

Zero Emission Network

Building the campaign for rapid reduction of atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations.

Newsletter April 2008

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Editorial

Hi all.

Its been exciting to watch the second phase of campaign advance over last few months. What is the second phase you ask? Some of you might even be surprised that we have even had a first phase.

The first phase was convincing the public that there was actually a problem in the first place and for those involved with the Zero Emissions campaign, consisted largely of debating the sceptics and defending wind farm developments from people who didn't want their view "spoilt" or neighbouring farmers making more money than they did.

The current phase is the second phase in which we are working towards the adoption of realistic goals on global warming by the environment movement and governments. By "realistic" we mean goals which actually have a chance of preventing a global climate disaster. This phase is going well with the publication of Climate Code Red and James Hansen's recent work.

The third phase is ensuring that once we have actually adopted realistic goals, these are reached as fast as possible while meeting multiple local and global social and environmental outcomes and making sure they don't create further environmental disasters.

Best wishes,

Adrian

Events

21 April at 6 - 7:30pm - VIC - Free Public Lecture: A Zero Carbon World? Learning from the world's largest living experiment: The 30 year old Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT), UK - Peter Harper, Prince Philip Theatre, Architecture, University of Melbourne
RSVP essential: fedwards@unimelb.edu.au

21 April at 5:30pm - VIC - "Energy and Climate Change: science and technology for Australia's future - Renewables" - good range of speakers - BMW Edge, Federation Square

28 April at 5:30pm - VIC - "Energy and Climate Change: science and technology for Australia's future - Non Renewables" - good range of speakers - BMW Edge, Federation Square

10-15 July - Climate Camp for Climate Action - Major gathering of climate activists- Newcastle - www.climatecamp.org.au

Email: Monique Decortis - decortis@bigpond.net.au - to receive a fortnightly bulletin based on Victorian events.

Feature - James Hansen's New Work

For those of you that don't know of him yet James Hansen (Jim) is the director of the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies and Adjunct Professor at the Columbia University Earth Institute.

Jim is one of the few scientists who speaks strongly about climate change and has released papers that shows the situation to be much worse than is suggested by the IPCC reports. For example, he recently showed that sea level rise could be as much as 4-5m by the end of the century rather than below 1m maximum as proposed by the IPCC.

His most recent work has been released as a draft paper at Columbia University and is titled "Target Atmospheric CO₂: Where Should Humanity Aim?" (1). This paper has numerous critical findings including that we have already got an additional 2 degrees temperature warming built into the system not 0.6 degrees as commonly reported and that 450 ppm CO₂ is enough to trigger a 60-80m sea level rise.

Assessment of Target CO₂

<u>Phenomenon</u>	<u>Target CO₂ (ppm)</u>
1. Arctic Sea Ice	300-325
2. Ice Sheets/Sea Level	300-350
3. Shifting Climatic Zones	300-350
4. Alpine Water Supplies	300-350
5. Avoid Ocean Acidification	300-350

→ Initial Target CO₂ = 350* ppm

*assumes CH₄, O₃, Black Soot decrease

However the most important information to come out of his work is the level at which of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere are "safe". This information is summarised in a table taken from a presentation Hansen gave in January this year at the Royal College of Physicians, London (2).

This table shows that several critical systems pass their tipping points somewhere

between 300 and 350 ppm CO₂ and in the case of North Pole Summer Ice, between 300 and 325 ppm CO₂.

Hansen makes reference to the resorting summer Arctic ice the his recent draft paper,

"Stabilization of Arctic sea ice cover requires, to first approximation, restoration of planetary energy balance. Climate models driven by known forcings yield a present planetary energy imbalance of +0.5-1 W/m² (5), a result supported by observed increasing ocean heat content (48). CO₂ amount must be reduced to 325-355 ppm to increase outgoing flux 0.5-1 W/m², if other forcings are unchanged. A further reduced flux, by ~0.5 W/m², and thus CO₂ ~300-325 ppm, may be needed to restore sea ice to its area of 25 years ago." (1)

As we must have North Pole Summer Ice to have a "safe" climate system due to its ability to reflect large amounts of Sunlight, it means that "safe" levels of CO₂ in the atmosphere lie somewhere between 300 and 325 ppm CO₂. Unfortunately we are not sure exactly where that is, so the "safe" target / goal for CO₂ concentrations is 300 ppm or below.

