



CLIMATEFAST

LET'S ACT ON CLIMATE - FAST!

CLIMATEFAST NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 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.

We Made History!!

Toronto City Council Endorses Call for Fossil Fuel Treaty



On July 15th Toronto City Council voted in an overwhelming majority to pass the [motion](#) made by Councillor Mike Layton to endorse the call for a [Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty](#). Climatefast, Mobilize TO and Fridays for Future Toronto led the [Toronto campaign](#), with hundreds of individuals and organizations writing to the City Council to urge them to support the treaty. We give a big thank you to Councillors Mike Layton and Shelley Carroll for moving and seconding the motion, and to all of you who supported the campaign. You made it happen!

Read our [media release](#) and check out our [FFNPT blog](#).

Thanks to everyone who wrote [letters to the editor](#) and to Kim Perrotta of CHASE (Canadian Health Association for Sustainability and Environment) for her [Op Ed](#) published in the Hill Times.

To encourage groups in other cities to bring the campaign to their municipal council we offer some [tips for how to build a campaign](#), based on the steps we took in Toronto. We would like to keep in touch with others who are working on a campaign. If you have any ideas about where the treaty could go next, please email: lyn@climatefast.ca.

Federal election call expected soon

If you would like to volunteer with other climate activists to put the climate crisis on the agenda during this election you can join our election mobilizing team. Email lyn@climatefast.ca for details. Next meeting Thursday Aug 5 at 7 pm.

Last Minute Opportunity! Net Zero Survey deadline is Aug 4

Fill out the TransformTO Net Zero Survey!

Visit [TransformTO.ca](https://transformto.ca) to learn about the net zero actions under consideration, and provide your input by completing an [online survey](#), hosting a [community discussion](#) and/or contributing to an [online idea-sharing board](#). Input from residents will help inform the City's TransformTO Net Zero strategy, which will be presented to Council later this year.

EVENTS



Monday, August 9, 2021 (online), 7:00 - 8:30 EDT

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Food systems have a huge impact on climate and climate has a huge influence on food.

Research has shown that the global food system produces almost a quarter of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. This is the third of three programs on food and farming through a climate lens. Speakers include:

- Sally Miller, Fair Finance Fund
- Sunday Harrison, Green Thumbs Growing Kids
- Michelle Delaney, Thorncliffe Park Urban Farm
- Lily Phan, National Farmers Union (farmer)
- Josephine Grey, EcoJust Food Network and OASIS

View Parts 1 and 2 of Groundwork for Change::

WEBCAST #1 - June 7: [FOOD + LAND + CLIMATE: GROUNDWORK FOR CHANGE](#)

WEBCAST # 2 – JULY 12: [The Challenge and Promise of Regenerative Agriculture](#)

Check out our [Playlist](#).



Do you want to talk about talking about the climate! Come join us for the next KTCC support meeting on Sunday, August 22nd at 3pm. RSVP to ktcc@climatefast.ca and we'll send you the zoom link.

On the agenda:

- time for sharing about ongoing efforts
- time to ask for support and discuss ideas
- a few tips for holding conversations just about anywhere!

For more information about the KTCC concept, see <https://climateconversations.ca/> and check out the facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/climatefast.ca>.

Hope to see you on the 22nd!



ClimateFast Book Club Meeting

August 23rd, 6:30 - 8:30 pm EDT (online)

REGISTER HERE

Trying to keep up with climate literature but feel like it is getting away from you? Join us for our second ClimateFast Book Club meeting!

Climate fast volunteers will be reading and then hosting a moderated public discussion of [The New Climate War: The Fight to Take Back Our Planet](#), by Michael E Mann, followed by an open discussion with the audience. Whether you have read it or not, all are welcome!

UN 2021 Virtual Commemoration

August 9, 2021: 9 to 11 am EDT

On August 9th, [International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples](#), the UN will hold a virtual commemoration with the aim to redesign pre-existing social contracts that allow for more Indigenous ways of governance. The theme of this year's event is, "[Leaving no one behind: Indigenous peoples and the call for a new social contract](#)".



SAVE THE DATE!

