

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY

The Wasan Action Framework

Declaration and Recommendations of the Interdisciplinary Round Table on Climate Change and Energy Strategies

THE FIRST CLEAR WARNINGS OF DANGER FROM GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS DUE TO HUMAN ACTIVITY EMERGED 25 YEARS AGO. Prudence would have called for precautionary action at that time to slow down the growth of these emissions. Since then, the scientific understanding of the impact of human activity on global warming has been overwhelmingly confirmed; key predictions based on that understanding have started to occur. Evidence has emerged that the potential impacts of global warming will be much more severe than was predicted even five years ago.

Individuals, corporations, and all levels of government around the world have a duty to act as global citizens in the face of the danger posed to life on Earth and to the well-being of the human race as whole.

- 1 WE DECLARE** that human-induced climate change and energy security, in particular peaking of the world oil supply, are crucial issues requiring immediate action.
- 2 WE DECLARE** agreement with the statement by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group 1 regarding the physical basis of climate change: *"Most of the observed increase in global average temperatures since the mid-20th century is very likely due to the observed increase in anthropogenic greenhouse gas concentrations."*¹
- 3 WE IDENTIFY AS THE ROOT CAUSES OF THIS CRISIS:**
 - a) the large per capita overconsumption and waste of natural resources in the industrialized countries
 - b) the growth paradigm (economic growth for its own sake)
 - c) the large and growing human population
 - d) the very large dependence on fossil fuel based energy
 - e) the resistance by vested interests to necessary change in energy technology
 - f) the lack of appropriate political leadership
 - g) the lack of global governance to protect the global commons
- 4 WE PROPOSE A GLOBAL SOLUTION FRAMEWORK: We must begin immediately to**
 - a) **curb overconsumption** and give priority to efficiency, conservation and the avoidance of waste
 - b) **promote lower birthrates** by empowerment of women through educational, economic and social measures, including access to birth control information and services
 - c) **focus globally and locally on developing low-impact renewable energy infrastructure and technologies** (e.g., small-scale biomass, geothermal, hydro, ocean energy, solar, wind) to their full potential, so as to avoid large-scale biofuel usage and nuclear energy
 - d) **reduce carbon emissions** by creating a just and universal framework through the implementation of appropriate incentives, government regulation, legislation and taxation
 - e) **preserve forests**, especially tropical rainforests
- 5 WE URGE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FOLLOWING SOLUTIONS:**
 - a) All levels of government as well as the UN and international organizations should embrace the **Wasan Action Framework**.
 - b) Media, corporations, the educational system from kindergarten to university, and all civil society should collaborate in implementing this **Wasan Action Framework**.

Interdisciplinary Round Table on Climate Change and Energy Strategies

Wasan Island, Muskoka Lakes, Ontario, Canada, September 13-16, 2007

Participants Who Unanimously Voted for the Wasan Action Framework

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| <i>Alton, Janis</i> | Co-Chair, Canadian Voice of Women for Peace, Toronto, Ontario, Canada |
| <i>Bartlett, Albert</i> | Emeritus Professor of Physics, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, USA |
| <i>Breuninger, Helga</i> | Director, Breuninger Foundation, Stuttgart, Germany |
| <i>Burkhardt, Helmut</i> | Emeritus Professor of Physics, Ryerson University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada |
| <i>Creighton, Phyllis</i> | Science for Peace, Toronto, Ontario, Canada |
| <i>Etcheverry, José</i> | Policy Analyst, David Suzuki Foundation; Professor, Dept. of Environmental Studies, York University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada |
| <i>Farlinger, Shirley</i> | Freelance writer; journalist, Toronto, Ontario, Canada |
| <i>Ford, John</i> | Issue Advocate for Energy, Green Party of Ontario; Ottawa, Ontario, Canada |
| <i>Goldin Rosenberg, Dorothy</i> | Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto, Toronto Ontario, Canada |
| <i>Gómez, Ana María</i> | Assistant Executive Director, Centro Mario Molina, Mexico |
| <i>Gómez, Emmanuel</i> | Project Engineer, Climate Change Program, Centro Mario Molina, Mexico |
| <i>Harvey, Danny</i> | Professor, Dept. of Geography, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada |
| <i>Heaps, Toby A.A.</i> | President, Editor & Co-founder, Corporate Knights, Toronto, Ontario, Canada |
| <i>Hu, Amy</i> | Climate Change Program, David Suzuki Foundation, Toronto, Ontario, Canada |
| <i>Kennedy, Joy</i> | United Church of Canada; Treasurer CANET, Toronto, Ontario, Canada |
| <i>Litman, Todd A.</i> | Founder & Executive Director, Victoria Transport Policy Institute, Victoria, British Columbia |
| <i>Lutes, Mark</i> | Policy Analyst, Climate Change & Energy, David Suzuki Foundation, Toronto, Ontario, Canada |
| <i>McInnis, Bert</i> | Co-founder, WhatIf? Technologies, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada |
| <i>Marchand, Claude</i> | Professor, Glendon, York University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada |
| <i>Paul, Derek</i> | Emeritus Professor of Physics, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada |
| <i>Peltier, Dick</i> | Director, Centre for Global Change Science, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada |
| <i>Philp, Ian</i> | Lawyer on UN missions, British Columbia, Canada |
| <i>Reijerse, Fidel</i> | Founder & President, ResCo Energy Inc., Toronto, Ontario, Canada |
| <i>Schreyer, Edward</i> | Chancellor, Brandon University, Brandon, Manitoba, Canada; Former Premier of Manitoba & Former Governor General of Canada |
| <i>White, Marlene</i> | Community Partnerships Manager, Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario, Canada; Federal Liberal Candidate, Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock |

Technical Resource Specialists Who Did Not Vote

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| <i>Hughes, David</i> | Natural Resources Canada, Geological Survey of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada |
| <i>Love, Peter</i> | Chief Conservation Officer, Conservation Bureau, Div. of the Ontario Power Authority, Toronto, Ontario, Canada |
| <i>Mokry, Manfred</i> | Manager Technology, Mercedes-Benz, Canada, Toronto, Ontario, Canada; member of the Association of International Automobile Manufacturers of Canada |
| <i>Roberts, Mary Jane</i> | Senior Policy Analyst, Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada |
| <i>Tainter, Joseph</i> | Department Head, Environment and Society, Utah State University, Logan, Utah, USA |
| <i>Zwiers, Francis</i> | Director, Climate Research Division, Environment Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada |

1 IPCC, 2007: Summary for Policymakers. In: *Climate Change 2007: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* [Solomon, S., D. Qin, M. Manning, Z. Chen, M. Marquis, K.B. Averyt, M. Tignor and H.L. Miller (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA. Page 10.

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