"Safe" Climate = 300 ppm CO₂ or below

Now knowing this, you can see how ridiculous all the proposals to stabilise our Greenhouse gases at levels higher than today are.

James Hansen suggests that we have only decades to return to a "safe" level of greenhouse gases or we will run the risk of passing points of "no return" for a number of critical global warming positive feedback mechanisms.

James has proposed an interim target of 350 ppm CO₂ and the closure of the coal industry, the latter of which he mentions in a recent letter to Kevin Rudd.

"Prime Minister Rudd, we cannot avert our eyes from the basic fossil fuel facts, or the consequences for life on our planet of ignoring these fossil fuel facts. If we continue to build coal-fired power plants without carbon capture, we will lock in future climate disasters associated with passing climate tipping points. We must solve the coal problem now."
James Hansen letter to Kevin Rudd 27 March 2008

Unfortunately people have already begun to misinterpret Hansen's call for an **interim target** and are confusing this with a "safe" target. Please don't do the same, as 350 ppm CO₂ is as much of a death sentence for the planet as 400, 450, 550, 650 etc.

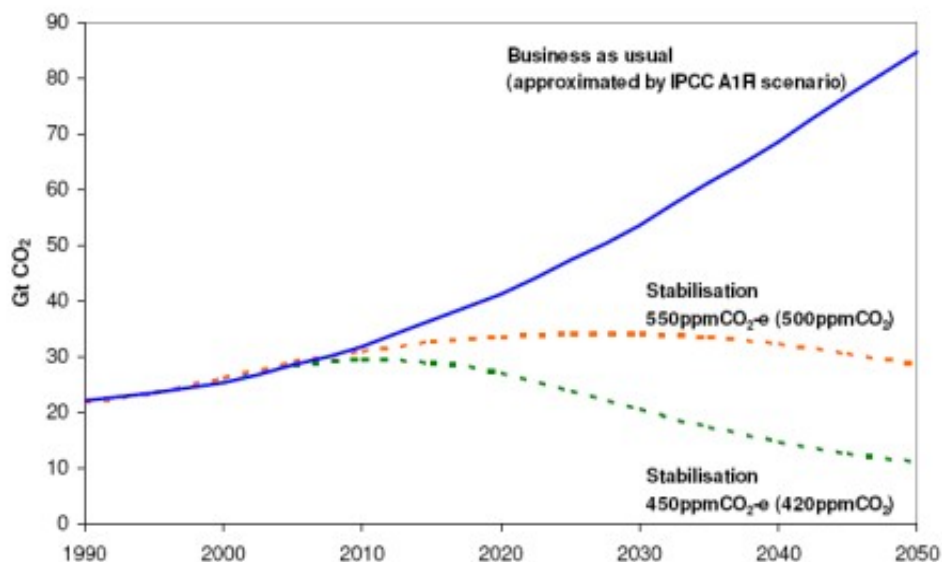
1. http://www.columbia.edu/~jeh1/2008/TargetCO2_20080407.pdf
2. http://www.columbia.edu/~jeh1/RoyalCollPhyscns_Jan08.pdf

Climate News

Garnaut Review

It has been great hearing Ross Garnaut talk about targets above the 60% reduction below 1990 levels by 2050, targets which are even stronger than the Greens, but Garnaut is still talking about stabilisation levels of 450 ppm CO₂-e or higher. These levels are way too high and need to be much lower at 320 CO₂-e or less.

Figure 4: Annual global emissions under a "business as usual" emissions growth scenario and two stabilisation scenarios



Note: The two stabilisation scenarios represent initial work undertaken for the Review (CASPI, 2007), and are illustrative only. The 450 ppm CO₂-e scenario allows for temporary overshooting to around 500 ppm.

