



CCL Monthly Conference Call Saturday, April 7, 2012

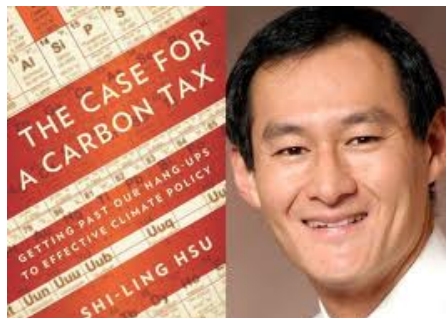
Groups meet at 9:45am PT/12:45pm ET.

The international conference call starts at 10:00am PT/1:00pm ET **sharp**.

Instructions: Sign on to the call at least five minutes before the start time.
When you first get on the call, announce your name, city and how many people are in the room

The conference call part of the meeting is a little over an hour and the groups meet for an additional hour after that to plan actions.

Call-in number: 1-866-642-1665. Pass code 440699#



April Guest Speaker: Shi-Ling Hsu, author of “The Case for a Carbon Tax”

Shi-Ling Hsu is Professor at the University of British Columbia School of Law, where he has taught since 2004. Dr. Hsu has also been an Associate Professor at George Washington University. He has taught courses in Environmental Law, Climate Change, Law and Economics, and Property. Prior to his academic career, Dr. Hsu was Senior Attorney and Economist for the Environmental Law Institute

in Washington D.C. In “[The Case for a Carbon Tax](#),” Hsu explores the social and political factors that prevent us from embracing this commonsense approach to addressing climate change. And he shows why we must get past our hang-ups if we are to avert a global crisis.

Actions:

- 1) Attend Earth Day events in your community and ask organizations at these events to sign the letter of support for carbon fee and dividend.
- 2) Connect with and participate in a 350.org “Connect the Dots” event in your community before or after next month’s conference call on May 5th.
- 3) Write letters to the editor about Canadian Finance Minister Jim Flaherty’s federal budget and demand an end to tax breaks for Big Oil and to include policies that motivate investments in clean energy.

Get support for carbon fee and dividend on Earth Day

Hi! I'm [YOUR NAME]. I'm a volunteer with the [YOUR CITY] chapter of Citizens Climate Lobby. Thanks for being out here to celebrate Earth Day. May I talk to you for a minute?

You're probably aware of the huge crisis we're facing with climate change. Scientists and economists are now warning that if we don't take steps this decade to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, we'll reach a tipping point on global warming where major catastrophes will be unavoidable.

That's why we need a policy that motivates our nation and other nations to reduce our burning of fossil fuels and transition to clean sources of energy.

There's an approach that would do just that. It's called carbon fee and dividend. It puts a gradually-increasing fee on carbon-based fuels—coal, oil and gas. Such a clear price signal on carbon will motivate investors to shift to clean energy resources such as wind, solar and geothermal. It will also motivate consumers to save energy and buy more energy-efficient homes, appliances, and vehicles.

One of the best parts of this proposal is that it takes the revenue from this carbon fee and gives it back to everyone as monthly payments. It protects families – especially the poor and middle class – from the rising energy costs that the carbon fee would otherwise cause.

The problem is that this proposal isn't getting enough attention in Parliament. That's why we're circulating a letter of support and getting signatures from organizations like yours.

Would your organization be willing to sign on to the letter of support for carbon fee and dividend? How can we help you to bring this about?

ACTION #1

Ask organizations at Earth Day events to sign letter of support for carbon fee and dividend

Communities throughout the Canada will celebrate Earth Day (Sunday, April 22) with special events. Some of these will be festival-type events where organizations and businesses will have tables or booths. Such organizations and businesses, which are reaching out to “green” audiences, may be receptive to supporting our carbon fee and dividend proposal.

Using this month’s *laser talk*, circulate among the tables and booths at Earth Day events and ask each organization or business to sign our letter of support for carbon fee and dividend. If the person at the table does not have the authority to sign the letter, ask for a meeting with the appropriate person. You can also ask individuals to sign on.

At your meeting this month, do a Web search for Earth Day events in your community and assign volunteers to cover the most promising events.

Resources for this action:

- Canada’s Letter of support for carbon fee and dividend which is on the last page of this month’s actions sheets (April 2012)
- It would be helpful to have a computer and internet access at table for people to sign online
- Organizations and businesses can also sign on to the letter of support at this link:

<http://citizensclimatelobby.ca/content/business>

ACTION #2

Participate in 350.org ‘Connect the Dots’ events

On Saturday, May 5, 2012 350.org is organizing “Connect the Dots” events all over the world to call attention to the connection between climate change and extreme weather events. We are encouraging CCL groups to participate in these events either before or after our conference call meeting on Saturday, May 5th.

