

# “WHAT’S NEW IN P2”

A Monthly Information Service

Canadian Centre for Pollution Prevention (C2P2)  
Canadian Pollution Prevention Information Clearinghouse (CPPIC)

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## *P2 News*

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### **Government of Canada Announces Investment in First of ecoENERGY Renewable Power Projects**

The Government of Canada recently announced the first of seven low-impact renewable energy projects that will receive a financial incentive of one cent per kilowatt hour through the ecoENERGY for Renewable Power program. The incentive is meant to ensure that electricity generated from renewable sources can be delivered to customers at a competitive rate. The Kwalsa low-impact hydro project, located near Harrison Lake, approximately 90km northeast of Vancouver in British Columbia, will receive an investment of up to \$35 million from the Canadian government. Once complete, the Kwalsa energy project will have a total capacity of 90 megawatts, enough to meet the peak energy demands of 27,000 households.

Businesses, municipalities, institutions and organizations are eligible for funding under the ecoENERGY for Renewable Power program. The program will provide \$1.48 billion to increase Canada’s supply of clean electricity from renewable sources such as wind, biomass, low-impact hydro, geothermal, solar photovoltaic and ocean energy. It is estimated that this funding will encourage the production of approximately 4,000 megawatts of electricity from renewable energy sources, enough electricity for 1 million homes. For more information, please see the following links:

Government of Canada, *News Release: Government of Canada Invests in Renewable Energy in British Columbia*

<http://www.ecoaction.gc.ca/news-nouvelles/20080820-eng.cfm>

Government of Canada, *EcoENERGY for Renewable Power Program*

<http://www.ecoaction.gc.ca/ecoenergy-ecoenergie/power-electricite/index-eng.cfm>

### **Dead Zones in the World’s Oceans Increasing**

According to an article entitled “Suffocating the Oceans” recently published in the academic journal *Science*, the number of dead zones in the world’s oceans have increased to such an extent that they are ranked as one of the key stressors on marine ecosystems and a major global environmental problem. Dead zones are areas of the ocean that suffer from a lack of oxygen at their lower levels. The main cause of these dead zones is the run-off of agricultural fertilizers, which stimulate the growth of large algal blooms. When these blooms decay and sink to the bottom of the ocean they are eaten by microbes, a decomposition process which absorbs large amounts of dissolved oxygen. The study states that the number of marine dead zones around the world has doubled approximately every 10 years since the 1960’s with more than 400 such zones documented. At the same time the zones along many coastlines have been growing in size and intensity. The dead zones have eliminated entire species in some parts of the world and hurt many coastal fisheries. For more information, please see the following links:

Globe and Mail.com, *Ocean 'dead zones' proliferating*

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20080814.wdeadzones14/BNStory/Science/home>

New York Times, *Ocean Dead Zones on the Rise*

[http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/15/science/earth/15oceans.html?\\_r=1&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/15/science/earth/15oceans.html?_r=1&oref=slogin)

Globe-net News, *Dead in the Water*

<http://www.globe-net.com/news/index.cfm?type=1&newsID=3690>

### **Breakthrough in Feasibility of Solar Energy Storage**

MIT researchers recently announced that they have found an inexpensive and efficient way to store solar energy for times when the sun isn't shining; a finding that could overcome one of the largest barriers to widespread affordable solar power. In a paper published in the academic journal *Science* in late July, the process is described as similar to that used by plants during photosynthesis. The scientists have developed a process which uses energy from the sun to split water into hydrogen and oxygen gases, which can later be recombined inside a fuel cell to create carbon-free electricity during the day or night. Daniel Nocera, the senior author of the paper, hopes that within 10 years, with the innovation of the scientific community, homeowners will be able to power their homes in daylight with photo voltaic cells and use extra solar energy to power their own household fuel cells. For more information, please see the following links:

MIT news, *'Major discovery' from MIT primed to unleash solar revolution*

<http://web.mit.edu/newsoffice/2008/oxygen-0731.html>

Forbes.com, *Solar Energy, All Night Long*

[http://www.forbes.com/energy/2008/07/30/nocera-solar-power-biz-energy-cz\\_jf\\_0731solar.html](http://www.forbes.com/energy/2008/07/30/nocera-solar-power-biz-energy-cz_jf_0731solar.html)

### **Canadian Organized Crime targeting 'E-waste' and Natural Resources for Revenue**

The Criminal Intelligence Service of Canada (CISC) released the 2008 Report on Organized Crime in August. Aimed at raising public awareness about the threats posed by organized crime, the report includes a discussion of environmental crime, listing this category as an emerging and future threat. The environmental crimes identified include the sale of electronic and electrical waste and natural resources and it is suggested that these activities are growing sources of revenue for crime groups. More specifically, the report states that the illegal movement of 'e-waste' to developing countries is creating an environmental and human health crisis. Further, that Canada's marine resources, freshwater and forests are vulnerable to exploitation by organized crime units due to their relative abundance, isolation, and accessibility. For more information, please see the following links:

CISC, *2008 Report on Organized Crime: Report Highlights*

[http://www.cisc.gc.ca/media/media\\_2008/highlights\\_2008\\_e.html](http://www.cisc.gc.ca/media/media_2008/highlights_2008_e.html)

CISC, *2008 Report on Organized Crime: Full Report*

[http://www.cisc.gc.ca/annual\\_reports/annual\\_report\\_2008/frontpage\\_2008\\_e.html](http://www.cisc.gc.ca/annual_reports/annual_report_2008/frontpage_2008_e.html)

Globe and Mail.com, *Criminal Profiting from e-trash*

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20080822.wcrime23ott/BNStory/Technology/?page=rss&id=RTGAM.20080822.wcrime23ott>

### **Government of Canada Shows Support for Conservation in B.C., Nova Scotia and Nunavut**

The Government of Canada recently made a number of important conservation announcements. At the end of July, Canada's Environment Minister, John Baird, with the Nature Conservancy of Canada jointly announced that more than 550 km<sup>2</sup> of ecologically significant land will be conserved in the South Selkirk region of British Columbia near Creston. The acquisition launches the largest single private conservation project ever undertaken by a Canadian non-profit

organization. The area includes lands that host over 100,000 migratory birds and 265 bird species. The newly protected area offers an important passageway, connecting to existing conserved areas, which is significant for species with a large range such as grizzly bears and the South Mountain population of woodland caribou.

Environment Canada, *News Release: Government Takes Action to Protect Land in British Columbia: Conservation Area Almost Five Times the Size of Vancouver*  
<http://www.ec.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=714D9AAE-1&news=BCFF0632-E5CB-45A0-B644-370609278EB8>

Nature Conservancy of Canada, *Darkwoods*  
[http://www.natureconservancy.ca/site/PageServer?pagename=bc\\_ncc\\_work\\_projects\\_dw](http://www.natureconservancy.ca/site/PageServer?pagename=bc_ncc_work_projects_dw)

In mid-August, Minister John Baird joined Gerald Keddy, Member of Parliament for South Shore - St. Margaret, representatives from the Nature Conservancy of Canada, and residents of Nova Scotia's South Shore in announcing the successful conservation of important lands in Deep Cove, Nova Scotia. The protected lands total more than 3.6 km<sup>2</sup>, and encompass a wide range of habitat types, including mature coastal forest and wetlands.

Environment Canada, *News Release: Feds Help Conserve Nova Scotia's South Shore*  
<http://www.ec.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=714D9AAE-1&news=E5192B95-6A22-4CC8-874F-9A97A9B9710B>

Finally, another major conservation announcement by Minister John Baird was made in late August, with James Eetoolook, Acting President for Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. Three new National Wildlife Areas have been established on and around Baffin Island, protecting local species and habitat including the bowhead whale.

Environment Canada, *News Release: Canada's Government Announces Protection for Arctic Wildlife Sanctuaries*  
<http://www.ec.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=714D9AAE-1&news=1888CBF6-5A68-40A2-8653-25F4FCF188BF>

## ***Publications***

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### ***No Breathing Room: National Illness Costs of Air Pollution, Canadian Medical Association***

This report by the Canadian Medical Association documents the effects of poor air quality based on the concentrations of two highly predictive pollutants (ozone and particulate matter) on four distinct age groups of people. Using a software model, which has been validated by a panel of international experts on health and environment, the report provides detailed health and economic data relating to projected changes in air quality. Among some of the major findings are that by 2031 there will be over 700,000 deaths due to long-term exposure to air pollution and that residents of Quebec and Ontario are expected to have the largest proportion of acute premature deaths. Beyond health facts, the report provides concerning economic information, suggesting that in 2008 the economic cost of poor air quality will top \$8 billion and by 2031 these costs will accumulate to over \$250 billion. Sections in the document include: Background; Methods; Health Effects; Economic Costs; Discussion; and, Conclusions.

Full Report:

[http://www.cma.ca/multimedia/cma/content/Images/Inside\\_cma/Office\\_Public\\_Health/ICAP/CA\\_ICAP\\_sum\\_e.pdf](http://www.cma.ca/multimedia/cma/content/Images/Inside_cma/Office_Public_Health/ICAP/CA_ICAP_sum_e.pdf)

***Check-out Carbon: the role of carbon-labeling in delivering a low-carbon shopping basket, Forum for the Future***

Forum for the Future, a U.K.-based charity focused on sustainable development, released this report on carbon labeling with the aim of exploring the role of carbon labels in encouraging consumers to reduce the carbon emissions linked to their shopping basket. The report defines carbon labels as any on-package communication that identifies the climate change impacts of a product. These include labels communicating the carbon footprint of a product's lifecycle or broader messages such as claiming a product is 'carbon neutral'. The report identifies key debates around carbon labeling, discusses the role of businesses, outlines requirements for making carbon labels more useful and provides strategic recommendations for stakeholders such as governments, retailers and manufacturers. The information contained in the document is based on consumer focus groups, expert interviews and surveys.

