Center for Climate Action Newsletter July 2009

Advancing Climate *Action* in the West

Dear Center Partners,
Welcome to the July 2009 issue of the Center for Climate Action newsletter. We hope you find this information timely and useful.

As the new Director of the Center for Climate Action, I would like to take a moment to introduce myself. I have a strong belief that a low-carbon future must also be a prosperous future and I look forward to working with and for the Center for Climate Action Partners and larger climate community to reduce emissions and create opportunity.

As we continue to develop and enhance the Center's offerings, we welcome your input and suggestions. Please let us know what interests you, worries you or inspires you and how we can be of service.

I can be reached directly at: margaret@centerforclimateaction.org or 1-213-213-1247, and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Margaret Bruce
Director, Center for Climate Action

Upcoming Center for Climate Action Webinars

Some Center for Climate Action webinars are available to the general public, and some are available for Partners only. Join the Center for Climate Action for full access to our many webinars, events and publications.

Free Parking? Not So.

Thursday, July 23, 2009
11:00 am - 12:00 pm PDT
Register here
Free parking may be truly free in the game of Monopoly, but according to Mike Manville, Post-Doctoral Researcher at UCLA's Lewis Center for Regional Policy Studies, free parking in real life has significant social, economic and environmental costs. He argues that "free" parking results in higher prices for goods and services; higher housing costs; increased traffic, pollution and GHG emissions; and a landscape that reduces the viability of other transportation.

Administrative Fees and Carbon Taxes: Cost Recovery or Economic Lever?

Thursday, July 30
10:00 am -11:30 am PDT
Register here (Partners only)
Administrative fees and carbon taxes/fees are not new policy solutions, but few public agencies in the US charge them. Learn about the experiences of Boulder, CO; the Bay Area AQMD; and the California Air Resources Board. Speakers include:

In This Issue

Message from the Center Director
Upcoming Center Webinars
Climate Policy Updates
Climate Studies and Reports
Free 2009 Partnership for California Registry Members
Discount on 2010 Partnership
Other Climate Meetings
Just for Fun: ThermoSTATS
Follow the Center on Twitter
Flash Briefings to be Offered by the Center

California Registry Members Receive Free Partnership

Through December 2009, California Registry members can enjoy free Partnership with the Center. During this time, we hope members take full advantage of the Center's benefits, including access to webinars and events. When the complimentary Partnership ends, members may choose to continue Center benefits by simply submitting payment for their annual fee with an invoice that will be sent out in January 2010.

- Janet E. Milne, Director of the Environmental Tax Policy Institute and Professor, Vermont Law School
- Sarah Van Pelt, Environmental Sustainability Coordinator, City of Boulder, CO.
- Brian Bateman, Director of Engineering, Bay Area Air Quality Management District
- Edie Chang, California Air Resources Board

Policy Round-Up: Federal Congressional Policy, Western Region Policy, California Policy

Thursday, August 6, 2009
10:00 am - 12:00 pm PDT
Register here (Partners only)

Join us for updates on federal, western, and California climate policy including the Waxman-Markey bill, the Western Climate Initiative, Assembly Bill 32 implementation, and more. Keep up with the current legislative initiates through our new legislative series. Speakers include:

- Patrick Cummins, Program Director: Climate Change and Air Quality, Western Governor's Association
- Darry A. Sragrow, Partner, Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP

How Green is the Stimulus Package?

Thursday, August 27, 2009
10:00 am -11:30 am PDT
Register here

President Obama has stated that the road to economic recovery is paved with green jobs and the transformation of energy production in the US. Congress has responded with a stimulus package that offers billions of dollars intended to support the President's vision for a clean energy future. But is the stimulus really green? Speakers include:

- Shelley N. Fidler, Principal, Managing Direction, Environmental and Government Resources, Van Ness Feldman
- Edward Vine, Staff Scientist, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
- Carol Guest, Policy Associate, Alliance to Save Energy

Climate Policy Updates: The Month in Review

STATES

State of Washington Passes SB5649 - Improving Energy Efficiency in Buildings

This landmark legislation spells out a plan to bring energy efficiency retrofits to as many as 20,000 homes, non-profits, and small businesses a year across the state. The bill also provides green job training and employment to hundreds of people to perform the weatherization and retrofits. Read more.

Federal Stimulus Dollars at Work in California, Idaho and Utah

The Department of Energy has awarded more than $454 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding to support clean energy development and energy efficiency in 18 states. Among them are innovative programs in California, Idaho and Utah. California will use the money to train underprivileged youth and build a labor force for a clean energy future through its Green Jobs Training Program. Idaho will create new zoning regulations to encourage the development of renewable energy projects. Utah has the money earmarked for two programs: free insulation upgrades for low-income housing and rebates to building of energy efficient buildings while also studying renewable energy sources to identify potential Renewable Energy Zones.

REGIONAL

50% Discount on Center for Climate Action Partnership

Climate Action Reserve account holders, ANSI program participants, and California Registry-approved verification bodies receive a one-time, 50% discount on Partnership with the Center for Climate Action if you register before January 2010.

The Center Encourages You to Participate in Other Climate Meetings

July 21: WCI Partner Meeting
Stakeholders and members of the public are invited to attend either in-person or via teleconference.

July 28: Solar Power Purchase Agreements Presented by the US Environmental Protection Agency Green Power Partnership and featuring examples from Sun Edison and Staples.

