



CCL Monthly Conference Call, Saturday, Jan. 5, 2013

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

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

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

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



Guest speaker: Dr. Robb Willer, Center for Advanced Study in Behavioral Sciences, UC Berkeley

Dr. Willer is an Associate Professor of Sociology and Psychology at UC, Berkeley, where he is currently a fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences. A previous guest on CCL conference calls, he was co-author of "Apocalypse soon? Dire messages reduce belief in global warming by contradicting just-world beliefs." In a forthcoming paper, he examines the differences in moral views between Republicans and Democrats on big issues

such as climate change and how understanding these differences is key to the messaging that resonates with various groups.

Actions:

- 1) Set individual and group goals for 2013.
- 2) Ask people you know to write letters to members of Parliament requesting that they support legislation for a revenue-neutral carbon fee.
- 3) Meet with the editorial board or editorial page editor of your local newspaper to request that addressing climate change be one of the paper's editorial priorities during the year.

JANUARY LASER TALK

Solution to climate change starts with citizens communicating with Parliament

If you are concerned about global warming and preserving a livable world for future generations, it's easy to get discouraged about the lack of action in Parliament during the past few years.

In 2012, record melting in the Arctic Ocean and the destruction caused by Hurricane Sandy provided a wake-up alarm on climate change. Elected officials in Ottawa, however, appear to be hitting the snooze button and going back to sleep.

Why won't Parliament take action to address climate change? It comes down to political will. Politicians do not create political will; they respond to it. They need to hear from their constituents that climate change, and the solutions to combat it, must become a priority in the coming year.

The best way to get this message through to them is with a personal letter.

Tell them that we need to enact a policy that will speed the transition away from coal, oil and gas – the main sources of greenhouse gases – and toward clean energy that uses sun, wind and water to power our communities.

We can facilitate this transition by placing a steadily-rising fee on carbon-based fuels. Returning revenue from that fee to the public will shield households from the economic impact of higher energy costs. Tariffs on goods from nations that do not have equivalent carbon-pricing will protect Canadian businesses and encourage other nations – like China and India – to adopt similar measures.

A recent poll on climate change and Canadians from the Environics Institute found that "a clear majority believe the problem is real, that government must take the lead role through new regulations and standards, and that citizens like themselves must help pay for the necessary actions through taxes and higher prices for the goods and services they consume." (1)

Members of Parliament from all sides of the House can respond to that concern by passing a fee on carbon and returning the revenue to households.

Will you write a letter to your member of Parliament?

(1) <http://www.davidsuzuki.org/blogs/panther-lounge/2012/12/poll-identifies-huge-gap-between-canadians-and-government-on-climate-change/>

ACTION

Ask people you know to write to Parliament in support of a consumer-friendly carbon fee

Our goal in Canada is to have a carbon pricing bill in Parliament within the next 12 months. The work towards that goal begins first thing in 2013. It is important for us to generate the political will that will make effective climate legislation a priority. One of the ways to generate that political will is for members of Parliament to hear from their constituents.

This month's action is to ask 5 people you know to hand write letters to their representative requesting their support for a fee on carbon that gives revenue back to households.

At your meeting this month:

- Practice the laser talk to prepare for asking people you know to write letters.
- Make a list of people you could ask to write letters.
- Get a count of the number of letters your group will commit to generating.

Resources for this month's actions:

Look up your Member of Parliament here:

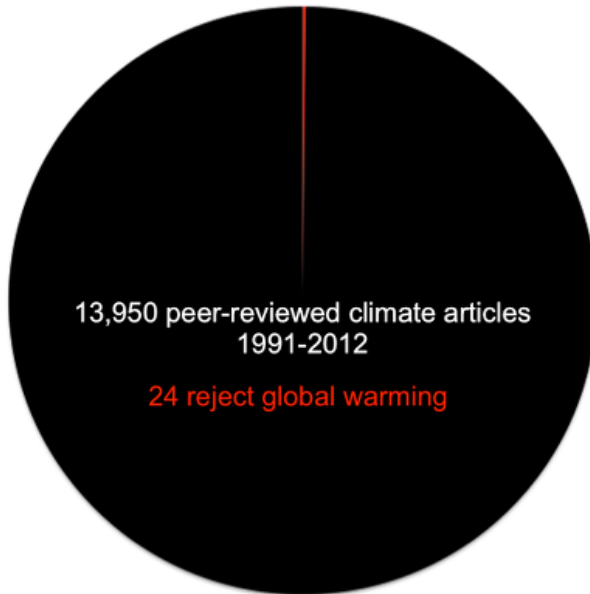
<http://www.parl.gc.ca/MembersOfParliament/MainMPsCompleteList.aspx?TimePeriod=Current&Language=E>

BONUS LASER TALK

Climate science vs. the scientist

In a recent search of peer-reviewed articles on climate change, science author Jim Powell¹ found that out of 13,950 articles published between 1991 and 2012, only 24 reject global warming or endorse a cause other than carbon-dioxide emissions.

The process by which science is worked out, “peer review,” is not perfect but it is reliable. What gives science integrity is that it has to hold up to scrutiny from fellow experts before it is ever published.



When my kids were little we often had to get antibiotics for ear infections and we never doubted that the antibiotics would work. Regularly, I go to the airport, and never do I have the thought: “I’ve heard most of these fly, I hope they put me on one of the ones that actually does.”

It is not possible that one part of science, “climate,” has been corrupted and functions outside of this scientific process seen in every aspect of our everyday lives.

An individual scientist, on the other hand, might say things that are inconsistent with the scientific consensus. Fred Singer, who is a physicist, clearly knows more about science than I ever will. However, in addition to testifying before Congress that CO2 emissions were not a primary cause of global warming, he has also testified that cigarette smoking does not cause cancer.

You could probably find a scientist who says that we should pray instead of giving children antibiotics; you just won’t find any scientific organizations that will agree.

¹ <http://www.desmogblog.com/2012/11/15/why-climate-deniers-have-no-credibility-science-one-pie-chart>

ACTION

Plan individual and group goals for 2013

As 2013 begins, let's take a moment to celebrate the successes we had last year and set our sights on the goals we wish to accomplish in the coming year, both individually and as a group.

Using the planning resources linked to below, at your meeting this month...

- Take shares from members about the accomplishments of last year.
- Building on those successes, take a few minutes for members to look over the individual planning sheet and decide goals for the coming year.
- Take shares from the people in the room about the goals they are most excited about.
- Using the group planning sheet, set goals your group would like to accomplish in 2013.
- Agree on a timeline, perhaps quarterly, to review your group's goals and the progress toward achieving those goals.

Resources:

Individual planning sheet for 2013:

<http://citizensclimatelobby.org/files/images/CCLindividplan2013.doc>

Group planning sheet for 2013:

<http://citizensclimatelobby.org/files/images/CCLgroupplan2013.doc>

Champion scale:

<http://citizensclimatelobby.org/files/images/championscale.doc>

ACTION

Request meetings with newspaper editorial boards

Assign someone in your group to request a meeting with the editorial board or the editorial page editor of your local newspaper. The purpose of this meeting is to request that the newspaper make climate change one of their editorial priorities in the coming year.

Once a meeting is scheduled, CCL will provide coaching and resources. Contact Steve.Valk@citizensclimatelobby.org