



CLIMATEFAST

LET'S ACT ON CLIMATE - **FAST!**

## CLIMATEFAST NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2021

*The ClimateFast newsletter shares information about the Climate Crisis that may interest our readers, and does not necessarily reflect the views of ClimateFast members.*

Have a look at our [new website!](#) Many thanks to Alan Dixon of [Blackfly Solutions](#) for his assistance in its redevelopment.

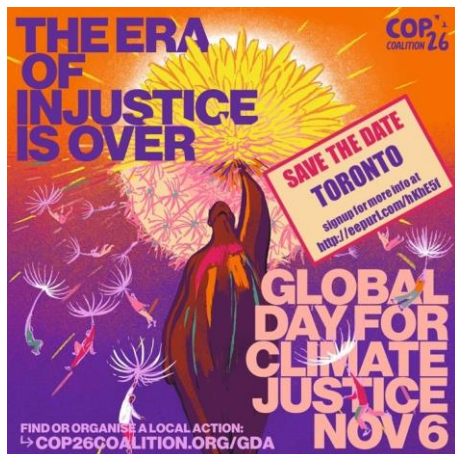
This is a critical time for climate action! While the world prepares for COP26, the need for urgent action globally to curb CO2 emissions has never been so clear. ClimateFast is committed to pushing our newly elected federal government to take bold action immediately to cut carbon emissions and to plan a just transition to a low carbon future. We also need to see climate leadership at the provincial level, and ClimateFast will be teaming up with other climate action organizations to ensure climate is a key focus in the next provincial election on June 2, 2022.

### CALLS TO ACTION

#### The People's Summit for Climate Justice

The COP 26 meetings in Glasgow, Scotland, are the latest round of international meetings set in motion more than 30 years ago to solve the Climate Crisis. Despite all the conferences and reports that this process has produced and the agreements that have been entered into, carbon emissions have continued to rise globally. The people that bear the least responsibility for the Climate Crisis are bearing the brunt: BIPOC peoples, pacific-islanders, and climate refugees fleeing drought, fire, and flood.

The [COP26 Coalition](#) is organizing decentralized mass mobilizations across the world to build power for system change – from indigenous struggles to trade unions, from racial justice groups to youth strikers. Between Nov 7th to 10th, there will be over 200 sessions bringing together the climate justice movement to discuss, learn, and strategize for system change. [Explore the program and register here.](#)



Here in Toronto, a newly formed coalition of labour, climate, and social justice groups has been organizing to hold an action around more Canada-specific demands:

- Respect Indigenous sovereignty
- Phase out fossil fuels
- Just transition for communities and workers
- Global Justice

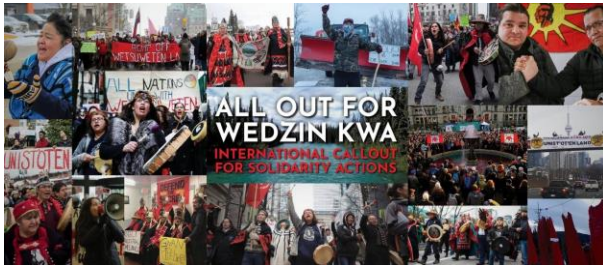
This action has been endorsed by the Toronto and York Region Labour Council, Steelworkers Toronto Area Council, Labour Education Centre, Greenpeace, Council of Canadians, United Steelworkers Local 1998, with endorsements pending from Fridays for Future Toronto and Toronto Climate Action Network.

You can email [info\[at\]nov6toronto.org](mailto:info[at]nov6toronto.org) to send a message of endorsement from your group or union local, make a donation, or to help with organizing, outreach or as a volunteer on the day of the rally. Signup for email updates at: <http://eepurl.com/hKhE5f>.

### **TTC Commission Report Deputations:**

The Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) is creating a new fare plan and will be debating about the future of fares at its November 17th meeting. [TTCriders](#) is campaigning for free TTC fares for high school students. This is a racial justice, equity, and climate issue. Kingston instituted this and ridership shot up from 28,000 to 600,000!

Right now, you can sign up for a November 15th training to learn how to depute at the November 17th TTC Board meeting: [https://act.ttcriders.ca/deputation\\_2021\\_20211004](https://act.ttcriders.ca/deputation_2021_20211004) If you want to speak at it, you must [register online](#) by 12 pm the day before.



