



CLIMATEFAST

LET'S ACT ON CLIMATE - FAST!

CLIMATEFAST NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 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.

“Progress on the phaseout of fossil fuels is glacially slow while the climate crisis accelerates; we cannot leave action on climate to state actors and must continue to build civil society pressure for change.”

ClimateFast Co-Chair Lyn Adamson [speaking to BBC World News](#) on Nov 6.

GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE



Photo credit: Dawn Pearson

ClimateFast was proud to join a host of environmental, labour, and social justice groups for a climate rally at Queen's Park on Saturday, November 6th to demand Real Action at COP26!

View photos of the rally at nov6toronto.org.

Read [On the Grounds](#), a blog post reflecting on the Queen's Park rally, written by Colleen Lynch, a member of the rally organizing committee and ClimateFast supporter. Colleen provides an excellent overview of the speakers and performers concluding with a list of the main gains and failures of COP26.

CLIMATEFAST VIGILS FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE DURING COP 26

FAST FOR THE CLIMATE

On November 1st ClimateFast supporters held a fast and vigil in solidarity with Fast for the Climate taking place in COP 26 and with US hunger strikers in Washington DC.



Speaker Zoe Keary-Matzner (last photo)

Photographer: Don Booth

CALLS TO ACTION

All Out for Wedzin Kwa!

Come out on Friday Nov, 19 at 11:00 am to support Wet'suwet'en.

Rally - march - action at 155 Wellington St W. Toronto

Please share as widely as possible! Details on [Facebook](#) and [instagram](#)
[More info](#)

Transform TO - NET ZERO NEWS! And action!

The City's TransformTO Net Zero Strategy will be considered by the City's Infrastructure and Environment Committee (IEC) on December 2, 2021 and will be voted on at Council on Dec 15th.. If you are interested in following the progress of the strategy or making a [deputation](#) to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee, the agenda will be made public on the [IEC webpage](#) on November 25th. For those of you who participated in the city's Net Zero consultation process in the summer - and those who want to know what the feedback is from citizens - the report can be found [here](#). To learn more about TransformTO and the Net Zero Strategy, or sign up for e-updates, visit toronto.ca/transformto.

To take part in ClimateFast's deputation prep and councillor lobby, please email lyn@climatefast.ca. It's very important for councillors to know that their constituents want the City to take action to reduce emissions.

Demand urgent, ambitious climate action now

Now that the election and COP26 talks are over, let's join together and make sure that our political leaders know we will insist on climate action. **See the [petition from the David Suzuki Foundation](#)** calling on all federal parties to cooperate and take bold action.

Join Climate Code Red action campaign and meet with your MP! Are you willing to collect petition signatures in your riding and set up a meeting with your MP? ClimateFast is working with the Council of Canadians and other groups to press for Just Transition legislation that will move us forward to a renewable energy future.

To join our action team for Climate Code Red please contact climatefast@climatefast.ca. [More information](#).

Stop Highway 413

Ontario is going ahead with its plan to build Highway 413, a redundant and unnecessary mega highway, despite public protests and objections from municipal councils in the affected areas. Highway 413 would pave over farms, forests, wetlands, and a portion of the Greenbelt, and cost taxpayers billions. Learn more at [Environmental Defence: Stop the 413](#). Sign the [LeadNow petition](#).

Save the TTC

Transit riders across Ontario and [TTC Riders](#) have created this [petition](#) to urge all levels of government to step in with emergency funding to hire more operators and stop the cuts to Toronto public transit.

Don't subsidize polluting gas-power exports

The Canadian government has committed to ending public financing for international fossil fuel projects. It can act on this commitment by ordering the Canada Investment Bank (CIB) to cancel its low interest loan to Fortis Inc. to build an international transmission line under Lake Erie that will carry polluting gas-fired power from Ontario to the United States. See the [petition from the Ontario Clean Air Alliance](#).

NEWS

COP26

The 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) was held in Glasgow on October 31st to November 13th, 2021. Leaders from almost 200 countries have signed on to the [Glasgow Climate Pact](#), but it is a very weak accord.

Here are a few documents and articles about COP26 that may be of interest.

