

Greenpeace executive director launches climate solutions tour for a nuclear-free Ontario

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Bruce Cox, Greenpeace Canada Executive Director.

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Ontario, Canada — Greenpeace executive director Bruce Cox will tour 10 cities in Ontario to promote nuclear-free climate change solutions and expose the greenwashing of the province's proposed Green Energy Act.

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The speaking tour, entitled "Climate Solutions: Nuclear Lies—Green Truths," will run from February 26 to mid-March. Cox will make the case that the nuclear agenda of the McGuinty government in Ontario blocks the development of green energy and is not the right solution to climate change.

Green Energy Act + nuclear = greenwashing:

"The McGuinty government cannot have a serious green energy agenda when it is firmly committed to having 50 per cent of generation coming from nuclear power," said Cox. "It is greenwashing to say you support green power when you're spending billions on nuclear."

The Ontario government introduced its proposed new legislation, the Green Energy Act, on February 23, 2009

Plans create a nuclear ceiling:

McGuinty's plans create a "nuclear ceiling" in the electricity system, capping new renewable energy projects at 5,312 megawatts over the next 20 years to allow space on the electricity grid for 14,000 megawatts of nuclear electricity. The proposed Green Energy Act does not remove the government's self-imposed nuclear ceiling.

Ideas ignore:

Ontario is ignoring the green ideas of countries like Germany which has 20,000 megawatts of wind power and is shutting down reactors. In 2008, Germany installed over 1,500 MW of wind power.

Green energy is the solution to climate change. A focus on green energy will also create the 21st Century electricity system that will create jobs and protect our children from massive debts and the serious threats of nuclear electricity and toxic nuclear waste.

"If the McGuinty government wants to become a legitimate leader in green energy, the Premier needs to announce that the Pickering B nuclear facility is shutting down and will be replaced with green energy. You cannot build new reactors, mine uranium for nuclear fuel and create radioactive waste and still be considered a green energy leader," said Cox. "It defies logic."

The goal of the Greenpeace tour is to help to convince Ontarians to stand up to McGuinty and the nuclear lobby and demand that Ontario become a nuclear-free zone.

"The problems with nuclear reactors are legion: enormous cost overruns, possible terrorist attacks that threaten millions, and nuclear waste that is toxic for a million years," said Cox.

Tour dates, locations and venues

Thursday February 26th: PETERBOROUGH

7pm, Market Hall; 336 George St.

Friday February 27th: LINDSAY

2:30pm, Fleming College; Frost Campus; 200 Lindsay St. S.

Tuesday March 3rd: LONDON

7:30pm, Wemple Lounge; King's College; 266 Epworth Ave.

Wednesday March 4th: HAMILTON

7:30pm, The Sky Dragon Community Development Cooperative 27 King William St.

Monday March 9th: SAULT SAINT MARIE

7 pm, Doc Brown Lounge; Doc Brown lounge at Algoma University, 1520 Queen St. East.
Hosted by the Algoma University Community Economic and Social Development Department.

Tuesday March 10th: SUDBURY

7pm, Location, Sudbury City Hall, 200 Brady St. - Tom Davies Square
Sponsored by the Greater Sudbury Environment Network

Saturday March 14th: BELLEVILLE

2pm, The Organic Underground; 255 Front St.

Monday March 16th: KINGSTON

7pm, The Wilson Room; Kingston Frontenac Public Library; 130 Johnson St.
Co-sponsored by the Community Coalition Against Mining Uranium (CCAMU) and the Sisters of Providence - Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation

Wednesday March 18th: WATERLOO

5:30pm, University of Waterloo; Rod Coutts Hall
Sponsored by Waterloo Public Interest Research Group (WPIRG)

Wednesday March 18th: GUELPH

8pm, The Penny Whistle 2 Quebec St.