

eco



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Refreshing winds of change from Mexico

Ministers failed to deliver climate action on Thursday and Friday, and the planet treated us to stifling heat yesterday in Bonn. Fortunately, a cooling breeze from Mexico has reached ECO to remind us that the warming can be stopped and that the heat in Bonn (and in the UNFCCC negotiations) can be reversed.

This breeze started off a few months ago in Mexico, as the government there published its Climate Change Special Program 2014-2018 that commits to unilaterally reduce emissions by 90 MT CO₂e by 2018. Additionally, a 2018 Renewable Energy Special Program was agreed to, which sets a goal of increasing renewable energy's share of electricity generation from the present 15% to 25% in 2018 and 35% in 2024. These renewable power increases would be coming from wind and solar.

Based on energy demand projections, this target actually represents a doubling of present renewable energy generation to 80 TWh per year. The monopolised electricity grid is opening up to more clean and distributed power by independent producers, and provides options for customers to specifically purchase renewables. There is a whisper floating around that there is more of this to come, and it must, especially if funding from the Green Climate Fund is made available to Mexico and if energy reforms are implemented sustainably. ECO, of course, acknowledges that all of these changes are based on the Climate Change General Law, which aims to reduce emissions in 2020 by 30% compared to projected business as usual levels, and

by 50% below 2000 levels by 2050.

More than 50% of Mexico's population is below the poverty line due to deep inequalities. Its per capita GDP is on par with the global average and per capita CO₂ emissions are below the global average. Yet, Mexico is doing more to confront climate change than many wealthier nations because it realises that its own interest isto take action. This is a critical first step towards achieving the phase out of GHG emissions that Mexico called for in its intervention on Sunday in the ADP.

ECO pleads with Parties that they allow this fresh breeze into the ADP Workstream 2 engagements so that more Parties can be inspired to follow suit. If Mexico can achieve a 10% increase in the share of renewables in its electricity grid over the next four years, surely other high-emitting nations can do the same — or more — to close the pre-2020 emissions gap.

Just imagine how much more could be accomplished if wealthier countries ramped up their support for efforts like those being taken in Mexico and other developing countries. Developed countries need to harvest their own low-hanging fruit by stepping up energy efficiency and renewable energy deployment. Mexico is showing that we don't need to let the heat build and build until 2020 – we can (and must) act now to stop the warming!

On June 16, CAN is turning 25 - come along to hear about CAN's new direction and help us celebrate with a party!

Register here:

<http://bit.ly/RegisterCAN25Anniversary>

ECO online

Remember you can read ECO online or on your iPhone, iPad or Android!

<http://bit.ly/GetECO>



Australia's "new" 18.8% reductions target: how to succeed without really trying

Everyone, please give the Australian delegation a big hug - they just tripled their emissions reduction target! And they didn't even know it.

Thanks to the Clean Energy Act (2011) that is still law, and the wonderful impact of the carbon price over the past year, Australia's total emissions default target has just kicked into auto-pilot and sent them on a new trajectory that will cut their emissions in 2020 by 18.8% below 2000 levels.

The Aussies are a bit "shy" about this new rise in ambition, but at ECO, we think they deserve a thank you. Spread the word and shout it loud, Australia's heading for some big emissions reductions. Well, at least for the time being.

Poland and the EU's KP ratification

Last week at the KP ministerial meeting, ECO again heard that commitment period two (CP2) ratifications were not advancing as we had hoped. So far, among industrialised countries, only Norway has managed to finalise the process. ECO understands that the EU environment ministers are discussing this issue at their council meeting on Thursday. But now, we hear rumours that there's a problem. Yes, Dear Reader, you guessed right: the problem is Poland.

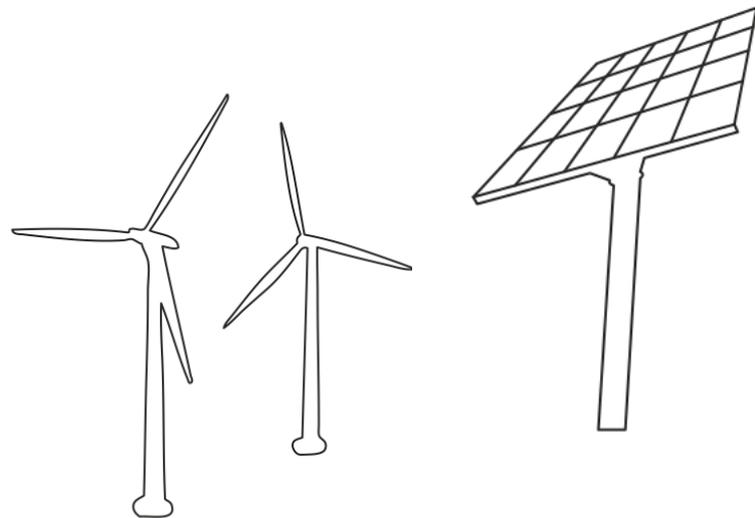
Poland is actually trying to use the CP2 ratification process to open and re-negotiate the whole of the European Union's 2020 climate law. You know, the one adopted back in 2008. "It's too mad, it can't be true," you say, and ECO agrees. Seriously, Poland. Stop — we're not amused.

Orphan issue in the 2015 agreement

A 2015 deal will fail in the eyes of the world public if it does not contribute to significantly scaling up adaptation action for developing countries. Join us today for CAN's side event to learn more about the role of loss and damage, an orphan issue in the 2015 agreement.

When: 13:15-14:45

Where: Room Solar



Should Carbon Majors contribute to loss and damage costs?

Developed countries: do you often wonder how you can help vulnerable countries meet the mounting costs of climate change through loss and damage, given the fiscal challenges you're facing at home?

Vulnerable countries: do you despair that the costs of loss and damage will never be met by anyone other than those suffering the impacts?

ECO understands that the answer to both of these questions could be addressed with the one proposal. *Carbon Majors*, or Carbon Criminals as some like to call them, the companies most responsible for greenhouse gas emissions, ought to pay a levy on their fossil fuel extraction into the Warsaw international loss and damage mechanism.

The ground breaking report released last November by Rick Heede of Climate Accountability Institute attributed 3.5% of global fossil fuel emissions, since the industrial revolution began, to Chevron's products, 3.2% to ExxonMobil, 3.1% to Saudi Aramco, 2.5% to BP, 2.2% to Gazprom and 2.1% to Shell. Altogether, an astounding 63% of global emissions are attributable to the coal, oil and gas extracted, and cement manufactured, by just 90 Carbon Majors.

These mammoth fossil fuel entities have made trillions in profits (Chevron, ExxonMobil and BP each made more than US\$20 billion last year) whilst their products caused climate change. International law, and common sense, says that they should pay for the damage their products have caused. Meanwhile, ECO knows we need a plan to phase out dangerous fossil fuel, and phase in 100% renewables.

Come along to **Room Air** at **15:00 today** for a side event to learn about a proposal for developing an element of the 2015 Paris agreement whereby governments would be mandated to collect a specific levy on the extraction of fossil fuels and direct it to the international loss and damage mechanism.