Commissioner

Posted on **June 19, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

In the 2013 annual report of Ontario Environmental Commissioner, released on June 5, statistics are provided for GHG emissions on a sectoral basis, for transportation, industry, buildings, electricity, agriculture and waste. Transportation remains the biggest emitter of GHGs in Ontario, and passenger vehicles remain the greatest contributor. The Commissioner found that the government is likely to achieve only 60% of the reductions necessary to meet its own 2020 target for a 15% reduction from 1990 levels. He criticizes the lack of coordination between the province's Long-term Energy Plan and its Climate Change Action Plan, and cites the upcoming review of the LTEP as "an excellent opportunity to further integrate government policy on these two interrelated issues". He also states that putting "a price on carbon is the best tool I can think of" for improvement.

Read *Failing our Future*, Review of the Ontario Government's Climate Change Action Plan Results Report at:
<http://www.eco.on.ca/uploads/Reports-GHG/2013/2013GHG.pdf>, or the summary at:
http://www.eco.on.ca/index.php/en_US/pubs/greenhouse-gas-reports/2013-ghg-failing-our-future

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Automobiles**, **Emissions reduction targets**, **Ontario**, **Ontario Climate Action Plan**, **Ontario Long-term Energy Plan**, **Transportation** | [Leave a reply](#)

The Effects of Carbon Tax, and an Upward Revision of the Social Cost of Carbon

Posted on **June 19, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

The U.S. Congressional Budget Office released a study on May 22 which reviews the existing literature on the economic impacts of a carbon tax, and explores three options for using the revenues from the tax: to reduce budget deficits, to decrease existing marginal tax rates, or to offset the costs to the most affected groups of people. Read: *Effects of a Carbon Tax on the Economy and the Environment* at: <http://www.cbo.gov/publication/44223> or for a more detailed study of the effects on employment, see the May 2010 CBO Briefing Report *How Policies to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions Could Affect Employment* at: http://www.cbo.gov/sites/default/files/cbofiles/ftpdocs/105xx/doc10564/05-05-capandtrade_brief.pdf. The 2013 CBO study discusses various studies which estimate the social cost of carbon – the value used by governments (including Canada's) to assess the benefits and costs of the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

An important new report released by the U.S. Government in June revises the "official" U.S. social cost of carbon substantially, by between 50 – 60%. The first regulation to use this new SCC will be the U.S. emission standard for microwaves; it has also been recommended for use by the State Department in its consideration of the impact of the Keystone Pipeline. Read: *Technical Update of the Social Cost of Carbon for Regulatory Impact Analysis – by the U.S. Interagency Working Group on the Social Cost of Carbon Under Executive Order 12866* at: http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/inforeg/social_cost_of_carbon_for_ria_2013_update.pdf, and for background, see the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency article at: <http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/EPAactivities/economics/scc.html>

Posted in **United States** | Tagged **Carbon Tax**, **Congressional Budget Office**, **Keystone XL**, **Social Cost of Carbon** | [Leave a reply](#)

3rd Anniversary of Canada's Boreal Forest Agreement is not a Happy One

Posted on **June 19, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

Referring to the withdrawal of Canopy, a forest conservation group, from the Boreal Forest Agreement (CBFA) in April 2013, Greenpeace Canada stated: "Their departure from the CBFA is a consequence of the Agreement's inability to deliver greater protection for the Boreal Forest and a failure of its structure. The CBFA is simply no longer a credible tool for conservation."

Read the Canopy press release at: <http://canopyplanet.org/canopy-boreal-withdrawal/>. And follow the continuing story about the expulsion of Resolute Forest Products in May with *Environmental groups suspend further work with Resolute under Canadian Boreal*

Forest Agreement (May 21) at the CPAWS website at: <http://cpaws.org/news/environmental-groups-suspend-further-work-with-resolute-under-cbfa>.

Resolute was the subject of criticism by Greenpeace for its sustainability failings, for its treatment of workers, and disregard for Indigenous rights and communities. Read the report, *Resolute's False Promises: The (un)Sustainability Report 2013* at: <http://www.greenpeace.org/canada/resolutefalsepromises/>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Aboriginal Peoples, Boreal Forest, Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement, Forestry Management, Greenpeace, Resolute Forest Products, Sustainable Forestry** | [Leave a reply](#)

B.C. Agricultural Industry

Posted on **June 19, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

A White Paper released in May by the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions, based at the University of Victoria, offers recommendations for public policy to support the agricultural industry in its necessary adaptation to climate change. The report builds on the findings of the BC Agriculture Climate Change Risk & Opportunity Assessment of 2012, published by the provincial government. Read: *Strengthening BC's Agricultural Sector in the Face of Climate Change* at:

http://pics.uvic.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/Strengthening%20BC%27s%20Agriculture%20Sector_0.pdf, and Climate Change Risk & Opportunity Assessment Reports (2012) for B.C. and its regions at the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Climate Action Initiative website at: <http://www.bcagclimateaction.ca/about/document-library/>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Adaptation, Agriculture, British Columbia** | [Leave a reply](#)

Telling the Tar Sands Story – An Alternate View

Posted on **June 19, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

A new website by the Tar Sands Solutions Network offers a library of documents, videos, and news about Canada's oil sands and pipeline development from the point of view of its members: First Nations, environmental groups, landowners, farmers, scientists, community leaders, academics, and grass roots groups located throughout North America and in the U.K. See <http://tarsandssolutions.org/>. The network campaign website is at Oil Sands Reality Check at: <http://oilsandsrealitycheck.org/>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Keystone XL, Oil Sands, Pipelines, Protests & Rallies** | [Leave a reply](#)

While Harper Courts European Oil Markets, Oil Sands Monitoring Report Released, Zama Alberta Suffers Pipeline Spill

Posted on **June 19, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

In the same week that Stephen Harper faced protests from British environmentalists over his attempts to promote Canadian oil for European markets, at home, Alberta's Energy Resources Conservation Board is reported to have released a report which states that from 2010 to 2012, not a single oilsands company was able to meet the tailings reductions targets set out in the ERCB Directive 074, and the volume of tailings has increased, not decreased. However, the regulator will waive any penalties, arguing that the targets were probably "overly optimistic". Read "ERCB waives tailings penalties" in *The Calgary Herald* (May 12) at: <http://www.calgaryherald.com/business/ERCB+waives+tailings+penalties/8513087/story.html>.

The spill of industrial wastewater from oil production near the northern Alberta town of Zama has drawn criticism of the regulators, including the ERCB, for their slow response. See "Zama spill spurs questions on Alberta pipeline safety measures" at the CBC website at:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/story/2013/06/14/north-apache-cleanup-zama.html>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Alberta, Energy Resources Conservation Board, Oil Spills, Pollution, Stephen Harper** | [Leave a reply](#)

Engineering and Climate Change Conference

Posted on **June 19, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

The 3rd Climate Change Technology Conference (CCTC 2013) was held in late May in Montreal, organized by the Engineering Institute of Canada (EIC) and ten of its member societies. Go to: <http://www.cctc2013.ca/English/TechSessions.html> for a full list of all the papers, most of which are highly technical, but include some general interest items such as *Teaching Energy Industry at a University* at: <http://www.cctc2013.ca/Papers/CCTC2013%20EDU1-1%20Donev.pdf>; *Assessment of a Carbon Tax as a Policy Instrument* at: <http://www.cctc2013.ca/Papers/CCTC2013%20EDU1-3%20Yildez.pdf>; and *Funding Clean Technology Development* at: <http://www.cctc2013.ca/Papers/CCTC2013%20EDU1-3%20Yildez.pdf>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Engineering Institute of Canada, Engineers** | [Leave a reply](#)

EU Reforms Target Overfishing

Posted on **June 19, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

In advance of World Ocean Day on June 8, and culminating a once-in-a decade reform process, the European Union announced on June 6th that it will implement major reforms to its Common Fisheries Policy. The goal is to end decades of overfishing, to rebuild dwindling fish stocks by 2020, preserve jobs in coastal areas, and make the industry more environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable. See *EU Clinches Major Overhaul to Fisheries Policy* (June 6, 2013) at: <http://ictsd.org/i/news/bridgesweekly/165334/> and *Europe adopts new Policy on Fisheries* (Feb. 2013) at: <http://ictsd.org/i/environment/153765/>

Posted in **Government Policy** | Tagged **Common Fisheries Policy, EU, Fisheries** | [Leave a reply](#)

Scale of Canada's Environmental Goods and Services Industry

Posted on **June 19, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

On June 5, Statistics Canada released the results of the Survey of Environmental Goods and Services, 2010, showing that the revenues derived by Canadian manufacturers from the sales of environmental goods totaled just under \$2.2 billion; sales of environmental services accounted for \$1.7 billion. The Agency cautions against comparing the 2010 numbers with the previous survey (2008) because of changes to the questionnaire. See the Statistics Canada *Daily* (June 5) at: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/130605/dq130605c-eng.htm>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Environmental Services Industry, Statistics Canada** | [Leave a reply](#)

Sustainability or Sustainababble?

Posted on **June 19, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

The Worldwatch Institute State of the World Report for 2013 released in May 2013 warns that with so much labeled as “sustainable,” the term has become essentially “sustainababble”. Most of the book is dedicated to defining clear sustainability metrics, with a final section exploring “tools” to deal with the “long emergency” that is coming. The Report includes contributions by 50 writers, researchers and activists. See a blog summarizing the book at: <http://blogs.worldwatch.org/sustainabilitypossible/launching-state-of-the-world-2013-is-sustainability-still-possible/> or buy *Is Sustainability Still Possible? State of the World Report*, 2013 at: <http://www.worldwatch.org/bookstore/publication/state-world-2013-sustainability-still-possible>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Sustainability Measures, Worldwatch Institute** | [Leave a reply](#)

CEP & CAW Statements to the House of Commons Committee: Pipelines and Dutch Disease

Posted on **May 24, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

The federal House of Commons Committee on Natural Resources began hearings on “Market Diversification in the Energy Sector” on April 18th. (Previous hearings were on “Innovation in the Energy Sector”). On April 23, the Communications Energy and Paperworkers Union submitted its position paper to the Committee, opposing pipeline development such as Northern Gateway and Keystone XL. However, “CEP endorses that decision (i.e. approval of Enbridge’s Line 9A pipeline) and supports Enbridge’s current application for Line 9A to extend supply to the Montreal Suncor and Quebec City Ultramar refineries. CEP supports Line 9B on the basis that its 300,000 bbl/d capacity will provide just 75% of the capacity of the two Quebec refineries. CEP does not support a further expansion or a revival of the “Trailblazer” project which would have transformed Line 9 into an export line to Portland, Maine.”

In the Canadian Auto Workers submission by Jim Stanford, also submitted on April 23, the focus is on reviewing the economic debate about “Dutch disease”, or what Stanford calls “resource-driven deindustrialization”. The paper summarizes the arguments and reviews 7 previous studies, concluding that resource-driven deindustrialization *does* exist. He then raises (but does not answer) the questions: how large has the effect been, have the costs to manufacturing been offset by the benefits of resource expansion, and should the government and the Bank of Canada intervene?

Many others have appeared before the Committee, including representatives from the Fraser Institute, Conference Board of Canada, and Macdonald Laurier Institute. Unions have been represented by: Christopher Smillie (Building and Construction Trades Department, AFL-CIO) on April 25; Gil McGowan (President, Alberta Federation of Labour) on April 30.

LINKS

CEP submission is at <http://www.cep.ca/sites/cep.ca/files/docs/en/130424-Fred-NatResCmttee.pdf>

CAW submission, *Resource-driven Deindustrialization* is at <http://www.cep.ca/sites/cep.ca/files/docs/en/130424-Jim-NatResCmttee.pdf>

Transcripts are available at the Committee website, by date, (in English) at

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/committeebusiness/CommitteeMeetings.aspx?Cmte=RNNR&Language=E&Mode=1&Parl=41&Ses=1> and (in French) at <http://www.parl.gc.ca/committeebusiness/CommitteeMeetings.aspx?Cmte=RNNR&Mode=1&Parl=41&Ses=1&Language=F>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Canadian Auto Workers, CEP, Committee on Natural Resources (Canada) Pipeline, Dutch Disease, Keystone XL, Pipelines** | [Leave a reply](#)

Case Studies of Emissions Reductions in B.C. Small Businesses

Posted on **May 24, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

An April White Paper published by the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions in B.C. presents case studies of 11 British Columbia small businesses which engaged in greenhouse gas emissions reduction projects in any or all of four areas: electricity, heating, transportation, and waste management. For each case, the report describes the initiatives taken and estimates the environmental benefits, financial costs, rate of return on the investment, and the projected payback time. The report also provides insights from a broader universe of 700 small businesses, including the observation that employees are more motivated to participate in emissions-reducing activities if they are offered a share in the savings achieved. Several recommendations are made to encourage small businesses to move to lower emissions practices.

LINKS

Are Small to Mid-sized Businesses the Catalyst to a Low Carbon Economy in B.C.? at <http://pics.uvic.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/Small%20Business%20White%20Paper%20April%202013.pdf>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **British Columbia, energy efficiency, Green Business** | [Leave a reply](#)

Canada's Greenest Employers for 2013 Announced

Posted on **May 24, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

Canada's Top Employers project publishes an annual report which is often used by employment counselors and job seekers, to identify progressive and socially responsible potential employers. The list was announced in late April and includes winners of the environmental category. "Each employer was evaluated using the following criteria: 1) the unique environmental initiatives and programs they've developed; 2) how successful they've been in reducing their own environmental footprint; 3) the degree to which employees are involved and whether they contribute any unique skills; and 4) the extent that their initiatives have become linked to their public identity and whether they attract new people to their organization." Profiles of each of the companies, describing their green credentials, are available on the website.

