

BC's Resource Communities

Global Warming and its
Challenges

The CCPA and Natural Resource Research

- CCPA - national research institute, dedicated staff for natural resources research in B.C.
- Resource economics desk – counters idea that it's either jobs or the environment
- Born out of disputes that pitted environmental groups and unions against each other, particularly in the forestry sector
- Research to date has focused on forests, energy sector, fisheries

Research that Delivers

- *Making Kyoto Work* - Canada's largest energy workers union endorses the Kyoto Accord
- *Over-cutting and Waste* - Steelworkers Union (formerly IWA) and ENGOs on same page

Global Warming and Forestry: What's at Stake?

- Biological diversity
- Carbon balance
- Rural resource communities
- Provincial coffers/public programs

Global Warming and Oil and Gas: What's at Stake?

- Biological diversity
- Carbon balance
- Rural resource communities
- Provincial coffers/public programs

The Pine Beetle

- Most visible sign of global warming
- One of many warming-related problems
- Increased pest outbreaks
- Increased disease outbreaks
- Increased forest fires

Government's Response

- Log lots and log fast
- Companies replant
- Limited provincial-funded tree planting
- Limited cash to regional 'beetle action' committees
- Cap-in-hand to federal government

Where Actions Fall Down

- Indiscriminate logging
- Unchecked Wood Waste
- Dangerous Assumptions
- Lack of commitment to gathering data
- Lack of planning for what lies ahead

Policy Reforms

- The right logging in the right places
- No 'salvage logging' in mixed forests
- No 'salvage logging' in forests with healthy young trees
- End to unnecessary wood waste and CO2 emissions
- Increased public investments in reforestation

The Oil and Gas Sector

- Major CO2 emitter
- Major importance in northeast
- Significant contributor to provincial economy
- Limited, non-replaceable resources

The Dilemma

- Government committed to steep greenhouse gas emissions cuts
- Oil and Natural Gas Sector a major emitter
- Government subsidies to oil and gas sector \$200 million annually
- Subsidies accelerating overall industry emissions

Bad Industry Practices Present Opportunities

- Gas flaring – major source of greenhouse gas emissions
- Flaring – bad for industry
- Flaring – bad for government
- Flaring – bad for workers and communities

Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions Where Opportunities Lie

- Government committed to ending gas flaring
- End to flaring touted as means of meeting BC's emissions reduction targets
- Reductions a good start, but not the solution
- Need to link 'solutions' to broader reforms

Policy Reforms

- Reduced gas production by amount of gas saved through end to flaring
- Phase out all subsidies to the energy sector – the gas isn't going anywhere
- Impose limits on gas production
- Implement a carbon tax
- Raise royalty rates

Climate Justice

- Inequality and Climate Change – the two big issues of our time
- Linking the two – a CCPA priority
- 25 community partners including five unions or union federations
- Inequality broadly defined

CCPA

- Look for us at www.policyalternatives.ca
- Join us!
- Thank you

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