

CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2007

WHO TO WRITE AND WHAT TO ASK FOR: Please contact BC Premier Gordon Campbell and congratulate him on his bold initiatives. Tell him that you applaud his commitment to make a difference on Global Climate Change as the most serious threat today to all life on this planet. Tell him, as a responsible citizen and taxpayer, you are ready to make the personal sacrifices necessary and you ask him to do his part by making the bold initiatives that are necessary. Tell him that Canada has been living an unsustainable lifestyle for too long but that we have the resources to be a leader in helping the rest of the world with technologies that will help. Ask him to stick to what he knows is right and keep the moral courage in the fight ahead. Tell him the world needs strong moral leadership now more than ever.

Tell him that any plan that will get at heavy emitters in the industrial sector and rewards businesses and individuals who are striving to become carbon neutral will have your vote. Tell him that other countries are successfully using Carbon Taxes. "Polluters pay", has been a real incentive for polluters to clean up their act in other countries.

Tell him that we look forward, later this fall, to his announcement of phase one of his climate action plan that will detail strategies he has identified.

BACKGROUND: At the Union of BC Municipality annual convention this month (Sept.) Premier Gordon Campbell announced that the province will introduce new legislative measures this fall that will mandate greenhouse gas reduction targets and provide legal tools to implement government's strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 33 per cent below current levels by 2020. The bill will establish legally binding emissions reduction targets for 2012 and 2016. There will be a 2050 target as well.

Some of the highlights of Campbell's announcement were:

- A Climate Action Team, consisting of a "blue ribbon" team of leaders from environmental organizations, private enterprise, the scientific community, First Nations and academia. They will determine the most credible, aggressive and economically viable sector targets possible for 2012 and 2016.
- Legislation will also be introduced next spring to allow for the creation of market mechanisms and make BC the first province in Canada to legally require "hard caps" on GHG emissions. Those caps will be used as part of a "cap and trade system" that is scheduled to be developed by next August through the Western Climate Initiative.
- Further legislation will be introduced this fall to require all Province of BC entities, including Crown agencies, to be carbon neutral by 2010. All public sector organizations, including school boards and health authorities, will be required by law to produce annual public reports on their progress. All government travel will be required to be carbon neutral starting this year.
- Starting this fiscal year, for every tonne of GHGs associated with official government travel, the Province will invest \$25 in a new BC Carbon Trust. This Trust will be launched early next year and will ensure tax dollars are invested in

valid offset projects in BC. It will also be open to individuals, companies and other levels of government to help them become carbon neutral and help reduce emissions by supporting a made-in-BC offset project.

- Greenhouse gas emissions reduction strategies and targets will be legally required in all official community plans and regional growth strategies.
- Municipalities will be given the power to waive development cost charges as a way to encourage green developments, small unit housing and small lot subdivisions.
- All new government buildings or facilities shall be built to minimum LEED Gold or equivalent certification.
- Legislation will be introduced next spring to require the adoption of California tailpipe emission standards to be phased in from 2009 to 2016.
- BC will be the first province in Canada to legally adopt California's low carbon fuel content standards, a requirement that will reduce carbon intensity of all passenger vehicles by a further 10% by 2020.
- BC will implement a five per cent average renewable fuel standard for diesel by 2010 and support the federal government's plan to increase the ethanol content of gasoline to five per cent by 2010.
- The Province will provide an additional \$50 million this year for BC Transit to purchase new, clean buses and expand public transit service across BC.
- In the coming weeks, government will lay out a vision for transit. It will be on a scale and scope aimed at making BC a global leader in public transit.

The government, later this fall, will be releasing phase one of their climate action plan that will detail strategies identified so far. The government feels this plan will have the potential to reduce our GHG emission by 24 to 33 million tonnes. They say this is enough to get us anywhere from 60 to 82 percent towards our target of 33 percent reduction goal.

Campbell introduced Al Gore during his recent visit to Victoria. He seems to be committed to making a difference. He is saying the right things and Gore complimented him on being a leader in Canada. Campbell told the audience, "It is up to us to protect our planet not just for humans but for all life on the planet."

Many countries are ahead of Canada already (Scandinavia, Germany, New Zealand, Spain). France has just unveiled their new plan. "We have no alternative but to radically change the rules and bring about an environmental revolution," say Jean-Louis Borloo, the minister for the environment and sustainable development in France. France is putting a green tax on gas-guzzling cars, lowering speed limits on highways and putting eco-labels on supermarket food.

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