Guest Speaker: Amory Lovins, Chairman and Chief Scientist of the Rocky Mountain Institute

Physicist Amory Lovins is Chairman and Chief Scientist of Rocky Mountain Institute (www.rmi.org) and Chairman Emeritus of Fiberforge Corporation (www.fiberforge.com). His wide-ranging innovations in energy, security, environment, and development have been recognized by the Blue Planet, Volvo, Onassis, Nissan, Shingo, and Mitchell Prizes, MacArthur and Ashoka Fellowships, the Benjamin Franklin and Happold Medals, and 11 honorary doctorates. He advises governments and major firms worldwide on advanced energy and resource efficiency, has briefed 20 heads of state, and has led the technical redesign of more than $30 billion worth of industrial facilities in 29 sectors to achieve very large energy savings at typically lower capital cost. A Harvard and Oxford dropout, he has published 29 books and hundreds of papers and has taught at eight universities. His most recent book is “Reinventing Fire: Bold Business Solutions for the New Energy Era.”

Actions:
1) Practice the laser talk.
2) Invite organizations, businesses, faith communities and people of influence to sign on to a letter supporting carbon fee and dividend.
3) Register for the CCL International Conference 2012: The Cure for Climate Trauma

FEBRUARY LASER TALK
Support carbon tax and rebate

As we saw from the record number of weather-related disasters last year – floods, droughts and fires -- climate change is already having an impact on our world.

The International Energy Agency has warned that we have five years to start reducing greenhouse gas emissions before the global warming process becomes unmanageable.

The best way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, especially carbon dioxide, is to make the transition from fossil fuels to clean energy. Doing this will also create jobs in clean energy and energy efficiency.

We can speed up this transition by placing a gradually-rising fee on carbon-based fuels that motivates private-sector investments in wind, solar and other clean technology. Returning revenue from the carbon fee to consumers will shield households from the economic impact of rising energy costs. We call this carbon fee and dividend.

As we ask members of Parliament and other elected officials to support this policy, they will ask the question: Who supports this legislation? And so, we are asking organizations, faith communities, businesses and people of influence to sign on to a letter of support for carbon fee and dividend.

Can you or your organization sign the letter?
ACTION

Invite organizations, businesses, faith communities and people of influence to support carbon tax and rebate

After the Saturday conference call, discuss which organizations, businesses, faith communities, and people of influence in your city and province you would like to invite to sign on to a letter of support (next page) for carbon fee and dividend.

When an organization or individual agrees to sign on, ask them to sign online here: http://citizensclimatelobby.ca/content/sign-open-letter

Or forward their information and logo with permission to use on our final letter to Citizen Climate Lobby Canada’s Project Manager at corlando350@gmail.com

Please contact Cathy Orlando if you have contacted any major organizations, agencies, union groups or companies to support our letter at corlando350@gmail.com

When we have significant number of signatures, we will go public with the letter of support, perhaps with a press conference.

The main objective is to have a letter of support with hundreds of signatures, broken down by province, which we can take with us to lobby our MPs and other elected officials.

We suggest that one member in each chapter manage the group’s effort in this campaign to track progress and support partners in their efforts.
Letter of support for carbon fee and dividend

Earth’s natural systems are rapidly approaching tipping points for global warming, according to mounting evidence. Failure to act now will doom future generations to one cataclysm after another – shortages of food and water, displacement of millions from rising sea levels, more frequent and severe weather disasters, and the breakdown of civil society.

The deal struck at the U.N. climate change conference in Durban, South Africa in December does not take effect until 2020. Waiting another eight years to start reducing greenhouse gas emissions may well be a death sentence for a stable climate.

Canada, one of the world’s leading per-capita sources of atmospheric greenhouse gases, must take decisive steps now to reduce those emissions with a National Energy Strategy that compels other nations to follow our lead. The most important step in such a national strategy is to make polluters pay for carbon emissions in a way that will drive the transition from fossil fuels to clean energy. Such a policy will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and, by providing an economic stimulus, produce the 21st Century jobs Canadians need.

A direct, steadily-increasing fee on carbon-based fuels – coal, oil and gas – would speed this transition by erasing fossil fuels’ artificial price advantage over energy efficiency and low-carbon fuels. Returning revenue from the carbon fee to the public would shield households from the economic impact of rising energy costs while retaining the economic incentives that will drive producers and consumers away from coal, oil and gas. The clear price signal provided by the fee will move massive amounts of investment toward clean-energy technology and energy efficiency, stimulating the creation of new jobs.

Imposing border adjustments on imports from nations that do not yet have equivalent carbon pricing would also protect Canadian businesses from unfair competition. These tariffs will create a powerful incentive for other nations to adopt their own carbon fee in order to keep revenue within their borders.

For the good of our nation and the Earth, and in the hope that we may preserve a livable world for future generations, we the undersigned urge our federal government to implement a fee on carbon that returns one hundred percent of its revenue to the public.