Full Report:

[http://www.forumforthefuture.org/files/Check-out%20carbon%20FINAL\\_300608.pdf](http://www.forumforthefuture.org/files/Check-out%20carbon%20FINAL_300608.pdf)

***Conferences and Events***

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**4<sup>th</sup> Annual Green Building Festival - Toronto, Ontario  
September 9-10**

Green Building Festival 2008 is a two-day conference and expo highlighting innovation in green building. Take an in-depth look at the real world impacts of green building, with comprehensive case studies, product analysis, visionary keynotes, and 100 exhibitors with ready-to-market green building solutions. For more information, visit <http://www.greenbuildingfest.com/>

**Sustainable Production and Consumption: From Corporate Governance to Citizen-Consumers - Quebec City, Quebec  
September 18-20**

The International Conference on Sustainable Production and Consumption: From Corporate Governance to Citizen-Consumers will address the role of the law in the areas of sustainable development and consumption and provide a forum for multidisciplinary discussions on the issues. For more information, please visit <http://www.colloque2008cede.fd.ulaval.ca/>.

**Reducing Environmental Footprint in Durham Region – Ajax, Ontario  
September 19**

This Public Stakeholders Forum of the Durham Sustainability Stewardship Program (DSSP) will be held at the Ajax Convention Centre. For further information on the agenda, please contact Meena Hassanali at (905) 822-4133 ext. 233 or visit <http://www.oceta.on.ca/DSSP/forums.htm>.

**2008 Canadian Urban Forest Conference - Sherwood Park, Alberta  
September 23-26**

This event welcomes those responsible for municipal green spaces, landscape architects, developers, biologists, forestry engineers, arboriculturists, researchers in the health care industry and students in these fields as well as forestry specialists interested in the health of trees in urban environments. For more information, visit [www.cufc8.ca](http://www.cufc8.ca).

**Ottawa Clean Air Summit - Ottawa, Ontario  
September 25**

This event includes a lively panel discussion moderated by Ken Rockburn, veteran award-winning journalist and broadcaster, followed by a question and answer session focused on Ottawa's air quality. Come and find out why we should care about air quality, just as we already

care about the quality of our drinking water and waterways. For more information, visit <http://www.clivedoucet.com/>.

### **Eco-Living Fair – Calgary, Alberta**

**September 27**

Come out and learn about new technologies, products and services available to consumers that will reduce your impact on the environment and invest in your future. Visit the booths and listen to the many informative presentations being offered throughout the day. For more information, visit [www.ecolivingfair.ca](http://www.ecolivingfair.ca).

### **EcoCare 2008 – London, Ontario**

**October 20-21**

This conference and trade show focuses on practical and innovative ways to encourage ecological stewardship within the Canadian Healthcare Sector and is sponsored by the London Health Sciences Centre, in partnership with the University of Western Ontario and the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment. For details, including the agenda and how to register, visit <http://www.lhsc.on.ca/ecologic/conference.htm>.

## ***Internet Bits and Bytes***

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### **The Good Life, World Wildlife Fund**

The World Wildlife Fund launched The Good Life web site in January of 2008. Since then the online community for Canadians that want action on climate change has filled up with profiles, comments and content from Canadians making a difference. The web site features The Good Life Challenge, including information on the program, actions that you can take, a blog, and more. You can sign-up for The Good Life, select the actions you want to commit to, and the web site will track the amount of greenhouse gases you have reduced. The site also totals everyone's contributions in province-wide and country-wide tallies. Further, you can invite friends, family and colleagues to join The Good Life and challenge them to take actions that benefit the environment. Challenges are 30, 60 or 90 days long and the web site tracks each participant's progress towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Visit the site at <http://thegoodlife.wwf.ca/Home.cfm>.

### **Tumbleweed: Tiny House Company**

This web site features the work of Jay Shafer, who since 1997 has been living in houses smaller than some people's closets. Ranging from 65 to 774 square feet, the houses featured on this site have been created with the environment and convenience in mind. The site features the sale of building plans for tiny houses, pictures of tiny houses built by customers, videos, a list of building resources, a blog and FAQ section. Visit the site at <http://www.tumbleweedhouses.com/>

## ***From the Desk of the ED***

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Since joining the Centre this spring, I have been impressed by the variety of projects that C2P2 is involved in with sponsoring partners. These range from sustainable consumption, green procurement, supply-chain management, packaging, energy conservation to fostering sustainable development in communities in addition to several P2 planning and assessment projects. The array of projects signals the growing scope of P2 well beyond its traditional focus of clean production. What is also impressive is the rapid growth of specialization in each of these areas which is reflective of the complexity both in technical terms and system or relationship terms in these fields. Underlying this growth of specialized knowledge and technique however is the enduring principle and goal of improving efficiency. In general, we all accept that increased efficiency reduces costs and pollution. In a sustainable development context which encourages

the greater integration of social justice, economic well-being and an environmental sensibility our key P2 challenge is to foster “an ethical efficiency” in carrying out our mandate. I invite all P2 practitioners to explore this idea and find ways of incorporating it into their practice.

### ***Information Sharing***

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If you wish to contribute to this information service, please e-mail us at [info@c2p2online.com](mailto:info@c2p2online.com)