

# ECO



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## Time is Running Out for Post-2012 Negotiations

Let us be clear. Climate change caused by greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions is serious. Some may dispute the urgency with which negotiations must proceed. But when the G8 countries' national science academies push governments to cut emissions, and when chief executive officers (CEOs) of multinational companies call on government leaders to commit to urgent stabilisation of atmospheric concentrations, this problem is pressing.

These Montreal negotiations are the most important since the conference in Kyoto in 1997. The challenge: to agree on a process and a deadline to negotiate much deeper reductions in GHG emissions once the first set of Kyoto targets – never intended to be more than a first step – expire in 2012.

To help citizens get a better sense of what their governments need to achieve through these negotiations, the David Suzuki Foundation and the Pembina Institute have just published *The Case for Deep Reductions*, an analysis of the amount by which countries will have to cut their emissions after 2012.

Projected impacts are staggering: if the global average temperature rises 2 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial level, tens of millions of additional people worldwide are projected to be at risk from coastal flooding and hunger, hundreds of millions from malaria and billions from water shortage. Up to one third of land-based species would be “committed to extinction” by 2050 under mid-range warming scenarios. Climate change is already threatening the cultural survival of communities in the Arctic.

Detailed trajectories of annual emissions over time, calculated to stabilise atmospheric concentrations at particular levels, suggest that to stabilise the atmospheric GHG concentration at 400 ppmv carbon dioxide equivalent, the level required to keep global average temperature rise below 2 degrees Celsius, global emissions must be cut by approximately half by 2050. Global emissions trajectories can be allocated among industrialised and developing countries in accordance with widely accepted equity principles.

Princeton University experts recently published technology options for deep emissions reductions. They concluded: “Humanity can solve the carbon and climate problem in the first half of this century simply by scaling up what we already know how to do.... Every one of these options is already implemented at an industrial scale.”

Time is running out. Governments urgently need to launch negotiations in Montreal for a post-2012 regime that will lead to commitments for deep reductions in global GHG emissions.

As the CEOs have explained in their correspondence with world leaders, policy certainty for post-2012 is needed to facilitate long-term business planning and unleash competitive market forces. (See [www.climateforchange.ca](http://www.climateforchange.ca); [www.cpi.cam.ac.uk](http://www.cpi.cam.ac.uk).)

There is a need to go far beyond the Kyoto targets and to start now. With imagination and serious ambition, all Parties can be part of the solution.

## World's First Community of Climate Refugees

As the climate negotiations get underway in Montreal, the Carteret Islanders of the Pacific have already lost their battle to stay on their islands. Living with flooding, food shortages and water contamination for 30 years, families will be relocated to neighbouring Bougainville in a move financed by the Papua New Guinea government. This is the first instance of an entire cultural group forcibly displaced by climate change, and could be the beginning of what is estimated to be up to 200 million people displaced a year because of climate change by 2050 by Oxford University scholar Norman Myers.

There is increasing evidence that climate change is affecting the lives and livelihood of the world's poor with reports such as “Up in Smoke” and the annual International Red Cross World Disasters Report. They detail the impact of drought, sea-level rise, extreme weather events and increasing temperature on the ability of peoples across the world to attain food and water security.

Climate change is clearly no longer a scientific or economic issue alone but an international humanitarian and development issue as well. For countries such as the small island states of the Pacific region the impacts of climate change are becoming a threatening reality for sovereignty. Countries across the grouping of “less developed countries” are faced with a myriad of social, economic and cultural problems as a result of climate change. Despite this, the creation and implementation of adaptation programmes have not been

*– continued back page, column 3*



## Letter from US Environmental Organisations to Delegates

United States-based environmental organisations here in Montreal believe that a successful meeting must establish a clear process for negotiating a post-2012 international climate treaty. A central challenge in achieving this objective, however, is the intransigent opposition of the US administration to mandatory measures.

*There is in our view virtually no possibility that the US administration will drop its opposition to such policies for the Montreal meeting.* We recognise the challenge this poses for the establishment of a post-2012 regime. Efforts to accommodate the US at COP11, however, would almost certainly be futile or lead to a negotiating process too weak to be effective. On the other hand, delaying the post-2012 process risks losing precious time and squandering the political momentum of the entry-into-force of the Kyoto Protocol.

*We respectfully submit that it would be a strategic mistake to weaken the process emerging from Montreal in the hope of immediately engaging the current US administration.* Specifically, a decision to pursue the post-2012 process solely under the Framework Convention risks disruption by the US administration and would be perceived by the public as a weakening of international political resolve, and would undermine the significant leadership by US states and other local governments that is underway. We must build on Kyoto, not throw it away.

*While US international climate policy appears implacable, US domestic policy is in a process of evolution.* We are optimistic that the US Congress will adopt effective domestic policies and re-engage internationally in a time frame compatible with the post-2012 agenda. The US Senate recently passed a resolution calling for mandatory limits and market-based approaches, a dramatic step forward from the 1997 Byrd-Hagel resolution (the pre-Kyoto Senate guidance to avoid economic harm and condition US action on developing country commitments), and it is very likely that national policy will follow such an approach. Serious discussion continues in Congress on a range of bills to control US emissions of greenhouse gases. Congressional action reflects growing support for global warming policies among the public, cities and states, businesses, and other stakeholders. The US administration's blanket opposition to mandatory caps makes it increasingly isolated and at one end of the spectrum of American views on this issue.

*The continued leadership at the international level, and particularly the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol, have served as a critical driver of the leadership efforts at the state, regional, and federal levels in the US, and it is vital to these emerging efforts that the momentum at the international level continues.* We greatly appreciate the firm support by our hosts Canada and other Kyoto Parties for an effective multilateral regime to address global warming. We strongly believe that the best approach in Montreal involves taking a longer-term view of where the US will be, without losing any valuable time or momentum.

## “Fossil of the Day” Award

The popular Fossil of the Day awards ceremony was launched yesterday at 18:00 hours. It came as no surprise when the first fossil of the Montreal negotiations was awarded to the US. The reason? For being the only delegation to arrive here in Montréal having declared in advance that they are not willing to talk AT ALL about a future process for more action on climate change.

The fossil for second place was awarded to Saudi Arabia for telling delegates that an amendment to the Kyoto Protocol is needed to secure the compliance system. It proposes such an amendment be linked to the COP/MOP decision to adopt the compliance system; a move which will undermine the chance of having such a system.

The fun and exciting fossil awards ceremony is held daily at 18:00 hours at the Congress Centre at Room 210, Exhibit B8 next to the Document Counter. Come and join us.

– *Climate Refugees, from front page* – adequately addressed in the COP to date, and a significant issue on this COP/MOP agenda, for both countries and civil society in extremely vulnerable nations, is the progress of the five-year adaptation work plan under the SBSTA and financing under SBI.

The world will be awaiting the outcome of this COP/MOP not only to see the future of the Kyoto regime post-2012, but also to see if the industrialised world will commit desperately needed funds to adaptation to climate change.

## Celine

Celine welcomes her friends to Montreal, where she can assure her readers the present weather is a heat wave: her pet husky has been energetically bounding around in the laughably scanty snow. Celine has been feeling a lot like the US delegation of late. She pretends to throw the ball, and the dog races off, even though she never actually throws it. No matter how often the trick is repeated, the dog races off every time, slavering with servile enthusiasm. For years, it seems, the US has been enjoying similar sport. A promised concession on climate policy sends its international partners into salivating joy. The concession never materialises of course, but that does not dampen the international community's eternal optimism. Celine can see the US winding up to throw again, but she lives in hope that her dog, at least, will eventually learn.