

**Mercer, Jennifer**

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**From:** Rideout Lesley  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2012 3:50 PM  
**To:** Mercer, Jennifer  
**Subject:** FW: Old Harry  
**Attachments:** Issue 17 2011-12-30.pdf

-----Original Message-----

From: Jocelyn Plourde [mailto: [REDACTED]]  
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2012 7:57 PM  
To: Kelly, Sean; Ruelokke, Max  
Subject: Old Harry

To whom it may concern,

My name is (Mr.) Jocelyn Plourde. I am a resident of Prince Edwards Island and I strongly disagree with the exploration of oil and gas in the in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. I have wide range of issues with such a project, including the fact that my province runs the risk of having two major industries (fishing and tourism) ruined if ever there is to be a spill.

To support my point of view, I have attached a document (a newsletter) that I have written to my friends and family. I have attached it because it deals with important issues regarding oil and gas exploration that a proper Strategic Environmental Assessment would take into account. I truly hope you will take the time to read it.

Sincerely,

Jocelyn Plourde  
[REDACTED]

"The world will not evolve past its current state of crisis by using the same thinking that created the situation." - Albert Einstein

# The Green Word

## Issue 17 - December 2011

### The 2011 Climate Conference in Durban

As the Durban Climate Conference came to a close, very weak agreements were put together. Some call it progress, however, most scientists and environmentalists say that it is not enough to restrict climate change to "safe" levels.

The nations agreed to create legally binding emission targets by 2015 which would go into effect by 2020. The good news is that major emitters such as India, China and the US are on board (and if the US is on board, I assume Canada is as well, although I haven't read or heard anything to confirm that). The bad news is that 2020 is a loooong way away. According to climatologists across the globe, in order to limit temperature increase to 2.4 degrees Celsius, global emissions need to peak by 2015 and reach 50% of current levels by 2050. And even if we limit warming to +2.4 degrees, some low lying islands nations (such as Tuvalu) *will disappear* under the rising seas and our climate will get much worse than it is now.

Sigh.

And 2011 wasn't exactly pretty. According to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), 2011 was the 10th warmest year on record but the warmest ever year with a La Nina event (which has a relative cooling influence). Along with those numbers came this statement from the Secretary-General of the WMO: "Our science is solid and it proves unequivocally that the world is warming and that this warming is due to human activities."

For a look at how our atmosphere is reacting to our warming, we can turn to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) who recently put out a report regarding weather disasters in 2011. According to the report, the US has experienced a record 12 separate billion-dollar weather/climate disasters which took the lives of 646 people and had a record-breaking monetary cost of approximately 52

billion dollars. (The previous record was nine billion dollars in 2008.)

According to the NOAA chief, "What we are seeing this year is not just an anomalous year, but a harbinger of things to come for at least a subset of those extreme events that we are tallying."

The image below was created by Munich RE, one of the world's leading re-insurers. It clearly shows how the frequency of natural disasters has changed over the years in the US.

U.S. Natural Catastrophe Update

### Natural Disasters in the United States, 1980 – 2010

Munich RE | MLI

Number of Events, Annual Totals

The number of events in the United States in 2010 set a new record.

