



CCL Monthly Conference Call, Saturday, May 4, 2013

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

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

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.

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.

Call-in number: [1-866-642-1665](tel:1-866-642-1665). Pass code 440699#



Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, climate champion

Nearly every week, Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) goes to the floor of the Senate to speak about climate change and the urgent need for congressional action. Earlier this year he organized the Bicameral Climate Change Task Force, which meets regularly to discuss national climate policy. Along with three other members of Congress, Whitehouse authored a [carbon tax discussion draft](#) seeking public comment. We'll talk to him about the discussion draft and the potential for legislation in this Congress.

Actions:

- 1) THE OUR HORIZON INITIATIVE:** Since "*all politics is local*" and public education on climate change will vastly help our cause to create the political will for Carbon Fee and Dividend, this month we are asking our volunteers in Canada to join onto an initiative from Our Horizon. Our Horizon want municipalities to use their licensing powers to require gasoline retailers to place warning labels on gas pump nozzles similar to those on cigarette packages.
- 2) PREPARE A DOSSIER ON YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT (MP):** In June, locally in your riding and then again in November in Ottawa, we will be lobbying our MP's for Carbon Fee and Dividend. Before you meet with your MP we want you to develop a one page to two page dossier file on your MP and send it to us for our files by June 1, 2013.
- 3) Ongoing -** Write letters to the Editor - this month we have additional resources to help you.
- 4) Reminder -** It is not too late to register for the June 23-25, 2013 Conference and Lobbying Days in Washington DC. You can register here. 15 Canadians have registered so far!
<http://citizensclimatelobby.org/2013-international-conference-registration-form>

Action #1

Contact your Municipal Government and ask them to Put Warning Signs on Gasoline Nozzles

Former US Speaker of the House Tip O'Neil said "*All politics is local.*" Ergo it is logical to assume that public education locally in our communities on climate change will vastly help our cause to create the political will for a fair, effective and explicit price on carbon pollution in Ottawa. Thus, this month we are asking our volunteers in Canada to contact their local municipal governments and ask them to consider an initiative from [Our Horizon](#).

Our Horizon's first campaign is a low-cost, high-impact, globally unprecedented approach to climate change. They want municipalities to use their licensing powers to require gasoline retailers to place warning labels on gas pump nozzles similar to those on cigarette packages.

Just imagine what it would be like for a candidate for Member of Parliament to run a campaign with lame climate policies in communities that have warning signs about climate change on their gas pumps!?

It is very simple to do .. **SEND IN YOUR LETTERS ONLINE:** Here is the link to send letter to your local councilor. <http://e-activist.com/ea-action/action?ea.client.id=1781&ea.campaign.id=18410>

GO FROM ME TO WE! Your local CCL group can work on the initiative alone in your community. However you might be much more effective if you contact local environmental groups in your community and ask them if they would like to partner with your CCL group on this initiative to get a by-law passed that requires warning labels on gas pumps in your municipality.

MAKE PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS: Call into Radio Stations. Here is a suggested script: Climate Change is real, happening right now and is human caused. If left unchecked it poses a serious to civilization as we know it. Fortunately we have all the technologies to transition to a low carbon economy in the next 20 years. One of the key solutions is reducing our collective consumption of fossil fuels. To do this we need public education. Thus, I would like to lend support to Our Horizon's clever strategy to ask municipalities to create a policy that would require gas stations to put warning stickers on gas nozzles so that consumers will be impacted each time they pull the trigger. This simple awareness plan forces users to recognize that they are part of the environmental problem that the majority of people now acknowledge. Ultimately, public education about climate change will make it easier for our politicians to enact legislation such as anti-idling bylaws locally and a carbon tax federally.

USE SOCIAL MEDIA:



[Please share this MEME in Facebook:](#)

Then in the comment box below your post add: *Please give two minutes of your time to send letter to your local councilor to put warning labels on gasoline pumps.* <http://e-activist.com/ea-action/action?ea.client.id=1781&ea.campaign.id=18410>

Please also follow Our Horizon in Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/OurHorizonOrg?fref=ts>



Follow Our Horizon on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/OurHorizonOrg>. Here are some suggested tweets:

- Tobacco-style warning labels for gas pumps: an idea whose time has come. <http://ow.ly/kvP7u>
[#16yearsleft](#) [#EV](#)

- [@DavidSuzuki](#) Can a simple climate change idea from Canada move markets? <http://ow.ly/kkAqj>

PROMOTE THEIR INITIATIVE AT PUBLIC EVENTS:

Here are some the resources available on our website:

- [a pamphlet](#),
- a 20x30 inch [poster](#)
- an [image](#) you can share.

