



## **CCL Monthly Conference Call**

### **Saturday, March 3, 2012**

**Group Meetings from 9:45 AM – 12:15 PM Pacific**  
**Call from 10:00 AM – 11:15 AM Pacific (1:00 PM EST)**

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

### **Guest Speaker: Robert W. Howarth, Cornell University, talks about fracking**



Bob Howarth is the author of a [study](#) published last year that examined the greenhouse gas footprint of extracting shale gas through hydraulic fracturing. He is the David R. Atkinson Professor of Ecology & Environmental Biology at Cornell. Bob chairs the International SCOPE Biofuels Project, directs the Agriculture, Energy & the Environment Program (AEEP, formerly AEP) at Cornell University, and represents the State of New York on the science and technical advisory committee of the Chesapeake Bay Program. He has worked extensively on environmental issues related to human-induced changes in the sulphur, nitrogen, phosphorus, and carbon cycles, the impacts of global climate change, and interaction of energy systems and the environment.

[Handout for Howarth's presentation](#)

### **Actions:**

- 1) Practice the laser talk.
- 2) Have your group agree on specific benchmarks that will help CCL Canada achieve its 2-year plan (coming soon) to pass effective climate change legislation. Report those benchmarks to Cathy Orlando at [corlando350@gmail.com](mailto:corlando350@gmail.com).
- 3) Write a letter to the editor responding to the rising cost of gasoline.

## MARCH LASER TALK

# Stop pain at pump by ending oil addiction

On February 28, Montreal drivers were hit with a 14-cent hike in gasoline prices, and many people across Canada have felt the price shock at the pump since mid-February.

Some people might like to cite the gasoline price increases as a reason to expand development of Canada's oilsands and increase the number of pipelines that will export unprocessed bitumen oil outside of Canada.

Neither of these actions will have any immediate impact on the price at the pump. In the long run, our nation will be better off if we end our self-destructive addiction to oil, no matter where it comes from.

Despite being an oil producing country, Canada is dependent on foreign oil, and is subjected to gasoline price volatility due to global market speculation.

Like the movie "Groundhog Day," Canada keeps repeating the same scenario on oil that began decades ago with the first Arab embargo: A crisis somewhere in the world disrupts global oil supplies, sending prices higher and hurting our economy. During that Arab embargo, Canada became a founding member of the International Energy Agency, which is now warning countries not to lock themselves into a high-carbon economy.

The only way to protect our economy from price shocks in the oil market is to break the cycle of dependency on oil. To do this Canada must begin a gradual and predictable transition away towards low-carbon economy.

We can foster that transition with a price on carbon that makes alternative energy, new innovations and conservation more attractive to consumers. Returning revenue from a carbon fee to the public will shield our economy from the impact of rising energy costs associated with the fee.

Canada currently lacks an energy strategy other than to sell raw resources down the pipe as fast as possible. Canadians must demand a national energy strategy. Happily yet urgently we can demand this of our Provincial Energy Ministers now because they are meeting in September in Prince Edward Island.

References:

<http://thechronicleherald.ca/business/68154-montreal-drivers-hit-sudden-14-cent-hike-gas-prices>

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-03-01/keystone-oil-pipeline-seen-raising-gas-prices-in-midwest-energy.html>

# ACTION

## Commit to goals that will help CCL Canada implement our plan to enact a national price on carbon

As we build the political will to pass meaningful legislation in Parliament, there are specific goals we should achieve by the end of 2012. We'll know our efforts are moving in the right direction if, by the end this year, we hit benchmarks in the following areas:

- **Establishing your local groups and getting trained to be lobbyists.** *When will you be ready for us to come to your community to train your group?*  
Please set a date
- **Editorials and opeds supporting carbon fee and dividend**
- **Letters to the editor**
- **Meetings with Parliamentary staff**
- **Fundraisers**
- **Face-to-face meetings with members of Parliament**
- **Increased presence in social media:**
  - number of likes in Facebook  
<https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Citizens-Climate-Lobby-Canada/326480127363866>
  - followers on Twitter <https://twitter.com/#!/CitizensLobbyCa>
- **Signers of our open letter of support for climate legislation**  
<http://citizensclimatelobby.ca/cfd-open-letter>
- **Personal letters to members of Parliament in support of carbon fee and dividend**

At your meeting, discuss and agree on numbers your group will commit toward achieving these benchmarks – numbers of editorials, letters to the editor, meeting with members of parliament, etc.

Send your benchmark commitments to Cathy Orlando at [corlando350@gmail.com](mailto:corlando350@gmail.com)

# ACTION

## **Write letters to the editor in response to articles and commentary about rising gasoline prices**

The price of gasoline is a hot topic in the news right now and offers us an opportunity to get letters to the editor published in our local newspapers.

Look through the last few issues of your local paper for articles or commentary about the price of gasoline, giving priority to front-page stories, editorials, columns and opeds.

Using this month's laser talk for points you can make, respond to the newspaper's article with a letter that conforms to the paper's word-length limitations. Open your letter by referencing the article in question and go from there.

**Our message:** The only way we can truly protect our nation from price shocks in the global oil market is to end our addiction to oil. We can wean ourselves off fossil fuels by pricing carbon.

Be sure to include your address and phone number so the newspaper can verify your letter.