



CCL Monthly Conference Call, Saturday, February 7, 2015

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

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

Instructions: Sign on to the call at least five minutes before the start time. When you first get on the call, please 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 long and the groups meet for another hour after that to plan actions.

February 7, 2015: Keya Chatterjee, US Climate Action Network



What other organizations are working on climate change and what are they up to? To find out, we'll turn to Keya Chatterjee, executive director of the US Climate Action Network. Prior to joining USCAN, Keya served as Senior Director for Renewable Energy and Footprint Outreach at the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). Before that, she worked as a Climate Change Specialist at USAID. Keya is also the author of *The Zero Footprint Baby: How to Save the Planet While Raising a Healthy Baby*.

Actions

- 1) Write letters to the editor using this month's laser talks on the five ways to price carbon. If you are bilingual we have included a French version of the laser talk to guide you in writing letters to the editor to French newspapers.
- 2) Set up a meeting with the editorial board or editor of your local newspaper to encourage an editorial in support of carbon fee and dividend. Please note that this month Canada will be reinstating the monthly CCL Canada education call and our first tutorial of 2015 will be "Meeting with your local editor" on Thursday, February 19, 2015 at 4 pm PT/ 7 pm PT. Please note your time zone.
- 3) Valentine's Day is coming up and we are launching the Post Card Project. Using the resources we have made, it is now very simple for people to write and send postcards indicating how much we would love a carbon dividend cheque.

Special Actions for Nova Scotia and Ontario

Both Nova Scotia and Ontario are in the midst of determining which carbon pricing is best for their province. Thus, additionally on a separate page we have tailored actions #2 and #3 for those two provinces and we would also like for NS /ON groups to set up meetings with their local MLAs/ MPPs.

Lobbying in Ottawa in 2015: Thank you for all the feedback in the Survey Monkey and in your phone calls. Strategically, if the fixed election date holds, it is clear that it is best for us to have a mini-conference in Ottawa during **Federal Environment Week**, which is the week of June 1, 2015. As well lobbying in November is not a good idea, because the new MPs will be orienting themselves to Parliament. Thus, please start planning to be in Ottawa the first week of June of this year if you can. If you can't make it, we will make sure you have a role. We will discuss the 2015 CCL Canada mini-conference on the monthly Canadian calls for group leaders around the international call.

Laser Talk: The Five Chief Ways to Price Carbon

There are five ways to price carbon. They are listed here from least transparent to most transparent:

i) The Status Quo: external costs of climate change are not internalized and the taxpayer is forced to pay for climate and health-related damages.

ii) Regulation: sector-by-sector regulation of all the sectors in the economy that produce carbon pollution. (1)

iii) Cap and Trade: put a mandatory limit (or "cap") on some portion of national emissions, and allow firms to buy and sell rights to emit within the cap as well. This can be with or without offsets. A **carbon offset** is a reduction in emissions of carbon dioxide or greenhouse gases made in order to compensate for an emission made elsewhere.(2)

iv) Carbon Tax: a tax based on greenhouse gas emissions generated from burning fuels. The tax may or may not be revenue neutral. A revenue neutral tax is one that does not have a net increase in overall federal tax revenues.(3)

v) Carbon Fee and Dividend: An incrementally increasing fee is placed on carbon pollution and 100% of the money is returned to households. The term fee is used deliberately to indicate clearly that it is a revenue neutral pricing system. Carbon Fee and Dividend, as proposed by Citizens Climate Lobby, is an upstream fee and is levied at point of production of fossil fuels (at the well head, mine or point of entry). A downstream tax, on the other hand, would be levied at the point of consumption of fossil fuels and/or products dependent on fossil fuels.

Carbon Pricing Primer

Carbon emissions carry hidden costs

THESE ARE THE 5 WAYS WE CAN PAY...

