

RCEN e-Bulletin – October 14th, 2009 Edition

Network News

Climate Action Resources from Now to December

This October, and until the Copenhagen climate negotiations in December, groups and individuals from around the globe will be urging leaders and citizens to support a strong, fair and binding international agreement. In Canada alone, a wealth of resources exist to help you “take climate action”:

- **350 Actions:** participate in one of over 150 actions taking place in cities and towns across Canada on October 24th! Find an event near you at <http://www.350.org/action-list>.
- **Climate Justice Tour:** organized by Climate Action Network-Canada, this Tour with Oxfam Ambassador and Bollywood film star Rahul Bose will swing by Toronto and Vancouver from October 14 to 24. [More...](#)
- **KYOTOplus Video:** watch and circulate this short video encouraging people to get involved in the KYOTOplus campaign. [View here](#)
- **Tcktcktck Song:** listen to and share this song by international artists. [Listen here](#)

Help Us Plan the 2010 Annual General Assembly

Following on the success of our Annual General Assembly (AGA) in Edmonton last June, volunteers and staff at the RCEN have already begun planning for next year's AGA. The 2010 edition will be held in Montréal, QC under the theme of biodiversity.

The 2010 AGA Planning Committee is seeking individuals to participate in 4 sub-committees that will facilitate the planning process:

- Logistics: venue, accommodation, transport, menu, translation, etc.
- Greening the Event: ensuring that every aspect of the event is as ecologically responsible as possible.
- Programming: agenda, speakers, workshops, field trips, etc.
- Marketing & Finance: media, advertising, sponsorship, funding, etc.

If you are interested in joining any of these AGA sub-committees, please contact Joséphine Hénault at josephine@cen-rce.org, or call 613-728-9810, ext. 221.

Other Calls

Share Your Story for 2010 International Year for Biological Diversity

A new web section of the Canadian Biodiversity Information Network (CBIN) was launched recently to celebrate the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity (2010 IYB). As a contribution to this initiative, Environment Canada is gathering stories of Canadian efforts to conserve biodiversity and achieve the [2010 Target](#) of reducing the current rate of biodiversity loss, as a contribution to poverty alleviation and the well-being of all life on earth. These stories will be profiled on the new [2010 section](#) of the CBIN website. Environment Canada invites your organization to participate in this collaborative initiative. If you are interested in profiling your group's activities please visit the CBIN website to [Share Your Story](#).

Answer a Short Survey on "Access and Benefit Sharing"

Groups and individuals with an interest in Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) are encouraged to fill out a 5 minute survey on this important topic (see link below). ABS is an emerging policy area, concerning "*Access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of their utilization*", in other words the balance of power between countries and communities where genetic resources exist (providers) and countries/entities that seek to use those resources (users) such as scientific researchers, pharmaceutical companies, etc. This is a far-reaching issue that has the potential to significantly impact our lives and the lives of our children. For more information, go to: <http://www.ec.gc.ca/apa-abs/index.cfm?lang=eng> or <http://www.cbd.int/abs/>.

Announcements

Winners of the Pan-Canadian Biodiversity Best Practices/Case Studies Contest

In advance of the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010, the RCEN launched a Best Practices/Case Studies Contest to gather innovative and effective examples of ENGOs' work related to the conservation, sustainable use, and awareness of biodiversity. The winning case studies and best practices will be featured in a 20-page handbook that will be posted on our website and distributed to Environment Canada and the Secretariat of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity. For a list of winning submissions from across Canada, please [click here](#).

UNEP Opens Nominations for Champions of the Earth 2010

Nominations are now open for the 6th cycle of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Champions of the Earth, with awards in four categories: Policy Leadership, Science & Innovation, Entrepreneurial Vision, and Inspiration & Action. UNEP has partnered with LG Electronics to recognize each Champion with a cash prize of US\$40,000 in each category. The Champions of the Earth award was created in 2004 to honour individuals and groups who have made a significant and recognized contribution to the protection and sustainable management of the Earth's environment and natural resources. UNEP will celebrate its 2010 Champions of the Earth on April 22, 2010 in Seoul. Nominations will be accepted until October 31, 2009. For more information, visit www.unep.org/champions.

