



CLIMATEFAST

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

CLIMATEFAST NEWSLETTER MARCH 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.



MARCH 12 DAY OF ACTION FOR A JUST TRANSITION ACT

ClimateFast members joined with members of Toronto350, Toronto East End Climate Collective, and Council of Canadians to bring the message of just transition to Toronto area MPs. We are pushing Parliament to pass bold legislation that accelerates the transition to 100% renewable energy while creating millions of good, green jobs. From coast to coast, participants of the March 12th Day of Action visited MP offices and used creative visuals, theatrics, and art to show them the kinds of programs we need to transition off fossil fuels. Above are some photos of Toronto activities.

BRIEF WINDOW FOR CLIMATE ACTION RAPIDLY CLOSING

The latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, released on February 28, 2022, concludes that “Climate change is a threat to human well-being and planetary health,” and any further delay in drastically reducing greenhouse gas emissions “will miss a brief and rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a liveable and sustainable future for all.”

This is the second of three working group reports, which, along with three special reports and a synthesis report, make up the IPCC’s Sixth Assessment Report (AR6).

The first working group report was released in August 2021 and assessed the physical science, showing climate change is widespread, rapid and intensifying. The third working group report, expected in March, will be on climate change mitigation.

[Read the IPCC press release](#)

[Read the report Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability](#)

Read the [press release from the Canada Climate Action Network](#), which includes the following quote provided by Lyn Adamson of ClimateFast

“This report could not lay it out more starkly: we must act now or face the consequences of devastation of the world both now and in the future. It is a criminal act to accelerate ecocide as continued use and development of fossil fuels, and any public subsidies for continued reliance on oil, gas, and coal. We must all work together putting all our efforts into the renewable energy transition that is our primary way out of the dreadful outcomes laid out in this latest IPCC report.”

See below in the Resources section of this newsletter for a few other articles and videos to help you better understand the IPCC Report.

CALLS TO ACTION

Reject Bay du Nord project

Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, has delayed his decision on the approval of the Bay du Nord project due to environmental concerns about establishing new oil and gas projects. Equinor’s massive project, located 500 kms east of St. John’s, is estimated to produce about 300 million barrels of oil. On March 2nd, 118 environmental and citizens' groups across Canada signed a letter sent to Ottawa calling on the federal government to reject the project. A second letter was signed and delivered by 81 international organizations saying the approval would undermine Canada’s credibility as a climate leader and set back international efforts to solve the climate crisis.

[See the letter sent by Sierra Club with 118 signatories.](#)

[Read the CBC news story](#)

[Sign the Leadnow petition](#)

Help keep the midtown Yonge complete street pilot



Three complete streets projects have been approved to connect three sections of Yonge St, one each in Uptown, Midtown, and Downtown. The temporary ActiveTO complete street through Midtown was installed last year and City Council will be voting on whether to continue later this month. Despite promising preliminary data, a small group of vocal opponents are calling on City Council to remove the bike lanes. Send an email to council members. [Sign the petition.](#)

Join a Treaty Peoples' Briefing on the Ring of Fire



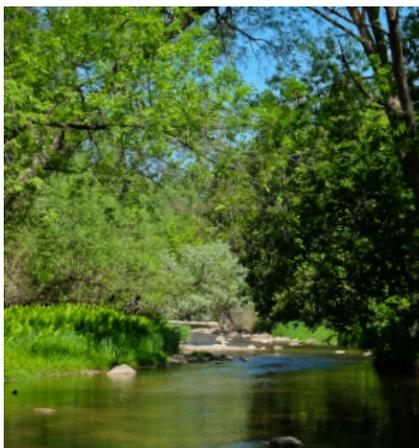
In advance of a critical deadline for the Ring of Fire mining development, the Friends of the Attawapiskat River launched a <https://attawapiskatriverprotectors.com/tpb/> and a [video series](#) to call for meaningful engagement with the Treaty 9 communities and to make decisions with future generations in mind. [Support the Treaty Peoples' Briefing.](#)

Have your say about next federal budget priorities



Canada's finance minister is weighing priorities for the next federal budget. Let's send a clear message that Budget 2022 must end subsidies and other public financing for fossil fuel companies. Oil, gas and coal are fuelling climate change with devastating impacts on nature and communities. [Call for an end to public financing for fossil fuels.](#)

