

# “WHAT’S NEW IN P2”

A Monthly Information Service

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

December 2008 Edition

Also available on-line at <http://www.c2p2online.com/wnip2>

### Call for Applications for the 2009 CCME Pollution Prevention Awards

Applications for the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Pollution Prevention Awards, presented by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME), are now being accepted. These awards recognize businesses and organizations showing leadership and innovation in pollution prevention (P2) in up to seven categories.

- Micro-Business - *1 to 9 employees*
- Small Business - *10 to 49 employees*
- Medium Business - *50 to 500 employees*
- Large Business - *more than 500 employees*
- Organization, Institution or Group
- Innovations
- Greenhouse Gases Reduction

If your organization is an environmental leader, or if you know of a company that deserves recognition, we want to hear about it!

Application packages for 2009 and details of the Pollution Prevention Awards Program can be found at [www.c2p2online.com/CPFR](http://www.c2p2online.com/CPFR).

For more information, contact Leah Nielsen at [leah@c2p2online.com](mailto:leah@c2p2online.com).

**Deadline for applications is February 16, 2009.**

### *P2 News*

#### **Supreme Court ruling on pollution has far-reaching implications for Canadian industry**

A recent ruling by the Supreme Court of Canada has demonstrated that industrial polluters can be forced to pay damages if they excessively annoy nearby residents, even if they are in compliance with regulations governing emissions. In a unanimous judgment, with far reaching implications for Canadian industry, the Supreme Court ruled that the St. Lawrence Cement Company of Beauport, Quebec must pay \$15 million in damages to residents of the area for excessive disturbance. The decision ended a long-standing battle between the cement company and residents who launched a class action suit in 1993, claiming that the plant covered their homes, land and cars in residue and lowered property values due to the constant odour and noise. The key issue in the case was whether companies can be found civilly liable, even if they're not strictly at fault for inflicting damages because they followed regulatory standards for maintaining equipment. The court stated that the test for civil fault is whether the polluter violates a standard of conduct of a reasonable person.

Calgary Herald, *Polluters liable, even if they follow the rules, top court says*

<http://www.canada.com/calgaryherald/story.html?id=0826ef18-35a7-4bc6-9122-168361b62a39>

GLOBE-Net, *Supreme Court decision has major implications for Canadian Industry*  
<http://www.globe-net.com/search/display.cfm?NID=3861&CID=2>

### **Construction of Canada's largest wind farm completed**

The newly finished Melancthon Eco Power Centre developed by Canadian Hydro near Shelburne, Ontario has become Canada's largest wind farm. Under construction since 2005, the completion of the second phase of the project means the site now has a capacity of 199.5 megawatts (MW), which has boosted the province of Ontario's total wind capacity to 673 MW. Electricity generated by the \$409 million project will be sold to the Ontario Power Authority through two 20-year contracts. Ontario has the largest wind capacity of Canadian provinces. Alberta ranks second with 545 MW of wind capacity and Quebec is in third with 433 MW. The Melancthon Eco Power Centre is one of three major Ontario-based wind projects scheduled to go on-line in coming weeks. Within two-months the province is projecting they will have 950 MW of wind capacity.

Ontario Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, *New Release: Ontario Becomes Wind Power Leader in Canada*

[http://www.energy.gov.on.ca/index.cfm?fuseaction=english.news&news\\_id=140&body=yes](http://www.energy.gov.on.ca/index.cfm?fuseaction=english.news&news_id=140&body=yes)

Canadian Hydro, *Melancthon I Wind Plant & Melancthon II Wind Project*

<http://www.canhydro.com/projects/melancthonwind/>

Treehugger, *Don't Call it a Wind Farm, It's an EcoPower Centre: Canada's Largest Wind Project (200 MW) Opens*

<http://www.treehugger.com/files/2008/11/largest-canadian-wind-farm-opens.php>

### **Powerful greenhouse gas found more prevalent in atmosphere than previously thought**

Newly published research has found that a greenhouse gas deemed 17,000 times more potent than carbon dioxide is more widespread in the atmosphere than previously thought. Nitrogen trifluoride (NF<sub>3</sub>) is used primarily in the manufacture of semiconductors, but is also used in the production of flat panel LCDs and thin film photovoltaic cells. While the compound is not a part of these products, it's used as a chamber cleaning gas which manufacturers try to destroy after use. Previous estimates suggested that 2% of NF<sub>3</sub> gas was emitted when used, but new research from a team at the Scripps Institute of Oceanography in California suggests that 16% of the estimated 4,000 metric tons of NF<sub>3</sub> produced each year is being emitted. While the research also states that NF<sub>3</sub> only accounts for 0.04% of the global warming effect caused by human-generated carbon dioxide emissions, it also stresses that this impact needs to be kept small. Further, that the gas should be included in the Kyoto Protocol, the 1997 version of which it was excluded from since NF<sub>3</sub> emissions were considered so low at this time. Figures for this most recent NF<sub>3</sub> research were compiled by examining air samples from California and Tasmania collected over the past 30 years.