The Status Quo

Whole society finances fossil fuels

Most expensive option, by far

Regulation

Boots on the ground, eyes on emissions

Dependent on budget for enforcement

Cap & Trade

Regulatory solution, artificial market

Narrow focus, requires enforcement

Carbon Tax

'Sin tax', pressure on consumers

Highly effective, can slow GDP

Carbon Fee & Dividend

100% returned to households

Revenue-neutral, grows economy

(1) The Canadian and US government are currently both using regulatory mechanisms to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. Examples are emission standards for cars and for coal-fired power plants. The oil and gas sector has yet to be regulated in Canada and PM Harper is now talking about [Alberta-like carbon levies](#) for the oil and gas sector.

(2) [Quebec](#), [California](#) and the [European Union](#) are jurisdictions that have implemented cap and trade with offsets to mitigate their greenhouse gas emissions.

(3) [British Columbia](#), [Norway](#) and [Sweden](#) have carbon taxes.

Communiqué éclair : Cinq méthodes pour établir le prix du carbone.

Voici les cinq réglementations possibles pour encadrer le marché du carbone. Elles sont énumérées ici, dans l'ordre, allant de la plus opaque à la plus transparente :

1- **Le Statu quo** : Les coûts externes des changements climatiques ne sont pas intégrés et le contribuable doit rembourser les dommages liés au climat et à la santé.

2 - **Par règlements** : L'économie des entreprises qui dégagent une pollution carbonique est réglementée secteur par secteur. (1)

3 - **Système de plafonnement et d'échange de droits d'émission de GES** : L'instauration d'une limite obligatoire (ou « plafond ») des émissions au niveau national pour les entreprises, et d'un marché d'achat et de vente de permis d'émission à l'intérieur d'un plafond établi. Les émetteurs assujettis doivent compenser leurs émissions de GES par des droits d'émission. Ces crédits compensatoires sont des droits d'émission de dioxyde de carbone ou de GES, afin de compenser une émission produite ailleurs. (2)

4 - **Taxe sur le carbone** : Une taxe basée sur les émissions de GES générées par la combustion de combustibles. Cette taxe sur le carbone pourrait être sans incidence fiscale. Une taxe sans incidence fiscale n'a pas d'effet sur les revenus du gouvernement. (3)

5 - **Prélèvement et dividende carbone** : Un tarif à croissance progressive est rattaché à la pollution carbonique et 100 % de l'argent est redistribué équitablement aux ménages. Le terme prélèvement est utilisé sciemment pour rappeler que ce système de tarification est sans incidence fiscale. Le prélèvement et dividende carbone, tel que proposé par le Lobby des citoyens pour le climat (*Citizens Climate Lobby*), est un montant prélevé en amont, aux points de production des combustibles fossiles (puits de pétrole, mines ou points d'entrée), à l'inverse d'une taxe en aval, collectée aux points de consommation de combustibles fossiles ou des produits qui en dépendent.

-
- (1) En ce moment, les gouvernements du Canada et des États-Unis imposent certains mécanismes réglementaires pour atténuer les émissions de gaz à effet de serre. C'est le cas, par exemple, des normes d'émissions des voitures et des centrales au charbon. Au Canada, les secteurs pétrolier et gazier demeurent non réglementés.
 - (2) Les juridictions du Québec, de la Californie et de l'Union européenne appliquent maintenant un système de plafonnement et d'échange de droits d'émission de GES afin de modérer leurs émissions de gaz à effet de serre.
 - (3) La Colombie-Britannique, la Norvège et la Suède ont présentement une taxe sur le carbone.

Special thanks to Pierre at CCL Les Cedres for the translation of this laser talk

ACTION #1 – Write Letters to the Editor (LTE) using this month's Laser talks

Nobody likes to be told how to think, so the five ways to price carbon laser talk is perfect way to open the discussion on how to price to carbon. Here is an example of how to do so, thanks to Anita in Perth.

Here is the original editorial which was published in Sun Media papers across Canada by Lorne Gunter:
<http://www.intelligencer.ca/2014/07/08/trudeaus-carbon-tax-will-hurt-canadas-economy>

Here is Anita's response in a letter to the editor:
<http://www.thewhiq.com/2014/07/17/letters-to-the-editor-july-18-2>

Carbon pricing primer

Re: "Trudeau's carbon tax will hurt Canada's economy by Lorne Gunter," July 8, 2014.