**Call to support the Wet'suwet'en resistance:** Wet'suwet'en members and their supporters maintain control of a Coastal Gas Link drill site that threatens their unceded territories. You can read all about what has been happening in the past week [here](#). Donations to the [Wet'suwet'en Land Defenders Fund](#), or support them in other ways as suggested on their [website](#).

### Petitions



We need protected bike lanes on Overlea Boulevard, connecting Thorncliffe Park and Flemingdon Park. The people of Toronto need and deserve a safe, healthy, and sustainable

transportation network; building high quality bike lanes is a part of the solution. It only takes a minute to sign this petition, and your support goes a long way:

<https://www.cycleto.ca/ConnectTF>



### **Bike Lanes on Ellesmere & Kingston**

We also need protected bike lanes on Ellesmere & Kingston from McCowan to the Rouge. Some people are opposed to investing in healthy and affordable transportation options in Scarborough and are trying to have the project scrapped. Please show your support by signing and sharing our petition to [Connect Scarborough](#), and voicing your support at one of three public meetings. These meetings are being held from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on:

Thursday, October 21

Tuesday, October 26

Thursday, October 28

[Register here](#)

### **Sea to Sky - Confront the Climate Emergency**

This [petition](#) is calling on the BC government to act immediately to take action on the climate emergency.

### **Tell leaders at COP26 to sign on to Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty**

World leaders must take decisive action on climate at COP26, and that means passing a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty. Help make that happen by adding your name to this [petition](#).

## **NEWS**

The Los Angeles City Council approved a motion on October 19th that calls for city departments to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030. The motion instructed the city's departments to report back to the council before the end of 2022 on a "robust, world-leading plan to achieve the moon-shot goal of carbon neutrality without offsets in Los Angeles by 2030." [Read more.](#)



## **New Film Being Made: 1.5 Degrees of Peace**

Climate and peace are connected, and youth filmmaker Kasha Slavner is exploring these themes in her 2nd film, 1.5 Degrees of Peace. [Watch the trailer and find out how to support this initiative.](#)

## **[PollinateTO](#) Grants Open for Applications**

Grants of up to \$5,000 are available to support community-led projects that create or expand pollinator habitat on public and private lands in Toronto. PollinateTO provides funding for pollinator gardens located in all Toronto neighbourhoods, with a focus on projects in Toronto's [Neighbourhood Improvement Areas](#). [Applications](#) are now open, until November 1, 2021. The gardens will be planted in 2022. [Read more about PollinateTO.](#)

## **[Neighbourhood Climate Action Champions](#) – Open for 2021 Cohort Applications**

Become a Neighbourhood Climate Action Champion! Residents and community leaders are invited to help inspire climate action in Toronto by becoming Neighbourhood Climate Action Champions. Participants will receive training and support to empower them to support residents in developing innovative climate action projects that reflect the needs and values of their communities. Learn more and apply by October 25th by visiting [here](#).

## **[My Main Street Community Funding](#)**

The My Main Street program is offering two streams of grants (1) [Local Business Accelerator](#) and (2) [Community Activator](#). My Main Street is a \$23.25-million federal investment to help drive business and restore vibrancy to local communities across southern Ontario in the aftermath of COVID-19. Applications open from October 1st to November 1st, 2021.

## **EVENTS**

**Race Against Climate Change:** This new six-part podcast from Canada's National Observer digs deep into areas of daily life impacted by climate change. It features interviews with experts to help us learn what we can do, if we choose to act quickly. [Subscribe to the podcast](#) or [listen to past episodes](#).

### **Fridays for Future Youth Climate Strike**

A climate strike was held in Toronto on Sept. 24th, but other locations, including within the GTA, are holding them on Oct. 22nd. Use the [map](#) to see if a climate strike is happening near you.

### **Canada's Net-Zero Economy: Securing Prosperity in a Net-Zero World**

October 25, 2021: 1 - 5 pm

The Canadian Institute for Climate Choices is co-hosting this webinar with the Net-Zero Advisory Body. The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, Patricia Fuller, Mark Carney, Chris Stark and others will be interviewed by journalists from the Globe and Mail and The Narwhal.