LINKS

Canada's Greenest Employers 2013 website is at <http://www.canadastop100.com/environmental/>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Corporate Environment Policy, Green Business** | [Leave a reply](#)

Positions of B.C. Political Parties on Climate Change Issues and Green Jobs

Posted on **May 24, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

British Columbia holds its provincial election on May 14th. The Pembina Institute has released a comparison of the positions of the political parties on four election issues related to climate change: liquefied natural gas (LNG), oil pipelines, the carbon tax and green jobs. They find that the Green Party is the only one who would take the province forward on all four issues, and goes the furthest in proposals for green job creation – with enhanced venture capital funding programs for the clean tech sector, as well as encouragement of energy efficiency and renewable energy. Only the Conservatives have no proposals re green job creation. The Conservatives, Liberals and NDP are all in support of significant LNG expansion, yet the Pembina authors state that “any necessary next steps in lowering emissions will be overwhelmed by the emissions from extracting, processing and liquefying natural gas if LNG development is allowed to significantly expand in B.C.”

LINKS

Climate change and the 2013 British Columbia election by Matt Horne, Joshua MacNab & Kevin Sauvé is available at <http://www.pembina.org/media-release/2449> .

“B.C.’s political climate is shifting: Why talk of ‘jobs vs. environment’ no longer holds water” by Eric Doherty (May 10) at *Rabble.ca* at <http://rabble.ca/news/2013/05/bcs-political-climate-shifting-why-talk-jobs-vs-environment-no-longer-holds-water>

Party Platforms: Green Party: *Jobs in a New Economy* is at http://www.greenparty.bc.ca/jobs_in_new_economy ; NDP platform is at <http://www.bcndp.ca/plan> ; Liberals’ at <http://www.bcliberals.com/news/in-the-news/ourPlan> ; Conservatives’ at <http://www.bcconservative.ca/> .

The Tyee Election Hook (dedicated to election coverage) is at <http://thetyee.ca/Blogs/TheHook/>

For results: go to CBC B.C. Election 2013 website at <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/bcvotes2013/>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **British Columbia, Carbon Tax, Green Party, LNG, Pipelines, Political parties and policies** | [Leave a reply](#)

Recommendations for “High Road” Jobs in Green Infrastructure

Posted on **May 24, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

A report by Green For All, in partnership with American Rivers, focuses on occupations in green infrastructure programs across the U.S. It describes current U.S. green infrastructure activity, examines the occupations involved in operations and maintenance (including wage and unionization rates), and argues that the low entry barriers for these occupations have created “low road” jobs. The paper then profiles specific projects, particularly water utilities, where workforce development programs are leading to stable jobs with career prospects – “high road” jobs. The report makes 3 recommendations for green infrastructure projects, including that installation and maintenance contracts for publicly funded infrastructure should include community benefits strategies to generate work for local workers and businesses, and should include workforce development commitments.

LINKS

Staying Green and Growing Jobs: Green Infrastructure Operations and Maintenance as Career Pathway Stepping Stones is at <http://greenforall.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Staying-Green-and-Growing-Jobs-April-2013.pdf.pdf>

Related reports, including *Staying Green: Strategies to Improve Operations and Maintenance of Green Infrastructure in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed*, and *High Road Agreements: A Best Practice Brief* are at the Green For All website at <http://greenforall.org/resources/reports-research/> .

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Community benefits, Green Infrastructure, Green Job Creation, High Road Jobs, Infrastructure, Job Quality, Training** | [Leave a reply](#)

How Climate Change is Changing the Job of Professional Engineers

Posted on **May 24, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

A feature article in the March issue of *PE Magazine* discusses how professional engineers in the U.S. are coping with the impacts of climate change and extreme weather on public infrastructure. The article notes several local projects and describes the Climate Change Educational Partnership of the U.S. National Academy of Engineer's Center for Engineering, Ethics, and Society, founded in 2011. David Lapp, who serves on Canada's Public Infrastructure Engineering Vulnerability Committee, is quoted for his thoughts on the potential for liability for those engineers who fail to take climate change adaptation into account.

LINK

"Change in the Weather" by Matthew McLaughlin, in *PE Magazine* (published by the National Society of Professional Engineers) March 2013 at http://www.nspe.org/PEmagazine/13/pe_0313_Change.html?utm_source=Newsletter+Distribution+List&utm_campaign=dfdf19f1ac-Newsletter_Apr_25_2013&utm_medium=email

Canada Public Infrastructure Engineering Vulnerability Committee website of Engineers Canada is at http://www.pievc.ca/e/index_.cfm

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Adaptation, Climate Resilience, Climate Risk, Engineering, Engineers, Infrastructure, Professional Adaptation, Professional Associations** | [Leave a reply](#)

Future Green Jobs and Workplaces: The Need for Health and Safety Protection

Posted on **May 24, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

A report released by the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work identifies and forecasts the key new technologies that may be introduced in green jobs by 2020, and the possible risks they will bring to the workplace. The report constructs three scenarios (win-win; bonus world; and deep green), and for each scenario, forecasts the future of jobs in wind energy, green construction, waste management and recycling; green transport; green manufacturing; domestic and small-scale energy; energy storage and transmission. It concludes with wide-ranging and thoughtful observations about the likely changes to work processes and materials, and argues convincingly that there is "a need for a systematic, prior OSH assessment of any new technology, product and process at a very early development stage that considers the entire life cycle, from 'cradle to cradle' (i.e. including design, manufacture, transport, installation,

operation and maintenance, decommissioning, treatment of waste and later reuse). Integrating prevention into the design is more efficient, as well as cheaper, than retrofitting OSH; this needs to start now for safe future green jobs.”

LINKS

Green jobs and occupational safety and health: Foresight on new and merging risks associated with new technologies by 2020 is at <https://osha.europa.eu/en/publications/reports/green-jobs-foresight-new-emerging-risks-technologies>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Green Manufacturing Processes, Job Design, Occupational Health and Safety** | [Leave a reply](#)

NRTEE Documents are Accessible to the Public at W3 Website

Posted on **May 24, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

At the end of March 2013, government-mandated cutbacks ended the life of the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy (NRTEE), which had provided independent research and analysis about climate change and environmental issues in Canada, and which had published reports monitoring Canada’s progress toward GHG reductions under the Kyoto Protocol. Despite government efforts to curtail access to the research output of the NRTEE, the W3 project has created an archive of all NRTEE documents since 1987. Go to <http://www.workinawarmingworld.yorku.ca/library/> for free access.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy, NRTEE, Work in a Warming World** | [Leave a reply](#)

Ontario Green Energy Act Loses Final Appeal at WTO

Posted on **May 24, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

The World Trade Organization has upheld its original decision and ruled that the domestic content regulations of Ontario’s Green Energy Act violate international trade law. Existing contracts signed under the Act will continue, but the WTO decision calls for the Green Energy Act to be amended to remove the requirement for local production in future renewable energy contracts. “Ontario loses final WTO appeal on Green Energy Act” by Shawn McCarthy, *Globe and Mail* (May 6) is at <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/industry-news/energy-and-resources/ontario-loses-final-wto-appeal-on-green-energy-act/article11731010/> .

A summary of the WTO proceedings, including a link to the review decision (file #WT/DS412), in English and French is available from the WTO at http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dispu_e/cases_e/ds412_e.htm . The Council of Canadians reaction is at “Ontario urged to defy unreasonable WTO ruling against Green Energy Act” at <http://www.canadians.org/media/trade/2013/06-May-13-2.html> , and the United Steelworkers union also urges Ontario to continue to fight, stating that “This is just the latest example of trade agreements being used to override our sovereignty and our freedom to implement environmental and economic development initiatives.” (see press release at <http://www.newswire.ca/en/story/1159683/wto-ruling-must-not-end-fight-for-green-jobs-steelworkers>).

The Ontario Ministry of Energy has not yet made a formal response to the decision; however, in a related announcement on May 6th, it announced a 6-month review of the regional energy planning process to be more inclusive of municipal and local input. (See <http://news.ontario.ca/mei/en/2013/05/new-ontario-government-strengthens-energy-planning.html>).

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **International Trade, Local Content Requirements, Ontario, Ontario Green Energy Act, World Trade Organization** | [Leave a reply](#)

Good Jobs, Green Jobs Conference in Washington

Posted on **May 24, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

Over 1,800 union workers, environmentalists, business and non-profit leaders gathered *from April 16 to 18 for the 2013 Good Jobs, Green Jobs National Conference*, sponsored by the BlueGreen Alliance Foundation. This year's official theme was *Let's Get to Work: Climate Change, Infrastructure and Innovation*. In the opening panel, the message was the common cause in the fight for workers rights and environmental rights: speakers were CWA President Larry Cohen, Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune, USW President Leo Gerard, and SEIU Property Services Division Deputy Director Jon Barton. *Videos, summaries and blogs from the proceedings are available at the conference website at <http://www.greenjobsconference.org/>.*

Posted in [Environmental Policy](#), [United States](#) | Tagged [Labour and Greens](#), [Service Employees International Union](#), [Sierra Club](#), [United Steelworkers](#) | [Leave a reply](#)

Carbon Management in Canada: Can we Revive a Civil Debate?

Posted on **May 24, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

On April 17th in Ottawa, the think tank Canada 2020 convened a meeting “because of our concern over the disintegration of constructive debate about carbon management at a national level in Canada. The current deadlock is not good for our country, our democracy or for our planet.” With a goal “to begin to define a constructive and positive course of action”, presentations were made Jean Charest, (former Liberal Premier of Quebec), Elizabeth May (Leader of Canada's Green Party), Kathryn Harrison (UBC professor), Eric Newell, (former CEO of Syncrude), and Bob Inglis, (former Republican member of the U.S. Congress).

The background paper on which discussion was based, *Why would Canadians Buy Carbon Pricing?* is at <http://canada2020.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Canada-2020-Background-Paper-Carbon-Pricing-April-2013.pdf>. It provides an overview of the current provincial mechanisms and concludes that the B.C. Carbon tax offers the best model for a national policy. The event website at <http://canada2020.ca/event/the-canada-we-want-carbon-pricing/> provides links to all documents and to videos of each presenter.

Posted in [Energy Policy](#) | Tagged [Canada](#), [Canada 2020](#), [Carbon Pricing](#), [Carbon Tax](#), [Energy policy](#) | [Leave a reply](#)

Should Alberta be the Model?

Posted on **May 24, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

A Policy Brief released by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) in May summarizes the current proposals under negotiation for national GHG emission regulation in Canada, and then models the economic and emissions impacts of four scenarios for the year 2020.

The IISD judges that the negotiations are likely to use Alberta's Specified Gas Emitters Regulation (SGER) as the standard. The paper concludes that “While all proposals on the table will deliver emission reductions at costs that seem reasonable, a 40 per cent intensity standard with a two-tiered price ceiling could strike a good balance.”

See *Regulating Carbon Emissions in Canada: Oil and Gas Greenhouse Gas Regulations: The Implications of Alternative Proposals* is at http://www.iisd.org/pdf/2013/oil_and_gas_ggr.pdf.

European Emissions Trading System

Posted on **May 24, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

The European Emissions Trading System faces a future of conflict and further negotiation after April 16th, when the European Parliament rejected a Commission proposal to improve the system by removing the current oversupply of emissions permits. See coverage by Reuters at <http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/04/16/eu-ets-vote-idUSL5N0D337720130416> ; The Guardian at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2013/apr/17/europe-climate-chief-vow-save-emissions-trading> , and the *New York Times* OpEd (May 7) , “A Carbon System Worth Saving”, at <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/05/07/opinion/europes-carbon-trading-system.html> .

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Emissions Trading, EU, EUTS** | [Leave a reply](#)

Reform Proposals for Global Carbon Markets

Posted on **May 24, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

An April report from the Centre for American Progress acknowledges and describes the shortcomings of carbon markets, but argues that carbon markets have helped to fight climate change while providing billions of dollars for investment capital to spur economic growth. With much attention to the Clean Development Mechanism, and after a thorough description of the Chinese experience with CDM, the report makes several recommendations for reforms so that “With the right political commitment and much-needed reforms, global carbon markets have the potential to deliver outsized environmental and economic benefits in the coming years.” See *Carbon Market Crossroads: New Ideas for Harnessing Global Markets to Confront Climate Change* is at <http://www.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/CarbonMarketCrossroads-3.pdf> .

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **China, Clean Development Mechanism, Emissions Trading, EU** | [Leave a reply](#)

Global Clean Energy Status Report Includes a Call for Carbon-Pricing and a Phase-Out of Fossil Fuel Subsidies

Posted on **May 24, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

The International Energy Agency report for 2013 to the Clean Energy Ministerial provides a comprehensive overview of the global state of clean energy: extent of use, what is being done to encourage market penetration, and what technological advances have occurred for each form of clean energy. Canada is one of the 28 countries surveyed.

The report also introduced the Energy Sector Carbon Intensity Index (ESCI), which shows how much carbon dioxide is emitted, on average, to provide a given unit of energy. The index remains almost unchanged between 1990 and 2010.

The “positive” news for 2012 include sales of hybrid electric vehicles, which passed the 1 million mark, increased installation rate of solar photovoltaic systems, and falling costs of most clean energy technologies. The report gives policy recommendations for each technology type, but overall, it concludes: “the true cost of energy must be reflected in consumer prices, through carbon pricing and the

phase-out of fossil-fuel subsidies. Technologies like electric vehicles, wind and solar will need support for several years more, but policies should be flexible and transparent. More stringent and broader energy performance standards, building codes and fuel economy standards can drive energy efficiency.”

The press release from April 17th, with links, is at <http://www.iea.org/newsroomandevents/pressreleases/2013/april/name,36789,en.html> .

Fullest coverage is at the *Tracking Clean Energy Progress 2013* website at <http://www.iea.org/etp/tracking/>. The Report document is at http://www.iea.org/publications/TCEP_web.pdf .

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Carbon Pricing, Electric Vehicles, Energy Sector Carbon Intensity Index, Fossil Fuel Subsidies, International Energy Agency, Solar Energy** | [Leave a reply](#)

U.K. Carbon Footprint

Posted on **May 24, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

Reducing the UK's Carbon Footprint and Managing Competitiveness Risks, was written at the request of the UK government by the independent Committee on Climate Change. It examines the role of consumption- based emissions, including imported emissions, and also considers lifecycle emissions of low-carbon technologies in order to understand how their deployment would impact the UK's carbon footprint.

See <http://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/carbon-footprint-and-competitiveness/> for links to summaries and the full report.

Response to the report by the Trades Union Congress is contained in a briefing, *Bring Industry Back Home* at <http://www.tuc.org.uk/workplace/tuc-22150-f0.cfm>.