The next Global Climate Strike will be on September 24th.

[Learn more about the Climate Strike here.](#)

[Connect on Facebook.](#)

CALLS TO ACTION

Scarborough residents want protected bike lanes



Cycle Toronto launched a series of campaigns advocating for protected bike lanes for everyone in the city – a major part of this campaign is to Connect Scarborough with a network of connected protected bikeways. We need to bring the people and organizations together to make safe cycling in Scarborough a reality.

[Sign the petition](#)



Ban the sale of ivory in Canada

Ivory-Free Canada Coalition has put forth a [petition and letter template](#) on Change.org to ban the sale of elephant ivory in Canada. On July 23rd the federal government launched a [public consultation](#) to hear feedback on proposed measures to restrict or end elephant ivory trade.

Stop construction of the Trans Mountain Pipeline

As of July 15, 2021 97 per cent of the detailed route of the TMX has been approved, but construction of the project can only proceed when applicable conditions have been met. Two corporate-indigenous partnerships have submitted proposals to purchase the TMX, but several First Nations remain deeply opposed to it due to environmental risks. This [new TMX petition](#) calls upon the House of Commons to immediately stop the construction of the TMX pipeline and instead invest in a made-in-Canada Green New Deal. The petition was opened on July 7, 2021 and will close on November 4, 2021.

Stop financing oil expansion in Amazon

Stand.com has started a [petition to for banks to adopt an exclusion policy for the Amazon region](#). The petition is a result of a study that found JP Morgan Chase, HSBC, Deutsche Bank, Goldman Sachs, and Citigroup are at “very high-risk” of funding the destruction of the Amazon.

Protect BC’s old growth forests

Stand.com is hosting a [petition to save BC’s old growth forests](#), which is one of the most effective things we can do to mitigate the impacts of climate change. The B.C. government committed during the last election to implement the recommendations of the old growth review panel but they still haven’t followed through. [Watch the video](#)

NEWS



July 21: [Quebec has rejected GNL Québec's application](#) to build a C\$14-billion liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal in the Saguenay region, capping years of opposition by Indigenous communities, climate campaigners, scientists, economists and health professionals. [Équiterre](#) recognized over 120,000 Quebecers who signed petitions, as well as 54 student associations, 250 doctors and health professionals, and 60 civil society organizations that protested against the project.

July 19: In an open letter to leaders in the US and Canada, over 500 organizations have called on [policy makers to reject carbon capture and storage](#) as it is not a solution to the climate crisis.

July 19: Advocates call for Ontario to [improve tracking of heat-related deaths](#) as impacts of climate crisis threaten vulnerable populations.

July 16: [Angus Reid poll](#) shows climate change and the environment top Canadian concerns, in every region of the country except Alberta and Saskatchewan.

July 15: The Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada announced that they would be investing over 1.65 billion dollars over the next 3 years into the [CLIMAtlantic program](#). Based in New Brunswick, CLIMAtlantic aims to provide Canadians with the tools and data needed to adapt to climate change.

July 14: The [European Commission](#) published a dozen legislative proposals to ensure its climate and energy laws fit the ambition that, by 2030, there will be a 55% cut in emissions, compared with 1990 levels

July 9: The [Lower Duffins Creek](#) wetland complex in Ontario is no longer at risk of being destroyed by developers. The Ontario government revoked the controversial Minister's Zoning Order (MZO) that threatened the area, following an injunction motion brought by Ecojustice to stop work at the site. This reversal was due largely to environmental groups, community organizations, Indigenous groups, and concerned people donating, signing petitions and making phone calls to protect the wetlands.

July 2: [Bill C12 for climate accountability](#) was passed! Tens of thousands of petition signatures, hundreds of letters to politicians and editors, op-ed pieces and news articles, social media 'storming' were key to making this happen. Bill C-12 improves transparency and consistency

around climate action and will allow Canadians to hold the federal government accountable for meeting emissions reduction targets.

July 1: France's top court [ordered the French government](#) to take “*all necessary additional steps*” to reach its climate targets. The court gave the government nine months to comply or face sanctions.

