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Conservation Council of New Brunswick

Cap and Trade Must Be a Priority for Governors and Premiers

At their annual meeting Tuesday in Saint John, Eastern Canadian Premiers and New England Governors will be discussing greening the economy, energy use and climate change. The Conservation Council says it is imperative for the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers to reach a common understanding on greenhouse gas emission caps.

Power plant emissions in are already capped in New England and caps will be extended to other major industrial sources of greenhouse gas emissions under the Obama Administration.

“New Brunswick and the other Eastern Canadian provinces lack a common approach to cap and trade,” said David Coon, Executive Director of the Conservation Council, a delegate at the annual meeting.

Nova Scotia has announced it will cap power plant emission, while Quebec is discussing cap and trade with Ontario. To date, New Brunswick has been waiting on the federal government to act.

“Now is the time for New Brunswick to cap its industrial emissions,” said Coon. NB Power’s emissions have declined significantly and caps should be adopted to ensure they continue to make progress.”

The Obama Administration has suggested that the US could impose tariffs on trading partners who do not have comparable cap and trade regulation to ensure American industry is not placed at a competitive disadvantage.

Premier Shawn Graham has committed to returning New Brunswick’s greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 level by 2012 and to cut them 10% below that by 2020.

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