



# Citizen's Climate Lobby

A fast track to a renewable economy?

# Our purpose

- **We're creating the political will for a livable world by empowering individuals to experience breakthroughs in exercising their personal and political power.**
  - lobbying our elected officials
  - writing letters to the editor and op-eds, and meeting with editorial boards
  - presenting and tabling at community events

# History of CCL

- Founded 2007 in USA
  - Over 200 Chapters in US and Canada
- Now in parts of Europe and Nepal
- Now starting up in Australia
  - Perth
  - Brisbane and Sunshine Coast
  - Sydney
  - Canberra
  - Melbourne



# 2013 Conference in Washington

At the 2013 conference 367 CCL volunteers traveled to Washington DC and had meetings with 439 Congressional offices.

They visited the other 96 offices to deliver our request, reaching all 535 House and Senate offices.



# Achievements in Australia so far

- Meetings with my MP
- Meeting with Minister of Environment
- Contact with Julie Bishop in Lima
- Meetings with DFAT Staff
- Meeting with ALP's Climate Policy Adviser
- Meeting with CEO of Beyond Zero Emissions
- A dozen or so new groups emerging

# Methodology

With respect, appreciation and gratitude for their service.....

- we build helpful, friendly relationships with our federally elected representatives
- We lobby in support of our Fee and Dividend proposal
  - and hopefully become their policy adviser
- We are for – not against



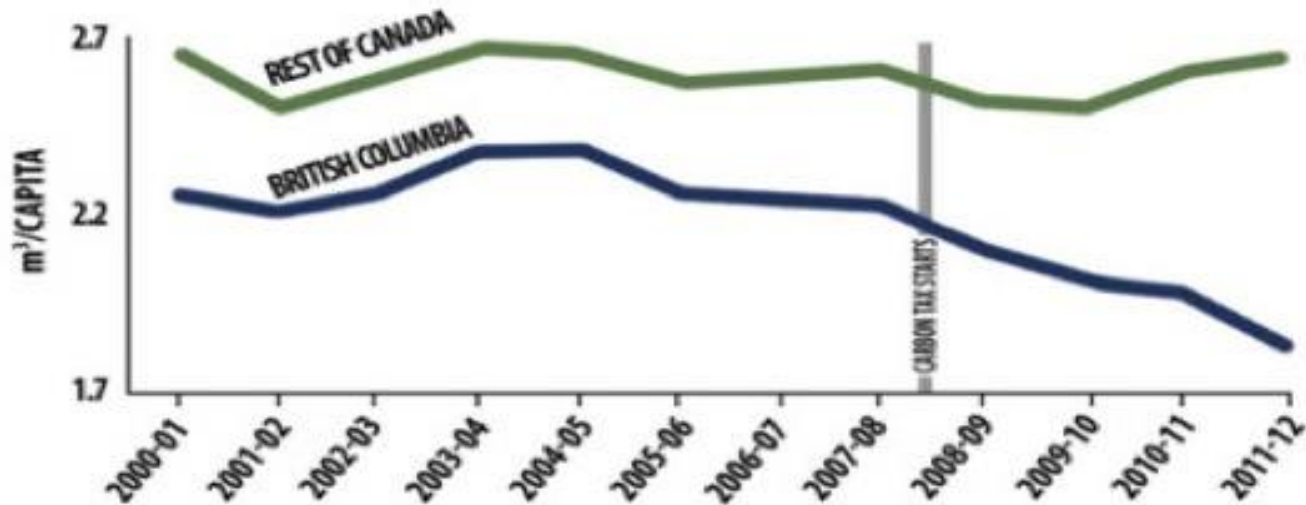
# Carbon Fee and Dividend

- A simple, transparent, revenue neutral and steadily increasing fee on the carbon content of fossil fuels returned to households as a monthly dividend
- Includes border adjustments to ensure fairness between nations and give others incentive to introduce their own carbon price



# British Columbia Carbon Tax

FIGURE 1: SALES OF PETROLEUM FUELS SUBJECT TO BC CARBON TAX (2000-2012)



Source: Statistics Canada, author calculations

- 2008 to present
- \$30/ton
- Support: 64% within BC, 59% rest of Canada
- GDP Growth: BC > rest of Canada



# Outcomes

- Internalise the negative costs of carbon-based fuels
- Reduce emissions rapidly
  - 30% in 10 years
  - 50% in 20 years
- Reduce pollution and save lives
- Stimulate the economy and create jobs
- Shift investment to renewables



# What about Cap and Trade?

## Fee and Dividend is superior to cap-and-trade

- Cap-and-trade systems exacerbate the price volatility
- Cap-and-trade is not transparent or easily understandable
- Cap-and-trade system's complexity opens it to exploitation and perverse incentives
- Cap-and-trade is usually not applied to emission from every sector - electricity accounts for only 40% of emissions
- Cap-and-trade funds become hidden tax dollars growing government

# Carbon Pricing Primer

Carbon emissions carry hidden costs

THESE ARE THE 5 WAYS WE CAN PAY...

## The Status Quo

Whole society finances fossil fuels

Most expensive option, by far

## Regulation

Boots on the ground, eyes on emissions

Dependent on budget for enforcement

## Cap & Trade

Regulatory solution, artificial market

Narrow focus, requires enforcement

## Carbon Tax

'Sin tax', pressure on consumers

Highly effective, can slow GDP

## Carbon Fee & Dividend

100% returned to households

Revenue-neutral, grows economy

# CCL activities

- Local branches meeting monthly
  - Listen to national conference calls
  - Decide local actions
- Regional conferences
- National conference
  - Lobbying en masse – Washington DC, Ottawa
  - Canberra 2015??