RESOURCES



The [Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative](#) published [Fossil Fuel Exit Strategy](#), a new analysis from the [Institute for Sustainable Futures](#). It concludes that there's already an excess of fossil fuels needed to make the transition away from fossil fuels, and renewable energy potential is enough to keep warming below 1.5°C while expanding clean energy access to all.



Tomorrow.io published a review of [current global warming status](#) which provides a summary of the important points without a lot of statistics.



New science tells us why fire is a growing threat

Fires are becoming more frequent and research tells us that residents have far less time to escape. There are [hidden dangers of fire](#). CBC's 'The Nature of Things' produced a compelling documentary that travels from Alberta to Australia to follow researchers and firefighters as they head straight [Into the Fire](#).



A "renovation wave" to decarbonize Canada's buildings could not only make homes more livable, but inject \$48 billion into the Canadian economy over the next 20 years. That's according to "[Canada's Renovation Wave: A plan for jobs and climate](#)", a new report by the Pembina Institute, a non-profit clean energy think tank. Their study found that upgrades could create 200,000 jobs while making a sufficient dent in carbon emissions.

GREENPEACE

Greenpeace warns that we are living in a [golden age of greenwash!](#) Greenwashing is a PR tactic that's used to make a company or product appear environmentally friendly without meaningfully reducing its environmental impact.



Article: *'The climate crisis is forcing us to change our cities for the better'*. From Sweden to Sierra Leone, cities are turning the climate crisis into an opportunity for happier, healthier living, reports Martin Wright in [Positive News](#).



[Regime of Obstruction](#) (William K. Carroll (ed), Athabasca University Press, 2021) aims to make visible the complex connections between corporate power and the extraction and use of carbon energy. It presents research findings from the Corporate Mapping Project that trace the power and influence of the fossil fuel industry through economics, politics, media, and higher education.



Article: CO² Heading for All-Time-High

Below2°C warns that we are [not building back better](#).

Empowering Cities for a Net Zero Future:

Unlocking resilient, smart, sustainable
urban energy systems



Cities are key to a net-zero emissions future where affordable and sustainable energy is accessible to all. Cities today account for 70% of global CO₂ emissions and 75% of global energy use. [This report from the International Energy Agency \(IEA\)](#) illustrates, through more than 100 examples and case studies, the wide range of opportunities, challenges and policy solutions that can help city-level governments capture the significant value of efficient and smart digital energy systems.



Over the last six months, Canada's National Observer has been looking into what's working and what's failing in cities across Canada as they rise to the challenge of tackling climate change. In

a 13-part series they will take you across the country, province by province, for a look at [how cities are meeting the climate emergency](#) with sustainable solutions.

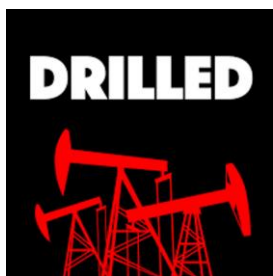


Recording of 90-minute panel discussion on the Rise and Dangers of Small Modular Nuclear Reactors in Canada, held June 28, 2021. Watch the full webinar or shorter clips:

- [Susan O'Donnell on SMNRs](#)
- [Brennain Lloyd on nuke waste in Canada](#)
- [Gordon Edwards on the connection between nuke power and weapons](#)



Emily Atkins writes '[Heated,](#) a newsletter that focuses on the climate emergency'. In the July 12th issue she writes, *"If you have ever thought of becoming more involved in the fight for climate justice, it's time to stop thinking, and start doing."* It's a great article to share with friends and family. The comments section also contains many resources.



Podcasts: [Drilled](#) describes itself as a "true-crime podcast about climate change", covering topics like the corporate-funded creation and spread of climate denial, the history of fossil fuel

propaganda, the fossil fuel industry's efforts to use the COVID-19 pandemic to push through its agenda, the natural gas industry and the battle between Indigenous groups in the Ecuadorian Amazon and Chevron. Amy Westervelt hosts *Drilled* and is also part of the duo, alongside Mary Annaïse Heglar, that hosts *Hot Take*, a podcast that focuses on the climate justice movement.



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!

If you would like to donate by cheque, make it payable to:

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