July 29: TAP Web Seminar on How to Estimate Economic Impacts of Renewable Energy
The US Department of Energy Technical Assistance Project (TAP) for state and local officials is offering a Web seminar on how to use a software model that estimates economic benefits from renewable energy projects.

Just for Fun: Interesting Stats on Climate

Check out ThermoSTATS for noteworthy statistics on climate change. Here is a sampling of data:

8 - Tons of greenhouse gas emissions from a family of three flying from San Francisco to Boston (2,700 miles/commercial airliner)

1.5 - Tons for the same family traveling by car (3,100 miles/Toyota Corolla)

1975 - Year the term "global warming" first appeared in a scientific publication

34.8 million - Approximate number of results the term now generates in a Google search

States Discuss Linking Regional GHG Programs

Representatives from California, the Midwestern Greenhouse Gas Reduction Accord (MGGRA), the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), and the Western Climate Initiative (WCI), which collectively represent 23 states and 50 percent of US GHG emissions, formally met for the first time on June 23 to discuss linking the regional cap-and-trade programs in the event that Congress fails to pass climate change legislation.

US FEDERAL

Senate Ramps Up Hearings; Slows Down Legislation

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) has given six committees until September 28 to complete work on climate change legislation, 10 days later than his previous deadline. Reid told reporters that the American Clean Energy and Security Act (ACES, H.R. 2454) - passed by the House on June 26 - would not pass the Senate, and that the Senate would be drafting its own bill. Reid is aiming to secure final passage before the international climate talks end in Copenhagen this December. Majority Leader Reid expects contributions from the following committees Environment & Public Works; Finance; Commerce, Science, and Transportation; Foreign Relations; Agriculture; and Energy and Natural Resources. The key committees are holding hearings to discuss their goals for climate legislation.

EPA Grants California Waiver for Vehicle GHG Standards

On June 30, the EPA granted California a waiver under Section 209 of the Clean Air Act allowing the state to enforce its standards for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from vehicles beginning with model year 2009. Thirteen other states have proposed to adopt California's standards, and may do so now that the waiver has been issued. The waiver can be accessed at the EPA website.

INTERNATIONAL

UN Secretary-General Announces Climate Change Summit in September

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon announced a climate change summit for international leaders to be held on September 22, the day before a UN General Assembly debate on climate change. The summit is intended to accelerate the negotiations toward an international climate change agreement in advance of the December summit in Copenhagen. Read more.

Canada to Establish US-Compatible Cap-and-Trade Scheme

Canada's Environment Minister told reporters that Canada will adopt a national cap-and-trade program that is "commensurate" with that of the United States and thereby avoid punitive trade tariffs proposed in ACES.

Major Economies Agree - in Part - On Climate Goals

At the Group of Eight (G-8) Summit in Italy, the United States and the other coalition members agreed to reduce their GHG emissions by 80 percent by 2050. A group of 17 of the world's major economies - known as the Major Economies Forum (MEF), which collectively produces approximately 80 percent of global GHG emissions - also met and announced a "Shared Vision" for keeping global temperatures from rising more than 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. The MEF could not reach a consensus on a specific global emissions reduction target. Read the statement released by Major Economies Forum on Energy.

Follow the Center for Climate Action on Twitter

The Center is excited to provide climate news and updates through Twitter! Please join us at www.twitter.com/center4climate.

Flash Briefings Offered by the Center

Flash Briefings: Climate policy is developing rapidly at the state, regional and federal levels. In a new service for Partners only, the Center for Climate Action is working to offer short conference calls with key staff and decision makers immediately after significant actions to help keep you up to date. Look for flash briefings to come.

Studies and Reports

EPA Analysis of ACES Finds Minimal Costs

An EPA analysis of the version of American Clean Energy and Security Act (ACES) found that average household costs of the legislation will be in the range of $84 to $105 a year in 2020. The EPA analysis projects emission allowance prices of $13/ton in 2015 and $16/ton in 2020. The report also projects that by 2025, 65 percent of new electricity generation will be renewable and 92 percent will be low carbon. The analysis is available on the EPA website.

GAO and WTO Release Reports on Climate-Related Trade Measures

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report analyzing options for protecting trade-exposed, energy-intensive industries in the context of domestic carbon controls. The report notes that carbon-based border tariffs could trigger retaliatory actions by other countries. A World Trade Organization (WTO) report suggests that border tariffs based on climate change concerns may be legal under international trade rules, but that the distribution of free allowances to industry could constitute illegal subsidies.

New Report on Climate Change Impacts from the White House

A report from the United States Global Change Research Program summarizes the science and impacts of climate change on the United States, now and in the future. It focuses on climate change impacts in different regions of the US and on various aspects of society such as the economy, energy, water, agriculture, and health. Written in plain language, the report's goal is to better inform public and private decision making at all levels.

The Center for Climate Action is a new, solutions-oriented program of the Climate Action Reserve. It brings together government, business and environmental experts to advance climate action in the West. Benefits include workshops, trainings, access to issue briefs and analysis, awards and webinars. In 2009, the Center for Climate Action will focus on four areas of study:

- Western regional issues, including AB 32, SB 375 and the Western Climate Initiative
- Federal action
- Road to Copenhagen (COP 15)
- Mitigation and adaptation

For more information, please visit www.centerforclimateaction.org.