



CLIMATEFAST

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

## CLIMATEFAST NEWSLETTER JULY 2022

*The ClimateFast newsletter shares information about the Climate Crisis that may interest our readers, and does not necessarily reflect the views of ClimateFast members. If you have an event or resource you would like to share, please send it to [newsletter@climatefast.ca](mailto:newsletter@climatefast.ca).*

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### CALLS TO ACTION



#### HELP PREVENT AN ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER

The oil tanker 'Safer' is at risk of breaking up and causing a huge oil spill calamity on the coast of Yemen. This would destroy pristine reefs, coastal mangroves and other sea life across the Red Sea, expose millions of people to highly polluted air, and cut off food, fuel and other life-saving supplies to Yemen, where 17 million people already need food aid. Hundreds of thousands of jobs in the fishing industry would be lost and it would take 25 years for fish stocks to recover. The cost of cleanup alone would be \$20 billion. A coordinated international rescue effort is needed to avert this environmental, humanitarian and economic catastrophe. This [article](#) from The Energy Mix provides background.

The UN is aiming to raise the necessary funds to undertake this effort, but a minimum of \$80 million must be raised. Canada has not contributed a dime. The UN is hoping to crowdfund \$5 million of the required funds.

[Petition link](#)

[Action letter](#)

[More info and donate](#)

## INDIGENOUS SOLIDARITY

As of July 7, the Crown has decided to pursue criminal contempt charges against 19 people who stood up for Wet'suwet'en law and rights at Gidimt'en checkpoint. [Sign this petition](#) calling for the removal of the RCMP from Wet'suwet'en land and the cessation of all construction of the Coastal Gasoline Pipeline. You can also join the [Decolonial Solidarity](#) group's [adopt a branch campaign](#) to help pressure RBC to stop funding the pipeline.

## STOP THE BUILDING OF NEW GAS-FIRED POWER PLANTS

Ontario is planning a huge increase in polluting gas power – from existing gas-fired plants as well as new gas plants, like [Eastern Power's proposed new 600-megawatt gas-fired power plant near Sarnia](#). The Ontario Clean Air Alliance has created a letter template for you to send to the federal government, asking it to use its promised Clean Electricity Standard to prohibit the building of new gas-fired power plants in Ontario.

[Send a letter](#)

## SUPPORT YOUTH CLIMATE JUSTICE LAWSUIT

Ecojustice is working with 7 Ontario youth on their climate lawsuit for a stronger Ontario climate target. They are inviting members of the public to sign a petition that will be presented in court to show community support for the lawsuit.

[Sign the petition](#)

## TAKE ACTION FOR CLIMATE-FRIENDLY SUPERMARKETS

During the most urgent decade for climate action, most supermarkets continue to rely on hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), which are super greenhouse gases with a climate impact thousands of times higher than CO<sub>2</sub>, despite the availability of climate-friendly options. [Learn more about HFCs](#). Check out [Citizen Actions for Climate-Friendly Supermarkets](#).

## SUPPORT RESPONSIBLE ELECTRICITY PROCUREMENT IN ONTARIO

TAF is calling on stakeholder organizations to sign an open letter to Minister Smith, particularly municipalities, cleantech companies, and corporations with net-zero commitments, urging the Ontario Government to prioritize low-carbon, affordable, reliable electricity generation and storage in the upcoming procurement process.

[Learn more and sign here](#)

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## EVENTS

### **ELECTRIC BIKES: A promotion with local bike retailers**

Wed, Sep 14, 2022, 7:00 PM EDT (online)

The Harbord Village Residents Association Net Zero Committee is excited to launch a pedal-assist eBike promotion in partnership with four neighbourhood bike retailers. Whether you are interested in retrofitting your current bike, renting an eBike for a month or two, or taking the plunge to buy your own, join the webinar to learn about the options and promotion details.

[Register](#)

## **SAVE THE DATE! GLOBAL CLIMATE STRIKE FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 23rd!**

Details to follow. If you'd like to help organize, send an email to [climatefast@climatefast.ca](mailto:climatefast@climatefast.ca) and we'll connect you.

## **NEWS FLASH! PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE TO SIT ON MONDAY AUGUST 8TH!**

We are planning an action to take place the day the MPPs come back to Queen's Park. If you are up for participating in sign making and being part of a presence at Queen's Park please contact [lyn@climatefast.ca](mailto:lyn@climatefast.ca). Be part of the action!

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## **NEWS**

### **DEMAND FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON AVIATION EMISSIONS**

Over thirty health, environment, faith and youth groups today released a letter urging the federal government to consult the public before releasing a new ten-year action plan to reduce climate pollution from air travel. [Read the press release](#) and the letters sent to the government. Support this demand by signing this [petition](#) and [retweeting!](#) Read the [op ed](#) written by ClimateFast Co-chair Lyn Adamson and CAPE President Joe Vipond which was published in the Ottawa Citizen on Friday!

