



How You Can Get Involved in the October 24 Global Day of Action on Climate Change

Entire populations and ecosystems are threatened by devastating impacts caused by climate change including droughts, heat waves, fires, floods, storms and rising sea levels. Scientists have warned the United Nations that only urgent action can avert uncontrollable, runaway climate change.

The political status quo in Canada cannot continue if we want serious action on climate change at home and as part of the global community.

October 24 marks a Global Day of Action on Climate Change. Six weeks before the 15th session of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP15) in December, people around the world are uniting to demand that governments commit to a new global deal that enacts real change, reducing emissions in line with science based targets in a just and fair manner. Canadians from coast-to-coast will unite to demand that Canada be part of the climate change solution, not the problem.

The Council of Canadians' Annual General Meeting, titled *Turning the Tide: A Just Economy for People and the Planet*, is taking place in Saint John, New Brunswick October 23-25. On October 24, Council of Canadians' members and chapter activists from across the country will be joining the global day of action for a rally exposing the connections between the economic and climate crises.

We encourage everyone to think of fun and creative ideas to join this global day of action and help deliver the message that we need urgent climate change action now.

Here are some ideas to get you started:

Join an action in your community.

350.org, an international campaign helping to coordinate the global day of action, has a list of more than 90 actions being planned across Canada. Search the list for your community, email the event contact person and find out how you can get involved.

Find the list of actions at: <http://www.350.org/action-list?city=&country=ca>

Organize an action on October 24.

350.org has a useful list of action ideas including organizing a walk, march or rally, teach-in, faith celebration, biking and school campus action.

Action ideas are available at: <http://www.350.org/action-ideas>

The action guide is available at: <http://www.350.org/9steps>.

Screen Dark Side of the Boom.

Host a screening of the Council of Canadians' 10-minute tar sands documentary, ***Dark Side of the Boom***, or use high resolution photos of the tar sands to help "show" people across the country what the tar sands really look like. Follow this with a discussion on the connections between the tar sands and Canada's reputation as a climate laggard. Tar sands discussion questions and other information about the tar sands is available at www.canadians.org/energy/issues/tarsands/index

Think global – act local.

Is there a big climate change causing polluter in your community? Want to use this day of action to raise awareness about local examples of unsustainable behaviours? Why not host a public discussion, organize a rally, media stunt or other creative action to get your message out and build further support for local campaigns.

KYOTOplus action options on October 24.

Use October 24 as an opportunity to collect more signatures for the **KYOTOplus petition** – the KYOTOplus objective is to deliver hundreds of thousands of signed petitions to the Canadian government in the lead up to COP15.

If your MP hasn't signed the KYOTOplus politicians' pledge, approach them to **sign the pledge publicly on October 24** to indicate their commitment to taking real climate action. Chapters interested in getting their MP to sign the pledge can work with regional organizers on developing a lobbying strategy in the lead-up to October 24.

Find out whether your MP has signed the KYOTOplus pledge at:
<http://www.greenpeace.org/canada/en/campaigns/kyotoplus/pledge>

Download a print copy of the KYOTOplus petition at: www.canadians.org/climatejustice

Send signed petitions to The Council of Canadians, 700-170 Laurier Ave West, Ottawa ON, K1P 5V5, before November 5, 2009.

Hand out materials.

We have some great materials available for distribution. Pick a popular, well-frequented location and get out and talk to people about energy concerns. Informal conversations are a great way to share information, and printed materials give people something to take away with them. We have a new Council of Canadians' climate change factsheet and handbill ready for October 24 events. You can download materials from www.canadians.org under the October 24 global day of action section of our website, or order copies from one of our regional offices, or from Jeannette Muhongayire, Regional Organizing Team Assistant, at 1-800-387-7177, or by e-mail at jmuhongayire@canadians.org.

Keep us in the loop.

The Council of Canadians' new climate justice webpage is hosting a cross-Canada map of chapter actions. **Chapters can register their Oct.24 action online** at: www.canadians.org/climatejustice under the "How can you participate?" section.

Take pictures of your event! Send copies to: aharden@canadians.org

350.org is hosts a list of Oct.24 actions happening across Canada – don't forget to ensure any events you are participating in are registered at: <http://www.350.org/oct24>

Most important of all, have fun. Together we will make a difference!



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Contact your Regional Organizer for further assistance:

British Columbia-Yukon: 1-604-688-8846 (toll free) 1-888-566-3888

Prairies: 1-780-429-4500 (toll free) 1-877-729-4500

Ontario-Quebec: 1-416-979-5554 (toll free) 1-800-208-7156

Atlantic: 1-902-422-7811 (toll free) 1-877-772-7811