

# Climate Change Goal: to hold the increase in global temperature below 2°C, and take action to meet this objective consistent with science and on the basis of equity.

~ Copenhagen Accord



Himalayas



Amazon tributary, Peru



Amazon



B.C. rainforest

## What is the significance of 2°C?

- Scientists looked at a set of collective impacts and developed 2°C as a management tool
- Staying below 2°C, the impacts are tolerable
- Above 2°C the impacts are runaway climate change: very large changes occurring very rapidly

## So where are we today?

- Over the last 100 years there has been a 2.7% per year increase in GHG emissions
- From 2009 – 2010 we experienced an increase in emissions of 5.6% per year
- Right now global temperatures are projected to rise more than 4°C

## What do we need to do?

- We must reduce our GHG emissions by 10% per year for a 50-50 chance of avoiding runaway climate change

## Our challenge:

- GHG emissions are the result of fossil fuel use
- Currently economic growth, a measure of success in our world, results in increased GHG emissions
- In addition to the growth of the developed world, we have to consider the growth of the developing world
  - China's GDP\* is expected to grow by 10.5% per year
  - India's GDP is expected to grow by 7.4% per year
- Drastically reducing GHG emissions to avoid the "tipping point"

\* GDP: Gross Domestic Product

## Things to think about:

- Annual emissions reductions of greater than 1% per year have only been associated with economic recession or upheaval
- How do we change our mindset to achieve greater than 10% per year reductions?



Fundy tides



Nova Scotia forest



IGRS gas well

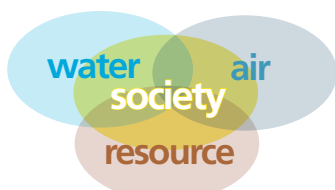
Acknowledge Our Part  
**Climate Change Goal**  
 Hold the increase in global temperature below 2°C, consistent with science and on the basis of equity.

## Why is it important to act now?

- CO<sub>2</sub> stays in the atmosphere for more than 100 years
- What we emit today and in the future accumulates in the atmosphere
- The slower we are to react, the more drastic the reductions we will need to apply in the future.

### References:

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/media-room/DFID-speaker-series/professor-Kevin-Anderson/>  
 The information of the messenger is taken directly from a talk by Dr. Kevin Anderson, Tyndall Centre, University of Manchester.



Clearly no group can, as an entity, create ideas. Only individuals can do this. A group of individuals may, however, stimulate one another in the creation of ideas.

Estill I. Green

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*Unity is strength... when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved.*

Mattie Stepanek

Acknowledge Our Part  
**Our Environmental Messenger™**  
 CLIMATE CHANGE GOAL  
**COMMIT ■ CREATE ■ PARTICIPATE**

## QUESTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

1. What are you willing to give up to address climate change?
2. What is your community doing about climate change?
3. What actions are you taking to address climate change?
4. What actions are you willing to take to address climate change?

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Acknowledge Our Part

# Our Environmental Messenger™

CLIMATE CHANGE GOAL

## COMMIT ■ CREATE ■ PARTICIPATE

Company \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Delivered by \_\_\_\_\_

Other topics discussed \_\_\_\_\_

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### RECORD RESPONSES

1. What are you willing to give up to address climate change?.....  
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2. What is your community doing about climate change? .....
3. What actions are you taking to address climate change? .....
4. What actions are you willing to take to address climate change? .....

### This month's Environmental Champion is

## Atlas Team - Atlas Landfill Remediation Project

EARTH1st CHAMPIONS

The Atlas operations team, made up of Darren Fry, Gareth Jones, Dave Domalion and Meghan Fraser (who has since returned to school), is always there and quick to respond to, customers, contractors and drivers at the Atlas Site. The Team is ever diligent in ensuring that all aspects of the operation meet the highest environmental standards. This is no easy feat given that on any given day there is a myriad of activities occurring at the site, whether it's the 100 plus trucks arriving at the site to deposit soil waste, the installation of the waterloo barrier or the construction of an intricate surface water management system consisting of leachate and stormwater collection. If that isn't enough the Atlas team has also rescued more than five turtles including snapping turtles and painted turtles, returning them to safe habitat along the shores of the Welland River.

The Team's attention to detail and their pride in the site and its environmental improvements such as, keeping contact water out of the Welland River for the first time since Atlas originally opened the site over fifty years ago, are qualities that help make them true environmental champions.

Left to Right: Gareth Jones, Darren Fry, Dave Domalion.



### Who do you know who commits, creates and participates in EARTH 1st?

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