### **FIRST NATION ESTABLISHES MARINE PROTECTED AREA**

A First Nation in B.C. celebrated Indigenous Peoples Day by taking action where the federal government has not by establishing a new marine protected area in the Great Bear Coast. [Read the story in The Narwhal.](#)

### **FOSSIL FUEL NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY**

The Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty is aimed at tackling fossil fuel production, the root cause of climate change. The proposed Treaty is now supported by 54 municipal and sub-national governments around the world, including Paris, Sydney, Barcelona, Los Angeles and Toronto. Recent additions include:

On July 21, 2022, [the Vatican](#) announced that it is joining dozens of governments, cities, academics and Nobel Prize laureates in a global effort to restrict fossil fuel development.

On July 6th, [Ottawa](#) became the 12th Canadian municipality to support the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.

On June 27th [London endorsed the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty](#), becoming the largest city to join this initiative.

## VANCOUVER VOTES TO FUND LAWSUIT AGAINST BIG OIL

From The Energy Mix: On July 20th, Vancouver City Council voted 6-5 late Wednesday afternoon to help fund a class action lawsuit to hold the world's biggest fossil companies responsible for their local climate impacts. [Read more](#)

## NEW ZERO INTEREST LOAN PROGRAM FOR ENERGY RETROFITS

The federal government has announced a new [zero interest loan program](#) to complement the \$5,000 grants available through its Greener Homes program. Eligible applicants can get an up to \$40,000 zero interest loan for up to 10 years to help pay for installing a heat pump, insulation, new windows or other qualifying home energy efficiency upgrades.

## IMPACT OF FOOD MILES GREATER THAN PREVIOUSLY BELIEVED

A study published in [Nature Food](#) shows the climate impact of food miles is three times greater than previously believed, so that *"in addition to shifting towards a plant-based diet, eating locally is ideal, especially in affluent countries."* [Read the report in The Guardian.](#)

## EU GOVERNMENTS TO END SALE OF POLLUTING CARS

On June 29th European Union countries made a historic decision to ban the sale of fossil fuel cars in 2035 . [Read more about the ban.](#)

## UN CALLS ON GLOBAL GOVERNMENTS TO PUT OUT '5 ALARM FIRE'

In January 2022 Secretary-General António Guterres called on global governments to put out a "5 alarm fire". As he briefed the UN General Assembly on his priorities for the upcoming year he stated: *"At a time when "the only certainty is more uncertainty", countries must unite to forge a new, more hopeful and equal path..."We face a five-alarm global fire that requires the full mobilization of all countries," he said, referring to the raging COVID-19 pandemic, a morally bankrupt global financial system, the climate crisis, lawlessness in cyberspace, and diminished peace and security."* He stressed that countries "must go into emergency mode", and now is the time to act as the response will determine global outcomes for decades ahead.

[Read more about the 5 alarms](#)

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## RESOURCES

**CLIMATE CHANGE COMES TO ONTARIO:** ClimateFast member Bob Bach has written this article about the devastating effects of the May 2022 Derecho in Ontario. [Read the article.](#)

Animated video with optimistic messages: [We WILL Fix Climate Change!](#)  
(16 minutes - watch to the end) See [sources](#) for information given in the video.

[Regenesis: How to feed 10 billion people and prevent climate collapse:](#) 6 min. short film calling for an end animal farming to stop ecological collapse & save humanity.

# PROJECT DRAWDOWN.

After two years of study, Project Drawdown has released an [update of their 82 climate solutions](#), including 11 additional technologies and practices. Check out the [top takeaway messages](#) from Drawdown Lift's recent Climate-Poverty Connections webinars series and [view the videos here](#).



This [3-hour online workshop](#) will teach you the fundamental science behind climate change and empower you to take action. Group sessions and facilitator training is also offered.



[Beyond the Climate Crisis Gloom](#) is a four-part series that explores why as we adults navigate the harsh realities of the climate crisis and do the hard work of creating change, we must also build an environment of hope and opportunity for ourselves and our children that sets our sights on a brighter future.



Harbord Village Residents' Association's [Net Zero Carbon Project](#) fights the climate crisis at a community level, by helping residents make more energy-efficient choices for their homes and transportation needs. Four webinars from the past year are freely available for anyone wanting guidance about how to take their houses off methane gas.

- **The Power of Community to Address Climate Change**, by Sheena Sharpe, President, Coolearth Architecture, May 2020
- **Financial Incentives for Pursuing Net Zero**, by Ariana Foyle, BetterHomes, June 2021
- **Induction Stoves: the Best Buy Bulk Buy**. Learn about induction stove technology, as well as details of the bulk buy program, May 2022
- **The ABCs of Heat Pumps**, featuring Trish Long of Goldfinch Energy and Steve Cornelius of Mitsubishi Electric, Nov. 2021



The Net Zero Project also initiated an [Induction Stove Discount Program](#). Gas stoves leak significant amounts of greenhouse gases and other particulates into homes that are bad for the environment and may be harming your health. Induction stoves are safer, boil water twice as fast and don't fill one's kitchen with harmful pollutants. The Net Zero committee negotiated discounts with Best Buy of which anyone in Ontario in Best Buy's delivery area can take advantage.

For more information about the NetZero Carbon project, visit [www.harbordvillage.com](http://www.harbordvillage.com) or contact [netzero@harbordvillage.com](mailto:netzero@harbordvillage.com).

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***We are grateful for your support!***