- A list of [statement and declarations](#) resulting from COP26 has been issued by the COP26 organizers.
- [Climate Action Network News Release](#): Incremental Inadequate Progress - A reason to Mobilize.
- CBC report “ [What Canada did — and didn't do — at the UN climate summit](#).”
- Canada’s National Observer published a [series on COP26](#) which covered many of the accomplishments, failures, issues and concerns that have all been part of COP26.
- The [latest Leger North American Tracker](#) asked Canadians and Americans about several topics discussed at COP26, including their perspectives on climate change and how they feel about the Canadian government’s climate change policies.
- COP26 fell short of [meeting the goals of indigenous peoples](#) and did not reflect their vision of a path forward. A [COP 26 position paper](#) from the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC), the international voice of Inuit, called on global leaders to make space for Inuit in climate governance to protect the Arctic and protect the planet.
- Many felt that Indigenous Peoples were [tokenized at the climate talks](#). A statement by [Indigenous Climate Action](#) affirmed that they will not agree to Article 6 of the Paris agreement until it includes “Free, Prior and Informed Consent and direct inclusion of Indigenous Peoples”.
- A declaration to end deforestation by 2030 was signed by 131 countries, accounting for 90 percent of the forest cover on Earth. But there are concerns that the deforestation will continue and even accelerate. Read the National Geographic article [“Will the COP26 global deforestation pledge save forests?”](#) for more insights.
- [Glasgow didn't deliver on 1.5 C, but not all is lost](#). (Canada’s National Observer)
- The World Health Organization [reported](#) on November 9th that governments of at least 50 countries, which now includes Canada, have signed on to the [COP26 Health Programme](#), an initiative to develop “climate-resilient and low-carbon health systems”.
- Young people are at the forefront of the fight for climate change. Youth activists at COP26 note that “The power is in us, not the leaders”. [See their stories from all across the world](#).
- The Energy Mix provides comprehensive [coverage of COP 26](#) [Subscribe](#) for three times weekly news service on climate and energy news.
- Must Watch Satire: [‘Honest Government’ ad](#) about **Net Zero by 2050** - with Greta Thunberg cameo appearance ‘Blah, blah, blah’.

Launch of the Community Climate Transitions Learning Cohort

Join the Tamarack Institute's [Community Climate Transitions](#) team for a 10-month learning journey for communities looking to develop and implement local climate transition plans. The cohort will operate like a community of practice for rapid experimentation, action planning and community engagement

Information session will be held November 23.

Deadline for applications: December 13, 2021

[Learn more and apply to join.](#)

University of Toronto committed to full divestment

On October 27th, the University of Toronto announced a commitment [to full divestment of fossil fuel investments](#), with a deadline of 12 months to withdraw direct investments and a deadline of 2030 to fully pull out of the fossil fuel industry. This announcement will create pressure on other universities to follow their lead. *This follows a 7 year campaign by U of T students, alumni, and allies. The movement to divest pensions and move money from fossil bans is extremely important. Get involved! Take action: <https://www.shiftaction.ca/take-action> and <https://climatepledgecollective.org/bankswitch/>*

Quebec committee to ending oil and gas extraction

Quebec Premier François Legault [announced](#) on October 19th that the province will end the extraction of oil and gas in the province. [CBC reported](#) in early November that Quebec is also joining the [Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance](#) (BOGA), an international alliance led by Denmark and Costa Rica to speed up the global phaseout of fossil fuels. BOGA was launched at COP26.

To learn more about progress toward the phasing out of fossil fuels during this year's COP watch [this clip](#) of Tzaporah Berman.

Women4ClimateTO Mentorship Programme: [Apply by Nov. 28](#)

The City's Women4ClimateTO Mentorship Programme empowers and supports women working on innovative projects to help address the climate emergency. As a participant, you will receive mentoring, training, and networking opportunities to help you take your project or business start-up to the next level. Following the mentorship program, the City and its partners will host a pitch competition with the chance to win cash awards and other supports to help you further advance your project. Applications will be accepted until Nov. 28, 2021.

Legal Challenge to Inclusion of Plastics as a Toxic Substance

A coalition of Canada's largest plastics manufacturers has launched a legal challenge to the government's decision to add plastics as a toxic substance under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA). EcoJustice is going to court on behalf of Oceana Canada and Environmental Defence to protect and uphold the government's ability to regulate plastics and reduce plastic pollution. [Read their blog on how the climate crisis is being fuelled by the plastics problem.](#)

EVENTS

Virtual Talk with Dr. Katharine Hayhoe

November 18, 2021, 8 to 9:15pm EST



Halton Climate Collective presents a virtual talk with climate activist, professor, and author, Dr. Katharine Hayhoe, about her book, “Saving Us”. Listen in as Dr. Hayhoe shares her insights on climate activism. Register [here](#).



If you're planning or thinking about climate conversations, this is the meeting for you! Come check-in post COP26, share your experiences around talking about the climate, and let us know what you'd like to see us touch on in 2022.

When: Sunday, November 21, 3 to 4:30pm

Where: RSVP to KTCC@climatefast.ca and we'll send you a zoom link a day or so before.



Under pressure: the future of Ontario's Greenbelt
November 25, 2021: 6 pm on Zoom

Doug Ford's government is working to fast-track development — and concerns are building about what that could mean for the Greenbelt, a vast protected area in Southern Ontario. Join The Narwhal for a live Zoom event as we examine whether it's possible to grow the region's population while mitigating climate change, and what policies are needed to ensure a healthy future for farmland and waterways.

[Register](#)

Net Zero Emissions and Canada: What you can do!