Posted in **Energy Policy** | Tagged **Carbon Footprint, Low-Carbon Transition, Trades Union Congress, TUC, United Kingdom** | [Leave a reply](#)

The Biggest Roadblock to a Post Carbon World is Politics

Posted on **May 24, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

A new report by John Wiseman, Taegen Edwards and Kate Luckins has been released by the Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute in Australia, arguing that the technological and economic knowledge we need to avoid catastrophic global warming is already available. Change is being impeded by many roadblocks, chiefly political but including: climate science denial, the power of the fossil fuel industry and its allies, political paralysis, unsustainable consumption of energy and resources, path dependencies and outdated infrastructure, and financial and governance constraints. The report calls for recognition of the urgency of transition to a low-carbon path, and for moving investment from fossil fuels to energy efficiency.

Read *Post Carbon Pathways: Towards a Just and Resilient Post Carbon Future Learning from leading international post carbon economy researchers and policy makers* at http://www.postcarbonpathways.net.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Post-Carbon-Pathways-Report-2013_Final-V.pdf

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Climate Denial, Infrastructure, Low-Carbon Transition, Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute** | [Leave a reply](#)

Naomi Klein Calls on Green Groups to Join the Fossil Fuel Divestment Movement

Posted on **May 24, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

Citing the growing campaign for divestment from fossil fuel companies, Naomi Klein asks the question: “Shouldn’t environmental organizations be more concerned about the human and ecological risks posed by fossil fuel companies than they are by some imagined risks to their stock portfolios?” In an article in *The Nation*, she names the names of the green organizations which are “part owners of the industry causing the crisis they are purportedly trying to solve”. She also names the organizations which are not, including “Greenpeace, 350.org, Friends of the Earth, Rainforest Action Network, and a host of smaller organizations like Oil Change International and the Climate Reality Project.” Read <http://www.thenation.com/article/174143/time-big-green-go-fossil-free#>, reprinted as “It’s time for environmental groups to divest from fossil fuels” (May 2) at *Rabble.ca* at <http://rabble.ca/columnists/2013/05/its-time-environmental-groups-to-divest-fossil-fuels>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **350.org**, **Environmental Groups**, **Fossil Fuel Divestment**, **Friends of the Earth**, **Greenpeace**, **Naomi Klein**, **Protests & Rallies** | [Leave a reply](#)

Proposed Terms of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) Could be Used to Challenge Canadian Fracking Bans

Posted on **May 24, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

A May 6 briefing by Corporate Europe Observatory, the Council of Canadians and the Transnational Institute “highlights the public debate around fracking, the interests of Canadian oil and gas companies in shale gas reserves in Europe, and the impacts an investment protection clause in the proposed CETA could have on governments’ ability to regulate or ban fracking.” A similar provision investment protection clause in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) is the basis for a current challenge by Lone Pine Resources to a fracking moratorium in Quebec. See the briefing, *The Right to Say No: EU-Canada Trade Agreement Threatens Fracking Bans* (May 6) at <http://corporateeurope.org/publications/right-say-no-eu-canada-trade-agreement-threatens-fracking-bans>.

Posted in **Government Policy**, **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)**, **Council of Canadians**, **Fracking**, **International Trade**, **Lone Pine Resources**, **NAFTA** | [Leave a reply](#)

Nova Scotia Municipality Passes Fracking Ban Based on Community Health Grounds

Posted on **May 24, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

The Municipality of the County of Inverness, Nova Scotia passed an anti- fracking bylaw on May 6th. The bylaw bypasses provincial jurisdiction over mineral rights and drilling permits and focuses on using the precautionary principle to protect citizens’ health and wellbeing. The bylaw, while specifically drafted to prevent fracking in Inverness County, establishes a framework for any municipality to protect its citizens from harmful activities that threaten the health of the community. It empowers such municipal action and advocacy by appealing to legal principles in international law, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, related interpretations and decisions by

the Supreme Court of Canada, and provincial legislation. See the *Cape Breton Post* article at <http://www.capebretonpost.com/News/Local/2013-05-06/article-3237799/Inverness-County-passes-anti-fracking-by-law/1> ; also see the website of the Nova Scotia Fracking Resource and Action Coalition, (NOFRAC) at <http://nofrac.wordpress.com/> . Their report, *Out of Control*, released on April 22, documents the fracking experience in Hants County from 200, relying on documents obtained by Freedom of Information requests. The province of Nova Scotia is currently undergoing a provincial review of fracking before allowing any permits, and the decision on the review is set to be released in 2014. See the Government Review website at <http://www.gov.ns.ca/nse/pollutionprevention/consultation.hydraulic.fracturing.asp> .

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Fracking, Municipal Government, Nova Scotia** | [Leave a reply](#)

Pulitzer Prize for Online Climate News Report

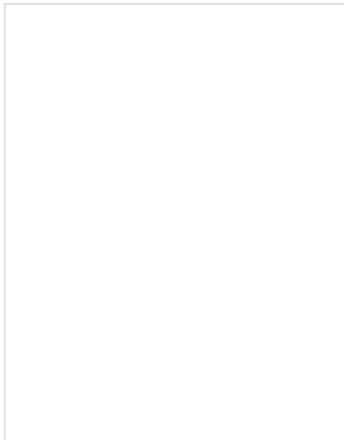
Posted on **May 24, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

In April, three reporters from the online news service *Inside ClimateNews.org* won the 2013 Pulitzer Prize for National Reporting, for their story about the 2010 oil spill in Kalamazoo, Michigan. This is the 3rd internet news organization to win a Pulitzer Prize (Huffington Post and ProPublica being the previous winners) – it is certainly the smallest. Internet news has now “arrived” and climate journalism has also now “arrived”. See the press release at <http://insideclimatenews.org/todaysnews/20130416/ny-based-insideclimate-news-wins-pulitzer>. See their full, free website at <http://insideclimatenews.org/>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **ClimateNews.org, Huffington Post, Journalism, ProPublica, Pulitzer Prize** | [Leave a reply](#)

A Zero Waste Economy Benefits the Environment and the Economy

Posted on **April 23, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**



A report released on March 28 calls for a move to a zero waste economy in British Columbia, estimating that more aggressive reduction and recycling of consumer goods could reduce greenhouse gas emissions by almost 5 million tonnes by 2020 and 6.2 million tonnes by 2040. A “closed loop system”, in which products like appliances would be repaired and reused for as long as possible, and finally recycled or reused in new products, would also benefit local economies by creating decent green jobs in repair, servicing and maintenance, waste management in sophisticated collection and sorting systems, as well as re-manufacturing and recycling activities. Based on research carried out in the US, UK and Europe, the authors estimate that “100% recycling of B.C.’s waste, with all sourcing and processing done locally, would support 12,300 direct jobs. With an existing provincial diversion rate of 43%, this would mean about

7,000 new direct jobs. In addition to these, there are also potential jobs gains in the more labour-intensive repair and refurbishment of products.”

“Because there may be job losses from reduced resource extraction and landfilling and incineration practices, “just transition” programs will be needed that facilitate new skills development. On balance, it is anticipated that job creation impacts would be larger than losses, but policy should actively seek to create those jobs by developing the sectors cited above. Promoting and supporting unionized workforces would push green jobs to ensure decent wages and working conditions.”

LINK

Closing the Loop: Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Creating Green Jobs through Zero Waste in B.C. by Marc Lee, Sue Maxwell, Ruth Legg, and William Rees is available at the Climate Justice Project of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (B.C. Office) at: <http://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/BC%20Office/2013/03/CCPA-BC-Zero-Waste.pdf>
Posted in [Environmental Policy](#) | Tagged [British Columbia](#), [Circular Economy](#), [Just Transition](#), [life cycle analysis](#), [Recycling](#), [Retraining](#), [Waste management](#), [Zero Waste](#) | [Leave a reply](#)

Investment in Fossil Fuel Companies is on Shaky Ground – and that Includes Pension Funds

Posted on **April 23, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

In a report released on March 26, authors Marc Lee and Brock Ellis warn of a possible “carbon bubble”, akin to the high tech or housing bubbles that have rocked financial markets in the past. The study finds that at least 78% of Canada’s proven oil, bitumen, gas, and coal reserves must remain in the ground in order to keep global temperature rise under 2 degrees C. This stranded, unburnable fossil fuel is part of the carbon liability of oil and gas companies, and has not been adequately recognized and accounted for by financial analysts. Because the Toronto Stock Exchange is highly weighted towards the fossil fuel sector (with 405 oil and gas companies and a total market capitalization of over \$379 billion on the TSX in 2011), the authors argue that this failure to account for these climate risks means that large amounts of invested capital are vulnerable – including the pension assets of working Canadians. They also point out the intergenerational inequity implied in ignoring the interests of younger workers in pension fund management. They propose a series of measures to deflate the carbon bubble and green Canada’s investment markets as part of an orderly transition to a clean energy economy.

Unburnable Carbon, a report by the Carbon Tracker Initiative, discusses the implications of these stranded carbon assets for world and U.K. financial markets. A 2013 update will be available in late April.

Meanwhile, the U.S. campaign for divestment of fossil fuel investments, spearheaded by Bill McKibben and [350.org](#), is gathering momentum in Canada. See the website of <http://gofossilfree.ca/> to follow the campaign to lobby universities to divest themselves of any investments related to fossil fuel companies.

LINKS

Canada’s Carbon Liabilities: The Implications of Stranded Fossil Fuel Assets for Financial Markets and Pension Funds is available at: <http://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/National%20Office/2013/03/Canadas%20Carbon%20Liabilities.pdf>

Unburnable Carbon (2012, and forthcoming 2013 update) is available at the Carbon Tracker website at: <http://www.carbontracker.org/carbonbubble>

“Global warming’s terrifying new math” by Bill McKibben in *Rolling Stone*, July 2012 at: <http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/global-warnings-terrifying-new-math-20120719>

Resist, Reclaim, Restructure: The Trade Union Struggle for Energy Democracy

Posted on **April 23, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

"The Trade Unions for Energy Democracy is a global, multi-sector initiative to advance democratic direction and control of energy in a way that promotes solutions to the climate crisis, energy poverty, the degradation of both land and people, and the repression of workers' rights and protections." Now available on their website: *Resist, Reclaim, Restructure: The Trade Union Struggle for Energy Democracy*, a framing discussion document written for the 3-day global trade union roundtable which launched the initiative in October 2012, convened by the Cornell Global Labor Institute and the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation of New York City. Representatives from several Canadian public sector unions and the Canadian Labour Congress participated. "The Trade Unions for Energy Democracy initiative focuses on three main concerns; the recognition that there is a global energy emergency; the needed transition to renewable energy is not happening, and the need for energy democracy led by public sector unions.

LINKS

Resist, Reclaim, Restructure: The Trade Union Struggle for Energy Democracy.

(October 2012) Roundtable discussion document, by Sean Sweeney, is available at: <http://energyemergencyenergytransition.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/Resist-Reclaim-Restructure.pdf>

Trade Unions for Energy Democracy website, with news and further documents at: <http://energydemocracyinitiative.org/about-initiative/>

Statements from many international union federations are at: <http://energydemocracyinitiative.org/category/resources/trade-union-statements/>

Posted in [United States](#) | Tagged [Canadian Labour Congress](#), [Cornell Global Labor Institute](#), [Labour and Greens](#), [labour union policies](#), [Protests & Rallies](#), [Rosa Luxembourg Foundation](#), [Trade Unions for Energy Democracy](#) | [Leave a reply](#)

New Gender Analysis of Green Jobs in the U.S. Shows Women Under-Represented

Posted on **April 23, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

On April 2, the Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR) in Washington D.C. published the first analysis of gender distribution of green jobs in America. The report concludes that women are underrepresented in the green economy (holding only 29.5% of green jobs, vs. a 48% participation rate in the general labour force). There are large variations across the country: ranging from a 4% gap in Washington, D.C. to a 24% gap in Maine. The pattern in the overall economy is expected to continue since the fastest-growing green jobs are those traditionally held by men, such as HVAC technicians and electricians. The good news is that the gender wage gap is lower in the green economy than in the overall economy, (18% versus 22% in 2010). The lead author of this study is Ariane Hegewisch; the President of the IWPR is Heidi Hartmann. The report used data from the U.S. Department of Labor Green Goods and Services Survey and the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey 2008-2010, as well as the Clean Economy database maintained at the Brookings Institute. The report is the first in a series that will be funded by a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation's Sustainable Employment in a Green US Economy (SEGUE) Program. Future reports will address good practices in workforce development for women in the green economy.

LINKS

Quality Employment for Women in the Green Economy: Industry, Occupation, and State-by-State Job Estimates, is available from a link at:<http://www.iwpr.org/publications/pubs/quality-employment-for-women-in-the-green-economy-industry-occupation-and-state-by-state-job-estimates>

True Sustainability Requires Gender Equality, by Adam James

at:<http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/green/news/2013/03/08/55750/true-sustainability-requires-gender-equality/>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Gender, Gender Differences, Gender Equality, Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR), Wage gap** | [Leave a reply](#)

Release of 2011 U.S. Green Jobs Statistics Shows Growth; Future Surveys Cancelled

Posted on **April 23, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

The Bureau of Labor Statistics published the results of the latest Green Goods and Services Survey on March 19, 2013, estimating that there were 3.4 million Green Goods and Services (GGS) jobs in the U.S. in 2011, with a growth rate of 2.6% from 2010 to 2011. The leading source of private sector green job growth from 2010 to 2011 came in the construction sector, with more than 100,000 jobs. California, New York, Texas, Pennsylvania, and Ohio ranked highest in the number of GGS jobs.

See the 2011 survey results, supplemental tables, and the revised 2010 data archived at:<http://www.bls.gov/ggs/news.htm>. At the same time, the Bureau announced that one of the means by which it will meet its budget cut of more than \$30 million, is to eliminate all the products associated with its "Measuring Green Jobs" program, including the surveys and the career information publications.

