



UPDATED AUG 18/23

<b>EDITORS:</b> Anne Heber, Karen Sadlier Brown and Lindy Small	<b>email:</b> <a href="mailto:contact.us@climatelearners.ca">contact.us@climatelearners.ca</a>
---	--

Sign up to CALL's [mailing list](#) to get invitations to our monthly learning meetings and newsletter. You can opt-in to get invitations for our interest group meetings too.

## Monthly Learning Meeting Wednesday, September 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

### Guest speakers



Dr. Chris Russill  
Carleton University



Dr. Patrick McCurdy  
University of Ottawa

### What Lies Beneath?

#### Strategic and deceptive communications on fossil fuel emissions by Canada's oil sands sector

You are invited to join CALL at our September climate learning meeting. Learn how Canada's largest fossil fuel companies are using ad campaigns and other strategies to mislead the public on emission reduction plans.

Our guest speakers are Dr. Chris Russill, Academic Director, Re.Climate and Associate Professor, School of Journalism and Communication and Dr. Patrick McCurdy, Associate Professor of Communication. Dr. Russill and Dr. McCurdy will:

- Examine the role of strategic and deceptive communication around fossil fuel emissions and net zero in Canada
- Share examples drawn from the oil sands sector's newest promotional organization, Pathways Alliance – a coalition of the six largest oil sands producers; and
- Discuss the strategies and techniques used to shape climate conversations, political processes, and public engagement.

**[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER:](#)** You will receive an email confirmation with your personal link to join the meeting.

Hey kid, it's me, the fossil fuel industry!  
Climate change is a myth.



Oh, okay!

Oops, I lied. It's real.  
But it's not caused by people.



Okay.

Actually, I lied.  
People are causing it.  
But it's not that bad.  
Maybe it's great?



O-okay...

Just FYI, I did not hire a bunch of marketers from tobacco companies to help me lie to you.



I didn't thi- huh.

Oops, I lied! But the world needs fuel and there definitely aren't any alternatives that I'm actively lobbying against.



I...

I lied. But it's undoubtedly too late to do anything about climate change now.



We can't prepare for the effects, reduce their severity, and save lives using innovative and tested solutions.



There aren't millions - really, billions - of people who want to tackle this issue. You're alone.



That's... oddly specific.

WOULD I LIE TO YOU???



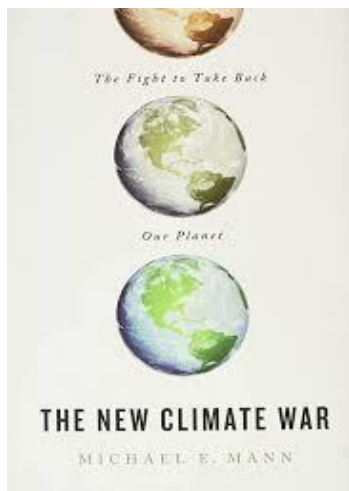
birdandmoon.com

Source: Smoke and Mirrors, created by the talented Rosemary Mosco, a Canadian cartoonist, science writer and naturalist whose books and cartoons connect people with the natural world. She has urged us to continue our "important work" and given us permission to use this cartoon. You can find her work at [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com) and on her website [rosemarymosco.com](https://www.rosemarymosco.com).

## CALL interest group meetings in September

<p><b>Individual Action Group</b>  <a href="mailto:individual.action@climatelearners.ca">individual.action@climatelearners.ca</a></p> <p>We learn how to lower personal emissions within our homes, vehicles, the food we eat and the things we do.</p>	<p><b>Tuesday Sept 12 @ 10 a.m.</b>                  Has this summer reawakened your desire to lower your carbon footprint? If so, join the group who are exploring green solutions, with a focus on ideas for those who live in a condo or an apartment. For more information, contact <a href="mailto:membership@climatelearners.ca">membership@climatelearners.ca</a></p>
<p><b>Advocacy Action Group</b>  <a href="mailto:advocacy.action@climatelearners.ca">advocacy.action@climatelearners.ca</a></p> <p>We learn about climate change policies that will protect future generations on our planet, and together we advocate with all levels of government.</p>	<p><b>Wednesday Sept. 20 @ 10:00 a.m.</b>                  The group will be discussing Ontario's latest climate plan: <i>Powering Ontario's Growth: Ontario's Plan for a Clean Energy Future</i> and how we can advocate for a stronger clean energy plan.</p>
<p><b>Nature-Based Solutions Group</b>  <a href="mailto:nature.based.solutions@climatelearners.ca">nature.based.solutions@climatelearners.ca</a></p> <p>We learn how we can protect, sustainably manage and restore our natural ecosystems to mitigate the effects of climate change. We also meet for guided hikes and other activities in nature.</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, Sept.13 @ 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.</b>                  The Nature-Based Solutions group will be showing the documentary "Love Thy Nature" at 35 Boardwalk from 1 – 2:30 pm followed by a Nature Walk from 2:30 to 4 pm. Please contact <a href="mailto:nature.based.solutions@climatelearners.ca">nature.based.solutions@climatelearners.ca</a> to learn more and to register – space is limited.</p>

