Citizens' Climate Lobby

The Best Solution

Advocating for National Carbon Pricing

South Sound Climate Action Convention

March 25, 2017

Alan Hardcastle and Sam Merrill

CCL Olympia WA Chapter

Citizens' Climate Lobby

Agenda

- Overview of CCL
  - National Carbon Fee & Dividend Proposal
  - Research on Impact
- Session 1 – Writing Effective LTEs and Communication
- Session 2 – Identify a broad range of endorsers and outreach opportunities
- Wrap-Up

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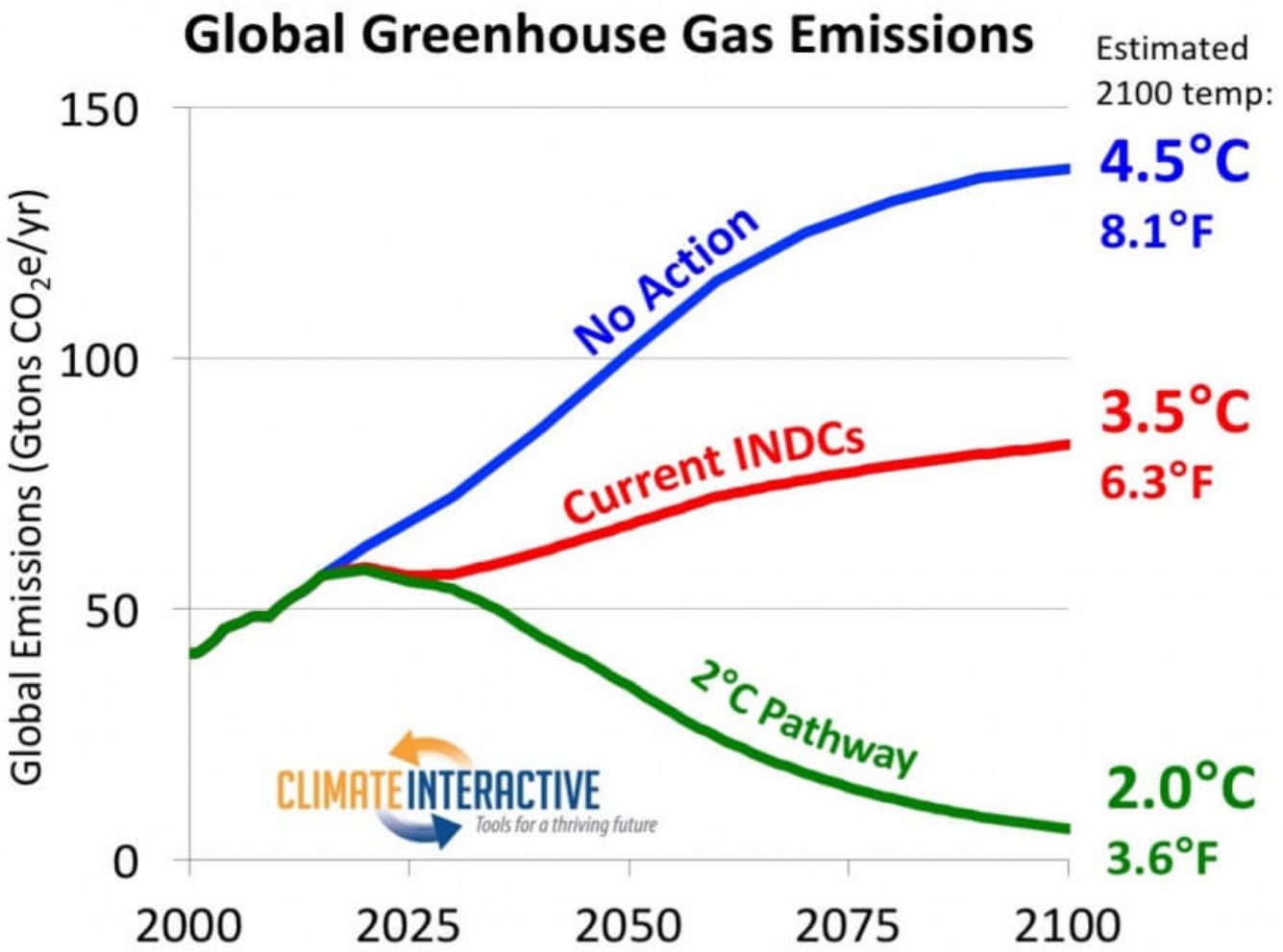
Putting a Price on Carbon

"Most impressive is the work of Citizens' Climate Lobby . . .