Climate Biz, *Powerful Greenhouse Gas More Rampant than Estimated*

<http://www.climatebiz.com/news/2008/10/27/greenhouse-gas-more-rampant>

Geophysical Research Letters, *Nitrogen trifluoride in the global atmosphere*

<http://www.agu.org/pubs/crossref/2008/2008GL035913.shtml>

### **First commercial ship travels through the Northwest Passage**

The Canadian Coast Guard has confirmed that the first commercial ship to travel through the Northwest Passage from east to west did so this fall. The MV Camilla Desgagnés delivered supplies from Montreal to communities in western Nunavut. Historically the Northwest Passage has been too dangerous for commercial ships to travel through from the east, presenting dangers associated with thick impassible sea ice. Previously supplies delivered to remote communities in the area were delivered by tugboats and barges coming from the west. While satellite photos

have shown the passage open as early as 2007, it wasn't until recently that the navigability of the route was proven. While the Northwest Passage is only viable as a shipping route during certain parts of the year, it has been suggested that if climate change trends continue use of the route may significantly affect shipping patterns.

CBCnews.ca, *1<sup>st</sup> commercial ship sails through Northwest Passage*

<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/north/story/2008/11/28/nwest-vessel.html?ref=rss>

Treehugger, *Global Warming Opens Northwest Passage*

[http://www.treehugger.com/files/2008/11/global\\_warming\\_passage.php](http://www.treehugger.com/files/2008/11/global_warming_passage.php)

### **Researchers discover that oceans are acidifying much faster than expected**

Researchers from the University of Chicago have found that man-made pollution is increasing ocean acidity at least ten times faster than previously thought. The results, which were gathered by testing coastal water off the Northwest Pacific coast every half hour for eight years, are unexpected as it was previously thought that the huge ocean system had the ability to absorb large quantities of carbon dioxide. When carbon dioxide dissolves in water, carbonic acid is formed, leading to the ocean's chemical balance becoming more acidic. This can have a particularly devastating effect on shellfish and other crustaceans because acidic waters dissolve the calcium carbonate that make up the protective shells of these organisms. The researchers suggest that one reason for such a dramatic difference between theirs and previous studies is that the consideration of biological factors is missing from previous models of ocean climate systems. Among other effects, life in and around the edges of oceans can affect seawater pH through photosynthesis and respiration.

BBC News, *Marine life faces 'acid threat'*

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7745714.stm>

Guardian.co.uk, *Unexpected rise in carbon-fuelled ocean acidity threatens shellfish, say scientists*

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2008/nov/25/water-ocean-acidity-shellfish>

### ***CPPIC This Month***

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Environment Canada's Canadian Pollution Prevention Information Clearinghouse (CPPIC), an online database and comprehensive resource for pollution prevention (P2) information, continues to grow as new resources are added to the database and improvements are made to the P2 web site. The following is a summary of the recent additions:

**15 \*NEW\* Resources were added to the database.** Resources may be of interest to community groups, educators, students, small- and medium-sized enterprises (SME), municipalities, consumers, the general public and industry. Sample resources include:

- Transportation Implementation Guidelines for Small Canadian Municipalities - <http://www.ec.gc.ca/cppic/En/refView.cfm?refId=2216>
- Success Story: Steelcase Canada Ltd. - 2008 Winner of the CCME P2 Medium Business Award - <http://www.ec.gc.ca/cppic/En/refView.cfm?refId=2217>
- The Consumer's Role in Corporate Social Responsibility- <http://www.ec.gc.ca/cppic/En/refView.cfm?refId=2211>
- Guide: Comparing Neighbourhoods for Sustainable Features - <http://www.ec.gc.ca/cppic/En/refView.cfm?refId=2210>
- Sustainable Packaging Coalition: Definition of Sustainable Packaging - <http://www.ec.gc.ca/cppic/En/refView.cfm?refId=2206>

**What's New?** Visit the *What's New* Section for the complete list of resources added each month -- <http://www.ec.gc.ca/cppic/En/whatsNew.cfm>

**Featured Site of the Month:** *Take Action for the Environment* - <http://www.ec.gc.ca/cppic/En/whatsNew.cfm?view=site&id=40>

**Featured Success Story of the Month:** *University Health Network - 2008 Co-Winner of the CCME P2 Award: Organization, Institution or Group*  
<http://www.ec.gc.ca/cppic/En/whatsNew.cfm?view=story&id=51>

## ***Publications***

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### **An Introduction to Environmental Law and Policy in Canada, Paul Muldoon *et al.***

This book examines the fundamental issues surrounding environmental law in Canada at the national and provincial levels. Recommended for anyone interested in environmental law and understanding many of the current environmental headlines, this book includes a review of the Canadian constitution, a history of Canadian environmental law, and an overview of specific regulatory structures pertaining to air, water, energy and pesticides. The authors also examine more integrated approaches to environmental law such as environmental assessments, land management and corporate incentives. Environmental rights and the role of community in policy-making processes are also reviewed and the final section gives different perspectives on the future of Canadian environmental law. The book can be ordered on-line at a cost of \$60.