## Book club discussion on "The New Climate War"





To follow up on our September 6<sup>th</sup> meeting on disinformation, the interest groups are combining to host a zoom discussion in October on *The New Climate War: The fight to take back our planet* by Dr. Michael E. Mann, an American climatologist.

Dr. Mann argues that the *old* climate war of assault on the basic science of climate change by fossil fuel interests has been replaced by a *new* climate war. The opponents of climate action have different tactics:



- Getting climate advocates fighting with each other so that we don't present a unified voice demanding change;
- Deflecting attention away from the needed systemic solutions or policy solutions to focus instead on individual behaviour.

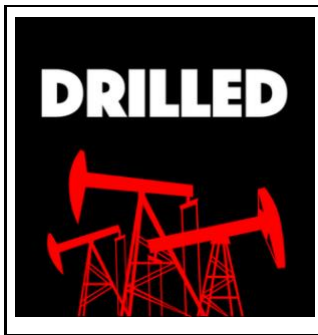




If you are interested in joining a discussion about *The New Climate War*, watch for the date and time in October.

## Climate news, studies and reports

 <p>The ENERGY MIX incorporating climate news network</p>	<p>See <a href="#">Playing Poker with Power Plants</a> in the August 12 <i>Energy Mix Weekender</i> for an interesting analysis of the draft federal <a href="#">Clean Electricity Regulations</a>. The regulations are designed to ensure Canada's electricity grid is 100% non-emitting by 2035.</p> <p>Also see the Clean Energy Review 's Media Brief on the importance of a 100% electricity grid to support the energy transition <a href="#">Here</a></p> <p>Note: <i>The Energy Mix</i> is a free community news site and e-digest series on climate change, energy and the shift off carbon. Subscriptions to <i>The Energy Mix</i> and the <i>Weekender</i> are free, and you can sign up <a href="#">here</a>. You can also make a tax-deductible donation to support Energy Mix's through the Small Change Fund, <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
	<p><b>Powering Ontario's Growth</b> was released by the Ontario government in July. It incorporates the IESO's latest technical report and outlines the actions the province intends to take to meet the increasing demand for electricity. <a href="#">Read</a></p> <p>For an assessment of Ontario's Plan see the Clean Air Partnership's July 23 Briefing Note <i>Assessment of the IESO's Pathways to Decarbonization Study From the Perspective of the Municipal Climate Action Plans</i>. <a href="#">Read</a> Also see SSG's <i>Assessment of the IESO's Pathways to Decarbonization Study</i>. <a href="#">Read</a></p>

## Podcasts worth listening to

	<p><b>The Big Switch</b> is a show with Dr. Melissa Lott of Columbia University. It explains how we can rebuild the energy systems all around us.</p> <p>The most recent season explores Europe's energy crisis following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. In this five-part series, The Big Switch asks the trillion-dollar questions: Will the energy crisis speed up or slow down Europe's clean energy transition? <a href="#">Listen</a></p>
	<p><b>What's next for clean energy and climate mitigation?</b></p> <p>In the June 28 episode, host David Roberts has a wide-ranging conversation with long-time energy analyst Ramez Naam on the status of the energy transition in the United States. <a href="#">Listen</a></p>