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."

Prominent Climate Scientist Dr. James Hansen
Citizens' Climate Lobby Advisory Board



13 October 2015
www.ClimateScoreboard.org

United Nations 2015 Conference of the Parties in Paris, COP21

- 195 countries committed to reduce emissions
- Each country's commitment called an INDC (Intended Nationally Determined Contributions)

Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL)

- Founded in 2007
- 42,000 members
- 364 chapters

<u>Singular Mission</u>

Lobby Congress to pass Carbon Fee and Dividend

CCL: Methodology

- Focus on solutions
- Instill hope
- Educate constituents
- Develop strong respectful relationships with elected officials
- Non-partisan

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National Carbon Fee & Dividend (CFD) Proposal

The Best Solution - Carbon Fee & Dividend

Oil, Gas, and Coal Fossil Fuel Companies

At extraction point

Pay $15/ton

Raise prices

US Treasury Department

Fossil fuel-based products

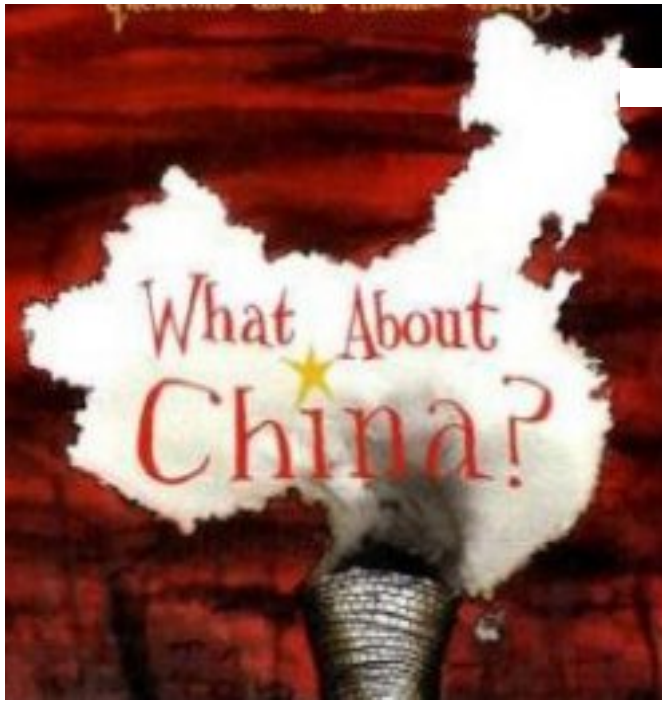
Non fossil products

100% net refund

Expensive

Cheap

US Households



Carbon Fee and Dividend

Border Tax Adjustments

Price Carbon or Pay a Border Tariff

The Best Solution: Action

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Our proposal is simple

- Fee is placed on carbon-based fuels at point of entry into economy
  - Such as a well, mine, port of entry
- Fee starts small, at $15 per ton of carbon
  - Rises steadily and predictably, increases by $10 per ton per year
- All money collected is returned to American households
  - On an equal and per capita basis, no fees go to fund other government spending
- "Border adjustment" places tariff on imports from countries that don't have equivalent price on carbon
  - Removes incentives for American manufacturing to move overseas
  - Guarantees any country doing business with America will pay carbon fee, whether levied within its own domestic economy or upon shipping goods to US
- Research confirms benefits