[Full program available here](#)

[Speaker announcements and bios here.](#)

[Register here](#)

### **Nature-based Climate Solutions**

October 26, 2021: 1-2pm (EST)

This one hour webinar from Nature Ontario will discuss nature-based climate solutions, Ontario Nature's Protected Places Campaign, the upcoming 2022 provincial election, and more.

[Register here](#)

## Ontario: Yours to Protect

October 28: 6:30 pm

This webinar will be hosted by Phil Pothen of Environmental Defence, with guest speakers David Crombie and Loreena McKinnett, both leaders in the environmental movement.

[Register here](#)

## COP26 and Net Zero's Dangerous Distractions

October 28: 7:30 pm

This is a jointly sponsored virtual event with Climate Action Muskoka (CAM), Seniors for Climate Action Now! (SCAN!) Education Committee and Environment Haliburton (EH!).

After a brief presentation about COP26 by SCAN members Gail Greer and David Robertson, Marc Lee will talk about the dangers of a Net Zero approach to climate mitigation. Marc Lee is a Senior Economist with the British Columbia office of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. [Read more](#) [Register here](#)

## Day of Action Against Fossil Fuels

October 29: 2 - 6 pm

Financial District, Toronto

Organized by [Banking on a Better Future](#), [Greenpeace Canada](#) and [Climate Pledge Collective](#)

This event is part of a Global Day of Action against the Big Banks funding the expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure worldwide. The Canadian Event highlights the Coastal Gas Link Project. [Read more](#) [Please RSVP](#)



## EcoFair Toronto

November 4 - 7

The 13th annual EcoFair will have four days of virtual engagement and exciting events. EcoFair is free, informative, family-friendly and fun! [Register here](#) for online eco- webinars, films, games, workshops, and exhibitor booths showcasing non-profits and businesses, and for details about the in-life bike ride. Visit the [EcoFair Toronto website](#) for details. Learn about solutions, celebrate progress, promote change, and be inspired to take action in our own lives. A more sustainable future awaits!

*Co-hosted by Green Neighbours Network of Toronto and Transition Toronto.*



## Canada's Climate Record

This webinar is co-sponsored by Science for Peace and Seniors For Climate Action Now! (SCAN)

Sunday, Nov 7: 4:30 - 5:30 pm

[Register](#)

## How Collective Impact can Support Climate Transitions in Communities

Webinar: November 17, 2021 - 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm EST

Tamarack develops and supports collaborative strategies that engage citizens and institutions to solve major community issues across Canada and beyond. Their new initiative, Community Climate Transitions, is aimed at building a network of communities that are committed to tackling climate change by advancing social, environmental and economic goals simultaneously. They will be hosting a community of practices, webinars, and events, producing publications and supporting our members with specialized coaching. This webinar explores how communities can use collective impact to accelerate just local climate transitions.

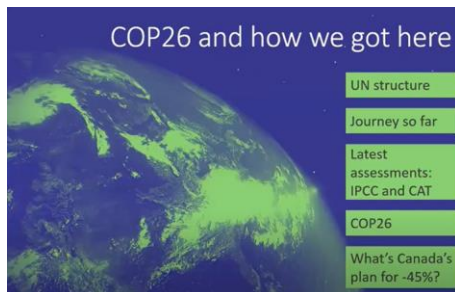
[Register here](#)

## RESOURCES

### COP26

The world is gearing up for COP26, the UN climate conference taking place October 31st to - November 12th in Glasgow, UK. With the impending climate catastrophe that has been predicted by leading scientists, we need to see bold climate leadership at COP26.

We are collecting [information and articles about COP26](#), which can be viewed on our website.



For an excellent overview of COP26 [view this presentation](#) by Caroline Taylor of Ryerson Life Institute.

Here are a few articles that might be of interest:

[What is Cop26 and why does it matter? The complete guide](#)

[NDCs, climate finance and 1.5C: your Cop26 jargon buster](#)

[Who's who at Cop26: the leaders who hold the world's future in their hands](#)

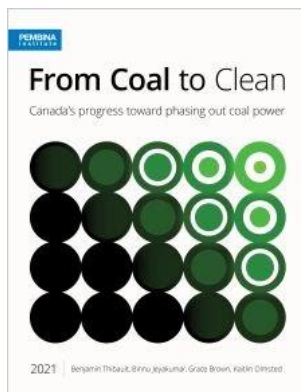
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[The Art of Climate Persuasion](#): Interview with Katherine Hayhoe on The Agenda, October 6.