See the Sequestration announcement at:http://www.bls.gov/bls/sequester_info.htm.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Bureau of Labor Statistics, Construction Industry, Green Goods and Services (GGS), Green Growth, Green Job Creation** | [Leave a reply](#)

Clean Tech Job Growth in California Four Times Greater Than the Overall Job Growth Rate

Posted on **April 23, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

The *2013 California Green Innovation Index*, the 5th edition of this index, was released on March 28 by the non-profit group, Next10. It reports that California's per capita emissions have dropped 17% since 1990, and 2% between 2009 and 2010 alone. Between 2010 and 2011, clean tech patent registrations in California increased by 26% (more than double the rate of the U.S. as a whole, and more than 5 times the global rate). In the special feature section on Jobs in the Core Clean Economy, the report shows that job creation was four times greater in the clean economy than in the economy as a whole from 2001 to 2011. Regional data are provided.

LINK

2013 California Green Innovation Index is available at: <http://greeninnovationindex.org/content/index-page>

Worldwide Case Studies of Decent Green Jobs Show the Need for Strong Policy Support

Posted on **April 23, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

A special issue of the *International Journal of Labor Research*, dated 2012 but just released in 2013, provides case studies of green jobs in Korea, South Africa, the EU, and a chapter on “Working Conditions in ‘Green Jobs’: Women in the Renewable Energy Sector”, by researchers from the European WiRES project. From the Journal’s Forward: “While these results remain very partial, this should be seen as an important reminder that “green” employment is not decent by definition and that in any other sector, green jobs require careful stewardship from public authorities to ensure that workers are able to exercise their rights. ...Indeed, government subsidies and procurement to encourage the shift to a greener environment should be attached to strict clauses protecting the rights to freedom of association and to bargain collectively and ensuring decent minimum conditions for workers.”

LINK

Are Green Jobs Decent? In the *International Journal of Labor Research* (2012) v. 4 #2, published by the International Labor Organization at: http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/—ed_dialogue/—actrav/documents/publication/wcms_207887.pdf

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Bargaining Rights, EU, European Commission, European WiRES, International Journal of Labour Research, Labour Rights, Occupational Health and Safety, Women in Renewable Energy** | [Leave a reply](#)

How can Renewable Energy Meet Future Needs in Canada?

Posted on **April 23, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

A survey released in March by the David Suzuki Foundation and the Trottier Energy Futures Project states that Canada’s supplies of solar, wind, hydroelectric and biomass energy are much larger than the current or forecast demand for fuel and electricity. It concludes that Canada can achieve an 80 % reduction in energy-related GHG emissions by 2050 by creating an integrated energy system which includes: a smart electricity grid which uses information technologies “to balance a wider range of supply sources, energy storage, interprovincial transfers of electricity and a wide variety of energy management and efficiency tools.” Still, the report sees “up to half of Canada’s energy demand would still be met by liquid fuels”. *An Inventory of Low-Carbon Energy for Canada*, released on March 27 at: <http://www.davidsuzuki.org/media/news/2013/03/renewable-energy-sources-can-drive-canadas-low-carbon-future-trottier-energy-fut/> is the second research report released by the Trottier Energy Futures Project.

IN THE U.S.

A new report from the Union of Concerned Scientists predicts that current renewable energy technologies-wind, solar, geothermal, biomass, and hydropower-could supply 80% of U.S. electricity in 2050, reliably and across the entire country. Such a conversion would require new power transmission lines, new technologies to store renewable energy and to create a “smart” grid, and economic policies to encourage energy efficiency and lower market barriers to renewable technologies. Read *Ramping up Renewables: Energy you can Count on at*:

http://www.ucsusa.org/assets/documents/clean_energy/Ramping-Up-Renewables-Energy-You-Can-Count-On.pdf

IN NEW YORK STATE

A new study by Mark Jacobson and Mark Delucchi, published in the journal *Energy Policy*, proposes that New York State's power needs could be met by solar, wind power, hydro and geothermal sources as early as 2030. See "Examining the Feasibility of Converting New York State's All-Purpose Energy Infrastructure to One Using Wind, Water, and Sunlight" in *Energy Policy* 2013 v. 57, at: <http://www.stanford.edu/group/efmh/jacobson/Articles/I/NewYorkWWSEnPolicy.pdf>

IN EUROPE

A newly released report from the World Future Council documents an October 2012 workshop in Denmark where representatives from around the world, including Canada, discussed strategies for implementing renewable energy, and shared successful examples from around Europe. *From Vision to Action: A Workshop Report on 100% Renewable Energies in Europe* is available at: http://www.worldfuturecouncil.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Climate_and_Energy/From_Vision_to_Action_Policy_Recommendations_for_100__RE_in_European_Regions.pdf

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Canadian Emissions, Canadian Renewable Energy Sector, David Suzuki Foundation, energy efficiency, Renewables, Trottier Energy Futures Institute** | [Leave a reply](#)

The IMF Decries the Distortions of Fossil Fuel Subsidies; Working at a Cross-Purpose with Climate Compatible Investment

Posted on **April 23, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

A new report from the International Monetary Fund enumerates the economic problems caused by fossil fuel subsidies, including aggravating fiscal imbalances; crowding out priority public spending and private investment; encouraging excessive energy consumption; artificially promoting capital-intensive industries (thus discouraging employment creation); reducing incentives for investment in renewable energy; and accelerating the depletion of natural resources. The report continues, "As most subsidy benefits are captured by higher-income households, energy subsidies have important distributive consequences that are often not fully understood."

Importantly, the paper includes what it calls "the most comprehensive estimates of energy subsidies available covering petroleum products, electricity, natural gas, and coal." The report estimates the post-tax subsidies for energy around the world at \$1.9 trillion in 2011, with the top three subsidizers, in absolute terms: the United States (\$502 billion), China (\$279 billion), and Russia (\$116 billion).

Read *Energy Subsidy Reform: Lessons and Implications* at: <http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2013/012813.pdf>.

A related paper by the Overseas Development Institute throws light on the current dilemma of international carbon development goals and fossil fuel subsidies. For examples, it points out that five countries (China, Egypt, India, Indonesia and Mexico), appear in both the list of top 12 recipients of climate finance and the list of top 12 providers of fossil-fuel subsidies to domestic consumers. See *At Cross-Purposes: Subsidies and Climate Compatible Investment* at: <http://www.odi.org.uk/publications/7343-subsidies-climate-compatible-investment-fossil-fuel-private-finance>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Fossil Fuel Subsidies, International Monetary Fund (IMF), Overseas Development Institute** | [Leave a reply](#)

Fraser Institute Analysis Pans Ontario's Green Energy Act

Posted on **April 23, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

A Report released on April 11 by Canada's Fraser Institute analyses Ontario's Green Energy Act and finds no redeeming features. The report concludes that "Overall, GEA-related energy cost increases will yield a net loss of investment and employment in Ontario, in pursuit of environmental benefits that could have been obtained at a fraction of the cost." The report was released by the Fraser Institute, whose defining goal is "a free and prosperous world through choice, markets and responsibility". Read *Environmental and Economic Consequences of Ontario's Green Energy Act* at: <http://www.fraserinstitute.org/uploadedFiles/fraser-ca/Content/research-news/research/publications/environmental-and-economic-consequences-ontarios-green-energy-act.pdf>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Fraser Institute, Ontario Green Energy Act** | [Leave a reply](#)

Changes in Oil and Gas Regulations for Canada and Alberta

Posted on **April 23, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

While Canada waits for the new oil and gas regulations promised for Spring 2013 by Environment Minister Kent, the Pembina Institute has released its own recommendations for what it calls this "make-or-break moment for Canada's climate credibility". Author Claire Demerse recommends: the oil and gas industry reduce emissions intensity by 42 % ; the technology fund levy for those who don't meet the emissions reduction target should increase to at least \$100 per tonne by 2020; the current unlimited access to offset credits for companies should end.

Read *Getting on Track to 2020: Recommendations for Greenhouse Gas Regulations in Canada's Oil and Gas Sector* from links at: <http://www.pembina.org/pub/2427> .

In Alberta, discussion is underway for reform of the provincial carbon pricing system, with the media reporting proposals of a 40% target to improve emissions intensity, and a compensating payment of \$40 per tonne if that is not achieved.

Read "Carbon levy talks in early stages, Alberta environment minister confirms" in the *Edmonton Journal*, April 4, 2013 at: <http://www.edmontonjournal.com/technology/Alberta+reviewing+climate+change+policy+McQueen+confirms/8195862/story.html>, and See *What you need to know about Alberta's 40/40 carbon pricing proposal*, by Simon Dyer (April 5, 2013) at the Pembina website: <http://www.pembina.org/blog/707>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Canadian Emissions, Carbon Pricing, Oil and Gas Regulations, Pembina Institute** | [Leave a reply](#)

B.C. Provincial Election May 14

Posted on **April 23, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

Environmental issues will be a high priority for B.C. voters in the election, called for May 14. Follow the issues at The Tyee at: <http://thetyee.ca/>; BetterFutures B.C. at: <http://betterfuturebc.ca/nextstep>; the Pembina Institute at: <http://www.pembina.org/media-releases>; Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives B.C. Office at: <http://www.policyalternatives.ca/offices/bc/news-updates>.

B.C. Auditor General is Highly Critical of the Pacific Carbon Trust

Posted on **April 23, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

Public release of a report from the Office of the B.C. Auditor General has been indefinitely delayed by the provincial government, but Ben Parfitt of the B.C. office of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives provides a summary of the report, and explanation. According to Parfitt, the Auditor General examined two major purchases of carbon offsets sold in 2010, (which together accounted for 70% of the 2010 offsets): the purchase of the Darkwoods private forestlands by the Nature Conservancy of Canada, and a project that reduced flaring of natural gas at wells operated by Encana. The Auditor General's report found evidence that both the Nature Conservancy and Encana overstated the climatic benefits of their carbon offset projects by presenting "flawed" baseline information; that the Pacific Carbon Trust (PCT) overpaid for the offsets, and finally, that the PCT proceeded with the purchases against the advice of independent contractors. Read "The campaign to discredit BC Auditor General's report on carbon neutrality" by Ben Parfitt, (March 27, 2013) at the CCPA Climate Justice website at: <http://www.policyalternatives.ca/publications/commentary/campaign-discredit-auditor-generals-report-carbon-neutrality>, and a related post from July, 2011 which provides more details at: <http://www.policyalternatives.ca/publications/commentary/darkwoods-murky-world-carbon-credits-and-%E2%80%9Ccarbon-neutral%E2%80%9D-bc-government>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | [Leave a reply](#)

Forecasts of B.C. LNG Revenues are Disputed as "Cloudy"

Posted on **April 23, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

A week after Premier Clark released optimistic projections for the province's liquefied natural gas strategy in February, the Energy ministry released two independent consultant's reports on the issue. In an article in *The Tyee*, Geoff Dembicki unravels the calculations behind the government's projected revenues, the consultants' numbers, and the current industry opinion. He concludes that the projections are built on unrealistic assumptions, and "industry opinion also suggests B.C. is unlikely to realize tax revenues of \$260 billion, or even the lower Liberal estimate of \$130 billion." Read "Clark's Gas Export Optimism Floats on Cloudy Numbers" by Geoff Dembicki in *The Tyee* (April 10, 2013) at: <http://thetyee.ca/News/2013/04/10/LNG-Revenues-Cloudy/>.

The two consultant's reports are at: <http://www.llbc.leg.bc.ca/public/pubdocs/bcdocs2013/528495/grant%20thornton%20-%20lng%20revenue.pdf> and <http://www.empr.gov.bc.ca/OG/Documents/Ernst%20and%20Young%20-%20LNG%20Revenue.pdf>.

Another article by Dembicki, on April 4, provides more background and criticism of the LNG strategy. By changing the rules to allow natural gas to power the energy-intensive processing stages of LNG, the government has undercut its own "clean energy" boast and reduced the potential job benefits for First Nations clean energy enterprises. Read "Changes to LNG Plan Pull Plug on Jobs Say First Nations" in *The Tyee* (April 4, 2013) at: <http://thetyee.ca/News/2013/04/04/Changes-to-LNG-Plan/>, and a supporting 2012 blog by Matt Horne of the Pembina Institute at: <http://www.pembina.org/blog/611>.

Posted in **Energy Policy, Environmental Policy** | Tagged **Aboriginal Peoples, British Columbia, Christy Clark, First Nations, LNG** | [Leave a reply](#)

Canadian Pipelines: Funding New Eastern Markets for Western Bitumen Sparks Widespread Opposition

Posted on **April 23, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

The Energy East pipeline project proposal by TransCanada Pipeline is being promoted by Premier Redford of Alberta and New Brunswick's David Alward. The proposal involves the inversion of 3,000 kilometres of existing pipeline from natural gas to crude oil, as well as the construction of 1,400 kilometres of new pipeline from Quebec to the Irving refinery in Saint John, New Brunswick. The project could carry as much as 850,000 barrels of crude oil per day. New Brunswick's recent budget highlighted it as part of the province's "Brighter Future".

Echoing the recent vocabulary of Alberta Premier Redford, N.B. Premier David Alward has said "This project is potentially as important to Canada's economic future as the railway was to its past. If we proceed, this project will strengthen our national and provincial economies and create jobs and economic growth today and for generations to come."

Read *Premier encouraged by important step in West-East pipeline* (April 2) at CBC New Brunswick website at: http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/news/news_release.2013.04.0274.html; New Brunswick budget document, *Managing Smarter for a Brighter Future* (March 26, 2013) at: <http://www.documentcloud.org/documents/627691-budget-2013-14-final-e.html#document/p2>, and "TransCanada's West-East oil pipeline gains momentum" in the *Globe and Mail*, (April 2, 2013) at: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/industry-news/energy-and-resources/transcanadas-west-east-oil-pipeline-gains-momentum/article10663042/>.

A related protest is scheduled for Montreal on April 21: Marche pour la Terre/ Walk for the Earth is the result of a collaboration between AQLPA, the David Suzuki Foundation, Earth Day Quebec, ENVironnement JEUnesse, Equiterre, Greenpeace and Nature Quebec, along with the Idle No More movement. They will be protesting any expansion of the tar sands and the presence of pipelines in Quebec, along with many other demands for improved environmental policies and protections. See the website: in French at: <http://marchepourlaterre.org/> and in English at: <http://marchepourlaterre.org/en/>.