Protect the Pickering Federal Lands



50 years ago Canada expropriated 7,527 hectares of biodiverse, prime farmland in the North Pickering area to build a new airport. In 2022, this land is still on hold. The Pickering Federal lands provide natural climate mitigation solutions and connected landscapes for wildlife. They also occupy sacred Indigenous territory. Support the proposal to add the remaining Pickering Lands to Rouge National Urban Park. Read the [full letter sent by the Wildlands League](#), signed by over 50 organizations including ClimateFast. [Send a letter to project the Pickering Lands.](#)

Demand a Moratorium on Unnecessary Gravel Mining



Gravel mining accelerates the climate crisis by feeding sprawl, highways, cement production, transportation and other massive causes of greenhouse gases. The Reform Gravel Mining Coalition demands that the Ontario government take the actions necessary to protect lives, communities and the environment from the devastating impacts of the gravel mining industry. Watch the video. [Watch the video](#) and [sign the petition](#)

Migrant Rights March

March 20-21, 2022

The 1.6 million mostly racialized working class migrants who have been at the frontlines of COVID-19 need full and permanent immigration status so they can have the power to protect themselves against being exploited. Take action on March 20th and 21st to mark the International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

[Find out how you can participate.](#)

NEWS

Environmental Defence launches new election webpage

On June 2nd, 2022, Ontarians will go to the polls to decide who they want to make the province's key decisions for the next four years. It's essential that Ontarians elect a government that will reduce climate-harming emissions, protect and grow the Greenbelt, and preserve farmlands, forests and waterways to keep our province safe and healthy for everyone. Environmental Defence has launched a [new election webpage](#) focusing on these key priorities, which they will update with information to help you make this important decision.

Italy has made protecting the environment part of its constitution

On March 8th the Italian parliament approved a law that means the state must safeguard ecosystems and biodiversity "in the interest of future generations." The changes to the constitution also mean that health and the environment must be protected by the economy. The new law states that private industry can no longer impact the climate. The protection of animals has been recognised too. [Read the euronews.green article.](#)

REPowerEU: European action for more affordable, secure and sustainable energy

In light of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, on March 8th the European Commission proposed an outline of REPowerEU, a plan to make Europe independent from Russian fossil fuels well before 2030. *"Following the invasion of Ukraine, the case for a rapid clean energy transition has never been stronger and clearer"*. The EU imports 45% of its gas, 25% of its oil, and 45% of its coal from Russia. The Commission proposes to work with Member States to identify the most suitable projects to meet these objectives. [Read the press release.](#)

Next Round of Federal Consultations on Ensuring a Just Transition

On March 10th the Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Natural Resources, and the Honourable Seamus O'Regan Jr., Minister of Labour, hosted a virtual roundtable to formally launch the next round of the government's consultations on ensuring a Just Transition through the creation of sustainable jobs. As part of these consultations, the government is accepting written comments until April 30, 2022. Following the conclusion of these consultations, a "What We Heard" report will be posted online to summarize the findings.

[Read the news release](#)

[Learn more at Just Transition](#)

[Send in your written comments.](#)

More University Divestments

The [Divest Canada Coalition](#) reported that on Feb 17th, the University of Ottawa committed to divest all its direct equity fossil fuel holdings by 2023 and all indirect holdings by 2030, becoming the [11th Canadian university to commit to divestment](#). This was made possible by the hard work of student organizers. Read the full [CJCUO statement here](#) and [UOttawa's statement here](#).

On Feb 3rd, [Western University Students' Council announced](#) it had voted to divest from fossil fuels by 2025! This is a huge step in building pressure for the University to do the same.

Indigenous women lead conservation efforts in Canada

Natasha Bulowski's article on how [Kaska Dena women are blazing a conservation trail](#) was published by Canada's National Observer on March 8th, National Women's Day. She reports that, despite comprising [only five per cent of the world's population](#), Indigenous people protect 80 per cent of the world's remaining biodiversity, according to a [2021 report by Territories of Life](#). In Canada, Indigenous women are leading the charge to preserve biodiversity and fight climate change by heading up important new conservation initiatives



JOIN THE CCTO COMMUNITY!