See Tzeporah Berman's excellent [TED Countdown talk on the FFNPT](#). Tzeporah is the Chair of the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative and the international program director of Stand.Earth.

Watch "[Regeneration: Ending the Climate Crisis in One Generation](#)", with Paul Hawken, Founder of Drawdown, and Jonathan Rose, Co-Founder of the Garrison Institute. This webinar is part of the Garrison Institute's [Pathways to Planetary Health](#) initiative.

Read the Environmental Health News report "[Air pollution linked to millions of birth complications across the globe](#)". Every year, an estimated seven million people die from air pollution across the globe. Now, new research shows that air pollution is not only a health threat to everyone in the world, but also to those who have not yet arrived. Scientists estimate millions of preterm births and underweight newborns worldwide can be attributed to long-term exposure to air pollution.



[From Coal to Clean: Canada's progress toward phasing out coal power](#). With Alberta two years away from a coal-free grid, decades ahead of schedule, this new analysis by the Pembina Institute shows that the policy levers and opportunities used in Ontario and Alberta can be utilized by the three provinces still burning coal to eliminate it within the decade.



### [2021 State of Climate Services: Water](#)

Global heating has increased flooding by 134% and drought by 29% since 2000, and many developing countries are dangerously ill-equipped to handle extremes that are only going to get worse, according to a new report from the UN's World Meteorological Organization. Floods and droughts are increasing because of climate change and the number of people suffering water stress is expected to soar, yet services and global climate finance are woefully inadequate.

## Facing Fossil Fuels' Future:

Challenges and Opportunities for Workers in  
Canada's Energy and Labour Transitions



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September 2021

## Facing Fossil Fuels' Future

This new report from Climate Action Network - Réseau action climat (CAN-Rac) Canada and Blue Green Canada explores the outlook for workers currently employed by the oil and gas industry under a 1.5°C-aligned pathway, and the new careers that need to be created within the decade to offer these workers opportunities in other sectors. You can [download the full report here](#). For an overview of the report, [read this article](#) in Canada's National Observer.

## Circular Economy



(graphic from [City of Toronto: Working Towards a Circular Economy](#))

The City of Toronto is working towards the goal of zero waste and a [circular economy](#). A circular economy aims to reduce waste and maximize resources by moving away from the linear take-make-and-dispose approach to an innovative system that focuses on product longevity, renewability, reuse, and repair. The searchable [Circular Directory](#) connects and promotes closed-loop solution providers from a range of sectors and industries, providing information both for consumers and businesses looking for circular economy solutions. You can also view [Circular Economy in Action at the Local Level](#), a series of case studies highlighting small businesses and organizations in Toronto that are supporting the circular economy.

## UN Climate Action Podcast: No Denying It

[Listen to young climate action change makers](#) from around the world on how to make changes to the way we live, work and play within our communities. 8 episodes available to date.

## Truth and Reconciliation

September 30th, 2021 marked the first National Day of Truth and Reconciliation in Canada. The day is meant to honour the lost children and survivors of residential schools, their families, and communities. While many of us took this moment to grieve and reflect, we cannot stop there. [View a list of actions and resources](#) compiled by Leadnow to help us remember that we have



*“the responsibility today, and every day, to work towards reconciliation and dismantle the genocidal legacy of the country we call Canada”.*



In honour of World Mental Health Day, the Climate Atlas of Canada released [a series of new content related to mental health and climate change](#). A growing number of Canadians are suffering from mental health impacts associated with climate change, including stress from being evacuated from home, anxiety from experiencing heat waves, and other risks, and general climate grief when contemplating potential impacts and challenges for current and future generations. These new articles and videos explore mental health impacts, lived experiences, and coping strategies.

The Conversation Canada published an article explaining how [climate change is affecting kids' psychological development around the world](#).



ClimateFast participants are volunteers; your donation will be used for expenses such as mailings, flyers, room rentals, and transportation. Your support is very much appreciated!

You may donate [online](#) or by cheque, made payable to:

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