Another East-West pipeline, Enbridge Line 9, has drawn criticism from environmentalists since November 2012, when Enbridge applied to the National Energy Board to reverse the flow of oil and boost the line's capacity from 240,000 barrels per day to 300,000. Line 9 is a pipeline built in the 1970's which currently runs between Montreal and Westover, Ontario, through highly populated areas and across water sources, including the three rivers of the Greater Toronto area. Because of the danger of a disastrous oil spill, especially given Enbridge's historic spill in Kalamazoo, Michigan in 2010 and the toxicity of diluted bitumen that it could carry, the "Stop Line 9" movement has drawn large protests in communities across the proposed route.

On March 21, the following groups from Quebec and Ontario were allowed to submit their "List of Issues" to the NEB : Équiterre, Environmental Defence, Climate Justice Montreal, Sierra Club of Canada, Greenpeace Canada, and Association québécoise de lutte contre la pollution Atmosphérique. The U.S. Environmental Resources Defense Council is also involved because of the potential for oil to travel from Montreal across New England, via the existing connection with the Portland-Montreal pipeline.

Read the *Primer on the West-East Pipeline* (April 8, 2013) by Maryam Adrangi at the Council of Canadians website at: <http://canadians.org/blog/?p=20308>; *Enbridge's Oil Sands Pipeline Plan: All pain and no gain for Ontario* at the Environmental Defence website at: <http://environmentaldefence.ca/enbridgestarsandspipelineplan>; Natural Resources Defense Council press release (March 26, 2013) at: http://equiterre.org/sites/fichiers/nrdcrelease_-_us_group_submittal_to_neb_line_9_reversal_project_review-nrdc-march_26-final-english.pdf, and visit the Stop Line 9 Toronto website at: <http://www.stopline9-toronto.ca/> for links to major resources and other organized groups at: <http://www.stopline9-toronto.ca/line9resources.php>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Cimate Justice Montreal, Enbridge, Energy East pipeline, Equiterre, Greenpeace Canada, Line 9, Montreal Refineries, National Energy Board, Natural Resources Defence Council, NEB, Protests & Rallies, Saint John Irving Refinery, Sierra Club of Canada, TransCanada Corporation** | [Leave a reply](#)

Employment Estimates for Fracking Shale Gas in Quebec

Posted on **April 23, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

A new study by the Canadian Energy Research Institute in Calgary provides an overview of shale gas locations and geology across Canada, describes the fracking process, and focuses on the current state of the Utica Shale Gas field in Quebec, using economic analysis to estimate GDP, employment, tax and royalty revenue. The report estimates Canadian employment gains in direct, indirect and induced job to range from 293,000 in the base case and 880,000 person-years in the maximum production case. Approximately 69% of jobs are estimated to occur in Québec, 23% in Alberta, and the remaining 8% across Canada. The Quebec government has put a moratorium on shale gas development to allow for public consultation about oil and gas regulations; the government is currently awaiting the completion of a Strategic Environmental Assessment, expected in late 2013.

LINK *Potential Economic Impacts of Developing Quebec's Shale Gas*, (March 2013) is available at the Canadian Energy Research Institute website at:http://www.ceri.ca/images/stories/2013-03-08_CERI_Study_132_-_Quebec_Shale.pdf

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Canadian Energy Research Institute, Economic Impacts of Fracking, Fracking, Job Creation, Quebec, Shale gas** | [Leave a reply](#)

U.S. Industry and Environmental Groups Join to Create the Center for Sustainable Shale Development

Posted on **April 23, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

In late March, 2013, the following groups announced their cooperation to create the Center for Sustainable Shale Development (CSSD): Chevron; Clean Air Task Force; CONSOL Energy; Environmental Defense Fund; EQT Corporation; Group Against Smog and Pollution (GASP); Heinz Endowments; Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future; Pennsylvania Environmental Council; Shell; and the William Penn Foundation.

The CCSD website at: <http://037186e.netsolhost.com/site/> describes the group as: "an unprecedented collaboration built on constructive engagement among environmental organizations, philanthropic foundations and energy companies from across the Appalachian Basin...The result of this unique collaboration: the development of rigorous performance standards for sustainable shale development and a commitment to continuous improvement to ensure safe and environmentally responsible development of our abundant shale resources."

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Appalachian Basin, Center for Sustainable Shale Development, Environmental Defense Fund (U.S.), Environmental Groups, Shale gas** | [Leave a reply](#)

Emissions Standards Could Drive Job Creation in European New Vehicle Technology

Posted on **April 23, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

A new report by consulting firm Cambridge Econometrics and Ricardo-AEA forecasts that 350,000-450,000 new jobs will be created if stricter carbon dioxide emissions standards for new cars and vans are implemented across Europe. Details of new regulations and targets are being debated, with German manufacturers at odds with those in France and Italy; Germans believe they would be at a disadvantage because of the bigger cars they produce. See *An Economic Assessment of Low-carbon Vehicles* at: <http://www.ricardo-aea.com/cms/assets/MediaRelease/Economic-Assessment-Vehicles-FINAL2.pdf>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Green Job Creation, Vehicle emission standards** | [Leave a reply](#)

Extreme Climate Events Threaten Australian Agriculture, Cities

Posted on **April 23, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

A report by Australia's Climate Commission, released in March 2013, states that "There is little doubt that over the next few decades changes in extreme events will increase the risks of adverse consequences to human health, agriculture, infrastructure and the environment", with key food-growing regions across the southeast and the southwest, and cities in the southeast especially at risk. The report calls for deep, immediate cuts to carbon emissions as the only way to reverse the trend. The Climate Commission is an independent advisory group established by the Australian government in 2011 to provide Australians with an independent and reliable source of information about climate change. Read *The Critical Decade: Extreme Weather Report* at: <http://climatecommission.gov.au/report/extreme-weather/>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Agriculture, Australia, Australian Climate Commission, Drought, Extreme Weather Events, Food and Agriculture** | [Leave a reply](#)

Canada Caught in a "Staples Trap" and a "Carbon Trap" by Current Pace of Oil Development

Posted on **March 20, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

The authors of a new report released jointly by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives and the Polaris Institute reject the polarizing framework of "economic interests vs. environmental interests", or "East vs. West", and call for a public debate of the social, economic and environmental complexities of Canada's current "bitumen path". They argue that Canada's current "gold rush" approach is creating a double threat to the country: a "staples trap," which is making our economy less diversified, productive and resilient, and a "carbon trap," which will make the inevitable day of reckoning for climate adaptation much more expensive and difficult. The report discusses employment impacts, income distribution, international trade, currency effects, and "Dutch Disease" and the Canadian manufacturing sector. An alternate policy approach is recommended, which uses tighter regulation to slow the pace of bitumen extraction and to boost Canadian content in the upstream and downstream supply chains. At the same time, Canada's economy needs to encourage more balanced, innovative and low-carbon industries.

LINK

The Bitumen Cliff: Lessons and Challenges of Bitumen Mega-Developments for Canada's Economy in an Age of Climate Change by Tony Clarke, Jim Stanford, Diana Gibson, and Brendan Haley is available at: <http://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/National%20Office/2013/02/Bitumen%20Cliff.pdf>

U.S. State Department Releases New Jobs Estimates for Keystone XL Pipeline

Posted on **March 20, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

The U.S. State Department released the *Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Keystone XL* on Friday March 1, making no recommendations for or against approval of the pipeline project. A 45-day period has commenced to allow for public comments, with a final supplemental environmental impact statement to be released before a government decision, expected no earlier than Summer 2013.

Although mainly assessing environmental impacts, the report includes a socioeconomic section which provides new data: a wider view of impacts (including housing, public services support, fiscal revenues and private property valuations), and more detailed estimates about job creation and earnings impacts. According to the new estimates, 42,100 indirect jobs and 3,900 direct jobs would be created during the one- to two-year construction period, but the ongoing operation of the pipeline would only support 35 permanent and 15 temporary jobs, mostly for inspections, maintenance and repairs.

Natural Resources Minister Joe Oliver summed up the Canadian government position on the Keystone XL pipeline when he traveled to Houston Texas on March 6 to address the Houston oil workers. He stated: "The oil sands generate jobs and economic prosperity both in Canada and in the United States. Currently, oil sands production supports 63,000 American jobs per year. With expansion through Keystone and other projects, the oil sands will support tens of thousands more on both sides of the border."

LINKS

Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Keystone XL is available in a series of PDF files at: <http://keystonepipeline-xl.state.gov/draftseis/index.htm>

Detailed Socioeconomic estimates, including employment and earnings, are published in Section 3.10 at: <http://keystonepipeline-xl.state.gov/documents/organization/205641.pdf> and Section 4.10 at: <http://keystonepipeline-xl.state.gov/documents/organization/205612.pdf>

All documents related to the project are posted on a dedicated State Department website at: <http://www.keystonepipeline-xl.state.gov/>

Reactions to the statement from:

TransCanada Pipeline <http://www.transcanada.com/6209.html>;

National Resources Defence Council (U.S.) at: http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/sclefkowitz/keystone_xl_tar_sands_pipeline_7.html;

Indigenous Environmental Network at: <http://www.ienearth.org/ien-responds-to-draft-keystone-xl-supplemental-eis/>;

Sierra Club of Canada <http://www.sierraclub.ca/en/climate-change/media/release/statement-keystone-xl-pipeline-report>;

Pembina Institute <http://www.pembina.org/blog/694>

Liquified Natural Gas: B.C. Announces Royalty Credits and Grants to First Nations to Stimulate the Industry

Posted on **March 20, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

The Government of British Columbia released a strategy for LNG development in February 2012, and has now released a one year update. The government now predicts that “LNG development is expected to create on average 39,000 new full time jobs during a nine-year construction period. There could be as many as 75,000 new, annual full-time jobs once all LNG plants are in full operation.”

On February 25 at a conference called *Fuelling the Future: Global opportunities for LNG in BC*, Premier Christy Clark [announced](#) that British Columbia will provide up to \$120 million in royalty credits to the industry in 2013, through the existing Infrastructure Royalty Credit Program (IRCP). The program, established in 2004, allows resource companies to recover up to 50 % of the cost of roads and pipelines through credits that reduce royalties payable to government.

At the same conference, the Premier [announced that the government will provide \\$32 million](#) to the First Nations Limited Partnership (comprised of 15 northern First Nations) to facilitate their non-equity investment in the proposed Pacific Trails Pipeline project , a 463-kilometre pipeline planned to run from Summit Lake, north of Prince George, to the proposed Kitimat LNG facility on the coast.

LINKS

British Columbia's Liquified Natural Gas Strategy: One Year Update is

at:http://engage.gov.bc.ca/Inginbc/files/2013/02/LNGreport_update2013_web.pdf, with job forecasts summarized in a news release

at:<http://engage.gov.bc.ca/Inginbc/files/2013/02/News-Release-Major-progress-job-creation-evident-in-LNG-update.pdf>

Liquified Natural Gas: A Strategy for British Columbia's Newest Industry, published in Feb. 2012, is at:

http://www.gov.bc.ca/ener/popt/down/liquefied_natural_gas_strategy.pdf

See the new B.C. government website at: <http://engage.gov.bc.ca/Inginbc/> for all LNG developments.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Aboriginal employment, Aboriginal Energy Development, British Columbia, Christy Clark, First Nations, First Nations Limited Partnership, Infrastructure, Infrastructure Investment, Infrastructure Royalty Credit Program (IRCP), Liquified Natural Gas, LNG, LNG Jobs, Pacific Trails Pipeline Project** | [Leave a reply](#)

Models Predict the Effect of Heat Stress on Workers

Posted on **March 20, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

A scientific article by researchers at the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration uses historical climate data from 1860 and modeling to 2200 to forecast “wet-bulb temperatures” – a heat stress indicator that takes humidity into account. They estimate that if carbon dioxide levels keep rising over the next two centuries, labour capacity during the hottest months will fall from a current level of approximately 90% to 80% by 2050, 63% by 2100 and 39% by 2200, in the worst case scenario. Although the worst effects would be felt in tropical and mid-latitudes, the authors predict that “heat stress in Washington D.C. becomes higher than present-day New Orleans, and New Orleans exceeds present-day Bahrain.”

LINKS

"Reductions in Labour Capacity From Heat Stress Under Climate Warming", by John P. Dunne, Ronald J. Stouffer & Jasmin G. John in *Nature Climate Change online*, February 23, 2013 (abstract free; full article for a fee)
at:<http://www.nature.com/nclimate/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nclimate1827.html>

A layman's summary appears in *Surprising Science*, published by the Smithsonian Institute,
at:<http://blogs.smithsonianmag.com/science/2013/02/climate-change-is-reducing-our-ability-to-get-work-done/>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Heat Stress, Heat Stress Indicators, Modelling, Occupational Health and Safety** | [Leave a reply](#)

Overviews of Green Jobs, Skills, and Social Dialogue in Europe and South Africa

Posted on **March 20, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

Two new reports were released by SustainLabour in February. The first, *Green Jobs and Related Policy Frameworks: an Overview of the European Union* provides detailed employment data by sector, subsectors, and countries across Europe -estimating that there are about 7,360,000 jobs in the 27 EU countries in green sectors (renewable energies, energy efficiency, retrofitting, organic agriculture, waste management and green transportation.) The report discusses the quality of green jobs, skills development, and gender differences in green job creation. It describes the social dialogue between employer associations and trade unions with European and national examples, and discusses the current major policy instruments, including the Lisbon Strategy, Europe 2020, the European Economic Recovery Plan and national Economic strategies, and Roadmaps 2050 for a Resource Efficient Europe. An extensive bibliography is included.

A South African overview report analysing national policies was posted to the Sustainlabour website but has been removed, and replaced by briefer presentations from February meetings in Johannesburg. The meetings and report are part of the "Social Dialogue for Green and Decent Jobs. South Africa-European Dialogue on Just Transition", a collaboration of Sustainlabour with COSATU (South African Trade Union Congress) and the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) and funded by the European Union. In South Africa, with an unemployment rate of 25%, the green economy is seen as a major source of job creation; the New Growth Path policy statement of 2011 included a Green Economy Accord, signed by government, business and trade unions and other civil society organizations.

