

GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION FOR THE MONTH MARCH, 2007

WHO TO WRITE AND WHAT TO ASK FOR:

Write to BC's Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum, The Honourable Richard Neufeld, (with copies to the Premier and the NDP Environment Critic). Tell them you are pleased with the province's new BC Energy Plan. Tell him you are especially happy the Energy Plan includes the goal that 50% of new power demand in BC should come from conservation, by reducing the amount of energy used, instead of generating new energy.

Tell him you hope the price the government will be offering to producers of solar, wind and tidal will be similar to Europe. Tell him you were disappointed that the Energy Plan repeated the government's goal to see the federal moratorium on drilling for offshore oil and gas lifted, and to nurture more investments in BC's oil and gas sector. Tell him also you hope the government will produce a BC Transport Plan to match its Energy Plan.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Last month (February) we asked you to write Mr. Penner in response to the Throne Speech. This month we are asking you to respond to the BC Government announcement of the province's, new Energy Plan.

The Energy Plan includes a goal that 50% of new power demand in BC should come from conservation, by reducing the amount of energy used, instead of generating new energy. The Plan also introduces a Standard Contract Program for small renewal energy producers under 10 MW, similar to the program introduced in Ontario. This is good news and the direction all the industrialized countries need to go. There is some concern that the price offered to producers of solar, wind and tidal energy be high enough to encourage these sources of energy. We hope that BC will offer a deal similar to the deal offered in Europe which is 90 cents KWh .

In a disappointing move, the Energy Plan repeats the government's goal to have the federal moratorium on offshore drilling for oil and gas lifted, and to nurture more investments in BC's oil and gas sector. "It makes no sense to try to expand BC's oil and gas industry at the same time that we are trying to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions," say Dauncey from BC Sustainable Energy Association. "The government has budgeted to spend an average \$263 million a year on subsidies for oil and gas in 2007, compared to \$25 million for renewable energy and \$89 million for hydrogen. This is a ten-fold greater commitment to oil and gas than to renewable." If we really care about climate change, we must also care about the health of our oceans, which play a key role in protecting the earth from over-production of greenhouse gases.

BC's new Energy Plan contains good requirements for sustainable electricity but is weak in cutting use of energy for transport, which produces 37% of BC's greenhouse gas emissions. We are hoping the government will produce a BC Transport Plan to

match its Energy Plan. If we are to have the best Energy Plan in the world, it must include our use of energy for transport.

There is a new fuel standard for biodiesel in the Energy Plan that requires that all diesel contain a 5% biodiesel mix by 2010. This will be very helpful to the biodiesel industry but biodiesel must be generated from local biomass wastes if it is to effectively contribute to reducing our production of GHG. Biodiesel is controversial. Some people feel that biodiesel is not a part of the solution as it will reduce food production and exacerbate food shortages in the under developed world as well as requiring large quantities of water.

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"Ignoring climate change will be the most costly of all possible choices, for us and our children." - Peter Ewins, British Meteorological Office

Thanks for help from BC Sustainable Energy Association:
www.bcsea.org/getinvolved/cc-donation.asap