

Hello Mr. Fournier and all

I thought I'd make a few comments on the energy and climate change strategy after the meeting here in Sydney.

\* I felt MUCH too much time was spent on the "coal vs. natural gas" debate. Although NG is better, it is still a fossil fuel. As well, it's a fossil fuel that will run out very quickly, and will become very much more expensive very quickly. It is debatably useful to switch over large infrastructure from coal to NG, for the sake of a decade or 2 of output. NG is not a "solution" especially when there are alternatives.

\* There is MUCH good work that has been done on energy efficiency (Amory Lovins, for example, as well as others). It is clear we can live productive, happy, high-tech lives that are essentially the same as we do now, but use MUCH less energy to do so. Some say 50% less, others say 80 or 90% less. If we can cut energy use 50%, suddenly 30% renewable energy is actually 60%. And if we can use 70% less energy, the renewable percentage could be 100.

\* Much too little has been done on the demand-management side of the energy equation. Our "solution" has always been to try to produce more. But there is much evidence to say that either on an individual or societal level, conservation is much more cost-efficient than increased production.

\* The idea of energy "credits" is a great one that I feel should be seriously pursued. It is a way to make energy use more expensive for many without punishing low-income individuals who are using reasonable amounts of energy. -with electricity, each person gets a set number of kilowatt-hrs per year at a lower rate. Above that are charged at a much higher rate -with gas, the price should be greatly raised, but there is a tax credit given to each person for a reasonable number of gallons per year, to reduce the price. All gallons above the tax credited amount would be at full price, with no tax rebate or credit. I believe the energy credit idea is fair and equitable, and relatively easy to do if there was political will.

\* Community design - zoning, transportation infrastructure, etc. - is CRITICAL to our energy efficiency. In Cape Breton, we are a stark example of how NOT to do things. Despite DECLINING population, our towns continue to allow the building of subdivisions at frantic rates. And a recent municipality-wide zoning strategy here in CBRM makes it illegal to run something like a neighbourhood corner store, or a community medical clinic. EVERYTHING is being set up so that it is harder and harder for an individual to do ANYTHING without a car - get to work, buy a quart of milk, visit a friend, go to the park. Mixed-use zoning, Active Transportation infrastructure (see [HYPERLINK "http://www.completestreets.com/"](http://www.completestreets.com/)), and taxation and development policies which encourage compact development are ESSENTIAL in this age of peak oil.

I have much more to say, but in the interest of brevity (if it's not too late for that) I'll stop there.

Thanks for your time.

Sincerely,

Chris

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