Carbon Conversations
TO is recruiting for new
volunteer positions.

Visit carbonconversations.to/volunteer to learn more.



EVENTS



Wednesday March 30, 7-8:30 pm

This is a smaller session for those who want to gain more confidence talking about climate justice ahead of the provincial election. We will hear from some people who are already engaged in holding conversations, share ideas and explore how best to make them happen! There will be opportunities to buddy up with others to hold conversations in their ridings.

RSVP: to ktcc@climatefast.ca to register

Resources: [Provincial KTCC Backgrounder](#) and [Ready to Talk Climate in Ontario](#)

Ride for Bike Lanes on Bloor

Sunday, March 20th, 1 p.m. leaving from Runnymede subway station, Toronto



This bike ride, postponed from March 6th due to a wind warning, is to build support for bike lanes in Mississauga. Join the rally as Toronto cyclists meet Mississauga cyclists at the Toronto/Mississauga border. For more information see the [event Facebook page](#), [email the organizers](#) or check out the [campaign website](#). *Note: given the lack of road safety on Bloor, this ride is not recommended for children.*

Earth Day three-day 'Yours to Protect' weekend

April 22nd, 23rd and 24th



[Ontario Yours to Protect](#) is an initiative of [19 organizations](#) supporting clean water, farmland, biodiversity, and healthy communities. Ontario's population is growing, and we need to build vibrant, affordable and sustainable communities throughout the province. They envision an Ontario where our cities, towns and villages grow within nature, instead of on top of it. On April 22nd, 23rd and 24th they'll be working with local groups all across the province who want to host rallies, protests and nature walks to draw attention to local environmental problems or give people a chance to experience some of the many marvellous natural spaces in this beautiful province.

- [Use this page to register a local event](#)
- [Click here for a map of all registered actions.](#)
- [Click here for a how-to guide.](#)

What Can Be Done About Climate Change?

Tuesday, Mar 22nd, 2022, 9:00 pm - 10:30 pm

[Gallatin Valley Earth Day](#) presents this online event with Dr. Richard Ready, Professor of Environmental and Natural Resource Economics at Montana State University. He will discuss different tools that we already have in our toolbox to reduce and reverse greenhouse gas emissions. Learn more on the [Facebook](#) page.

[Register](#)

An Introduction to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for Climate Action

Thursday, April 7th, 2022 @ 6:00 pm

This workshop explores diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) and how it is essential to Climate Justice, as well as how environmental organizers can integrate DEI into actions to address the climate emergency and the transition to a just and sustainable future. This workshop will be facilitated by Adiat Junaid, a creator, writer, and consultant who uses storytelling in many forms to address human rights, social justice and ecological justice.

[Register](#)

From Climate Change Ignorant to Climate Change Educator

Thursday, May 19, 2022, 9:00 – 10:00 am EDT



SCIENCE, HEALTH, AND DATA COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Jennifer Rudd will share how she completed her masters and PhD in chemistry without knowing anything about climate change, how she learned about it, and how it affected her life. If you're interested in communicating climate change and affecting behavioural changes, then this talk is for you.

[Register](#)

Canvassing Training Session

Tuesday, April 12, 7:00 to 8:00 pm.

The Ontario Voters Coalition is organizing a volunteer canvasser training program that will help you connect with your electoral district to gather momentum for the upcoming provincial election. [Sign up here.](#)

When Does Climate Journalism Hit the Wall?

Thursday, March 24, 2022, 11:30 a.m.

The Energy Mix is hosting a webinar later this month on how climate journalism helps drive faster, deeper carbon cuts—and what happens when climate journalism hits the wall. Attend this expert panel to learn how climate journalism spotlights the gaps that are slowing down the shift off carbon and the solutions that make a difference—and brings together the audiences that can turn that knowledge into action and results.

[Register](#) and use this [promo kit/social pack](#) to help spread the word.