Already Accounting for a Carbon Fee

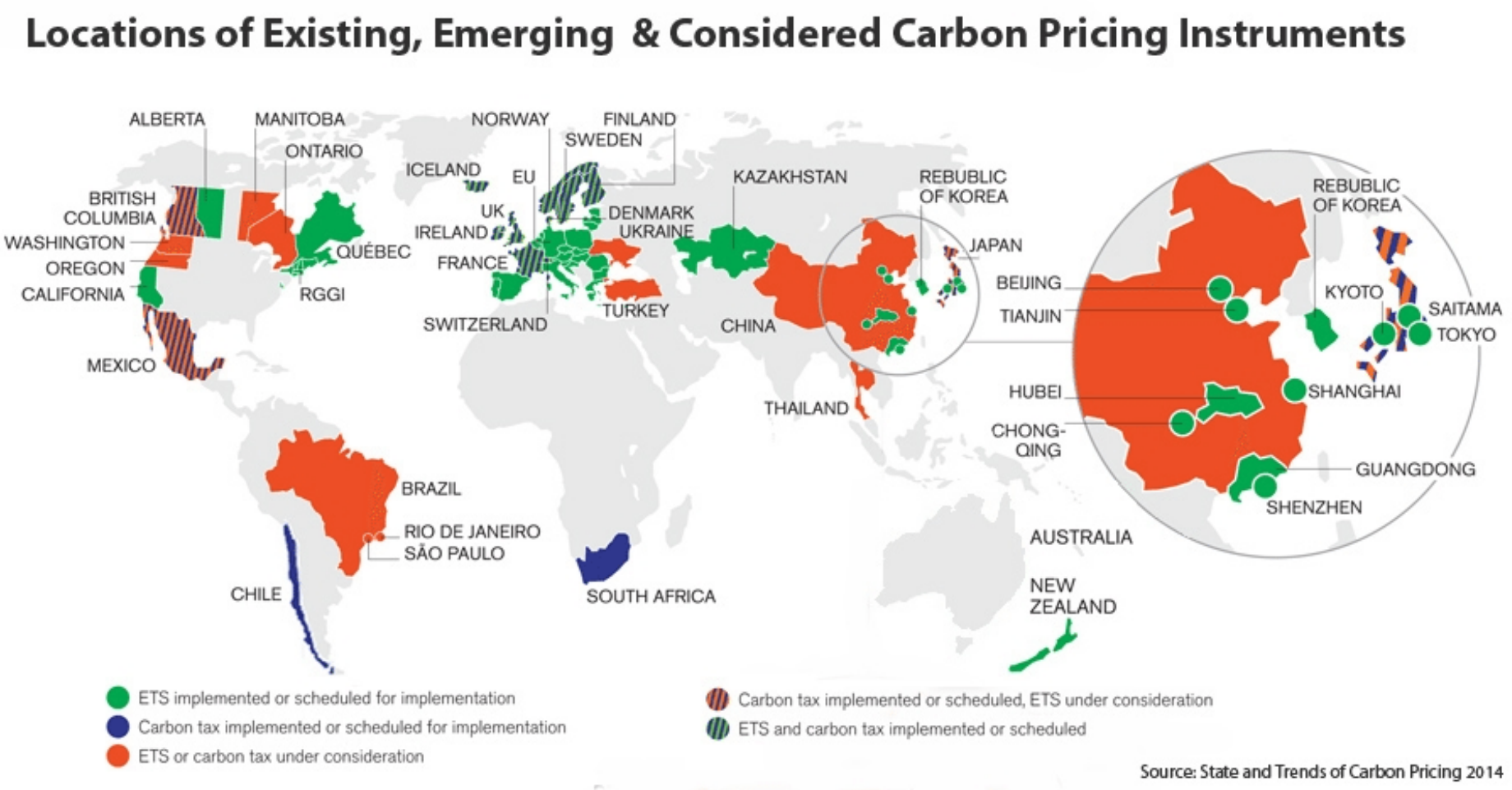
American Electric Power
BP
Chevron
ConocoPhillips
Delta Air lines
Duke Energy
DuPont
ExxonMobil
General Electric
Google
Microsoft
PG&E
Shell
Walt Disney
Walmart
Wells Fargo