The phrase "carbon tax" is not clearly defined in Lorne Gunter's column. In fact, at times he seems to be equating a carbon tax with cap and trade.

In reality, there are many ways to price carbon pollution. Thus, a quick primer in carbon pricing is warranted.

Currently, the status quo is to externalize the cost of carbon pollution and have the taxpayer pay the damages. Homeowners and farms are not covered by overland flooding by insurance in Canada. Who is going to compensate all of the Canadians impacted by unprecedented flooding in Manitoba and Saskatchewan? Canadian taxpayers will be on the hook. The science is clear -- the weather will become even more extreme and there will be more global warming related damages.

Another way to price carbon is through regulation. Prime Minister Stephen Harper has said that long-delayed regulations on the oil and gas sector will be announced "over the next couple of years."* Do Canadians want costly regulatory mechanisms? Regulatory mechanisms will substantially grow government size and thereby increase taxes and do little to protect people living on low incomes from increasing prices on fossil fuels.

Another carbon pricing mechanism is cap and trade. It is a free market solution but it too will grow government size. The carbon-trading component of cap and trade will make prices of commodities dependent on fossil fuels, including food and fuel, more volatile, thus potentially impacting people living on low incomes in a negative way. And yes, cap and trade is open to corruption.

Lorne Gunter is somewhat correct in saying that a "carbon tax" will hurt Canada's economy. It depends on what the government does with the money.

According to a recently released U.S.-based Regional Economic Modeling Inc. (REMI) report, a rising fee on carbon with revenue recycled to households over the next 10 years will reduce emissions by 33%, create 2.1 million jobs, save up to 13,000 lives annually and increase GDP by \$85 billion. A border tax adjustment would level the playing field for imports.

While this study is from the United States, it is no doubt of great interest to Canadians as well. In fact, British Columbia has a carbon tax that recycles the revenue back to citizens.

The biggest take-home from the B.C. example and the REMI study is that there is no economic argument against pricing carbon and returning the money to households. To be against a revenue neutral carbon tax is to be against jobs, against a healthy economy, and against saving Canadian livelihoods and lives. No politician wants to be against these things, so what are we waiting for?

Anita Payne, Perth

***Note that PM Harper as of December 2014 is touting a carbon levy similar to what Alberta has.**

Action #2 – Meet with your local newspaper editors

Set up a meeting with the editorial board or editor of your local newspaper to encourage an editorial in support of carbon fee and dividend.

Please note that this month Canada will be reinstating the monthly CCL Canada education call and our first tutorial of 2015 will be “**Meeting with your local editor**” on Thursday, February 19, 2015 at 4 pm PT/ 7 pm PT. Please note your time zone. It will be a one half hour tutorial.

Be sure to both phone then follow-up with an email. Meeting with local editors is like meeting with your MPs: it includes relationship building, sharing of information and finding common ground.

One solid piece of advice when working with newspaper editors and reporters is to never tell them what to do or say – as that is huge turnoff to them and you might damage the relationship. Be sure to compliment them for something they have published or written recently. Finally, be sure to research your local newspaper and editors and ascertain their current opinions on climate change and carbon pricing before you meet with them.

In preparing to meet with your local editor, consider using the cartoons prepared by the CCL Canada Outreach materials team as a visual prop. They are located here:

<http://citizensclimatelobby.ca/content/carbon-fee-and-dividend-cartoon-strips>



How Carbon Fee and Dividend Works

- The government levies an incrementally increasing fee on the carbon content of fossil fuels at the source.
- 100% of the money collected is given to the people on an equal basis in a cheque to help with price increases ↑
- ECONOMICS 101: Costs are passed onto consumers and they consume less carbon. CO₂ emissions go down ↓
- MARKET SOLUTION: The predictable price on carbon spurs clean tech investment & innovation. CO₂ emissions go down ↓

Why we prefer a revenue neutral carbon fee

- HELPS FAMILIES: A 100% rebate insures that 2/3 of families will come out even or ahead.
- NON PARTISAN: MPs and premiers whose base do not like tax increases can still vote the right way.
- MARKET SOLUTION: Efficient & direct market signal. Thus government does not pick the energy winners & losers.
- RAMPING UP: To maintain public support to stabilize CO₂ emissions, citizens will need a significant dividend.