Apply for the 2010 Echoing Green Fellowship

If you have a bold idea to solve a major problem in the world, please apply to the 2010 Echoing Green Fellowship. Each year, Echoing Green awards 12-15 two-year fellowships to social entrepreneurs, who receive up to \$90,000 in seed funding and technical support to turn their innovative ideas into sustainable social change organizations. Echoing Green seeks individuals or partnerships (organizations led by two people) with: innovative solutions to significant social problems; strategies to create high-impact, sustainable change in people's lives; and the ability to grow and lead a new organization. The application deadline is December 2, 2009. Visit <http://www.echoinggreen.org/fellowship> for more information.

Resources

New Guide Helps Canadians to Buy High-Quality Carbon Offsets

The popularity and supply of carbon offsets have grown dramatically over recent years, but not all carbon offsets are worth buying. To help Canadians choose the highest quality carbon offsets, the David Suzuki Foundation and Pembina Institute recently released a user-friendly guide,

Purchasing Carbon Offsets: A Guide for Canadian Consumers, Businesses and Organizations. The guide ranks 20 popular carbon offset vendors from Canada and around the world, and also provides other helpful background information and buying tips. The guide can be downloaded for free at: www.davidsuzuki.org/Publications/offset_vendors.asp.

UN-HABITAT Launches Global Report: Planning Sustainable Cities

The Global Report on Human Settlements 2009 on Planning Sustainable Cities, which was launched on October 5th, reviews new challenges facing cities and towns all over the world. It looks at the emergence and spread of modern urban planning, assesses the effectiveness of current approaches, and highlights innovative urban planning approaches and practices that are more responsive to current and future challenges of urbanization. Future urban planning must take place within an understanding of the factors shaping 21st-century cities, especially the demographic, environmental, economic and socio-spatial challenges that lie ahead. The report is available for download at <http://www.unhabitat.org/content.asp?typeid=19&catid=555&cid=5607>.

Events

Multi-Stakeholder Conference on Corporate Accountability in Canada's Extractive Industries Operating Abroad

Registration is now open for a one-day, Multi-stakeholder Conference on Corporate Accountability in Canada's Extractive Industries Operating Abroad, co-sponsored by the Canadian Network on Corporate Accountability and the Mining Association of Canada. The Conference will take place on November 3rd in Gatineau, QC. The conference will begin with a keynote panel on progress and challenges related to the extractive sector. In the afternoon participants will choose from among three panels: 1) Resource Extraction and its Contribution to Development, 2) Corporate Accountability Mechanisms, and 3) Home Governments as Corporate Accountability Drivers: financial and diplomatic options. Each panel will include panellists from industry, government and civil society. A closing plenary will receive reports from all panels. To register, please go to <http://halifaxinitiative.info/content/conference-registration>.

Transport Futures 2009: Road Pricing & Public Acceptance Workshops

International research and experience has shown that putting a price tag on roads can motivate more sustainable transport choices while ensuring that road users pay directly for multi-billion-dollar plans and infrastructure – including transit, cycling and pedestrian facilities. But mere mention of the words “toll” or “congestion charge” or “tax” raises many concerns and opinions. Don't miss Transport Futures 2009, where, with the help of European and North American experts, participants will delve deeper into public acceptance issues and recommendations surrounding road pricing. Workshops will take place in Toronto from November 12-13, 2009. Visit <http://www.transportfutures.ca/> for program and registration information.

Globe 2010: Canada's Largest Event on the Business of the Environment

Globe 2010 will take place in Vancouver from March 24-26 to discuss current sustainable business trends and to showcase innovative solutions to the world's environmental problems. The high-level program features over 200 expert speakers and 50 educational sessions on topics relating to: corporate sustainability, energy priorities, climate change and carbon management, sustainable finance, water, clean(er) technology, and building greener cities. Join over 11,000 attendees from 70+ countries representing some of the most forward-thinking organizations from around the world. Please visit www.globe2010.com for more information.

Employment

University of Ottawa - Environmental Law Program Coordinator

The University of Ottawa's Faculty of Law is seeking a part-time Coordinator for its Environmental Law Program. The Coordinator will be responsible for: initiating, organizing and managing the activities of the Programme; developing and initiating fundraising proposals for the Programme; and developing and shepherding the development of a Centre for Environmental Law within the University. Candidates should have: program development, coordination, management or administration skills; a university-level education (or equivalent experience); and must be bilingual. The deadline for applications is October 23, 2009. Please email Clawsec3@uottawa.ca for more information, or to apply for this position.