LINKS

Green Jobs and Related Policy Frameworks: an Overview of the European Union is available at:
<http://www.sustainlabour.org/documentos/Green%20and%20decent%20jobs-%20An%20Overview%20from%20Europe.pdf>

Sustainlabour European Union-South Africa Dialogue on Green Jobs and Just Dialogue on Green Jobs and Just Transition Presentation from 20 February 2013 (comparative summary) is available at: <http://www.sustainlabour.org/documentos/Ana%20Sanchez-%20EU-SA%20green%20jobs%20Nairobi.pdf>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Employer Associations, Europe 2020, European Economic Recovery Plan, Gender, Gender Differences, Green Job Creation, Green Jobs, Job Quality, Just Transition, Lisbon Strategy, Roadmaps 2050, South Africa, Sustainlabour, Trade Unions** | [Leave a reply](#)

Federal Environmental Policy Review and Funding for Clean Tech

Posted on **March 20, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

On February 15, Canada's Environment Minister released the *2012 Progress Report on the Federal Sustainable Development Strategy (FSDS)*, along with the 2013-16 draft *Strategy*, which forms the basis of public consultation, open until June 14, 2013. Also on Feb. 15th, the government announced \$61.8 million of funding to support 23 clean technology projects across Canada, in areas such as agriculture, biofuels, transportation, mining and electric power generation, with funding provided through Sustainable Development Technology Canada's (SDTC) SD Tech Fund™. Individual projects are described in the [Backgrounder](#).

LINKS

2012 Progress Report on the Federal Sustainable Development Strategy (FSDS) is available at: <http://www.ec.gc.ca/Publications/default.asp?lang=En&xml=CC4A6872-E0BE-4C90-A4AA-DD11320F10BF>

The 2013-16 Draft Federal Sustainable Development Strategy is available at: <http://www.ec.gc.ca/dd-sd/default.asp?lang=En&n=C2844D2D-1> or the [Consulting with Canadians website](#); comments accepted by June 14, 2013.

Backgrounder (with details of individual projects) at: http://www.sdtc.ca/index.php?mact=News,cntnt01,detail,0&cntnt01articleid=317&cntnt01origid=15&cntnt01detailtemplate=news-details&cntnt01returnid=143&hl=en_CA

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Clean Technology**, **Federal Sustainable Development Strategy**, **Sustainable Development Technology Canada (SDTC)** | [Leave a reply](#)

Fragmentation the Defining Trend in Canada's Carbon Policy

Posted on **March 20, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

The International Institute for Sustainable Development has published a policy brief which analyses Canada's carbon policy developments in 2012 and identifies key trends to watch for in 2013. The authors note that "accommodating the historical patchwork of provincial policy is pushing the country down a path of further fragmentation, increasing the risk of high-cost compliance and decreasing the likelihood of meeting Canada's aspirational GHG targets." And further, "In 2012 the federal government set an important precedent The Canada-Nova Scotia Equivalency Agreement has therefore established a pattern of federal policy deferral that is expected to become entrenched in 2013. The splitting of policy responsibility, with architecture provincially tailored but GHG performance standards nationally set, will underscore policy development in 2013." Among the recommendations for 2013: "Mechanisms for coordination of policy, whether through linkage, equivalency agreements or even common LCDR markets, should be nurtured and supported. Quebec's experiment with linking permit trade bi-laterally with California is an important precedent to watch".

Canadian Carbon Policy Year in Review and Emerging Trends, 2012 is available at: http://www.iisd.org/pdf/2012/regulating_carbon_canadian_policy.pdf

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **California**, **Canadian Emissions**, **Cap and Trade**, **Emissions Trading**, **International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)**, **Policy Fragmentation**, **Quebec** | [Leave a reply](#)

Ontario Consultation Period Re a Cap and Trade Policy

Posted on **March 20, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

The Ontario Ministry of the Environment released *Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions in Ontario: A Discussion Paper* at the end of January, with a public comment period open till April 21, 2013. The discussion paper states that it is not considering a carbon tax, but rather a cap-and-trade system. According to an article by lawyers at Osler Hoskin and Harcourt LLP, "Ontario intends to seek an equivalency arrangement with the Federal Government so as to render federal regulations inapplicable as long as equivalent Ontario regulations achieve identical (or better) outcomes."

LINKS

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions in Ontario: A Discussion Paper

is available at:

http://www.downloads.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/env_reg/er/documents/2013/011-7940.pdf

Ontario Ministry of Environment Climate Change website at:

http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/environment/en/category/climate_change/STDPROD_078897.html

and also provides links to earlier policy documents, including the November 2012 Climate Change

Progress Report. "Change is in the Air: Ontario Closer to a Cap-and-Trade System" in *Osler Updates*, February 21, 2013 at: <http://www.osler.com/NewsResources/Details.aspx?id=5497>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Cap and Trade, Ontario Centre for Engineering and Public Policy** | [Leave a reply](#)

Carbon Pricing Compared: Alberta, B.C., California, Australia, and Other Jurisdictions

Posted on **March 20, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

Released by the Pembina Institute on February 25, a useful comparison chart highlights carbon pricing approaches in Alberta, British Columbia, California, Australia, Norway and the European Union. Details about each jurisdiction include the 2013 carbon price, proportion of GHG's covered by the carbon price; presence of a "hard cap" on emissions; percentage of allowance value collected by government; extent to which offsets may be purchased; anticipated public revenue in 2013; and where carbon revenues are allocated.

LINKS

Carbon Pricing Approaches in Oil and Gas Producing Jurisdictions is available at the Pembina Institute website at: <http://www.pembina.org/pub/2414>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Carbon Pricing, Hard Cap, Pembina Institute** | [Leave a reply](#)

CCPA Alternative Budget Proposes Environmental and Energy Policies

Posted on **March 20, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives provides alternative budget proposals for 2013 which, they estimate, will create 200,000 to 300,000 full time jobs in any given year. Among a full-range of budget items, there are many environment- and energy-related proposals, including targeting research and development for “fostering innovation in energy storage, investment in Sustainable Development Technology Canada, supporting “Green Energy Bonds”, a National Green Homes Strategy for energy efficiency, and securing Arctic and remote communities’ local energy supplies.”

The Alternative Budget calls for a collaborative National Energy Plan which would “slow the pace of bitumen development and use it for domestic needs first; upgrade the resource in this country before it is exported, and develop linkages to upstream and downstream energy related activities.” In the category of Sectoral Development, the report proposes to enhance value-added production and investment in key sectors, including manufacturing, automobiles, aerospace and forestry, with funding to come from cancelling biofuel crop subsidies and the Green Car Levy.

See the *Alternative Budget in Brief* (34 pages) at:

http://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/National%20Office/2013/03/AFB2013_BudgetInBrief.pdf and the full document (172 pages) at:

http://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/National%20Office/2013/03/AFB2013_MainDocument.pdf. For French language versions, go to: <http://www.policyalternatives.ca/abgf2013>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Arctic, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA), Canadian Federal Budget, Canadian National Energy Plan, CCPA Alternative Budget, Green Bonds, Green Energy Bonds, Northern Development, Northern Energy Infrastructure, Sustainable Development Technology Canada (SDTC)** | [Leave a reply](#)

Meaningful GHG Reductions in Toronto Possible with Retrofitting, Low Carbon Transit

Posted on **March 20, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

A new article demonstrates the combination of strategies which might reduce Toronto's per capita GHG emissions by over 70%. “With current policies, especially cleaning of the electricity grid, Toronto's per-capita GHG emissions could be reduced by 30 per cent over the next 20 years. To go further, however, reducing emissions in the order of 70 per cent, would require significant retrofitting of the building stock, utilization of renewable heating and cooling systems, and the complete proliferation of electric, or other low carbon, automobiles.”

See “A Low Carbon Infrastructure Plan for Toronto, Canada”, by Christopher Kennedy (Department of Engineering, University of Toronto) and Loraine Sugar, in *Canadian Journal of Civil Engineering*, volume 40 (1), January 2013 at:

<http://www.nrcresearchpress.com/doi/pdf/10.1139/cjce-2011-0523>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Cities and Climate Change, Electric Vehicles, Heating and Cooling, Low-Carbon Transportation, Per Capita Emissions, Public Transportation, retrofitting, Toronto, Toronto Emissions, Transit, Transportation Investment** | [Leave a reply](#)

...And in Sudbury

Posted on **March 20, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

A 5-year review of the Official Plan of the city of Sudbury in northern Ontario elicited public concerns about climate change. In response, the city planning department tabled a report on February 25 which highlights existing city policies to prepare for climate change, and proposes new initiatives in the areas of growth management, compact mixed use communities, and active transportation and transit policies. Read *Climate Change and the Official Plan*, at: <http://www.greatersudbury.ca/agendas/index.cfm?pg=agenda&action=navigator&lang=en&id=594&itemid=6909>. These are strategies based on the land use policy guidance released in 2012 by the government of Ontario in *Climate Ready: Ontario's Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan for 2011-2014*, and the proposed Provincial Policy Statement (PPS).

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Cities and Climate Change, Ontario Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan, Sudbury** | [Leave a reply](#)

Canadian Physicians Urged to Fight Climate Change

Posted on **March 20, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

An Editorial in the February 13, 2013 issue of the *Canadian Medical Association Journal* urges the Canadian medical establishment and individual physicians to advocate against climate change by signing the December 2012 Doha Declaration on Climate, Health and Wellbeing. It also points out that physicians can act on a professional level to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in their own health care workplaces. See "Physician's Roles on the Front Line of Climate Change" in the *CMAJ* volume 185 #3 at: <http://www.cmaj.ca/content/185/3/195.full.pdf+html?sid=ffff264c-ea63-4daa-9c5d-ae8cdf448787>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Doha Declaration on Climate Health and Wellbeing, Professional Adaptation, Professional Ethics, Public Health, Workplace Emissions Reduction** | [Leave a reply](#)

Canada's Fuel Efficiency Regulations for Heavy Duty Vehicles Finalized

Posted on **March 20, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

On February 25, Canada's Environment Minister announced the final regulations to improve fuel efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, with progressively more stringent standards for 2014 to 2018 model-year heavy-duty vehicles such as full-size pick-ups, semi-trucks, garbage trucks and buses. The regulations were first made public in April 2012, and follow the standards set in the U.S. See: <http://www.ec.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=714D9AAE-1&news=3FC39747-ABF2-470A-A99E-48CA2B881E97> for the press release and links to a timeline, backgrounder, and Regulatory Impact Analysis statement.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Canadian Emissions, Emissions Regulations, energy efficiency, Fuel Efficiency, Heavy Duty Vehicles** | [Leave a reply](#)

U.S. Proposals to Encourage Large-scale Wind Power

Posted on **March 20, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

The costs and benefits of developing a commercial-scale offshore wind industry in the United States are explored in a report released on February 28. Policy recommendations are: accelerate the existing "Smart from the Start" program, enact the proposed *Incentivizing*

Offshore Wind Power Act; establish a carbon tax, and roll back fossil fuel subsidies. *Making the Economic Case for Offshore Wind* was commissioned by the Center for American Progress, the Clean Energy States Alliance, the Sierra Club, and the U.S. Offshore Wind Collaborative, and conducted by the Brattle Group, a consulting firm based in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Read it at: <http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/green/report/2013/02/28/54988/making-the-economic-case-for-offshore-wind/>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Carbon Tax, Economics of Renewables, Fossil Fuel Subsidies, Offshore Wind, Renewable Energy Incentives, Renewables, Wind Farms, Wind Power** | [Leave a reply](#)

How Sustainable are the Supply Chains of Multinational Food Companies?

Posted on **March 20, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

Oxfam America released *Behind the Brands* on February 25th, the most recent update to their GROW campaign, which seeks to increase the transparency and accountability of the “Big 10” food and beverage companies in the world. The report is a scorecard which examines company policies in seven topics critical to sustainable agricultural production: women, small-scale farmers, farm workers, water, land, climate change, and transparency. Nestlé and Unilever scored highest for their policies; Associated British Foods (ABF) and Kellogg ranked at the bottom. The other companies measured were: Coca-Cola, Danone, General Mills, Mars, Mondelez International (previously Kraft Foods), and PepsiCo. Read *Behind the Brands* at: <http://www.oxfamamerica.org/files/behind-the-brands-briefing-paper-final.pdf>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Coca Cola, Danone, Food and Agriculture, Food Retail Industry, Food Wastage, Gender, General Mills, Mars, Mondelez International, Multinational Corporations, Nestle, Oxfam America, PepsiCo, Supply Chain Analysis, Sustainable Agriculture, Sustainable Food System, Unilever, Water Politics** | [Leave a reply](#)

Global Assessment of the Impacts of Biofuels

Posted on **March 20, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

The Food and Agricultural Organization of the U.N. released “a comprehensive study that attempted to integrate into a single report the major issues related to biofuel and related feedstock sustainability.” The report focuses on the environmental issues of first and second-generation biofuels, with a brief consideration of landowner rights and the labour/employment effects. It provides case studies of national sustainability initiatives from nine countries: Canada, Brazil, Indonesia, Malaysia, U.S., U.K., E.U and Germany, and The Netherlands. The final chapter is a critical evaluation of biofuel certification schemes and lessons for sustainability, including impacts on agriculture and forestry. See *Biofuels And The Sustainability Challenge: A Global Assessment of Sustainability Issues, Trends and Policies for Biofuels and Related Feedstock* at: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/i3126e/i3126e.pdf>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Biofuel Certification, Biofuel Labour, Biofuels, UN Food and Agricultural Organization** | [Leave a reply](#)

International Policies to Encourage Building Retrofits and Energy Efficiency

Posted on **February 13, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

A January report from the International Energy Agency attempts to evaluate the effectiveness of various economic policies to improve energy efficiency. A large part of the report consists of detailed case studies of incentive programs for the buildings sectors in France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, and Canada. The Canadian case study highlights the ECO-Energy Retrofit Homes program, which ran from 2007 to 2012. The report concludes that it was “relatively effective” in delivering the expected results, but that “changes will be needed to reach a significant reduction in energy consumption from residential buildings of the order of 50% by 2050”. The program reached approximately 5% of low rise housing in Canada, and achieved an average 24% improvement in energy performance of participating homes. The report also estimates that the program supported the direct creation of 2000 energy advisor jobs, as well as construction installation jobs and jobs in insulation, window and door manufacturing (which it does not attempt to quantify).

