

## Positioning Canada as a Leader in Clean Energy and Climate Change Action

### IISD-Pembina Work Programme

IISD and Pembina are beginning a three-year work programme entitled *Positioning Canada as a Leader in Clean Energy and Climate Change Action*. The initial work is supported by the McCall MacBain Foundation. The first year work programme (2009–2010) has five major elements, each of which is described briefly below.

#### 1. Expert Dialogues

A series of four expert dialogues will provide regional perspectives on North American energy and climate issues. Each dialogue will be structured as a series of conversations with small groups of experts. The proposed itinerary and focus areas are as follows:

- Western Canada (Calgary and Victoria): continental cap and trade, carbon capture and storage (CCS)
- United States (Washington and Sacramento): low carbon transportation, continental cap and trade
- Mexico: financing for climate action, continental cap and trade
- Eastern Canada (Ottawa and Toronto): discussion of the findings to date with policy makers.

#### 2. Policy Papers

The research teams at Pembina and IISD will prepare three policy papers in 2009 to support and guide their work on Canada-U.S. energy and climate policy. The papers will focus on the “state of the debate” rather than on explicit policy recommendations. The question of continental climate policy is a relatively new one, and a factual survey of the issue will provide an important grounding for this emerging conversation. The three papers will include:

- A “chapeau piece” that surveys the extent of Canada-U.S. energy integration. This paper will lay the foundation for an informed discussion of the climate change and energy interconnections that exist between the two countries and offer an overview of current challenges and opportunities. The survey will include both conventional energy and renewable/energy efficiency technologies and systems.
- A briefing paper on the suite of possibilities for a continental cap and trade system. This “linking paper” will examine the options for North American carbon pricing, ranging from two separate systems in the United States and Canada that recognize each others’ allowances to a single continental approach. Informed by the Expert Dialogue, this paper will also include a discussion of Mexico’s potential role.

- A briefing paper on CCS in North America. This paper will provide a comparative assessment of the role of CCS in Canada and the United States, including potential emission reductions, the projected costs of implementation, and the policy options to deploy the technology in electricity generation and oil sands facilities.

### **3. Thought Leaders' Forum**

This one-day event in Washington will bring together about 75 carefully-selected participants to explore whether, and if so how, a coherent North American approach could contribute to continental progress on climate change and clean energy.. The conference format deliberately minimizes keynote speakers and panel presentations in favour of open dialogue between participants. Leading thinkers from key “constituencies” (including government, industry and civil society from all three North American countries) will participate in a series of facilitated discussions on key questions. A plenary discussion will help the group arrive at conclusions on areas of consensus and divergence at the end of the day.

Key questions to be tackled in discussion sessions include:

- How does North America’s integrated energy market affect climate policy development? What are the challenges and opportunities?
- What continental policy options are needed to move North America rapidly to a low-carbon future?
- Are there specific areas where the United States, Canada or Mexico are well-placed to take a leadership role on the continent or globally?

### **4. Project Advisory Group**

The project advisory group will provide guidance to IISD and Pembina on research directions and next steps for the second and third years of the project. The proposed makeup of the advisory group includes four Canadians, three Americans and one Mexican, plus the chair, for a total of nine advisors. At present, IISD and Pembina envision a group that includes representation from Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, Québec, Washington, New York, California and Mexico City. The advisory group should include a mix of corporate, academic, NGO and other affiliations.

### **5. Side-Event at the Copenhagen Climate Talks**

IISD and Pembina will hold a side-event during the UN climate negotiations to be held in Copenhagen from December 7 to 18, 2009. Countries have agreed to conclude a two-year negotiation process on a post-2012 global climate agreement in Copenhagen, so the talks are expected to draw an unprecedented number of policymakers, journalists, civil society participants and other experts. Side-events present an important opportunity to disseminate research findings to this influential audience. The three policy papers will be launched at the side event, and IISD and Pembina participants will facilitate a discussion of the salience of their findings.