Would you like to see labels like these ones on all gas pumps in your city?



WARNING
Use of this fuel product contributes to climate change which may cause drought and famine.
Required by Municipality of Courage by-law 2013-058.



WARNING
Use of this fuel product contributes to climate change which may put up to 30% of species at a likely risk of extinction.
Required by Municipality of Courage by-law 2013-058.

Citizens Climate Lobby has endorsed this initiative at Our Horizon to locate the responsibility for climate change in the hands of all Canadians one municipality at a time.

 **OUR HORIZON**
Stand on guard for Earth.

[#16yearsleft](#)

Credits, Kudos and Connections for bringing Our Horizon to our attention and developing relationships:

Laurel in Montreal brought this initiative to our attention. Cheryl, Liz and Patricia have all met with Rob Shirkey, the director at Our Horizon in Toronto and have been collaborating with him. Kai and Penny in Toronto now work for Rob.

Ever get that feeling that we are becoming too connected to fail?

ACTION #2

Prepare a dossier on your Member of Parliament by June 1, 2013:

In June, locally in your riding and then again in November in Ottawa, we will be lobbying our MP's for Carbon Fee and Dividend. Before you meet with your MP we want you to develop a one page to two page dossier file on your MP and send it to us for our files by June 1, 2013..

Include

- Their Official Picture
- Their Political Party
- The Official Election Canada name of their Riding
- What year were they elected in? And if you can find the data, was it a close win in 2011 for your MP?
- **THIS IS REALLY IMPORTANT-** Is your MP is participating in the All-Party Climate Caucus initiatives? Call and ask your MP's office if you are not sure? Call Cathy 705-523-3388 if you are uncertain about what this means. As well, check out this [article](#) that Mohan from CCL-Ottawa sent us.

Contact Information

Local Contact Information, including names of aides

Ottawa Contact Information, including names of aides

Social Media URL's (aka web addresses)

Twitter Account

Facebook Page

Here are some very informative sites:

- Open Parliament - you can research almost everything your MP says publically here <http://openparliament.ca/>
- Your MP's Facebook Page(s) and Twitter,
- Do they publish in iPolitics? What is said about them in Wikipedia? You can also "google them".

Parliamentary Activities

Committees

Cabinet or Shadow Cabinet

Special Interests

Personal Information - which may be hard to find especially if you don't know your MP well.

Prior Jobs

Family

Who they live with in Ottawa?

How alarmed you think they are about climate change?

ACTION #3

Write letters to the editor

One of the best ways to influence members of Parliament and move the national conversation forward on climate change is to get letters to the editor (LTE) published. Letters stand a better chance of getting published if they are in response to stories or commentary in the newspaper, particularly **front page stories** and **opinion pieces** on the editorial pages.

Have this month's action sheets at hand when you read local papers and write Letters to the Editor about pricing carbon pollution. Some of the articles you can respond to this month include:

- Extreme weather events
- The Keystone XL Pipeline
- Renewable energy
- Fracking
- Rising gasoline prices
- The Earth's atmospheric CO₂ exceeding [400 ppm CO₂](#) this month, for the first time in human history.

You may have to get a little creative, but you can usually find something to respond to. Once you find something, start your letter by referencing the article in the paper and then transition into how it relates to the issue of climate change. Move then to the solution – revenue-neutral carbon tax – and then wrap up your letter.

Pick two or three points that make the most sense to include:

- People throughout the world – especially the poor – will face food and water shortages as the Earth heats up.
- Extreme weather will become more intense and frequent in a warming world.
- To reduce greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change, we must transition as quickly as possible from fossil fuels to clean energy.
- Fossil fuels are cheaper than clean energy because their price does not reflect the damage they do to society in terms of health, security and environmental degradation.
- The Conference Board of Canada in the [Energy Futures for Canada](#) in April 2013 suggested that "Canada's priority in the short term should be to put a significant price on carbon."
- An April 24, 2013 [Nanos Research Poll](#) found that "Canadians and Americans think their respective governments should combine environmental and energy departments, flagging potential for an "energy strategy for the continent."
- A market-based approach to cutting CO₂ – such as Carbon Fee and Dividend – is a revenue-neutral carbon tax with proceeds returned to the public.
- In the USA, this Carbon Fee and Dividend proposal is supported by a number of conservatives, including former [Secretary of State George Schultz](#), as a way to employ the power of the free market to shift away from the use of fossil fuels.
- A fee-and-dividend bill – the Climate Protection Act – has been introduced in the US Senate by Senators Barbara Boxer and Bernie Sanders in the US.
- On April 17, 2013 in Ottawa, Canada 2020 had a conference on "[How to sell carbon pricing to Canadians.](#)" They had a distinguished and diverse panel. The title of the Globe and Mail article sums the conclusions of the conference nicely: [Break the deadlock on carbon pricing. It's hurting Canada's economy.](#)

- Here are six ways Canada can reduce carbon pollution. They have been arranged deliberately in order from least to most transparent.
- **Regulation:** Carbon dioxide (CO₂) can be regulated across economic sectors. This is currently what the USA and Canada are doing. They have yet to regulate greenhouse gas emissions directly from households and the oil and gas sector. Taxpayers pay for regulatory mechanisms through the costs government incurs to monitor and enforce these regulations.
- **Cap and trade with offsets:** Hard caps are set on carbon pollution produced by companies and industries. If a company goes over its cap, it can trade with other companies or purchase offsets in an attempt to correct an over-production of CO₂.
- **Cap and trade with no offsets:** As the name implies, it is almost identical to cap and trade except there is no offsets component.
- **Cap and dividend:** The government imposes a cap and if the company or industry goes over the limit, they cannot trade away their over production to others, but instead pay a penalty to the government, which is returned to taxpayers.
- **Carbon Tax Shift:** This is what British Columbia has put in place. Carbon taxes have been imposed on fossil fuels and citizens receive rebate on their income taxes.
- **Carbon Fee and Dividend:** A fee on carbon pollution is charged by the government to fossil fuel producers and a dividend cheque of the exact same amount is given back to taxpayers. Carbon Fee and Dividend is a two-page bill and the most transparent carbon-pricing method.
- Missing is the most opaque method of pricing carbon pollution: the *status quo*. As long as carbon polluters do not pay, the taxpayers are footing the bill for the tremendous costs in health, security, environmental damage and destructive weather made worse by global warming.

Numerous opinion polls are pointing in the direction that Canadians want our politicians to act:

- A December 2013 [Environics poll on Canadian attitudes to climate change](#) showed support for climate action among Canadians is almost back up to 2009 levels and most of us would pay a carbon tax. [Click here for the Facebook meme.](#)
- An April 2013 [Angus Reid Poll](#) found that 58% of Canadians say climate change is a fact and is caused by emissions from vehicles & industrial facilities and that 60% of Canadians support protecting the environment, even at the risk of hampering economic growth. [Click here for the Facebook meme.](#)
- An Energy Strategy for the Continent! An [April 25, 2013 Nanos Research](#) poll found that Canadians and Americans think their respective governments should combine environmental and energy departments. flagging potential for an "energy strategy for the continent." [Click here for the Facebook meme.](#)

A hopeful US Study:

- [It is the demographics stupid: Policies to limit greenhouse pollution will only grow in the years ahead.](#) The youth will lead the way out of this mess. As well, although, most voters don't see climate change as a priority, a candidate's view on this issue, as for gay marriage, can be a signal to voters about their broader political profile. [Click here for the Facebook meme.](#)

Border tax adjustments

In order for a fee on carbon to work domestically and on an International scale, an effective border tax adjustment will be necessary. Applied to imports from countries that don't have equivalent carbon pricing, the purpose of the border tax adjustment would be to protect American businesses from unfair foreign competition.

In international legal circles, Joost Pauwelyn is considered the world's top World Trade Organization (WTO) expert. From Geneva, Mr. Pauwelyn assured us that a border tax adjustment is viable. He assigned a group of graduate students the task of researching how international carbon pricing mechanisms could be harmonized with a domestic fee on carbon while complying with WTO law. While it will probably be more complicated than we would like, top legal scholars say that a border tax adjustment will pass WTO scrutiny.

Having a border tax adjustment will ensure that if countries like India and China want to keep using dirty manufacturing processes, they'll have to pay the Canada government for the privilege.