LINK:

Mobilising Investment in Energy Efficiency: Economic Instruments for Low-Energy Buildings is available at:
http://www.iea.org/publications/freepublications/publication/Mobilising_investment_EE_FINAL.pdf

Posted in **Uncategorized** | [Leave a reply](#)

Overview of Green Jobs in the U.S.

Posted on **February 13, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

The January 2013 issue of *Monthly Labor Review online* is a special issue dedicated to green jobs. Four articles are included, which explain the methodology of the two BLS surveys, the Green Goods and Services survey and the Green Technologies and Practices survey, and summarize previously published data. The final article, “Workplace safety and health profiles of occupations with green technology jobs” uses BLS workplace safety and health data, which shares the same industry and occupation classification systems used in the green jobs studies, to report on the prevalence and details of workplace injuries and accidents. Unfortunately, the data cannot be separated into green and non-green jobs, so that the results are for all jobs in the industries or occupations that contain green jobs. Also included: a book review of *Good Green Jobs in a Global Economy: Making and Keeping New Industries in the United States*, by David J. Hess, published by MIT Press in 2012.

LINK:

Monthly Labor Review Online, January 2013 issue, published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, is at:
<http://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2013/01/>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | [Leave a reply](#)

Low-Carbon Energy Futures Require Transformative Change

Posted on **February 13, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

In *Low-Carbon Energy Futures: A Review of National Scenarios*, the Trottier Energy Futures Project (TEFP) summarizes common themes in leading greenhouse gas reduction strategies for eight countries: Australia, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The study shows that Canada and other industrialized countries have the technology to achieve an 80 per cent reduction in their energy-related greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Deep GHG emissions reductions will depend on major improvements to energy efficiency; greater reliance on electricity for heating, personal transportation and some industrial processes, coupled with a transition to low- or zero-carbon electricity sources, and a wider use of biofuels. "The transition to a low-carbon energy future will be transformative, requiring a boom in clean-energy technologies and low-energy practices at least as significant as the post-Second World War boom in fossil fuel consumption". The TEFPP is a joint initiative of the David Suzuki Foundation, The Canadian Academy of Engineering and the Trottier Family Foundation.

LINK:

Low-Carbon Energy Futures: A Review of National Scenarios report and news release summary are available from link at: <http://www.davidsuzuki.org/publications/reports/2013/low-carbon-energy-futures-a-review-of-national-scenarios/>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | [Leave a reply](#)

Canada and the U.S. are Falling Short on Capitalizing and Competing in Clean Energy

Posted on **February 13, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

In *Competing in Clean Energy, Capitalizing on Canadian innovation in a \$3 trillion economy*, the Pembina Institute identifies two main challenges to clean energy entrepreneurship in Canada: the lack of stable, long-term government policy and difficulty accessing capital. The report states that jobs in Canada's cleantech sector grew by 11%, and the industry invested almost \$2 billion in research and development between 2008 and 2010. Yet, "With the Harper government's focus set on accelerating development of Canada's fossil fuel commodities – from oilsands to shale gas and coal – Canada is currently capturing just one percent of the thriving clean energy market." Three main opportunities for support for clean energy entrepreneurship in Canada were identified: develop a set of specific federal financial tools to encourage clean energy entrepreneurship; engage in the development of a national energy strategy; and send the right price signals.

Although the Pembina Institute sees the U.S. as one of the countries outstripping us in the cleantech sector, a new report commissioned by the Pew Charitable Trusts states that the U.S. is missing the boat on clean energy investment. The study developed projections of how much clean generating capacity has been deployed in the United States and globally over two time periods: 2009 to 2011, and prospectively from 2012 to 2018. The report provides a number of policy recommendations to improve the situation.

LINKS:

Competing in Clean Energy, Capitalizing on Canadian innovation in a \$3 trillion economy. Report and executive summary: <http://www.pembina.org/pub/2406>

is available from the Pew Charitable Trusts at: <http://www.pewenvironment.org/news-room/reports/innovate-manufacture-compete-a-clean-energy-action-plan-85899443754>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | [Leave a reply](#)

Reducing GHG Emissions in the U.S.

Posted on **February 13, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

A recently released report by the World Resources Institute identifies a suite of policies that the U.S. Administration can pursue that do not require new legislation by Congress. *Can the U.S. Get There from Here? Using Existing Federal Laws and State Action to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions*, explains that if pursued with a “go-getter” level ambition, those policies can reduce U.S. emissions 17 percent below 2005 levels in 2020 and thereby reach its international commitments.

LINK:

Can the U.S. Get There from Here? Using Existing Federal Laws and State Action to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions:
<http://www.wri.org/publication/can-us-get-there-from-here>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | [Leave a reply](#)

Final Assessment of Canada's Outgoing Commissioner of the Environment

Posted on **February 8, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

Scott Vaughan, Canada's Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development, presented his 2012 Fall Report to the Standing Committee on Natural Resources on February 5th. The report is available at: http://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/parl_cesd_201212_e_37708.html as five separate chapters: Atlantic offshore oil and gas activities; Financial Assurances for Environmental Risks; Marine Protected Areas; A Study of Federal Support for the Fossil Fuel Sector; and, Environmental Petitions. The Commissioner's Perspective document at: http://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/parl_cesd_201212_00_e_37709.html concludes with the following concerns: “... the current level of inspections of major resource projects in the North is very low relative to the level of activity. The government does not know the actual cost of its support to the fossil fuel sector. Meanwhile, offshore resource development continues to expand even as the government makes slow progress establishing marine protected areas. As well, the petroleum boards on the east coast and their federal partners are not adequately prepared to respond to a major oil spill should they need to step in.” French versions of these documents are available at: http://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/Francais/parl_cesd_201212_f_37708.html. The Government's official response to the report is at: <http://www.ec.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=FFE36B6D-1&news=A832AD6F-5CE4-448B-B91D-B5C7E2AB4B2A>. See the reaction of the David Suzuki Foundation to the Commissioner's report at: <http://www.davidsuzuki.org/blogs/science-matters/2013/02/government-must-heed-environment-commissioners-warnings/>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | [Leave a reply](#)

Keystone XL Pipeline: Protests Include the Sierra Club

Posted on **February 8, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

On February 13th, the day after Obama's State of the Union address was silent on the Keystone XL issue, protestors were arrested outside of the White House, including James E. Hansen, Bill McKibben, environmental lawyer Robert F. Kennedy Jr., and Michael Brune, the executive director of the Sierra Club of the U.S. The Sierra Club, for the first time in its 120 year history, endorsed a policy of peaceful civil disobedience: see the January 23 press release at: <http://content.sierraclub.org/press-releases/2013/01/sierra-club-engage-civil-disobedience-first-time-organizations-history> or the Director's Blog, "From Walden to the White House": <http://sierraclub.typepad.com/michaelbrune/2013/01/civil-disobedience.html>.

The Canadian Executive Board meeting of January 31 issued this statement: *".....Since the history of inaction on climate change in Canada is similar to the record in the United States, Sierra Club Canada is undertaking an internal dialogue to reassess its rules concerning civil disobedience in future campaigns and will make a decision at the appropriate time."* In a survey of Sierra Club supporters on Jan. 31, over 94% responded that they agree or strongly agree with the statement: "Non-violent civil disobedience in campaigns for environmental protection can be a legitimate and acceptable tactic in a democratic society", and 88% agree or strongly agree that "Sierra Club Canada should seriously consider participating in non-violent civil disobedience actions". The Executive Board statement is at: <http://www.sierraclub.ca/en/media/release/sierra-club-canada-statement-civil-disobedience>; results of the survey are at: http://www.sierraclub.ca/sites/sierraclub.ca/files/surveyresults01312013_0.pdf.

The *Forward on Climate Rally* on February 17th, a project of 350.org, Sierra Club, and 120 other organizations, was billed as "the largest climate change rally in U.S. history", in Washington, D.C. See: <http://forwardonclimate.tumblr.com/> for details. The goal of the rally is to demand that President Obama reject the proposed Keystone XL pipeline, finalize carbon pollution standards for power plants, and promote energy efficiency and clean energy.

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [Leave a reply](#)

Keystone XL Pipeline: Effects on GHG Emissions

Posted on **February 8, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

The Natural Resources Defense Council released *Climate Impacts from the Keystone XL Tar Sands Pipeline, a Backgrounder*, on February 8. [Click Here](#) for the 8 page review, which includes full citations to further documentation.

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [Leave a reply](#)

Keystone XL Pipeline: Union Opposition

Posted on **February 8, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

Dave Coles, President of the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union (CEP) delivered a strong statement against the Keystone XL pipeline at a conference at City University of New York in January 2013. Although the CEP represents 35,000 members employed in oil and gas extraction, transportation, refining, and conversion in the petrochemical and plastics sectors, Coles stated in his speech: "We oppose the proposed Keystone XL pipeline and call on President Obama to reject the project. Climate pollution from the bitumen sands industry is already considerable and will only get worse by approving Keystone XL. The Canadian government's

aggressive lobbying in the U.S. in favor of the pipeline is an embarrassment. I have been arrested in the fight against Keystone XL because our union understands that this pipeline is bad for both the environment and Canadian workers. The pipeline will take potential upgrading and refining jobs away from Canadians and put our country's energy security at risk." The Canadian Labour Congress passed the following resolution at its 2011 Conference: "The CLC will promote the creation of good jobs for Canadians through increased processing of Canadian natural resources, including bitumen, within Canada, stopping the Keystone XL Pipeline from commencing its activities, and actively supporting the Canadian petrochemical industry."

LINKS:

Keystone XL Pipeline: Bad for the environment and Canadian Workers is at the CEP website at: <http://www.cep.ca/en/news/in-the-news/keystone-xl-pipeline-bad-environment-and-canadian-workers>, and was reproduced at Rabble.ca on January 17 at:

<http://rabble.ca/news/2013/01/keystone-xl-pipeline-bad-environment-and-canadian-workers>

Canadian Labor Congress resolution at: <http://www.canadianlabour.ca/convention/2011-convention/economic-and-social-policy-resolutions>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | [Leave a reply](#)

Keystone and Northern Gateway: Union Support

Posted on **February 8, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

The president of the U.S. Building Trades Department of the AFL-CIO issued a press release on February 13 calling for the immediate approval of the pipeline. In "President McGarvey Joins API President Jack Gerard for Joint Appeal for Keystone XL Pipeline Project", the union states: "Keystone pipeline is critical to our domestic energy industry. And our domestic energy is proving to be critical to the re-awakening of the American economy." See: <http://www.bctd.org/Newsroom/Latest-News/President-McGarvey-Joins-API-President-Jack-Gerard.aspx>. A press release from their Canadian counterparts on January 15 indicates that the position is similar for Canada, though it is specifically about a different pipeline. "Northern Gateway project an enormous opportunity for Canada's building trades", includes endorsements for the Northern Gateway pipeline from Robert Blakely, Director of Canadian Affairs, Building Trades Department of the AFL CIO and John Telford, Canadian Director for the United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters. See: <http://www.buildingtrades.ca/Newsroom/Latest-News/Industry-News/Northern-Gateway-project-an-enormous-opportunity-f.aspx>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | [Leave a reply](#)

An Economic Argument for Pipelines

Posted on **February 8, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

The Canada West Foundation, a Calgary-based think tank, argues for their viewpoint in *Pipe or Perish, Saving an Oil Industry at Risk* at: http://cwff.ca/pdf-docs/publications/PipeOrPerish_Feb2013-1.pdf. The report, commissioned and financed by the government of Saskatchewan, argues "If pipeline project proposals such as Trans Mountain, Keystone XL and Northern Gateway don't move forward, Canada will be foregoing \$1.3 trillion in economic output, 7.4 million person-years of employment and \$281 billion in tax revenue between now and 2035."

Posted in **Uncategorized** | [Leave a reply](#)

Oil Sands Production: the Environmental Impact

Posted on **February 8, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

Beneath the Surface: A Review of Key Facts in the Oilsands debate, published by Pembina Institute on January 28th, examines statements made that are not false, but selectively present information to minimize the negative impacts of oilsands production or overstate the positive strides that industry or governments have made toward addressing those impacts. The report focuses on five key areas including: air quality and emissions levels, land reclamation and wildlife, water impacts, volume of oil sands tailings and how reliance on the oil sands puts Canada's overall economy at risk. See *Beneath the Surface: A Review of Key Facts in the Oilsands debate* at: <http://www.pembina.org/pub/2404>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | [Leave a reply](#)

Environmental Performance is One Indicator of Canadian Quality of Life

Posted on **February 8, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

How Canada Performs is a detailed national "report card" across dimensions: economy, society, innovation, health, education and skills, and the environment. In the release of January 2013, at: <http://www.conferenceboard.ca/hcp/details/environment.aspx>, Canada receives a "C" grade on environmental performance and a rank of 15th out of 17 peer countries, measuring on 6 dimensions: air quality, waste, water quality and quantity, biodiversity and conservation, natural resource management, and climate change and energy efficiency. Climate change is measured using the proxy of GHG emissions per capita, and on that dimension, our country receives a "D" grade. "The main challenge is to make economic growth less dependent on energy use and related air emissions, by improving energy efficiency and by developing and using cleaner fuels and low-emitting electricity sources." Citing its previous reports from 2007 – 2011, the Board reiterates its call for a green taxes, green investment tax credits, and a cap and trade system for emissions. Data and analysis of GHG emissions are at: <http://www.conferenceboard.ca/hcp/details/environment/greenhouse-gas-emissions.aspx>. The main home page for *How Canada Performs: a Report Card on Canada* is at: <http://www.conferenceboard.ca/hcp/default.aspx>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | [Leave a reply](#)

EU Transportation Sector Urged to Find Alternatives to Food Crop Biofuels

Posted on **February 8, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

A new report outlines a vision for the transportation sector of the EU which would reduce its reliance on biofuels from food crops while cutting its CO2 emissions by 205 million tonnes by 2020. The authors claim that the EU Renewable Energy Directive (RED) target and the Fuel Quality Directive (FQD) can be met by improved energy efficiency, combined with a the growth of renewable electricity use, and the use of biofuels and biomethane from waste and residues rather than from food crops. *Sustainable Alternatives for Land-based Biofuels in the European Union: Assessment of options and development of a policy strategy* was commissioned by Greenpeace, Transport & Environment, the European Environmental Bureau and BirdLife Europe, and written by CE Delft, an independent, non-profit research and consultancy organization in the Netherlands. The report is available at: http://www.cedelft.eu/publicatie/sustainable_alternatives_for_land-based_biofuels_in_the_european_union/1325.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | [Leave a reply](#)

Climate Change Coverage Decreasing in the Media

Posted on **February 8, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

In its annual review of media coverage of climate change, Daily Climate.org website states that *The New York Times* published the most stories on climate change and had the biggest increase in coverage among the five largest U.S. daily papers in 2012. Daily Climate.org also states that climate change reporting declined by 2% worldwide in 2012 from 2011, despite the increased coverage of extreme weather events such as Hurricane Sandy. For a review of climate change reporting in 2012, see: <http://www.dailyclimate.org/tdc-newsroom/2013/01/2012-climate-change-reporting>. Given its prominence, there is further concern for the diminution of climate change reporting after the *New York Times* announced in early January that it is reorganizing its coverage of environmental issues – eliminating the positions of environment editor and deputy environment editor and reassigning the seven reporters from a dedicated “desk”. *The Times* maintains that it will continue to cover environmental issues, but in an interdisciplinary way, reflecting that “environmental stories are “partly business, economic, national or local, among other subjects”. The online Green Blog is still publishing and no statement has been made about its future. See “New York Times Dismantles Its Environment Desk”, in *Inside Climate News*, January 11, 2013, at: <http://insideclimatenews.org/news/20130111/new-york-times-dismantles-environmental-desk-journalism-fracking-climate-change-science-global-warming-economy>.