Carbon Fee and Dividend Helps Ordinary Families

- The government puts an incrementally increasing fee on the carbon content of fossil fuels at the source.
- 100% of the fees are given to Canadians on an equal basis, regardless of their carbon footprint.
- 2/3 of people would receive dividends > fees. The top 1% of earners consume 6X as much CO₂ as the bottom 10%.
- In fact, the bottom 20% of earners can expect a cheque 150% greater than what they paid in carbon fees.

Find out more at www.citizensclimatelobby.ca

Here is a sample letter to send to your local editor:

Dear

It's [YOUR NAME] from the [LOCATION] chapter of the Citizens' Climate Lobby. Thank you for your recent article on [INSERT ARTICLE].

I am writing to request a meeting to discuss an effective carbon pricing solution for Canada.

As you may know, the government of Canada is only 7% towards meeting our Copenhagen Targets, we do not have a coordinated national plan for mitigating greenhouse gas emissions and this is an election year. As well, in December 2015 at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Paris this year, countries are expected to go to Paris with a GHG-mitigation plan in hand? Canada needs to price carbon pollution from the oil and gas sector of our economy. Should Canada go with a Quebec-style cap and trade system or a revenue-neutral carbon tax similar to what BC implemented?

And that is why you come in. The mainstream media is the fourth branch of democracy. Since “all politics is local”, our local newspapers will play a key role in helping shape the political will for a progressive and robust price on carbon in our riding in the Federal election in 2015.

We would like to meet with you to discuss the merits of a policy similar to the one implemented by BC called Carbon Fee and Dividend, and why Canada should strongly consider it.

The Globe and Mail and other newspapers are weighing in on this important issue, all encouraging a revenue neutral carbon tax. We would like [NAME OF NEWSPAPER] to do the same.

ACTION #3 – The Post Card Project

On cardstock, print off postcards to send to politicians letting them know you are ready to receive your climate bonus cheque. To increase the impact, print off a few dozen and reach out to community groups in your community (e.g. churches, environmental organizations and social justice groups) and ask them to have a postcard signing event this month. Nova Scotia and Ontario are also considering carbon pricing - thus we made special postcards for those two provinces as requested by their members. You can also use the at your own tabling and outreach events.

Here are a series of images you can use to write postcards to politicians. When you click on the images it will link to a pdf document that has two images per page. If you want the original image files go to The Post Card Project page (under the Actions Button) on our website for details on how to download the image:

<http://www.citizensclimatelobby.ca/content/post-card-project> .

For Canada- NO STAMP REQUIRED for postcards to the Prime Minister, other federal ministers, MPs and Senators. Be sure to put their name and title on the post card

I want my climate bonus cheque!



Put a rising fee on carbon pollution & return the money to Canadians



Carbon fee and dividend:
 - Puts a rising fee on fossil fuels at the point of extraction
 - Returns fee equally to all Canadian households to protect from rising energy costs
 - Protects consumers: 66% will break even or have more money in their pockets!
 More info at: citizensclimatelobby.ca
 NAME:
 ADDRESS:

no stamp required to MP or Senators or Parliament
 TO:
 House of Commons
 Ottawa, Ontario
 Canada
 K1A 0A6

Carbon fee & dividend: good for the economy & climate without growing government

For Nova Scotia -STAMP REQUIRED - note the group leaders wanted all Ministers to receive postcards thus a general postcard back was made



Put a rising fee on carbon pollution and return the money to Nova Scotians

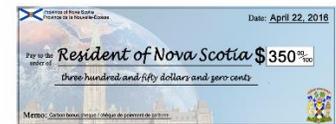
Carbon fee and dividend:
 - puts a rising fee on fossil fuels based on their CO2 content
 - returns fee equally to Nova Scotian households to protect from rising energy costs
 - protects consumers: 66% will break even or have more money in their pockets!
 More info at citizensclimatelobby.ca

Name:
 Address:

Carbon fee & dividend: good for the economy & climate without increasing government

Stamp

I would love a carbon dividend cheque



Put a rising fee on carbon pollution and return the money to Nova Scotians

For Ontario - STAMP REQUIRED

I want my climate bonus cheque!



