



CANADIAN
UNITARIAN
COUNCIL

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NAME OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION: Climate Change Mitigation

PROPOSERS:

CUC Environment Monitoring Group

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CONTACT:

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DATE:

Approved by delegates at the Annual General Meeting, May 2013.

Background

1. Many Canadian Unitarians, whose congregations comprise the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC), along with many other world citizens, are deeply concerned about the short and long term impact on our planet of rising levels of carbon emissions globally;
2. Many individual members of our member organizations wish to engage in practical actions to advance social justice and environmental protection in accordance with each individual's conscience and Unitarian Universalist principles;
3. The CUC has already conveyed in the CUC President's letter of 24 September 2012 to the Prime Minister of Canada our position on new pipelines for oil sand bitumen in BC which included the following: "We request that your (the Federal) government make a demonstrable and measurable commitment to climate change by postponing these projects until the following concerns have been addressed:
 - a. First Nations' constitutional rights are satisfied regarding access to traditional fisheries and food sources, and their United Nations right to "free, informed, and prior consent" before pipeline construction and oil tanker use occurs on their unceded lands and waters.
 - b. Improvements or technological advances on handling spills of bitumen from the "tar sands" have been developed and proven; the required equipment purchased; a plan for deployment of this equipment prepared; and that a spill response plan is in place that is both effective and practical, even in the worst weather and most remote locations.
 - c. The proponents have demonstrated that they have the "social license" to operate over the long term through a culture of care and concern for pipeline integrity, spill prevention and response to the inevitable spill.



- d. The governments of Canada, Alberta and Saskatchewan have committed to back stop the cost of any clean up at sea, on land and/or rivers over and above the current commitments of industry based on a formula that accurately reflects their 'revenue from the products' production and sale'.
 - e. The price of carbon produced in Canada, whether consumed in Canada or elsewhere, is high enough that the rate of production and consumption of fossil fuels is reduced to a level where your government's GHG targets for 2020 can be achieved.
 - f. The safety of diluted bitumen pipelines, tankers, and associated infrastructure is improved to withstand a major earthquake on B.C.'s coast (something that is predicted to occur within the next fifty years).
 - g. Carbon capture and storage is built and funded which will reduce the greenhouse gases (GHGs) associated with bitumen extraction and processing, transportation, refining, and consumption to a level which will allow your government's commitment to reduce Canada's GHGs to seventeen percent below 2005 levels by 2020 to be achieved.
<http://climatechange.gc.ca/default.asp?Lang=En&n=E18C8F2D-1>
 - h. Your (the Federal) government's investment in alternative energy research and development is sufficient to foster the replacement of fossil fuel energy reduced in order to achieve your government's GHG targets for 2020.
4. Across Canada the Energy Sector contributes to the bulk of Canada's greenhouse gas emissions (about 80%) and includes greenhouse gas emissions (CO₂, CH₄, and N₂O) including all forms of transportation, including pipelines, stationary heating and industrial processes. Canada has not only failed to achieve a Kyoto target but has exceeded the 1990 levels. The fastest growing contributor to greenhouse gas emissions has been the development of the bitumen sands.

Therefore be it resolved that:

The Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) will encourage and support member organizations to:

- 1) sponsor educational opportunities for members and others to become better informed about:
 - a) the causes of climate change included but not limited to burning of fossil fuels,
 - b) alternatives for reducing harmful carbon emissions,
 - c) sustainable energy alternatives to fossil fuels,
 - d) economic policy alternatives that support sustainable levels of carbon emissions,



- e) policies, plans and actions necessary to mitigate climate change and adapt to the negative impacts of climate change should preventive measures prove to be insufficient or untimely; and
 - f) personal responsibility for individual carbon footprint reduction;
- 2) Identify advocacy groups with which individual members can work peacefully to reduce factors contributing to climate change and mitigate the negative impacts of climate change that are likely to occur should preventive measures prove to be insufficient or untimely; and
- 3) Encourage individual members to become involved in advocacy groups committed to peaceful action for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.



ACTION PLAN FOR PROPOSERS OF RESOLUTIONS
Climate Change Mitigation

An Action Plan accompanies each proposed resolution, outlining action steps that might be necessary to implement the resolution. This is to provide delegates with a clear idea of the resources that might be involved, and how much staff and volunteer time needs to be allocated.

The Environment Monitoring Group proposes the following actions to support the implementation of the resolution, if approved by delegates at the Annual General Meeting:

PROPOSED ACTION	DETAILS	WHO IS RESPONSIBLE	SUGGESTED COMPLETION DATE
For proposer of resolution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify appropriate local, regional, national and global advocacy groups to which members can be directed for social action 	Environment Monitoring Group (EMG)	30 Aug 2013
For Environment Monitoring Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review proposed advocacy groups and recommend those most appropriate in terms of alignment with UU principles, credibility and effectiveness 	EMG	30 Aug 2013
For CUC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop on the CUC website a page dedicated to this resolution. Add social network links for identified advocacy groups Review actions taken & publicize on web & other CUC media 	EMG supported by CUC staff	30 Aug 2013 15 Apr 2014
For Member Congregations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify local specialists to lead workshops on topics related to the resolution & some or all of the 8 points of the President’s 24 September, 2012 letter to the Prime Minister. Sponsor at least one workshop for the congregation or region Report actions taken, results & recommendations to <i>Environment Monitoring Group</i> & CUC 	President, Environment Cmte, Social Justice Cmte, Denominational Affairs Cmte, etc.	By Nov 2013 By 17 May 2014 By 17 May 2014

Note: This resolution was first proposed and drafted by Keith Wilkinson, Unitarian Church of Vancouver. The Environment Monitoring Group is appreciative of Keith’s effort and obvious commitment to our seventh principle. We are proud to be supporting his efforts and honoured to present this modified resolution for approval.