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [Leave a reply](#)

Climate Leadership Program for Members of U.K. Parliament

Posted on **February 8, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

Since 2009, the Green Alliance in the U.K. has been working to encourage climate change advocacy and action amongst elected politicians, through a Climate Leadership Programme. Over 50 MP's from all three political parties have attended workshops and information sessions on the science, policy and politics of climate change, and their links with key constituency issues. As the program enters a new 2-year phase, past achievements and policy documents are summarized in an essay at: <http://greenallianceblog.org.uk/2013/02/01/a-new-generation-of-climate-leaders-is-emerging-in-parliament/>; for Background on the Climate Leadership Program, see: <http://www.green-alliance.org.uk/grea1.aspx?id=4613>

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [Leave a reply](#)

New Green Jobs Map for Canada, Ontario

Posted on **January 8, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

The latest report from ECO Canada, *Green Jobs Map*, focuses on “the major contributing industries in the Canadian green economy, essential green competencies within these industries, and the requisite green skills and training that professionals need in order to work in these particular occupations.” The report makes a distinction between those jobs that are linked to a green economy *and* also require environmental skills (which is the focus), and the larger universe of jobs that are found in green industries, sectors and companies, but do not require special environmental skills (which are *not* included). The report is based on analysis of 835 job postings, drawn from a database of online job vacancy advertisements throughout Canada, appearing from March through May 2012.

A separate, supplementary report developed in partnership with Toronto-based Evergreen uses the same database to focus on Ontario's green economy and finds, for example, that 58% of green job opening were at private sector employers. Amongst those companies, 67% of the green job postings were at environmental consulting, engineering or architectural firms.

LINKS:

Green Jobs Map: Tracking Employment through Canada's Green Economy is available from a link at: <http://www.eco.ca/publications/The-Green-Jobs-Map:-Tracking-Employment-through-Canada%E2%80%99s-Green-Economy/51/Featured%20Report/> (registration required).

Supplementary Report: Ontario is available at the Evergreen website at:

<http://www.evergreen.ca/docs/res/Green-Jobs-Map-Ontario-2012.pdf>

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [Leave a reply](#)

Sustainability Executives and Energy Managers

Posted on **January 8, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

GreenBiz Group has published the 2013 edition of the *State of the Profession*, which provides a snapshot of the current status of Sustainability Vice-Presidents, Managers, and staff – although the report points out that there is, as yet, no clear-cut definition of either the term or the role. As in the previous two years, the document reports on the salaries and job content of sustainability managers and executives, but this year's also discusses the training and educational background of incumbents, internal promotion vs. recruitment as a source of talent, reporting relationships, budgets, and the future of the role in organizations. It also highlights the position of the "energy manager". Data for the survey was collected from July 26 to August 10, 2012 from the 4,207 members of the GreenBiz Intelligence Panel. The response rate was 12.7%, with 73% of those responses from job holders in large organizations (those with revenues of over \$1 billion); 93% were from the U.S., 2.4% from Canada, and the remainder from the U.K. and 11 other countries.

LINKS:

State of the Profession 2013 edition by GreenBiz Group is available at:

<http://info.greenbiz.com/state-profession-2013-get-report.html?src=GreenBiz> (registration required).

A summary is available at: <http://www.businessgreen.com/bg/feature/2235283/the-state-of-the-sustainability-profession-2013/page/1>

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [Leave a reply](#)

World's Largest Companies are Investing in Renewable Energy

Posted on **January 8, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

Based on interviews with executives and analysis of public disclosure documents, *Power Forward: Why the World's Largest Companies are Investing in Renewable Energy* states that clean energy practices are becoming standard procedures for some of the largest and most profitable companies in the world, including AT&T, DuPont, General Motors, HP, Sprint, and Walmart. 96 companies from the combined 173 companies in the Fortune 100 and Global 100 have set formal renewable energy commitments, and/or greenhouse gas

(GHG) emissions reduction commitments. Barriers and challenges to the use of renewable energy are identified, and the report offers several recommendations for policymakers, including promoting tax credits or other incentives for renewable energy, removing policy hurdles, and market-based solutions that put a price on the pollution from conventional energy generation. The report was released in early December 2012 by Calvert Investments, Ceres and World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

LINK:

Power Forward: Why the World's Largest Companies are Investing in Renewable Energy is available at: <http://www.ceres.org/press/press-releases/majority-of-world2019s-largest-companies-shifting-to-clean-energy>

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [Leave a reply](#)

Winter Tourism Industry Feeling Impacts of Climate Change

Posted on **January 8, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

A recent research report by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and Protect Our Winters (POW) looks at the direct economic impact of climate change on the winter tourism industry in the USA. A new economic analysis details how the \$12.2 billion winter tourism industry across 38 states has experienced an estimated \$1 billion loss and up to 27,000 fewer jobs over the last decade due to diminished snow fall patterns and the resulting changes in the outdoor habits of Americans. In addition to tourism, snow-based recreation in the United States has been estimated to contribute \$67 billion annually to the U.S. economy and supports over 600,000 jobs. Climate change will spell trouble for all businesses dependent on winter weather from snowmobiling, snowboarding, and ice fishing to snowshoeing and skiing — as well as the other related sectors that depend on winter sports tourists, such as restaurants, lodging, gas stations, grocery stores, and bars.

LINKS:

Climate Impacts on the Winter Tourism Economy in the United States is available at:

<http://www.nrdc.org/globalwarming/climate-impacts-winter-tourism.asp>

Protect Our Winters (POW) website is at: <http://protectourwinters.org>

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [Leave a reply](#)

Public Opinion Polls Consider: Do Canadians Still Care?

Posted on **January 8, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

Two recent surveys consider Canadians' attitudes toward climate change and Ontario's green energy policies, respectively. As part of their Focus Canada series, Environics recently carried out a poll to consider the question "Climate Change: Do Canadians still care?" The survey is based on telephone interviews conducted with 1,500 Canadians between November 15 and December 5, 2012, and respondents were asked 5 questions.

A clear majority believe climate change is real, that government must take the lead role through new regulations, and that citizens like themselves must help pay for the necessary actions through taxes and higher prices for the goods and services they consume. 64% of British Columbians support their three-year old carbon tax, and there is clear support for this type of climate change tax in most other parts of the country.

A second opinion poll, commissioned by Friends of the Earth Canada and conducted by Oraclepoll Research, found that 83% of Ontarians believe it is important to have more renewable, green energy in Ontario to deal with climate change and help reduce record levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Only 11% of respondents believe that it is not important to take action. The survey also found that 73% of respondents feel that the WTO should not be able to override Ontario's plans to encourage investment in green energy.

LINKS:

For Environics Focus Canada poll results, [click here](#)

Oraclepoll for Friends of the Earth Canada is available at:<http://foecanada.org/en/2012/12/results-of-the-ontario-green-energy-opinion-poll/>

Posted in **Uncategorized** | [Leave a reply](#)

WTO Decision Delivers a Blow to Renewable Energy Development in Ontario

Posted on **January 8, 2013** by **elizabethperry493**

The official report of a 3-member dispute panel of the World Trade Organization was released on December 14th, and ruled that the local content regulations of Ontario's Feed-in Tariff program violate two of the three conventions that the European Union and Japan had cited in their complaint of 2011: specifically, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and Trade-Related Investment Measures Agreement (TRIM). The federal government has announced that it will appeal the decision on Ontario's behalf, but investment in renewable energy manufacturing in Ontario is expected to suffer in the interim. Read the full decision and all accompanying documentation at the World Trade Organization website:*Dispute 426, Measures Relating to the Feed-in Tariff*

Programat: http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dispu_e/cases_e/ds426_e.htm; Reaction to the decision is summarized in “Canada to appeal WTO ruling on energy program” in the *Globe and Mail*, December 19th at: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/industry-news/energy-and-resources/canada-to-appeal-wto-ruling-on-energy-program/article6558522/>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | [Leave a reply](#)

Quebec and California Working Together to Reduce GHG Emissions

Posted on **January 8, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

Quebec announced new regulations on December 13 aimed at harmonizing Quebec's cap-and-trade system with California's in 2013, operating within the Western Climate Initiative. Approximately 85 industrial locations in Quebec belonging to 60 companies will be part of the new cap-and-trade system, beginning in January 2013. The minister responsible stated, “I am confident that we will see a full linkage of the Québec and California markets during spring 2013 in anticipation of the first joint auction planned for August, 2013. Québec and California have agreed to work together closely so that Canadian provinces and U.S. states join the market.” See the Government press release of December 13 at: http://www.mddep.gouv.qc.ca/communiqués_en/2012/c20121213-carbone.htm (English) and <http://www.mddefp.gouv.qc.ca/infuseur/communiqué.asp?no=2301> (French), with more details at: <http://www.mddep.gouv.qc.ca/changements/carbone/Systeme-plafonnement-droits-GES-en.htm> (English), <http://www.mddep.gouv.qc.ca/changements/carbone/index.htm> (French).

Posted in **Uncategorized** | [Leave a reply](#)

Regulation of Fracking in Alberta Under Review

Posted on **January 8, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

Alberta's Energy Resources Conservation Board (ERCB) announced on December 17th that it is accepting feedback on “the regulation of future unconventional resource development” until March 31, 2013. In its discussion paper, the ERCB has suggested a new regulatory approach that includes moving from well-by-well regulation to “play-focused regulation”, i.e. regulation focused on development within a defined area. Outcomes to be regulated include “public safety, water protection, air quality, waste management, surface impacts, resource conservation, and orderly development”. See the press release and backgrounder at: <http://www.ercb.ca/about-us/media-centre/news-releases/2012/nr2012-13>. The discussion paper, *Regulating Unconventional Oil and Gas in Alberta*, is at: <http://www.ercb.ca/about-us/media-centre/news-releases/2012/nr2012-13>.

Posted in **Uncategorized** | [Leave a reply](#)

Ontario will Lead the Way in North America when Last Coal-Fired Power Plants Close in 2013

Posted on **January 8, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

Ontario's Minister of Energy announced on January 9th that the government will accelerate its program to close its coal-fired electricity plants, and that Lambton and Nanticoke, the last of the lot, will close by the end of 2013. The press release refers to a 2005 independent cost-benefit study which estimated that this will save approximately \$4.4 billion annually when health and environmental costs are taken

into consideration. In a related document: the Union of Concerned Scientists in the U.S. recently released a report on coal-plants in the U.S. *Ripe for Retirement: The Case for Closing America's Costliest Coal Plants* estimates that as many as 353 coal-fired power generators in 31 states should be closed for economic reasons alone, even without considering the attendant benefits for public health and pollution reduction. Read the Ontario government press release at: <http://news.ontario.ca/mei/en/2013/01/ontario-getting-out-of-coal-fired-generation.html>. *Ripe for Retirement* is at: http://www.ucsusa.org/clean_energy/smart-energy-solutions/decrease-coal/ripe-for-retirement-closing-americas-costliest-coal-plants.html.

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [Leave a reply](#)

Call for a Social Science Panel on Climate Change

Posted on **January 8, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

ACME: An International E-Journal for Critical Geographies has published a special issue, edited by Kelvin Mason, about the Politics of Climate Change. (volume 12, #1, 2013).

There are nine articles; one, by Vinthagen of Sweden, argues that the natural sciences alone are not sufficient to understand and deal with the dangers of climate change, but also require analysis of political power relations and the global political economy. He proposes a role for academics in his article, "Ten theses on why we need a 'Social Science Panel on Climate Change'" at: <http://www.acme-journal.org/vol12/Vinthagen2013.pdf>. The journal ACME is online at: <http://www.acme-journal.org/Home.html>; this latest issue will be posted shortly.

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [Leave a reply](#)

New Priorities for Obama Administration After January 19th Inauguration?

Posted on **January 8, 2013** by [elizabethperry493](#)

There are some hopeful signals that the second Obama administration will move climate change up on its priority list. Senator Barbara Boxer, a Democrat from California and Chairwoman of the Environment and Public Works Committee publicly announced in December that she, along with the chairmen of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, will co-chair a "clearinghouse" on climate: "We are going to review the latest information, we are going to work on supporting a major bill, we are also going to work on various smaller provisions that we think will move us forward and focus on green jobs, energy efficiency and making sure that we get the carbon out of the air, and work with the administration on some executive stuff." See <http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/273539-sen-boxer-firms-up-senate-climate-change-clearinghouse-plan>. And some see Obama's nomination of John Kerry as Secretary of State, known for his interest in climate change, as a signal that the issue will be given greater priority. See the L.A. Times article, "Kerry expected to elevate climate change as secretary of state" at: <http://www.latimes.com/news/science/sciencenow/la-sci-sn-kerry-expected-to-elevate-climate-change-as-secretary-of-state-20121224,0,6445247.story>

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [Leave a reply](#)