	<p><b>Check out Drilled</b> - There are eight seasons of the podcast all covering aspects of climate denial and disinformation. The host and producer of this podcast is Amy Westervelt who has been a climate journalist for over 20 years. Amy argues that the misconception is that the fossil fuel industry followed the tactics used by the tobacco industry when in fact they were one of the founding industries, along with chemicals and tobacco, in funding a newly emerging PR industry which pioneered tactics to stop effective climate action. <a href="#">Listen</a></p> <p><i>Note: this is a subscription series.</i></p>
	<p><b>Zero</b> explores the policies, tactics and clean technologies taking us to a future of zero emissions as the world fights climate change. Bloomberg Green’s award-winning climate reporter Akshat Rathi talks to the people who are making it happen.</p> <p>Listen to Episode 48: Inside the PR Machine that made Climate Denial Work. <a href="#">Listen</a></p> <p><i>Note: this is also a subscription podcast, but you can listen to some episodes for free.</i></p>
	<p><b>David Wallace-Wells on 2023 Climate Crisis and the Uncertain Road Ahead</b></p> <p>David Wallace-Wells, New York Times columnist and author of the influential book “The Uninhabitable Earth” talks about the extreme heat waves, off-the-charts ocean temperatures, massive wildfires, and other climate-worsened disasters that have plagued the first seven months of 2023. <a href="#">Listen</a></p>
	<p><b>The Case for Climate Optimism Episode 203</b></p> <p>In this episode, Chris Nelder is joined by Hannah Ritchie a senior researcher at the University of Oxford. Ritchie explains what converted her from a climate pessimist to an optimist and also shares her insights into why stories of climate doom seem to be more popular. <a href="#">Listen</a></p>
	<p><b>Ontario’s Massive Greenbelt Scandal, Explained in Full – Episode from August 11</b></p> <p>After a scathing auditor general's report that found Ontario's decision to open up protected Greenbelt lands for housing was heavily influenced by a small group of developers who now stand to make billions, the big question is: Can anyone stop the controversial land swap from going ahead? <a href="#">Listen</a></p>

## Save the date! Saturday, September 16



**JOIN IN to ORGANIZE the 2023**  
**GLOBAL CLIMATE STRIKE**  
SEPTEMBER 15, 2023

Planning & Logistics   Social Media   Outreach   Marshalls   Musicians & Artists



As world leaders discuss climate action at the UN in New York, people on every continent will join the largest-ever globally coordinated action to demand that governments end fossil fuels. People will be mobilizing from September 15th through September 17<sup>th</sup> around the world. Planning is underway -- look for more information in the September 1<sup>st</sup> newsletter on how to participate in Toronto's Rally.

**Rally at Queen's Park around 11:00 - 11:30 a.m.**  
**Followed by a march around noon**

## Welcome back!

It's the middle of August -- I'm always astounded how quickly the summer passes by! We hope you had a safe and enjoyable summer with family and friends.

Summer 2023 has not been kind to many parts of the northern hemisphere – it's become impossible to ignore the many instances of extreme weather, unprecedented wildfires, torrential rains, and flooding, on top of the long and intense heatwaves. Indeed, the global average monthly temperature in **July 2023 was the highest ever recorded**, and was 1.5°C higher than the pre-industrial average (1850-1900). Climate change is no longer a future event, it's already happening.

I've noticed that many more people around me now talk about climate change. I had always believed that personal awareness and concern would quickly spur people to become activated in the fight for change. But I'm reminded that we're all on a unique journey from awareness to knowledge to action – and each person's circumstances and pace is different. Change requires patience -- with ourselves and with each other.

Meaningful change also requires learning, especially learning about what we need to do as individuals and as a society. Our work as a CALL community is more important than ever. And so, we're looking forward to the FALL season of learning programs, including the launch of our new website in October!

We thank Peggi Liswood (co-founder of CALL), who is stepping down as the CALL's Convenor after 3 years. Peggi's leadership, intuition and kindness has been invaluable to our success. And we're grateful she's staying on as a leadership team member, focusing on our outreach to other lifelong learning organizations. As the person taking on the convenor role, I'm especially thankful for Peggi's continued presence and participation in CALL.

Caroline Taylor, CALL convenor

## CALL leadership team ([contact.us@climatelearners.ca](mailto:contact.us@climatelearners.ca))

Michael Barkley  
JoAnne Hunter  
Joan Laurie

Peggi Liswood  
Karen Robbins  
Karen Sadlier-Brown

Caroline Taylor  
Sharon Zeiler