THE ENERGY FIX

Large Companies Prepared to Pay Price on Carbon

Dec 9 2013

The New York Times

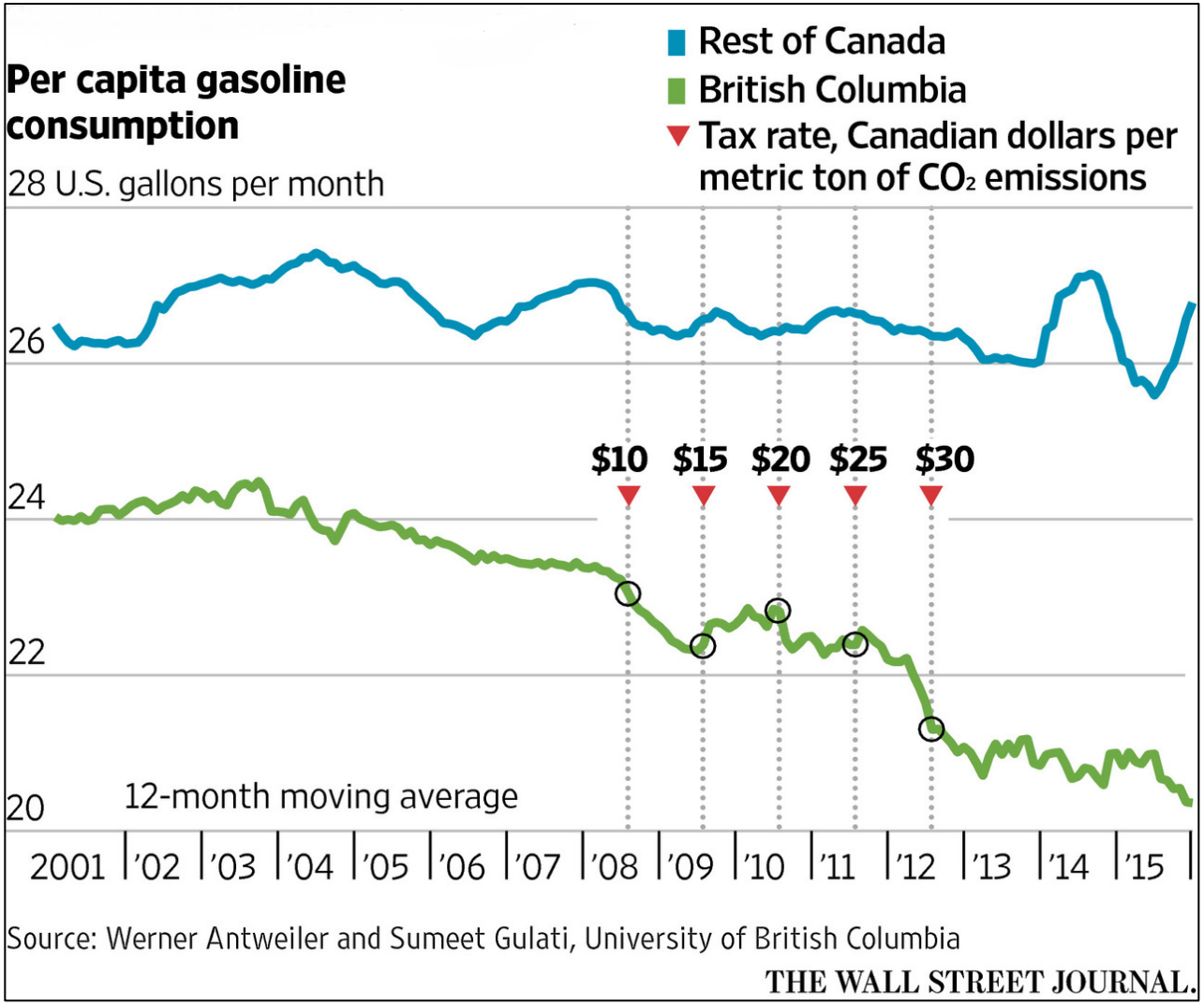


Only one of the ten largest economies in the world does NOT have a carbon price: the United States**

