Climate Action for Lifelong Learners

CALL newsletter

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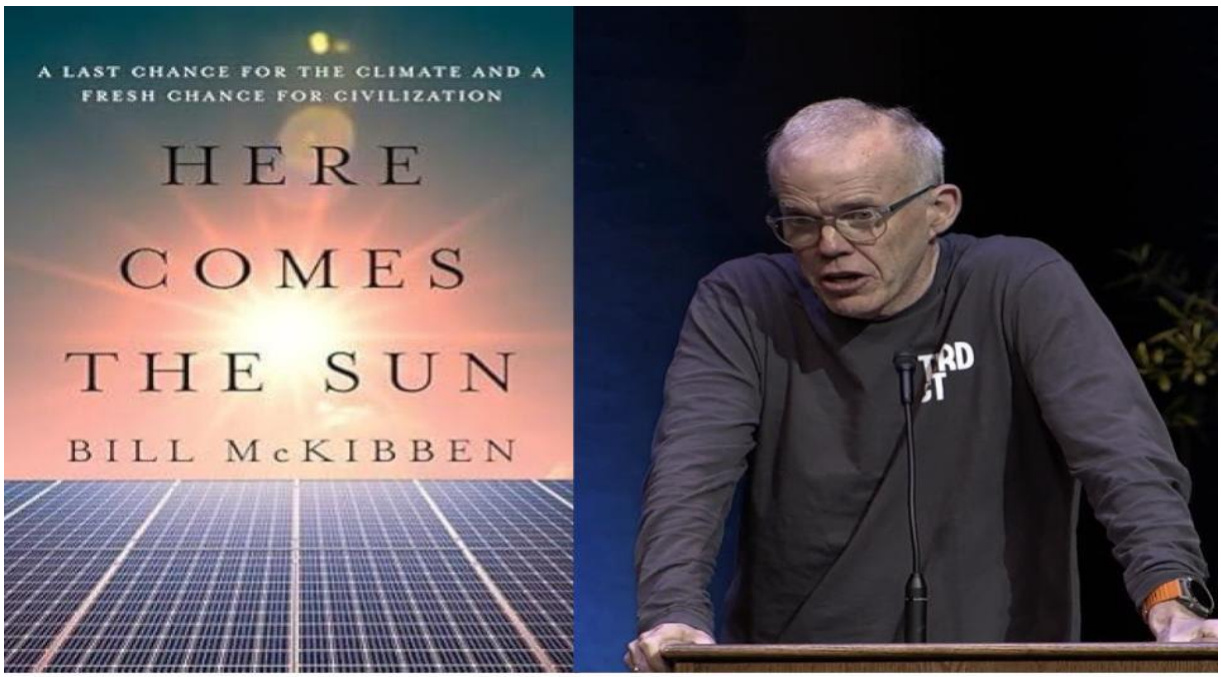
Sign up to CALL's mailing list to receive the newsletter and invitations to monthly learning and interest group meetings.

Join the discussion on *Here Comes the Sun* – October 15 at 10:00 am



Join CALL's October book club meeting to discuss *Here Comes the Sun -- A Last Chance for the Climate and a Fresh Chance for Civilization* by Bill McKibben, the acclaimed environmentalist and author. The book tells a story of resilience, equity and hope for the future. Everyone is welcome, whether you have had an opportunity to read the book or not.

When: October 15TH at 10:00 am

Where: **CLICK HERE TO REGISTER**

As background to the book club discussion, here are links to interviews with the author and the role of solar energy:

- **WATCH** **"***The lights won't dim"* – this 30-minute documentary explores the promise and urgency of solar power in a time of climate crisis.
- Read an interview with Energy Mix Publisher Mitchell Beer and Bill McKibben **HERE**
- **LISTEN** to VOLTS' podcast "*What does clean energy activism look like?*
- **WATCH** Energy vs Climate You Tube *"The great energy showdown – solar takes all?*
- **WATCH** The Gray Area interview with Bill McKibben "*How the climate fight will be won".*
- **WATCH** Bill McKibben with MSNBC's Chris Hayes on "*The most important good story*".

CALL Interest Group Meetings

Along the walk, you will see 5,000+ trees, 77,000+ shrubs and two-million herbaceous plants.

Biidaasige is pronounced "bee-daw-si-geh" and means "sunlight shining toward us". See Wikipedia for more on the new park.

