

G8/G20 Youth Mobilization Strategy

Background:

In the months leading up to and during the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen (COP15), our movement showed incredible strength, determination and growth.

In Canada, we organized **trainings, lobby days, rallies, flash mobs, and non-violent direct actions**. We **wrote op eds**, and **called and met with our elected officials** to express the crucial role Canada needs to play in fighting climate change.

We highlighted the imperative need for Canada to be a global leader for climate justice. While we did not get a fair, ambitious and legally-binding treaty in Copenhagen, **we did highlight the Canadian government's obstructive role at the negotiations**, making it clear that their agenda did not represent the views of Canadians or Parliament.

Despite some failures in Copenhagen, the negotiations did serve to bring **the global climate movement together in new and catalytic ways**. Alliances between the North and South were strengthened, and a collective understanding was established of what climate justice is and what needs to be done to protect communities being hit earliest and hardest by the climate crisis.

This June, Canada will be hosting the G8/G20 meetings. This gathering of powerful governments is **an incredible opportunity for us to build our movement**. The Canadian government's recent announcements about their lowered climate change targets, lack of an implementation plan, and their clear desire to expand the destructive tar sands, are all proof that we need to make our voices heard and demand that our government show leadership, not feet-dragging. **As residents** of one the world's largest polluting countries and as one of the wealthiest nations, we need to hold the Canadian government responsible for their part in securing our future.

We must make sure that our voices are heard when the world's eyes and ears are on Canada this June 2010. People in Canada are deeply concerned about our country's inaction in the face of the biggest environmental threat of our time, and we must make sure that everyone knows. We need to turn the tide! **This is our movement and this is our chance! Let's work together. Let's build our base. It's time for action, NOW!**

Vision:

A co-ordinated youth movement that generates a Canadian youth presence at the G20 in Toronto to expose dependence on dirty energy and carbon-intensive industries, while demanding the need for climate justice and Canada's transition to a green and just economy. This Campaign would consist of two pieces:

- 1) The Youth Convergence to Toronto G20
- 2) Community-based affinity groups across Canada mobilizing youth to take political action on climate change in the lead up to the G20

CYCC Objectives towards G20:

- To leverage the G20 as an opportunity to keep political pressure on the Canadian government to take meaningful climate action in order to achieve a fair, ambitious and legally binding climate deal at COP16;
- To strengthen youth mobilizing for a transition from carbon-intensive industries to a clean and just economic future;
- To promote good, green jobs for workers in Canada to create a more vibrant, healthy and equitable society;
- To advance youth awareness and analysis of climate justice issues, locally and internationally;
- To diversify and strengthen the climate youth movement in Canada and build the capacity of youth climate organizers;
- To build the organizational strength of CYCC by bringing in new members, building a more sustainable funding base, and increasing the skill set of staff and key leaders.

Campaign Activities:

1. Convergence to Toronto G20 Summit

Young people from across Canada are coming to Toronto for a week long gathering of community organizers during the G8G20. This People's Convergence will be a historic moment for social movements in Canada as we come together to forge a united front for global justice in Toronto. Network, skill-share, and connect with other committed activists fighting for Indigenous Sovereignty and Self-Determination; for Migrant Justice and an End to War and Occupation; for Climate Justice; for Income Equity and community control over resources.

We envision a caravan moving across the country, picking up other youth as it makes its way to Toronto. These youth can share stories from their convergence and highlight the work they are doing in their local communities at the People's Summit taking place from June 18-20th.

2. Local Teams: Local teams or "Climate Crews" in each province and territory will work to organize local climate and energy-related initiatives in the build-up and during the G20. Local Teams' work will be shared at the People's Summit in Toronto by youth participating in the Convergence. All initiatives in lead up to G20 will aim to build public pressure on the Canadian government.

3. **“Week of” G8/G20 events:** In June, harness the excitement and media focus on G8/G20. Organize Green Economy tours/symposiums and People’s Assemblies to educate and mobilize people around green jobs and climate justice, and influence narrative of media stories covering the G8/G20.