**Note: this includes California, which has an ETS, accurately as the world's 8th largest economy instead of Russia

Proven Success in Canada

- Started in 2008
- $30/ton
- Fuel use down
- GDP up
- Jobs up
- Popular

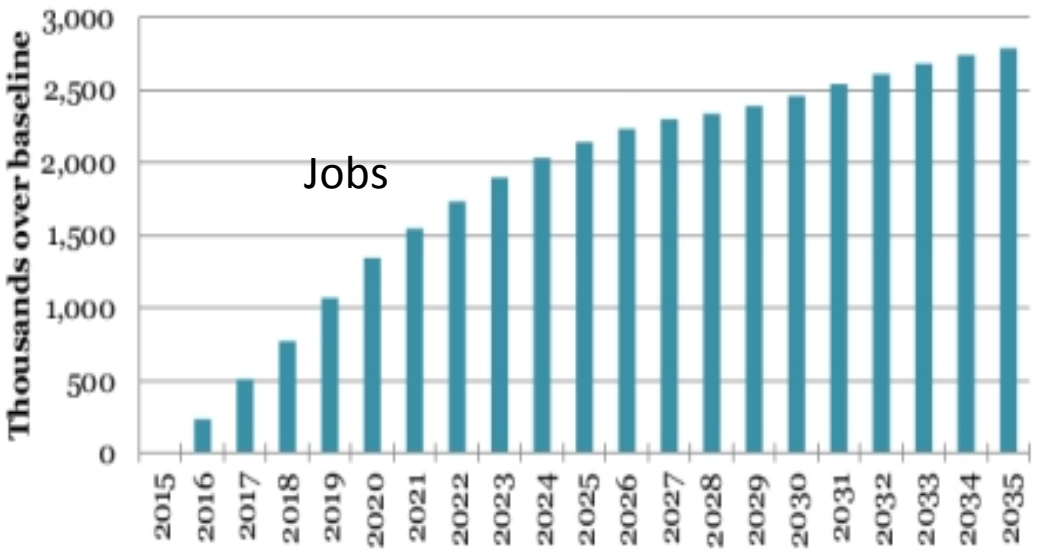


How Will Carbon Fee & Dividend Impact the Economy?

Nationwide study by Regional Economic Models, Inc (REMI)

REMI

Millions of new jobs



Regional Economic Modeling Inc

REMI: Report Summary

Employment	• **2 million more jobs**
Climate	• **Reduces carbon dioxide**
Fiscal	• **Increases household incomes**
Humanitarian	• **Saves Lives**
Economic	• **$1.3 trillion more GDP**

No economic case against Carbon Fee

Household Impact Report: Summary

54 percent of HHs benefit	• **Dividend exceeds increase in costs**
Low income benefit most	• **Approx. $300/month for Quintile 1**
Minority HHs and young/old	• **Inherently smaller carbon footprint**
High income benefit least	• **Losses are just two percent of income.**
Detailed snapshot	• No economic case against Carbon Fee

CCL: Join an Action Team

Outreach

- Presentations
- Education
- Tabling

Enlist Influencers

Agriculture / Military ●
Business/Finance ●
Faith leaders ●

Build political will

Media

- Print & TV
- Social media
- Editorial boards

Government

Liaisons ●
Paris COP21 ●
Local carbon tax ●

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Session 1

Writing Effective LTEs and Communications

- Strategies
- Techniques
- Examples – for review

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Example 1

I was most pleased to see the Olympian editorial about a conservative plan for a climate tax.

I hope they will form a bi-partisan caucus to draft legislation. Actions to address climate change should never be based on politics. Everyone is affected by the changing climate.

The idea of a tax or fee placed on carbon at its source is a good one. What happens to the monies collected, whether it is distributed equally to taxpayers or used to develop a cleaner transportation system, or to retrain people currently employed by the fossil fuel industry will be open for debate. We should just not take too long about it. There is no time left to waste.

Example 2

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As an avid salmon fisherman, I started reading Gabe Miller's editorial on "Sport Fishing industry in peril in Pacific Northwest," because I too am very concerned about sport fishing, both personally and from a cultural and economic standpoint.

As I read about the reasons mentioned for low salmon returns, such as warm temperatures, low rainfall and the "blob" off the coast, I was heartened by the idea that the sport fishing industry was going use its economic weight politically on the need to address the causes and impacts of climate change.

Instead, the remainder of the article was devoted to the need for a better process for reaching allocation agreements and concerns about the cost of licenses. I appreciate those concerns, but if there are no harvestable salmon, those concerns are irrelevant.

Mr. Miller's priorities are misguided. In his position with Sportco and Farwest Sports, he should be leading anglers and the fishing industry to fight to reduce use of fossil fuels, or there will be no fishing industry. 100 percent of no fish is nothing. That is an impact that will be devastating.

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Session 2

Identifying Endorsers and Outreach Opportunities

- Strategies
- Techniques
- Examples

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Breakout Session Questions

1. **Local/Global:** How can you incorporate Fee & Dividend into the work you're now doing at the local level? Examples?

2. **Outreach:** How best to reach out to the "least receptive" voters and parts of Thurston County/Leg. District about Carbon Fee & Dividend?

3. **Endorsements:** What groups and individuals are you already associated with that you think would be interested in CCL's Carbon Fee & Dividend proposal?

4. Other important questions?

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THANK YOU!

Regular CCL-Olympia Chapter Meetings:
Second Saturday of each month,

9:30-11:45 AM at the Olympia Center

Please Join Us!