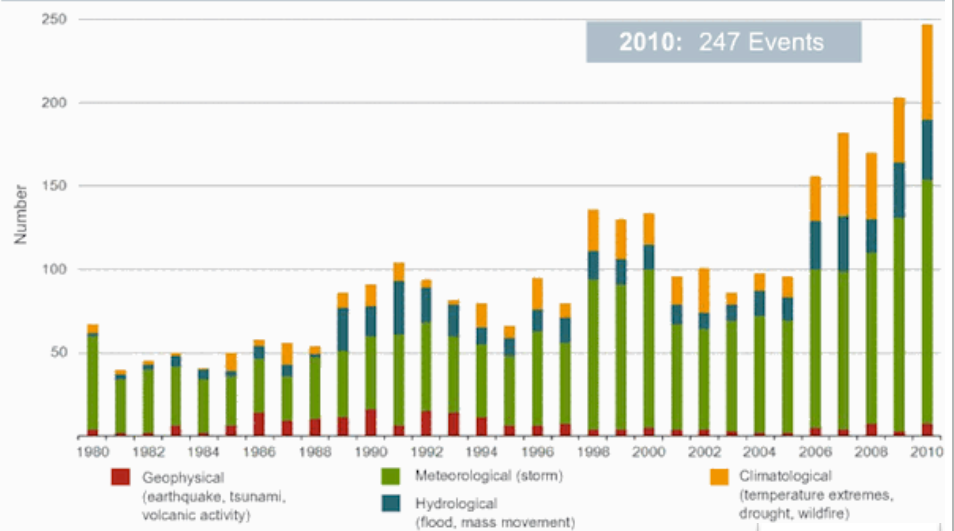


Photo: MunichRE

### Leaving The Oil in The Ground

[The Carbon Tracker Initiative](#) recently released a report titled "[Un-Burnable Carbon](#)". Two important facts came out of that report. First, in order to reduce the risk of raising global temperature above +2 degrees Celsius, we have to limit our emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> to less than 565 GtCO<sub>2</sub> over the next 40 years. (The "G" in GtCO<sub>2</sub> stands for "Giga". So GtCO<sub>2</sub> means "billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>") Sounds like a lot, right? Unfortunately, the second important fact from the report is that proven fossil fuel reserves are around 2795 GtCO<sub>2</sub>, or nearly five times more than our

"budget". That means means that in order to avoid catastrophic climate change, 80% of the fossil fuels we have left need to stay in the ground.



The Alberta Tar Sands. Photo: blogs.ubc.ca

To me, that is the critical argument against the Alberta Tar Sands. Proponents of the project brag that the Tar Sands is the second largest reserve of oil on Earth. They are right, but it is not a good thing. According to NASA climatologist [Dr. James Hansen](#), there is enough oil in the Tar Sands to increase atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> by 200 parts per million (ppm). That is 200 ppm from burning the oil that is currently underground in the Alberta Tar sands. And the carbon-capture technology that our Federal Government is so proud of investing in will not help with this problem. CCS (carbon capture and sequestration) has the possibility of helping with large single sources of CO<sub>2</sub> such as coal fired plants. However, most of the oil coming out of the Tar Sands is bound to be burned in the engines of cars, boats and planes meaning that Canada's CCS investments and

the technology those investments may yield will do little to reduce the impact of the Alberta Tar Sands.

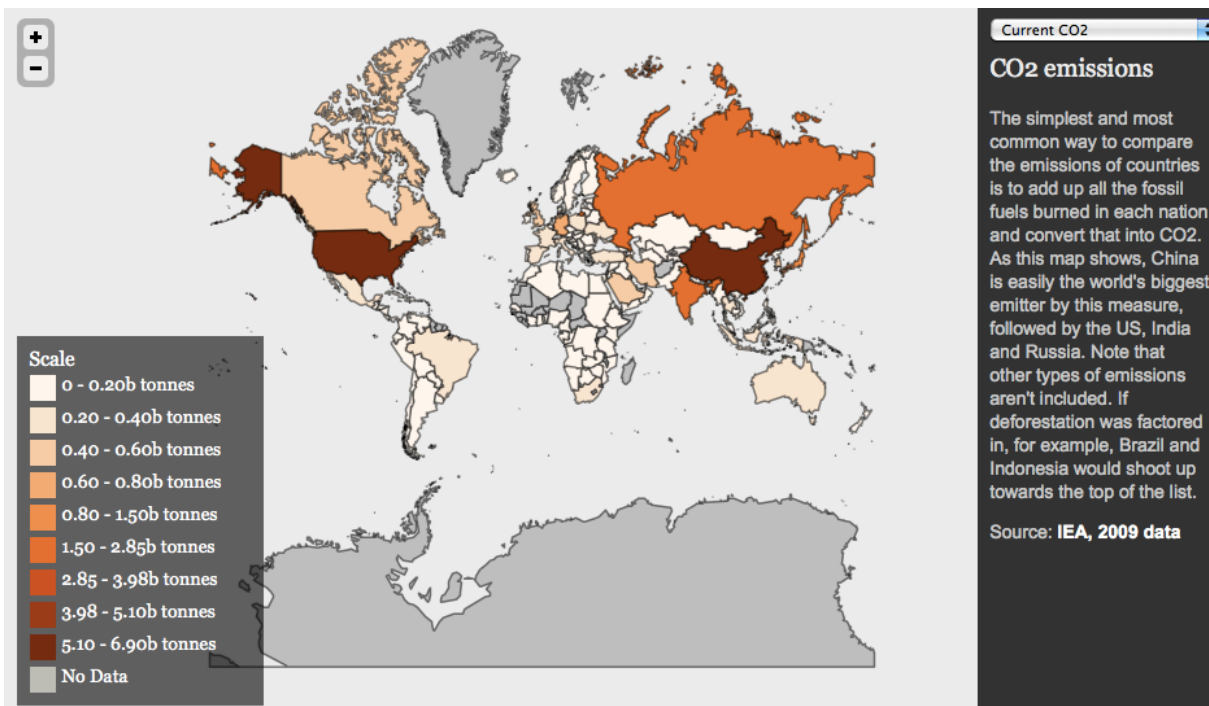
If we want to fight climate change, we need to start making some hard decisions about what we do with the oil, coal and natural gas that is still in the ground.