Put a rising fee on carbon pollution and return the money to Ontario households



Carbon fee and dividend:
 - puts a rising fee on fossil fuels based on their CO2 content
 - returns fee equally to Ontario households to protect from rising energy costs
 - protects consumers: 66% will break even or have more money in their pockets!
 More info at citizensclimatelobby.ca

Name:
 Address:

Stamp
 TO:
 Hon. Glen Murray,
 Minister of Environment &
 Climate Change
 11th Floor, Ferguson Block
 77 Wellesley Street West
 Toronto, Ontario
 M7A 2T5

Carbon fee & dividend: good for the economy & climate without increasing government

Special thanks to members of CCL Guelph and CCL Red Lake for creating the non-Valentine postcards and the words for the back of the postcards. As well thanks to CCL Red Lake for the inspiration to make province-specific dividend cheques.

Special Actions for CCL chapters in Ontario and Nova Scotia

Hello group leaders in Ontario and Nova Scotia. We have amazing news! In the next few weeks, the Ontario government is expected to release, for public review, a paper discussing the province's climate change policy. Which carbon pricing mechanism will it choose? A Quebec-style cap and trade system or a rising fee on carbon, with revenues returned to citizens? The government has leaned towards the former but there is mounting pressure to adopt the latter. The Wynne government is expected to introduce their carbon pricing budget early in 2016, so the window for lobbying is open right now. As well, Nova Scotia is in the midst of determining a carbon pricing policy too.

Let's keep up that CCL pressure. The stakes are high. If Ontario and Nova Scotia adopt carbon fee and dividend or something very similar, it will be a huge incentive for the next federal government to do the same, and inspire our friends in the U.S. It will also be a huge win for CCL!

At your earliest convenience please:

ACTION 1

Set up a meeting with your MPP/MLA to discuss the merits of carbon fee and dividend. If your representative is a Liberal, please urge them to ask the Premier and Ministers of Finance, Environment & Climate Change and Energy to seriously consider our policy. If your rep is NDP or Conservative, please ask them to vocalize support for carbon fee and dividend. This applies to both Nova Scotia and Ontario as they both currently have Liberal Governments. Consider using the cartoon on this page as visual props:

<http://citizensclimatelobby.ca/content/carbon-fee-and-dividend-cartoon-strips>

ACTION 2

Set up a meeting with the editorial board or editor of your local newspaper to encourage an editorial in support of carbon fee and dividend. Once you receive an answer (either yes or no), please send them the appropriate media packet. Here's [Ontario's](#), editorial packet and Nova Scotia's should be done by Friday midday. The following is a sample pitch to send to the editor. Please tailor it to your province.

Dear

It's [YOUR NAME] from the [LOCATION] chapter of the Citizens' Climate Lobby. I am writing to request a meeting to discuss an effective carbon pricing solution for Ontario/Nova Scotia.

As you know, the government of Ontario/Nova Scotia (choose your province) will soon announce whether it will go with a Quebec-style cap and trade system or a revenue-neutral carbon tax similar to what BC implemented.

The provincial government has not yet decided which one it will choose. We would like to meet with you to discuss the merits of a policy similar to the one implemented by BC called Carbon Fee and Dividend, and why Ontario/Nova Scotia should strongly consider it.

The Toronto Star, Globe and Mail and other newspapers are weighing in on this important issue, all encouraging a revenue neutral carbon tax. We would like [NAME OF NEWSPAPER] to do the same.

ACTION 3 –

[Print off \(on cardstock\) postcards](#) to send to Ontario's Minister for the Environment and Climate Change Glen Murray or Nova Scotian politicians letting them know you are ready to receive your climate bonus cheque! To increase the impact, print off a few dozen and reach out to community groups in your community (e.g. churches, environmental organizations) and ask them to have a postcard signing event this month.

Thank you to CCL Toronto for drafting and CCL Red Lake for editing the first incarnation of the Ontario-only actions.