JOIN
INDIVIDUAL ACTION INTEREST GROUP
FOR A GUIDED WALK
Friday, October 10
10:00 am – 11:30 am

Our walk is through Biidaasige Park in the Port Lands. It will be led by Dr. Phillip Wood.

This is a sweeping greenspace that lines the new mouth of the Don River. It is the largest park to open in Toronto in a generation and the first public space to open on Ookwemin Minising (aka Villiers Island). The park was built as part of an innovative approach to flood protection. Through tri-government investment, the Port Lands Flood Protection project protects 174 hectares of land in the Port Lands and the eastern waterfront from flooding.

We will meet at Balzac's Coffee in the Distillery District by 10:00 am.

By TTC, take the 504 King Streetcar to the Distillery Loop.

JOIN
ADVOCACY INTEREST GROUP MEETING
Wednesday, November 19 via Zoom
10:00 am – 11:30 am

The group will discuss recent events, including the Nov 4 federal budget and COP 30. We will also consider actions to advocate for more renewable energy.

CLICK HERE TO JOIN THE MEETING

Key reports: See the Canadian Climate Institute (CCI) on the 2024 national GHG emissions and the importance of policies that apply across Canada

The Canadian Climate Institute (the Institute) has just released two reports on Canada's emissions. The first Report finds **Canada's emissions flatlined in 2024**.

The Report notes that as progress stalls, emissions trends put Canada's 2030 climate target out of reach, emphasizing the need for a coordinated policy reset. Canada's emissions flatlined in 2024 at 694 million tonnes (Mt CO2e) with emissions unchanged from the previous year.

Electricity continued to decarbonize, down 1.9% from 2023 levels; **heavy industry** dropped 0.6% in 2024; **buildings** declined 1.2%; **transportation** was close to flat, falling 0.1%; while oil and gas rose 1.9% in 2024.

The **National Observer** points out that the biggest single driver of emissions is the oil sands which is at record production levels and now accounts for almost one-third (31 per cent) of national emissions. Other sectors are not doing well either: transport (the second biggest carbon polluter) is at the same level as 20 years ago. The only bright spot is electricity generation.

The second report finds that the **biggest emission cuts come from policy that's shared between federal and provincial governments**. In Canada, responsibility for climate policy is shared across all orders of government.

In collaboration with the Net-Zero Advisory Body (NZAB), the Institute found that the climate policies that make the biggest impact on emission reductions are those where federal, provincial, and territorial action is aligned and underpinned by a strong national standard.

The Institute offers three lessons for the next steps of climate policymaking in Canada:

1) More than half of Canada's emission cuts come from policies harmonized across governments.
2) Policy ambition from the provinces and territories matters.
3) National standards and federal backstops are essential to cut emissions and protect regional fairness

TERRE: Take action against the expansion of costly gas plants and support the ramp up of renewables and energy efficiency

TERRE
Toronto East Residents for Renewable Energy

One of CALL's strategic partners is TERRE. We support their work and the actions they are taking to ramp up renewable energy.

- TERRE is a coalition of East End residents and local climate justice groups working together to oppose the expansion of the Portlands gas plant and to ensure its phase out by 2030.

  TERRE points out that in the midst of the climate crisis, the Ford government is increasing the use of gas electricity production across Ontario. Instead of investing in affordable and safe renewable energy, the Ontario government is planning to expand the output capacity of the Portlands plant and rely on this 'peaker' plant as a base-load plant**.** In the summer of 2023, the plant ran 21 hours per day.

- **Here is a webinar** hosted by TERRE in June with Angela Bischoff from the Ontario Clean Air Alliance (OCAA) that provides an overview of the Ontario government's energy plan.

- You can find out more about TERRE and join their mailing list at their website **terrecoalition.ca** or sign up **here** for their monthly E-News.