### Interactive Emissions Map

There are many reasons why Canadians should be motivated to act when it comes to climate change. We can consider the health, economic and social impacts that climate change will have on us and on future generations of Canadians. We can look outside our borders, at the less fortunate residents of our little planet and see the already-severe impacts that climate change is having on them. We can actually put climate change at the back of our minds and, instead, look at the long-term economic advantages of transitioning to renewable energy ASAP. (Personally, I think an "all of the above" approach is the best way to go.)

What we certainly cannot do is point fingers at other countries and blame their inaction or their larger carbon footprint to justify inaction and obstruction (which is, unfortunately exactly what Canada is doing). Climate change is a problem that was brought about by many of us and will affect all of us if we do not act. Having said that, if you're really in the mood to blame people and want to know which country is the worst when it comes carbon emissions, a fellow blogger found the tool that will help you do just that!

The image below is from an [interactive map that ranks the nations of the world with regards to their carbon emissions](#). Interestingly, as opposed to what you may hear in the news or from the mouths of politicians, there is more than one way to add a countries



CO2 emissions. Below is a quick description of each "measurement" that the map can use to rank the world's nations and how Canada ranks for each one. (Note that 1st place = worst. Bad. Carbon Criminal. Jerk-face!)

Current CO2: This measurement looks at the amount of CO2 produced in a country through the burning of fossil fuels. It's simple, easy, but doesn't tell the whole story. **Canada: 8th.**

Current CO2 per person: This measurement is a little more revealing (and some say fairer) because it takes a country's "Current CO2" and divides it by the population. The result is a measurement of emissions per individual in a country. Note that the world's "Carbon Scapegoat", China, is in 1st place when it comes to Current CO2. However, when looking at CO2 per person, they are ranked 56th. So, yes China emits a lot of carbon. But that's partly because they have a lot of people! **Canada: 13th.**

Historical CO2: CO2 can stay in the atmosphere for centuries. That makes Historical CO2 (the measurement of how much CO2 has been emitted by burning fossil fuels since 1850) an important indicator of a country's total "contribution" to the increase in the concentration of CO2 in our atmosphere. **Canada: 10th.**

Historical CO2 per person: Same as previous, but divided by a country's current population. **Canada: 8th.** (China: 89th!)

Consumption: This one is interesting. It takes the amount of CO2 produced by burning fossil fuels in a country and adds the emissions associated with producing the goods that are consumed in that country. **Canada: 10th.**

Consumption per person: Same as above but divided by population. I would argue that this is the most telling measurement of a country's role in current emissions. It isn't just a measurement of how much energy a country consumes, but also a measurement of how much energy is needed to sustain a population's lifestyle. **Canada: 5th.**

### Resolutions For 2012

As 2011 comes to a close, many of us are talking about "New Year's Resolutions". May I make a suggestion? As of January 1st, 2012, consider making regular donations to environmental organizations.

During the Keystone XL pipeline debate, I heard a public relations officer for TransCanada (the company that wants to build the pipeline in question) refer to the people fighting against the pipeline as the "well-funded environmental lobby". Ha! That's a good one. Non-profit groups such as the David Suzuki Foundation, The Sierra Club of Canada, and many others around the world depend on donations to do what they do. And they are up against hugely profitable, for-profit, corporations.

For example, according to its [annual report](#), the David Suzuki Foundation received \$7,5 million in donations and grants during the year 2010. That same year, the

American oil company ExxonMobil, which will begin extracting oil from our Tar Sands in the very near future, made \$380 billion (with a "b") dollars in revenue, which added up \$30 billion in profit. Who do you think has more money for TV ads and political donations? If you know an environmental group that you trust and respect, or if there are environmental web sites that you frequently visit which accept donations (for example, Grist.org or storyofstuff.com), please consider donating to them in 2012. The work they do educating the public and lobbying our governments for the sake of our environment is incredibly important. And they can only do that work with the help of our donations.



David  
Suzuki  
Foundation

SOLUTIONS ARE IN OUR NATURE



THE STORY OF  
**STUFF**  
WITH ANNIE LEONARD



SIERRA  
CLUB  
CANADA

Thanks and Happy New Year everybody!

political donations?

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Thanks and Happy New Year everybody!

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Thanks and Happy New Year everybody!