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Cap and Trade or Cap and Evade?



Written by Marsha Johnston

Tuesday, 20 May 2008



EnviroWonk writer Marsha Johnston attended the American Solar Energy Society conference earlier this month in San Diego


Many policy makers and industry executives see cap and trade systems as a solution for removing carbon pollution from the atmosphere. While debate continues on the efficacy of these systems, several panelists at the recent [American Solar Energy Society](#) conference expressed some skepticism. Former US Senator Gary Hart noted that a carbon tax is a simpler way to resolve the problem. "Unfortunately," he added, "we can't even say the 'T-word' anymore. Somehow we've decided that we no longer have to pay for what we need as a society. Maybe someday that will change and we can get back to a responsible discussion of policy."

On the same panel, Michael Dworkin, director of the [Institute for Energy and the Environment](#) at Vermont Law School, quipped, "When people talk about cap and trade, they talk a lot about trade,

but not much about caps. If trading is just a mechanism to find the cheapest way to comply, it's not of much use." Later that day, Kathleen Law, Michigan state representative and author of the [first US feed-in tariff](#), said of cap and trade: "It is just a means for money to change hands, what purpose does it serve? We don't have a lot of time, we have to act now to move this forward, and a feed-in tariff will accomplish that."

"We need strong caps, dramatic reductions," said Van Jones, founder and president of [Green for All](#). "We must collect on this, and invest to protect the bottom one-fifth of society and invest in new technologies." Jones noted that in the last few years, "government has been on the side of the polluters and the problem-makers, not the solutions. Markets work based on rules and government has got to get the rules right." Amen.

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Huh?

written by JMT, May 20, 2008

I skipped over reading anything in this post and others the moment I saw the McCain ad playing on the side of your front page.



ou might want to explain that before continuing with any other posts (considering he scored a zero from the League of Conservation Voters). I think your legitimacy might be at stake.

...

written by Dave Loos, May 20, 2008

JMT,



The ads on this site are automatically placed by Google based on keywords in the posts. Obviously, the context in which we mention McCain doesn't matter, since we are often criticizing his environmental policies.

<http://envirowonk.com/content/view/208/1/>

A few months ago, we even mentioned the oddity of his ads showing up next to critical posts.

<http://envirowonk.com/content/view/94/9/>

\ "most economists agree..."

written by DHD, May 20, 2008

It's worth pointing out that the carbon tax is not some kind of radical leftist idea - the staunch (neo-)liberals at The Economist have repeatedly stated over the years that cap-and-trade is an inferior way of reducing CO2 emissions. Here's a recent reference:



http://www.economist.com/finance/displaystory.cfm?story_id=9337630

Of course, in a country so reflexively anti-taxation that the "gasoline tax holiday" idea was actually

taken seriously, it's no surprise that the mainstream of economic thought is regularly ignored and marginalized...

Thanks!

written by Marsha Johnston, May 22, 2008

Hi DHD,

Great reference and great points, shoring up the non-Communist premise of these guys!

You're soooo right about American knee-jerk reaction to taxes...



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written by sipjsvqb, September 03, 2008

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written by alprazolam, September 05, 2008

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written by ssrbcevn, September 05, 2008

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written by tiffany, October 19, 2008

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nb-4l battery

written by sabattery, December 19, 2008

<http://www.digital-camera-batt...-nb-4l.htm>

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Canon NB-4L battery
 written by NB-4L battery, December 19, 2008
<http://all-camcorder-battery.c...-nb-4l.htm>
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 written by dell 600m battery, December 19, 2008
<http://www.cheap-laptop-batter...attery.htm>
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 written by nghm, December 31, 2008
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 written by [vcsale](http://www.vcsale.com/), January 02, 2009
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 written by ewrew, January 04, 2009
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...
 written by ewrew, January 04, 2009
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 WOTLK Power leveling



buy angels gold

written by [buy angels gold](#), January 22, 2009

Good view and deep thought, I learn a lot from it. Thank you.



Canon NB-4L battery

written by NB-4L battery, April 13, 2009

Any nb-4l battery trade?

looking the camera battery nb-4l in US at <http://www.digital-camera-batt.../nb-4l.htm>



CANON NB-4L Battery

written by [CANON NB-4L Battery](#), May 21, 2009

<http://www.battery-store.co.uk...-nb-4l.htm>

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