



# EMRG News

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Multi-university Study  
on Global Warming  
BC LNG Workshop  
Conferences: Shale  
Energy Revolution,  
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Op-ed: The Media and  
Climate Change

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***Editor: Maxwell Sykes***

*By Maxwell Sykes*

Don't wait for climate engineering: Reducing emissions is the best way to fight climate change.

That's one of the conclusions of a new article co-authored by Dr. Jonn Axsen and researchers at five other universities titled *An interdisciplinary assessment of climate engineering strategies*. The article appears in the latest issue of *Frontiers in Ecology and Environment*.

The team evaluated a range of possible climate-altering approaches to dissipating greenhouse gases and reducing warming. The article is the first scholarly attempt to rank a wide range of approaches to minimizing climate change in terms of their feasibility, cost-effectiveness, risk, public acceptance, governability and ethics.

"Some climate engineering strategies look very cheap on paper. But when you consider other criteria, like ecological risk, public perceptions

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*By Maxwell Sykes*

On April 11, 2014, Carbon Management Canada in partnership with SFU Carbon Talks convened an invitational workshop titled *Public Finance and Climate Policy Implications of BC's LNG Export Strategy*. The workshop built upon a November 2013 workshop organized by the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions titled *A Natural Gas Agenda for BC*. The workshop focused on sharing research and information about the implication of an LNG export industry in BC, particularly related to international gas markets, royalty schemes, public finances, BC's greenhouse gas emissions, and the net effect of BC's LNG export strategy on global greenhouse gas emissions.

Workshop attendees included representatives of universities, industry, NGOs and non-profits, first nations, and consultancies. Some of the main points raised during the session included:

scientists on the altar of Gaia.”

The article was a frustrating read for several EMRGers and SFU and UBC professors that understand that articles in news media like this one confuse public understanding regarding the scientific certainty that climate change is human-caused and a serious threat to our quality of life. These articles, thus, hinder progress on necessary government policy.

In response to Ms. Stirling-Anosh’s article, on May 7, 2014, Maxwell Sykes had an op-ed published on the Vancouver Sun website titled *There’s no scientific debate on climate change: It’s time to stop arguing and take action on this global issue*. A modified version of the op-ed was published by Troy Media on May 16, 2014 titled *Misleading reporting on climate change eroding public trust in scientists: Climate science as settled as connection between smoking and lung cancer*. In his articles, Maxwell focused on the fact that the scientific certainty of the risks associated with anthropogenic climate change is akin to the scientific

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member in a discussion on EMRG – Potential Challenges and Pathways to Success in a Low Carbon Intensity World. He also presented the results of EMRG research to the workshop participants. Karen and Maxi presented a poster to conference attendees consisting of industry representatives, researchers, professors and other students.

Updates from EMRG Grads  
in the Work Force

Bill Tubbs left Spectra Energy in April and has joined the consulting firm ICF International to work with SaskPower, SaskEnergy and their industrial customers on energy efficiency projects in Saskatchewan.

Paulus Mau has been part of EMRG and CIEEDAC since 2002. His area of specialization is in data analysis and web programming. Paulus is currently serving EMRG and CIEEDAC as an advisor on maintaining and improving CIEEDAC's oneline data center information infrastructure, supporting EMRG/CIEEDAC researchers on data mining and interpretation, and programming economic surveys and choice experiments.

Month of Presentations for Dr. Jonn Axsen

By Maxwell Sykes

May was a busy month for Jonn and his work on plug-in electric vehicles. On May 7, Jonn travelled to Ottawa, where he gave a presentation titled Electric Vehicle

Hype and Hope to several policymakers at Environment Canada. An older version of Jonn's presentation is available online at <http://bit.ly/1oRsGqS>

Jonn then travelled to Victoria, where he co-facilitated a two day workshop with University of Victoria Associate Professor Dr. Curran Crawford on May 12 and 13. This was the second workshop for an ongoing collaboration between the Drs. Axsen and Crawford. Powering plug-in electric vehicles with renewable energy supply in BC. On the SFU side, presentations were given by masters students George Kamiya, Brad Langman, Dominique Atherley, and Joshua Cairns, as well as by Jonn himself on behalf of PhD student Joseph Bailey.

While in Victoria, Jonn and EMRG Research Associate Suzanne Goldberg delivered a workshop introduction to EMRG's energy economy simulation model, CIMS, as part of the University of Victoria's Grid Integration workshop on May 12. Attendees were from the Institute for Integrated Energy Systems at UVic (IESVic).

Sustainable Collective Blog

Joshua Cairns, a Master of Resource Management candidate in EMRG, founded the website Sustainable Collective ([sustainable-collective.com](http://sustainable-collective.com)) this past February. Sustainable Collective serves as an online platform for graduate students and professionals to write articles and share their opinions on sustainability, energy, and the environment. The website hosts content from a team of 16 writers, 3 of which are in EMRG. To stay up to date on the latest content, follow Sustainable Collective on Twitter (@sustaincollect) and 'like' it on Facebook ([facebook.com/sustainablecollective](https://www.facebook.com/sustainablecollective))

<p><b>Contact Us</b></p> <p>EMRG News</p> <p>For more information contact Noory Meghji at <a href="mailto:noory_meghji@sfu.ca">noory_meghji@sfu.ca</a></p> <p>Simon Fraser University School of Resource and Environmental Management Vancouver, BC, Canada V5A 1S6 Phone: (778) 782-6621 Web: <a href="http://www.emrg.sfu.ca/">http://www.emrg.sfu.ca/</a></p>	<p>EMRG Online</p> <p>In addition to this newsletter, stay up to date with current and former EMRGers online anytime.</p> <p>Dr. Mark Jaccard : Sustainability Suspicions blog <a href="http://markjaccard.com">markjaccard.com</a>   Twitter @MarkJaccard</p> <p>Maxwell Sykes : Twitter @MaxwellSykes   Sustainable Collective contributor <a href="http://sustainable-collective.com">sustainable-collective.com</a></p> <p>Joshua Cairns : Twitter @joshuapcairns   Sustainable Collective Founder <a href="http://sustainable-collective.com">sustainable-collective.com</a></p> <p>Jotham Peters : Twitter @JothamPeters</p> <p>Katya Rhodes : LinkedIn <a href="http://linkd.in/1tu1mil">http://linkd.in/1tu1mil</a></p>
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