A couple of other issues is that Garnaut is looking at allowing industries to loan from an emissions bank which will allow emission targets to be exceeded and he is proposing leaving out forestry and agriculture initially from the emission trading scheme.

However on the good side, Garnaut has made comments not supportive of providing free

carbon allowances for industry which gave windfall profits to pollution industries.

Submissions on Carbon trading are still open till Friday the 18th of April (see Submissions below). Please take the time to make a short submission, a couple of paragraphs is fine, as it is our understanding that most submissions to date have been from supporters of a weak position on Carbon trading.

WWF and the Climate Institute back the coal industry

From the Age

"The World Wildlife Fund will join forces with the Australian Coal Association, the Climate Institute and the powerful miners' union, the CFMEU, to call for a government task force, possibly situated within the Prime Minister's Department, to oversee the introduction of the technology.

The four groups will push for the construction of demonstration plants to begin as early as 2010, with the expectation the technology will be widely used by 2020 if proved successful."

This stance also echoes comments made sometime in the last couple of years by Don Henry head of the Australian Conservation Foundation to the a meeting of the coal industry union members where he backed the concept of clean coal.

Activists are protesting at the WWF Melbourne and Sydney offices timed to coincide with the WWF announcement.

Al Gore's updated climate presentation

Al Gore recently gave an updated version of his climate presentation. It is available online from: <http://www.ted.com/index.php/talks/view/id/243>

Dirty Industry Facing a Clean Demise

Quoted from a media release from the office of Greens Senator Christine Milne,

Hobart, Tuesday 8 April 2008 Australian Greens climate change spokesperson, Senator Christine Milne, today called on the Rudd Government to focus its Budget priorities on existing climate solutions such as energy efficiency and renewable energy as the National Generators Forum joins those wavering on coal geosequestration.

Senator Milne said "The window dressing for the coal industry is now in tatters. Comments from John Boshier on the 7.30 Report last night, that coal with geosequestration is failing to live up to the industry's hype are yet another warning to Governments banking on "clean" coal and failing to prioritise the real, clean alternatives of energy efficiency and renewable energy.

"Mr Boshier echoed concerns that cost and timeline blowouts are deeply troubling, with little progress in years. In recent years, renewable energy technologies have been moving in leaps and bounds, increasing their efficiency, reducing costs and developing better energy storage technologies, whereas "clean" coal has stagnated."

Some good news. :)

Campaign News

Campaign Induction

I will be running two campaign induction nights this month.

1. Tuesday the 22nd Please RSVP to adrian@zeroemissionnetwork.org

We are looking for people willing to help in any part of the campaign from helping out on stalls, to research, to office admin.

The purpose of the night is to introduce potential volunteers and campaigners to our group, our campaign, our philosophy and how you might be involved, while we find out about you and your interests.

The event will be held at Level 2 140 Burke St Melbourne at 6pm.

The main doors lock after 6pm so if you are running late give me a ring on my mobile and I will come down and let you in. Adrian 0403 735 118

Outreach

Corinbank - We attended the Corinbank music festival in Canberra. Music festivals offer some opportunity to get the message out there and are a great opportunity for campaigners to take a bit of a break while working at the same time. Corinbank had an eco feel with good recycling, bio-diesel generators, composting toilets and the Greenculture space we were apart off. We ran a stall and spoke on two panel sessions looking at environmental issues.



Corinbank: Picture 1 - Zero Emission Banner on outside wall of Green Culture tent. Picture 2 - Adrian participating on panel Picture 3 Excellent garbage facilities with the main stage in back ground.

CERES Harvest Festival - The CERES environment park runs an annual harvest festival. We had run a stall there previously with only limited success as most people attending are there to have a good time and are already aware, to some degree about the issue of climate change. This year we teamed up with the Good Brew Company and Buckley's Beer and sold beer with a climate display on the side - much more productive.