Climate news

Clean Energy Canada	**Missing out: Europe enjoys 21 electric vehicles selling for less than $40,000 Canadian. Only one of them is available in Canada.** This new report explores a tale of two continents. Canada has an affordable EV problem. Lower-priced new electric vehicles have become an extinct species here, and that simply isn't the case in other countries. **READ**

Canada's National Observer	**How a centuries-old fire foreshadowed the future.** A look back to the Miramichi Fire which burned 200 years ago this fall, and to this day ranks among the largest and most devastating fires North America has ever seen. A precursor to the wildfire landscapes today. **READ**
Redstone Strategy Group	**Changing the game: Community based strategies and climate mitigation.** This new report shows that community-based strategies yield enormous climate mitigation. **READ**
Smart Prosperity Institute	**Bridging the finance gap.** The role of blended finance in building a climate-resilience economy. **READ**
440 Megatonnes	Utilities in Canada are getting much more low-cost, clean power than they asked for. Canadian utilities are swimming in clean electricity proposals, which means more opportunities for lower-cost power and social benefit. **READ**
The Energy Mix	U.S. judge lifts Trump's halt of nearly complete wind project, citing "irreparable harm". **READ**
We Don't Have Time	Sixty countries stood up for science…and won. On 19 September 2025, something historic happened. Morocco became the 60th country to ratify the UN's High Seas Treaty, the milestone that finally pushes the world's first global ocean protection framework into force. **READ**

Climate events	
Register to watch on-demand **David Suzuki Foundation**	**The Suzuki sessions: Resistance and solidarity in the face of LNG.** This new series of webinars dives into the most pressing issues of our time – from climate to environmental justice – and explore real opportunities for collective action. This first session features the voices and perspectives of front-line land defenders resisting fossil fuel expansion on their territories. **MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTER**
October 1-3 Mulitiple events presented by Toronto Climate Week, the University of Toronto and MaRS	**Toronto Climate Week – the dawn of Canada's global climate leadership.** A number of events scheduled across the city to launch the inaugural Climate Week. A range of climate-related topics including clean tech and innovation; energy and transportation; the natural world and policy and environmental justice. **MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTER**

October 2nd – 10:00-11:30 am The first of three webinars co-organized by **Climate Action Network International** (CAN-I) and the **Hands Off Mother Earth Alliance** (HOME) on The Impacts & Implications of Dangerous Distractions.	**Dimming the sun: Unpacking solar geoengineering risks.** In the first webinar, experts will explore Solar Radiation Modification (SRM), or more accurately, Solar Radiation Manipulation, a controversial form of geoengineering involving the large-scale, intentional manipulation of earth's systems. SRM is increasingly entering mainstream climate discourse and is portrayed as a solution to buy time and address the climate crisis. But what does this really involve? And what are its impacts and risks? **MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTER**
October 9th – 9:30-4:15 pm An all day event presented by **The Walrus** and available both in-person and online.	**Climate at a crossroads. Tackling disinformation in economic and climate policy.** Global experts in climate and economic policy, media, and civil society will explore how climate disinformation is restraining progress. In the face of growing gaps in informational integrity, there is a growing need for multi-sectoral, coordinated responses that work. **MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTER**
October 11th – 9:00 am presented by **Global Village Speakers Series** (online)	**Can finance save the planet? How climate change shapes the economy.** Luka Milic from Toronto Metropolitan University will discuss the relationship between the global economy and climate change. Topics include how climate risks affect the economy, plus financial markets and how governments and financial institutions are responding – what's working and what isn't. **MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTER**

Take action!	
David Suzuki Foundation	**Tell the feds: Nature is in the national interest.** A healthy environment is the bottom line. We can't let Canada's budget, due on November 4th, be the next environmental backslide but the sneak peeks we've seen don't look promising for nature or the climate. **TAKE ACTION**
Ontario Clean Air Alliance	**Affordable renewables or high-cost nuclear?** Doug Ford is planning to meet Toronto's electricity needs by building **FOUR** new first-of-their-kind U.S. (GE-Hitachi) nuclear reactors near Oshawa and build a new transmission line to bring this power to downtown Toronto. Ask Toronto's NDP and Liberal MPP's where they stand on this issue. **TAKE ACTION**

Volunteer with CALL

CALL is fuelled by the energy and passion of our volunteers. We hope you will consider volunteering with us. Here a few of the many things you could do:

- Help organize monthly learning meetings with the Program Committee.
- Work with the Newsletter team, selecting content, editing and publishing the Newsletter
- Get involved with one of the interest groups and help organize discussions and activities.

To volunteer, contact: **Membership@climatelearners.ca**

Donate to CALL

SMALL CHANGE FUND
The next step in change.

CALL doesn't have a membership fee. We ask that friends and supporters make a voluntary donation on occasion to help with CALL's work. This year, your donation will help us with improvements to CALL's website.

Click here to go to the Small Change Fund website. Donors to our Small Change Fund project will receive a charitable tax receipt.

For further information, contact: **contact.us@climatelearners.ca.**

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