



CCL Monthly Conference Call, Saturday, Sept. 8, 2012

Groups meet at 9:45am PT/12:45pm ET

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

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.

Instructions: Sign on to the call at least five minutes before the start time. When you first get on the call, announce your name, city and how many people are in the room.

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

Guest speaker: Dr. Veerabhadran Ramanathan, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, talks about non-CO2 sources of global warming



As the clock ticks down toward the tipping point on global warming, is there a way to buy more time for efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions? An initiative launched by the U.S. State Department earlier this year aims to do just that by regulating and reducing non-CO2 sources of global warming – methane, soot and ozone. This initiative is being guided by the research of our September conference call guest, Dr. Veerabhadran Ramanathan, Director of the Center for Clouds, Chemistry, and Climate at Scripps Institution of Oceanography. He is currently working on Project Surya to replace traditional biomass cooking in developing countries with clean-burning cook stoves that can slash emissions, improve indoor air quality and curb climate pollutants at the same time. Dr. Ramanathan also co-

chaired the publication of *Fate of Mountain Glaciers in the Anthropocene*, a report from the Pontifical Academy of Sciences.

September Actions:

- 1) In your monthly CCL group meeting, hand write letters to your **Member of Parliament (MP)** about the climate-related disasters and events that have occurred this summer and ask them to support legislation that would phase out more in a rigorously and timely manner **all** subsidies and tax incentives for fossil fuel companies (see resources).
- 2) Circa September 24 contact Canada's Weather Network* online about the revised statement on climate change from the American Meteorological Society. Also contact your local TV weather person, ask for a meeting regarding the weather. See the Laser Talk.

* <http://www.theweathernetwork.com/contactinfo/contactindex>

Upcoming Actions - Please start preparing now. Are you coming to Ottawa in November? Please start arranging to meet with your MP in November

During the week of **November 5**, some of us will be attending the **Climate Action Network Canada** Annual General Meeting (AGM) and lobbying days in Ottawa. Like in June, we will work with CAN to lobby for key asks, which will soon be nailed down. There appears to be some agreement on (1) carbon pricing; (2) ending the 1.4 billion dollars of subsidies and tax incentives for fossil fuel companies; (3) support for a Pan-Canadian New Energy Strategy.

You are welcome to join us in Ottawa and/or book an appointment with your MP to meet with us in Ottawa. More details will be discussed on the CCL Canada call.

- 3a) Start booking appointments for **CCL members in partnership** with **Climate Action Network - Canada (CAN-C) members** to meet with your MP in Ottawa during the **week of November 5** in **Ottawa**. You are welcome to join us in Ottawa that week.
- 3b) Alternatively or in conjunction, book an appointment for you and a small group of people to meet with your MP the week of **November 12** in your **home riding**, as MP's will be in their home ridings that week. This would be an opportunity for you to continue building a personal relationship between you and your CCL Canada group as well as educate your MP about CCL and carbon fee and dividend.

TV forecasters can help public understand climate change and weather extremes

This spring and summer have brought numerous reminders that the planet is heating up and the climate is changing in disastrous ways.

Destructive wildfires out West have been fueled by drought- and insect-ravaged trees. Drought covering much of the USA has decimated this year's corn crop in the Midwest.

Canada has not been spared. After a long, dry summer that has devastated crops across Eastern Ontario, the province is asking the federal government for disaster relief. As well, nearly 90% of Ontario's apple crop was lost due to unusually warm March followed by a cold spell in April killed the early apple blossoms.

Sea ice in the Arctic Ocean has been reduced to the lowest level ever recorded. A [2012 peer-reviewed scientific analysis](#) found that the loss of Arctic ice favours *“extreme weather events that result from prolonged conditions, such as drought, flooding, cold spells, and heat waves.”*

America's leading climate scientist, Dr. James Hansen, now says, *“For the extreme hot weather of the recent past, there is virtually no explanation other than climate change.”*

A recently-updated statement on climate change from the American Meteorological Society should help to clear up any confusion. The statement said: *“There is unequivocal evidence that Earth's lower atmosphere, ocean, and land surface are warming... The dominant cause of the warming since the 1950s is human activities.”*

Weather forecasters are in a unique position to help the public understand how climate change is having an impact on our weather. Will you share this important information with your audience?

ACTION

Write to your MP about climate disasters and ask them to end subsidies and preferential tax incentives for fossil fuels

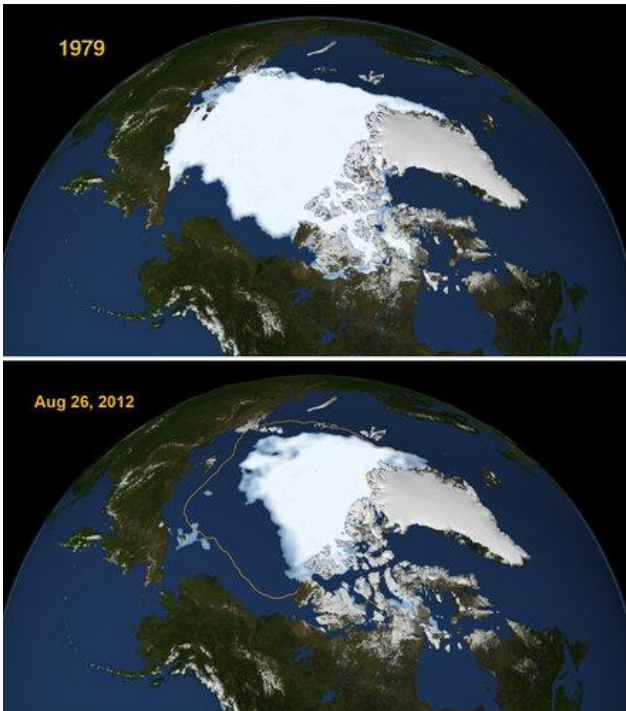
Mother Nature has grabbed our attention this year with extreme weather that has everyone connecting the dots on climate change. This is a good time to write to our MP's about the climate-related disasters and events that have occurred this summer and ask them to support legislation that would phase out **all** subsidies and tax incentives for fossil fuel companies.