Community Development and Ecology Conference Deakin University - Adrian was invited to speak at this conference to replace David Spratt who is busy writing the book version of Climate Code Red and ran a Climate Rationing Workshop and was part of a plenary panel session on climate change.

Climate Change Social Change Conference Sydney - The publication Greenleft weekly and Socialist Alliance organised a Climate and Social change conference in Sydney over three days (11-13 April). There was a great line up of speakers from many different back

grounds which included Adrian from the zero emissions network. The events was recorded and should be available on their website at some stage. Below main plenary hall. Right speakers.



World Environment Day Rally

A number of climate groups are currently meeting to organise a world environment day climate rally. World Environment day is June the 5th and a climate focused event was going to be planned around that day however at the second meeting the Wilderness Society came to the meeting and "informed" those present that the Wilderness Society were using the date to promote an anti pulp mill campaign and didn't want the grass roots climate movement to spoil their rally with an alternate event. The climate rally team has decide to put the date of the climate rally back to Saturday July the 5th.

The wilderness society has been kind enough to invite other groups to carry their own banners and set up stalls at their rally on June the 15th so please come and help carry Zero Emission Now banners.

Rudd's 2020 Summit

Unfortunately I failed to get a spot at Rudd's 2020 summit, however a submission was sent and I will be asked to talk to one of the representatives about goals.

Zero Emissions Now T-Shirts available from Richmond

Zero Emissions Now t-shirt are now selling at the Stay Human Shop *upstairs* at 77 Bridge Road Richmond. They are retailing at \$29. The store is open from 11-5pm and also provides badge making services. Speak to Rocket.

If you can't get to Richmond send me an email I can post you one for the same price.



Submissions to write

Don't feel you have to write a thesis. One sentence submissions can still make their point.

1. Garnaut Climate Change Review

"The Garnaut Climate Change Review is an independent study by Professor Ross Garnaut, commissioned by Australia's State and Territory Governments on 30 April 2007. The Prime Minister of Australia has confirmed the participation of the Commonwealth Government in the Review.

The Review will examine the impacts of climate change on the Australian economy, and recommend medium to long-term policies and policy frameworks to improve the prospects for sustainable prosperity.

The Review's final report is due on 30 September 2008, with a draft by 30 June 2008."

- Issues Paper 6 - Emissions Trading Scheme Discussion Paper (Submissions due by 18 April 2008.)

<http://www.garnautreview.org.au>

Points to consider including in your submissions:

- a cap that will achieve the strong goal required to avoid catastrophic climate change. That is atmospheric levels of 300 ppm CO₂ or below within a few decades (see Hansen article)
- all sectors of our economy must be included, i.e. agriculture and forestry
- no free allocation of permits
- no borrowing from future emissions or other system
- no leakage across borders
- no trading for offsets
- no compensation for big polluters as climate change and the global response to it should have been built in to these companies forward planning (The IPCC was created in 1988).
- include personal allowances and rationing as part of the trading model.

2. Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Taskforce

"For your information, stakeholder submissions received on the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting System Technical Guidelines for the Estimation of Greenhouse Emissions and Energy at Facility-Level Discussion Paper and the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting System Regulations Policy Paper have now been published on our website www.climatechange.gov.au/reporting.

The Technical Guidelines Discussion Paper sought feedback on the proposed estimation methodologies for greenhouse gas emission and energy consumption and production.

The Regulations Policy Paper requested feedback on approaches to the final regulations including detailed definitions of terms, the scope of data subject to mandatory reporting,

registration and deregistration information, greenhouse gas offsets, reductions and removals reporting requirements and public disclosure of information.

Submissions to the papers closed on 13 and 27 February respectively. The Department would like to thank organisations and individuals who attended public information sessions in early February and provided comments via the submission process. Feedback provided in submissions is being considered in the drafting of regulations, which is now under way. Regulations will be released by 1 July 2008.

For further information on the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting System including previous consultations, please visit the website.

Thanks again for your continuing interest.

Department of Climate Change"