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Today is Friday July 22, 2011

[Suzuki says public should have a say in new Canadian energy policy. Tough to disagree](#)

By [Scott Simpson](#) 22 Jul 2011 [Innovation](#)

Should ordinary Canadians have a say in the development of a new national energy strategy -- instead of shouting from the sidelines while a policy with decade-spanning implications is decided by a handful of politicians?

David Suzuki Foundation seems to think so, as per the letter below.

I'm inclined to agree, given the vested and not necessarily national interests that the premiers involved in this kind of exercise would represent. Not to mention what happened the last time a set of politicians, ie the Trudeau Liberals, decided to dictate a national energy policy that pretty much snuffed the Liberal Party of Canada for eternity in Alberta and northeast B.C.

The ramifications of a new policy seem particularly acute for B.C., especially in advance of any formal decision about the advisability of construction of an oil pipeline that's going to have to make numerous B.C. crossings of two of the three most significant salmon watersheds in North America, the Fraser and the Skeena.

Here's the Suzuki release .

'Premiers should seize clean energy and climate change mitigation opportunities

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE July 22, 2011

VANCOUVER -- The David Suzuki Foundation is urging premiers to include the views and values of Canadians in the development of a national sustainable energy strategy. Premiers are discussing energy, the economy and trade with Asia on the final day of the Council of the Federation meetings in Vancouver today.

Countries around the world are retooling their economies and investing massive resources and know-how into clean energy development. This dramatic shift in the global energy system is also strongly reflected in Asia -- something that should be discussed at the Council of the Federation meetings.

Over the past two years, China has surpassed the U.S. and Germany to become the leading investor and developer in clean energy technologies and knowledge. During the same period, South Korea allocated 81 per cent of its economic stimulus package to clean energy and low-carbon infrastructure as part of its economic stimulus strategy, with many other countries following suit.

Fuelled by the need to act on climate change, make the air cleaner and develop modern energy systems, global investment in clean energy technologies totalled \$243 billion worldwide in 2010. This rapidly growing sector has averaged an annual growth rate of 30 per cent during the past decade.

This global trend has created a tremendous economic and job opportunities for Canada, especially with Canada's abundant renewable energy resources, skilled workforce and strong engineering and knowledge sectors.

"By supporting a national clean energy strategy with input from all Canadians, premiers can make Canada a leading innovator and developer of solutions to climate change while establishing a strong foothold for our country in the economy of the future," said David Suzuki Foundation climate change

specialist Ian Bruce. "An inclusive conversation on a sustainable energy future for Canada is long overdue."

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