# Monthly International Call and Meeting

- ∞ Each team meets together, usually the first Saturday of the month
- ∞ 10:00 a.m. Pacific, 1:00 p.m. Eastern.



- A guest speaker and coordinated action items ensure CCL partners have the latest scientific and legislative information and that we are aligned on strategy.

# Citizen Lobby Teams

- Volunteers like to do things together and are more effective as a group.
- Teams practice speaking, visit their members of Congress, and write letters together.
- Teams provide each other with support, have fun, and encourage breaking through comfort zones to emerge as community leaders.



*Citizens meet in local district U.S. Senate office*

# Laser Talk

- ☞ Clarity is the basis for talking to members of Congress, writing letters to the editor, and talking to friends and neighbors.
- ☞ Each month teams are given a focused Laser Talk to communicate complex issues thoughtfully and clearly.
- ☞ After the call, they practice the Laser Talk.



*Capitol architecture on the Hill*

- ☞ **If we articulate, we can be dangerous to ignorance and apathy.**



# How we work with Congress and Parliament



- **Common Ground:** We build strong respectful relationships with members of Congress.
- **We demonstrate community support:** We bring community members and people who would not ordinarily be thought of as advocates to join us.
- **We get published:** Members of Congress pay close attention to local and national media to gauge public opinion.
- **We offer solutions:** We base our solutions on the best scientific and economic data.

*Lobby day on Capitol Hill at the international conference*



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# Be part of the solution

***Dr. James Hansen,  
climate scientist:***

*“If you want to join the fight to save the planet, to save creation for your grandchildren, there is no more effective step you could take than becoming an active member of this group.”*



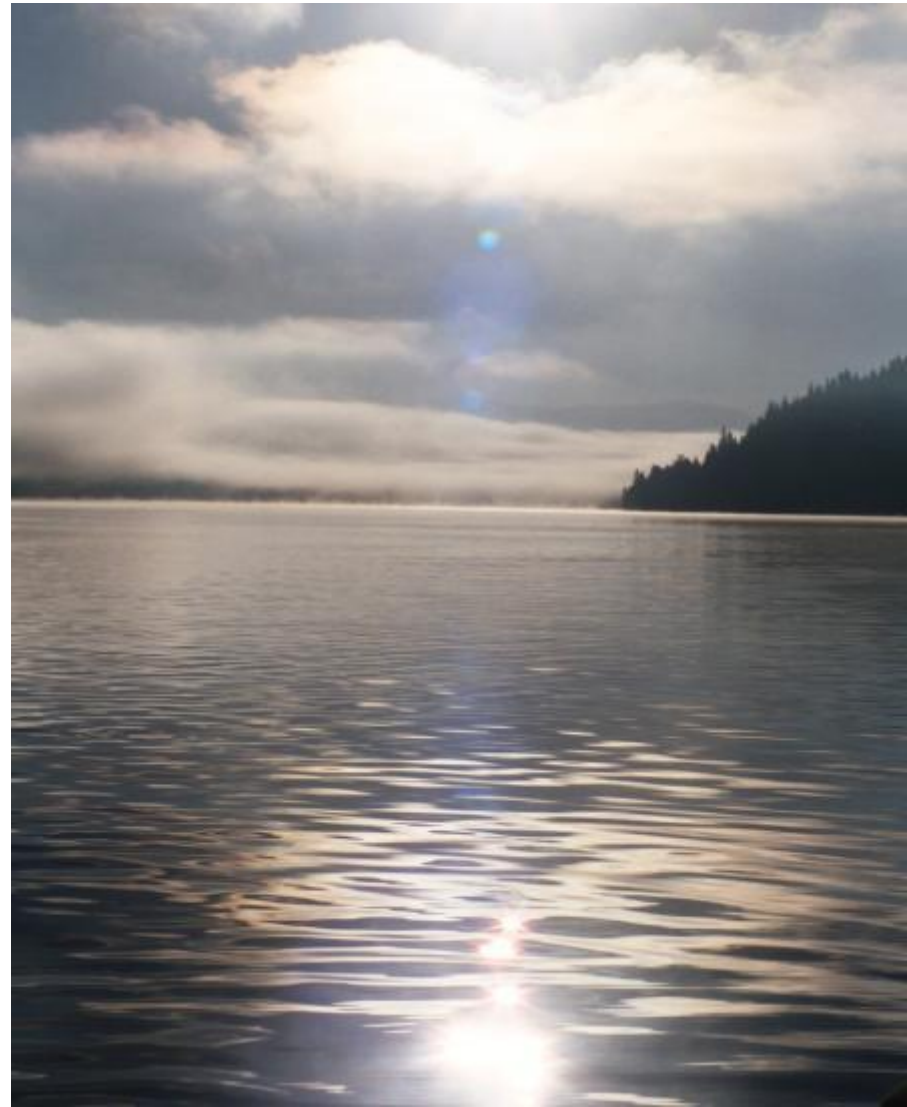
*Dr. James Hansen and Danny Richter, a PhD candidate at Scripps Institute of Oceanography*

# It's up to us

Politicians do not  
create political will...

They respond to it.

-Mark Reynolds,  
Executive Director



# How to Join

- Join on line – [www.citizensclimatelobby.org](http://www.citizensclimatelobby.org)
  - Access to CCL Community
- Weekly Introductory call – by phone
- Monthly International call
  - with your local group
  - listen on line





# CITIZENS CLIMATE LOBBY

Political Will for a Livable World



Questions?