You can find an event in your area at <http://www.climatedots.org/>

ACTION #3

Write letters to the editor about the federal budget's harsh treatment of the environment

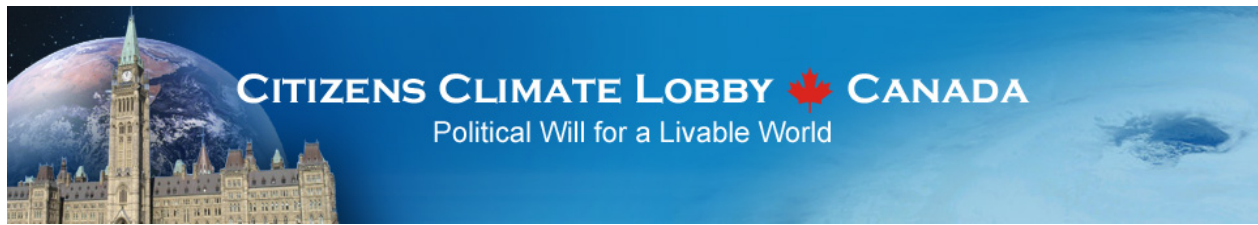
Look for articles in your newspaper on Budget 2012, Canadian environmental policies, gas prices, energy prices and/or the Conservative's track record on fiscal management. Respond by writing a Letter to the Editor using a combination of facts about the harsh treatment of the environment in the federal budget and solutions for transitioning to a low carbon economy. Here are some talking points and links:

Talking points:

- Budget 2012 contains no new federal support for residential renewable power generation or energy efficiency improvements. <http://www.pembina.org/blog/616>
- In the fall 2011, Canada's National Roundtable for the Environment and the Economy (NRTEE) reported that climate change is going to cost our economy \$5 billion dollars a year by 2020. In a clear case of killing the messenger, the NRTEE was axed in the Budget 2012. <http://www.sierraclub.ca/en/main-page/global-warming-could-cost-canada-billions-nrtee-study-warns>
- The International Energy Agency in November 2011 warned against countries locking themselves into high-carbon economies. Budget 2012 does not provide Canada with a plan to transition to a low-carbon economy. <http://newswatch.nationalgeographic.com/2011/11/10/only-five-years-left-to-make-transition-to-low-carbon-infrastructure/>
- **Budget 2012** is called "*Economic Action Plan 2012: Jobs, Growth and Long-Term Prosperity.*" *BUT...* Where are the jobs? Who prospers? How can Budget 2012 be called a long term plan if it ignores climate change? Where is the long-term plan to transition away from fossil fuels to renewable energy?

Solutions:

- **Ending subsidies to fossil fuel companies:** In Budget 2012, only about **\$115 million** of the **\$1.4 billion dollars** in fossil fuels subsidies will be phased out by 2016
<http://www.pembina.org/blog/616>
- **There is a solution: Carbon Fee and Dividend.** Put a price on carbon pollution that makes alternative energy, new innovations and conservation more attractive to consumers. Return the revenue from a carbon fee to the public. The dividend will shield our economy from the impact of rising energy costs associated with the fee.



Letter of support for carbon fee and dividend

Earth's natural systems are under increasing stress from human-induced global warming, and there is grave concern we may be rapidly approaching irreversible tipping points for the earth's climate. Failure to act now will doom current and future generations to a host of catastrophic effects – shortages of food and water, displacement of millions by rising sea levels, more frequent and severe weather disasters, and possible societal breakdown.

Canada, as one of the world's leading per capita sources of atmospheric greenhouse gases, must take decisive steps now to reduce its emissions through a national energy strategy and encourage other nations to follow our lead. An important component of such a strategy should be a transparent and effective carbon pricing mechanism. We favour Carbon Fee and Dividend, where the federal government would charge a Carbon Fee on fossil fuels where they first enter the economy as a way to stimulate the transition away from fossil fuel dependence and towards clean energy alternatives. A direct and steadily-increasing carbon fee will accelerate this transition by erasing fossil fuels' artificial price advantage over energy efficiency and low-carbon energy.

Revenue from the carbon fee would be returned to the public as a Carbon Dividend. The carbon dividend will shield households from the impact of rising fossil fuel costs, while retaining the economic incentives to move consumers away from coal, oil and gas. The clear price signal provided by the carbon fee will push investment toward clean-energy technology and energy efficiency. Such a policy will not only reduce greenhouse gas emissions, it will also foster the creation of the 21st century jobs Canadians need and want.

Imposing border adjustments on imports from nations that do not yet have equivalent carbon pricing would protect Canadian businesses from unfair competition. These tariffs are allowable under World Trade Organization (WTO) rules and will create a further incentive for other nations to adopt their own carbon fee and dividend programs.

For the good of our nation and the Earth, and in the hope that we may preserve a livable world for current and future generations, we the undersigned urge our federal government to implement with the utmost haste a rising carbon fee on fossil fuels, with 100 percent of the revenue generated being returned directly to the public.

Sincerely,

We the Undersigned –

Please sign here or go online to <http://citizensclimatelobby.ca/content/business>