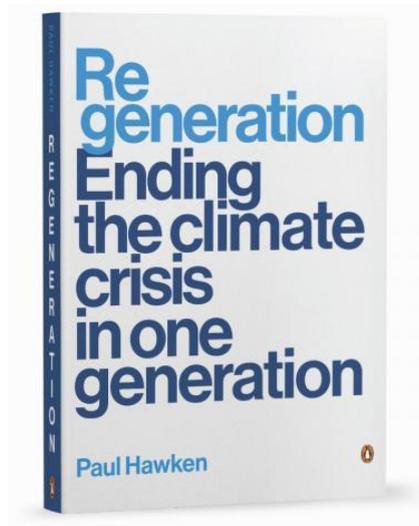
RESOURCES

Resources to help understand the IPCC Report:

- The Energy Mix published a special report on the IPCC Report: [“Atlas of Human Suffering’ Only Matters if Countries Take Action”](#)
- IPCC’s [short fact sheets](#) on climate impacts, adaptation, and vulnerability, focusing on specific regions of the world, biodiversity, and human settlements, as well as a [74-page atlas \[pdf\]](#) of global and regional impacts.
- IPCC also produced a [trailer for the report](#) and a short video [“The latest IPCC report explained in under 7 minutes”](#)
- Carbon Brief has an [in-depth Q&A](#) on the report, along with [collected reactions](#) from 15 of the scientists who contributed to the drafting.

- The World Resources Institute distills “[six big findings](#)” from the report, including an [infographic](#) showing how climate impacts cascade as average global warming increases from 1.5 to 2.0 to 3.0°C.
- Power Shift Africa summarizes the [climate impacts facing seven African countries](#) and the high costs they’ll incur in their attempts to adapt.
- DeSmog reports on the “[vested interests](#)” and [climate disinformation](#) that have fuelled the crisis.
- In the [March 3rd episode](#) of [The Conversation Weekly Podcast](#) the hosts talked to three of the scientists involved in the IPCC report about what the future may hold – and the narrowing window of opportunity to adapt to climate change.

Regeneration: a new book from Paul Hawken, editor of [Drawdown](#)



[Regeneration](#) is a radical new approach to the climate crisis, one that weaves justice, climate, biodiversity, and human dignity into a seamless tapestry of action, policy, and transformation that can end the climate crisis in one generation. It is the first book to describe and define the burgeoning regeneration movement spreading rapidly throughout the world. Paul Hawken and the nonprofit Regeneration Organization are launching a series of initiatives to accompany the book, including a streaming video series, curriculum, podcasts, teaching videos, and climate action software. Regeneration is the inspiring and necessary guide to inform the rapidly spreading climate movement. [Buy the book](#)

New GreenPAC report on environmental leadership in the House of Commons



This new GreenPAC report, published on March 9, 2022, looks at how environmental victories happen in politics, the barriers elected environmental leaders face, and how the potential for and efficacy of environmental leadership in the House of Commons can be improved. The research was conducted through interviews by GreenPAC’s Parliamentary Interns for the Environment.

[Read the Report](#)

For more insights, read this [National Observer article](#)

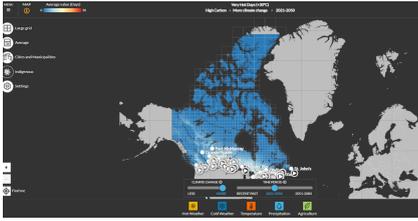
Climate Change Policy Simulator



[En-ROADS](#) have updated their [C-ROADS Climate Change Policy Simulator](#) which allows users to test and visualize the impacts of climate strategies across regions. The tool has been used by hundreds of facilitators of the World Climate Simulation game and by analysts in the highest levels of government.

[Watch an overview of the C-ROADS Simulator](#)

New Indigenous Knowledges and Climate Change component of the Climate Atlas of Canada



This new component of the Climate Atlas of Canada was launched on March 15, 2012. It is the culmination of years of work by Hetxw'ms Gyetxw and the team at the University of Winnipeg's Prairie Climate Centre, in collaboration with Indigenous communities across the country.

[View the Climate Atlas of Canada](#)

[Read the CBC News story](#)

[Explore Indigenous Knowledges and Climate Change](#)

ClimateFast joins EarthNet



EarthNet is a new networking platform for climate leaders. EarthNet is all about collaboration, using social network technology to bring people and organizations together in order to share information and inspire action. Find people, projects and organizations working on climate and ecological action. You can also ask questions and share information on almost any climate change related topic. [Learn more](#)



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Connect with us on Twitter to see the latest info and opinions on the Climate Crisis.

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Your support is very much appreciated!