November 30, 2021, 6:00 pm ET

Charles Lin is founder and lead of Impact Net Zero, an environmental grassroots initiative to educate, engage, and empower Canadians on energy transition. In 2019, Charles was a Fellow of the Advanced Leadership Initiative of Harvard University, and from 1979 to 2017 he was a professor at the University of Toronto and McGill University in Canada, and a senior manager for Environment and Climate Change Canada. He participated in Canadian delegations to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and published over 70 articles in refereed scientific journals in weather and climate science. Sponsored by [Sustainability Consultant Network \(SCN\)](#).

[Register](#)



Future Leaders in Politics (FLIP 2.0)

January 22, 2022

FLIP 2.0 is a virtual summit for aspiring environmental leaders and advocates working to drive change through our political systems. Learn from former and current decision-makers from across the political spectrum, alumni from GreenPAC's Parliamentary Internship for the Environment program, and other experts in environmental leadership and politics through a variety of fireside chats, workshops, and panel discussions.

[More information and registration](#)

RESOURCES



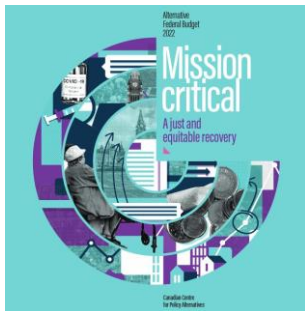
Canada's Climate Record: Broken Promises, Bright Future?

Webinar Nov 7 by Science for Peace, ClimateFast, and Seniors for Climate Action Now!

[Recording](#)



New report from Carbon Market Watch, '[Net-zero pipe dreams: why fossil fuels cannot be carbon neutral](#)', concludes that “Carbon-neutrality” claims by 18 fossil companies over the last 13 months amount to “brazen greenwashing”.



The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives has just released the [2022 Alternative Federal Budget](#) (AFB). A longstanding collaborative project, it involves more than a hundred progressive organizations and researchers with expertise spanning many fields including human rights, anti-poverty, child development, social and environmental justice, health and education workers, Indigenous peoples, students, arts and culture among others.



A [new study from Climate Analytics](#) quantifies for the first time some of the key implications of trying to use natural gas while pursuing the Paris 1.5°C target, arguing that it should not be a “bridging fuel” but should instead be quickly phased out.



Race Against Climate Change Podcast Series: Episode 3 now available.

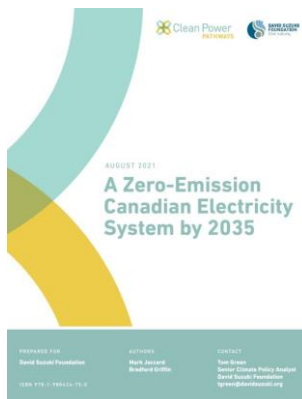
A decarbonized world is going to need a lot of electricity, but where should we get it from? And what role should nuclear power play in Canada? Linda Solomon Wood speaks with Catherine Abreu, a member of Canada’s Net-Zero Advisory Body, and Melina Laboucán-Massimo, co-founder of Indigenous Climate Action, makes the case for Indigenous-led renewable energy projects. [Download this](#) and previous episodes from [Apple](#), [Spotify](#) and [Google](#) podcasts.

THE CRUCIAL YEARS

Bill McKibben, climate activist and author of many books, writes a newsletter, called [The Crucial Years](#). Most posts are free but subscriptions are available and support a new organization called [Third Act](#), which aims to activate older Americans to fight for climate justice.



The crux of the Paris Agreements is a global effort to limit greenhouse gas emissions to below 1.5C. As part of the Countdown Summit held in October 2021 [Gavin McCormick](#) gave a TED Talk (11:14 minutes) that explains how satellite images, big data, and artificial intelligence algorithms can be used to accurately count greenhouse gas emissions in real-time. [Climate TRACE](#) is a coalition of organizations using this technology to make this information on GHG emissions free and accessible for everyone.



A Zero-Emission Canadian Electricity System by 2035
by Mark Jaccard, Bradford Griffin; published by the David Suzuki Foundation

This technical report offers detailed provisions for how a clean-electricity standard and intensified carbon pricing could be designed. And, it demonstrates how they would affect existing generation and investments in new generation.



Climate Change: We're Screwed, It's Our Fault, It's Going to Get Worse and There's Nothing We Can Do? is the title of a November 10, 2021 talk by Dr. Adam Fenech, a professor and the Director of the University of Prince Edward Island's Climate Research Lab, given virtually for McMaster University's Climate Change Public Lecture. Available to watch now on [Youtube](#).



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

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

ClimateFast
and mail c/o Lyn Adamson
Friends House
60 Lowther Ave.
Toronto, Ontario, M6E 2Y4

Website: www.climatefast.ca
Telephone: (416) 731-6605
Email: climatefast@climatefast.ca