Write a letter:

- Introduce yourself and tell your Member of Parliament why the issue of climate change is important to you (please look up your MP's snail mail address online).
- Cite an extreme-weather-related disaster or record-breaking event related to climate change.
- Ask that they support legislation that would phase out, in a more rigorous and timely manner, **all** subsidies and tax incentives for fossil fuel companies (see resources).
- Ask for a response.
- Copy the Minister of Finance

The Honourable James M. Flaherty
Department of Finance Canada
140 O'Connor Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G5

Extreme-weather phenomenon this year (pick one):



- [Sea ice loss](#) in the Arctic this summer set a new record (see graphic) on August 26, 2012.
- The devastating drought gripping the Midwest in the USA this summer will exert a big impact in grocery stores, as shortages of corn are pushing prices beyond \$8 a bushel, up from the \$4.80 per-bushel price the USDA estimated at planting time in April.
- After a long, dry summer that has devastated crops across Eastern Ontario, the province is asking the federal government for [disaster relief](#).
- Nearly [90% of Ontario's apple crop](#) was lost due to unusually warm March followed by a cold spell in April killed the early apple blossoms
- A [2012 peer-reviewed scientific analysis](#) found that the loss of Arctic ice favours “extreme weather events that result from prolonged conditions, such as drought, flooding, cold spells, and heat waves.”

ACTION

Write to local weather forecasters about the AMS statement on climate change and ask for a meeting

The American Meteorological Society (AMS) recently updated its statement on climate change, directly saying that global warming is occurring because of human activities, going so far as to say, “Avoiding this future warming will require a large and rapid reduction in global greenhouse gas emissions.”

This presents us with an opening to contact weather forecasters at our local TV stations. At the CCL conference in July, Tony Leiserowitz from the Yale Project on Climate Change Communication told us that one of the most effective ways to reach the public on climate change is through weather forecasters. The AMS statement is an opportunity to contact TV forecasters and request meetings with them and station managers to talk about helping the public to better understand the connection between climate change and weather extremes.

At your meeting, assign different members to contact each of the broadcast stations in your area and have them...

- Send an email to the weather forecaster they are assigned to asking if they’ve seen the AMS statement on climate change.
- Include an excerpt from the AMS statement.
- In your opening, introduce yourself as a volunteer with Citizens Climate Lobby.
- Ask if a couple of members from your group and a local climate scientist could come and meet with them and the station manager about ways we can help the public to better understand what is happening with the climate and its impact on our weather.
- Be sure to CC the station manager in your note.
- Follow up with a phone call.

Assign someone in the meeting to be the support person for the volunteers who are contacting TV stations and track their progress.

Resources:

Statement about climate change from the American Meteorological Society:
<http://www.ametsoc.org/policy/2012climatechange.html>

Sample letter to TV weather forecasters (see next page).SUBJECT: American Meteorological Society Statement on Climate Change

Dear Ken,

My name is Steve Valk. I’ve lived in Atlanta for over 30 years, and I’ve enjoyed and appreciated your weather forecasts during that time. I’m also a volunteer with the Atlanta chapter of Citizens Climate Lobby, and I’m writing to ask if you have seen the updated

[statement on climate change](#) from the American Meteorological Society. The new statement is much stronger and clearer about the extent of global warming and its causes. Here's an excerpt:

“There is unequivocal evidence that Earth's lower atmosphere, ocean, and land surface are warming; sea level is rising; and snow cover, mountain glaciers, and Arctic sea ice are shrinking. The dominant cause of the warming since the 1950s is human activities... The observed warming will be irreversible for many years into the future, and even larger temperature increases will occur as greenhouse gases continue to accumulate in the atmosphere. Avoiding this future warming will require a large and rapid reduction in global greenhouse gas emissions. The ongoing warming will increase risks and stresses to human societies, economies, ecosystems, and wildlife through the 21st century and beyond, making it imperative that society respond to a changing climate... National and international policy discussions should include consideration of the best ways to both adapt to and mitigate climate change. Mitigation will reduce the amount of future climate change and the risk of impacts that are potentially large and dangerous... Prudence dictates extreme care in accounting for our relationship with the only planet known to be capable of sustaining human life.”

Many people have suggested it will take a “Pearl Harbor moment” to motivate policy-makers to take action to address climate change. Well, there have been a number of “Pearl Harbor moments” this year – wildfires out West, corn-killing drought, record-setting ice loss in the Arctic – but much of the public is still unaware of where the bombs are coming from. For that reason, we would like to request a meeting with you and the station manager to discuss the AMS statement and how we can help the public to better understand the connection between climate change and weather extremes. A couple of us from the local chapter would attend along with a scientific expert on climate change who could answer any questions that may arise.

Again, my great appreciation for your many years of service to the Atlanta community. I hope we have the chance to meet soon.

Sincerely,

Steve Valk
404.769.7461