Please see the following link for more information:

<http://www.emp.ca/index.php/book-catalogue/property/university/introduction-to-environmental-law-and-policy-in-canada-an>

## ***Conferences and Events***

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### **The ABCs of Developing a Green Business Program**

#### **December 16, WEBINAR**

The Western Sustainability and Pollution Prevention Network (WSPPN) and the Pacific Northwest Pollution Prevention Resource Center (PPRC) are hosting a webinar, on Dec. 16 from 10:00 – 11:30 am, PST. This webinar is specifically designed to provide an introduction to jurisdictions that are interested in launching Green Business Programs (GBPs) and will serve as a great refresher for upcoming GBPs as well.

[http://www.chemalliance.org/news/news\\_detail.asp?StoryID=2309](http://www.chemalliance.org/news/news_detail.asp?StoryID=2309)

### **CSA Z1600 Emergency Management and Business Continuity Auditing Programs**

#### **Various dates in 2009, across Canada**

This course will provide details of the CSA Z1600 Standard as well as ISO 19011 Standard as they relate to auditing and programs to ensure compliance to the standard and the program they have defined. ISO 19011 will be used as the model to structure the auditing of the Z1600 program that is implemented.

[https://learningcentre.csa.ca/lc\\_site/be.asp?gid=50009573&tid=50038779](https://learningcentre.csa.ca/lc_site/be.asp?gid=50009573&tid=50038779)

### **National Environmental Partnership Summit**

#### **May 4-8, San Francisco**

This is a unique opportunity to learn and assimilate technology know-how, policy expertise, and innovation excellence of your peers. The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual National Environmental Partnership Summit

is focused on pollution prevention and environmental assistance including a regulatory update, resource efficiency, greening your business, research and new and clean technologies, and community engagement success stories, with sustainability as an underlying common thread in all the tracks.

<http://www.environmentalsummit.org/>.

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

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#### **Green Prosperity: Putting Environmental Action to Work for Ontario**

Twenty-four of Ontario's leading environmental organizations have endorsed an action agenda for the province to help usher in an era of green prosperity. The groups are working together to outline how Ontario can protect the environment and develop more sustainable practices and policies. The group has set seven major environmental priorities which they feel require action. These include: climate change, the boreal forest, green energy, toxics reduction, the great lakes, transportation and healthy food. The key message of the campaign is that green actions can have big economic effects, including job creation and investment opportunities. For more information, visit <http://www.greenprosperity.ca/>

#### **Background papers on the review of Ontario's Waste Diversion Act, CIELAP**

In October 2008 the Ontario government began broad public consultation for its 5-year review of the *Waste Diversion Act* by releasing the discussion paper *Toward a Zero Waste Future* and launching a 90-day consultation period that ends on January 15, 2009. The Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy (CIELAP) has produced a number of background papers to provide context for this review. Documents include An Introduction to Ontario's Waste Diversion Act; An Overview of Current WDA Programs and Designated Materials; A Brief History of Waste Diversion in Ontario; and, Ontario's Waste Diversion Act – Moving Beyond Recycling. CIELAP is also preparing a report that will include recommendations for improving the *Waste Diversion Act*. Please see the following link for more information:

[http://www.cielap.org/pub/pub\\_WDAreview.php](http://www.cielap.org/pub/pub_WDAreview.php)

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

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Last month we announced the formation of a “strategic alliance” with the Ontario Centre for Environmental Technology Centre, (OCETA). We are pleased to report that we are moving ahead with the implementation of the alliance. At the end of November, C2P2 moved from its Toronto location to co-locate with the OCETA offices. Please note our new coordinates below:

**Canadian Centre for Pollution Prevention**  
**c/o OCETA, Unit 201A – 2070 Hadwen Road**  
**Mississauga, ON, L5K 2C9**  
**P: 905-822-4133 ext. 247 or 1-800-667-9790**  
**F: 905-822- 3558**  
[www.c2p2online.com](http://www.c2p2online.com)

With our move completed, we are continuing with C2P2 key programs including:

Administration of the **2009 CCME P2 Awards Program** - C2P2 is honoured to be associated with this Awards program for a variety of reasons. First, it is the only national award endorsed by the environment ministries of all territorial, provincial and federal governments of Canada. Secondly, it is the only national award dedicated to pollution prevention results for specific organizational categories. C2P2 asks all our readers, especially professional P2 practitioners to contact any deserving facility they know to consider applying for this prestigious award. We

strongly feel that exemplary P2 efforts need to be recognized and acknowledged. By acknowledging winners, it extends their P2 experience to others and inspires them to improve their pollution prevention efforts.

Preparations are underway for the **13<sup>th</sup> annual Canadian Pollution Prevention Roundtable (CPPR) in mid-June 2009 in Charlottetown PEI**. Please jot this down in your 2009 calendar and stay tuned for specific dates, venue and program. We will be posting specific details on our website at [www.c2p2online.com/CPPR](http://www.c2p2online.com/CPPR) in January. We have a number of CPPR sponsorship benefit opportunities available and welcome inquiries to [ron@c2p2online.com](mailto:ron@c2p2online.com).

### ***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)