

Press Release and Media Advisory

**NGOs Denounce Corporate Greenwashing:
'No to Dubious Biotech-fixes for Climate Change'**

Montreal, 16 July 2009. Several groups including Greenpeace, ETC Group and Biofuelwatch are warning that the biotech lobby will mount a major green-washing public relations exercise during the *Sixth Annual Conference on Industrial Biotechnology and Bioprocessing* that will be held at the Montreal Convention Center (19-22 July 2009).

During the Conference, the biotech industry will present various untested biotechnology innovations as solutions to climate change. "The biotech industry is seeking massive public and private investment for their untested technologies, whose health and environmental impacts have not been fully examined. Rather than be duped by yet another green mirage, governments should invest in real solutions to climate change and get serious about reducing CO₂ emissions and commit to solutions that we know work -- like energy saving," says Eric Darier, Director of Greenpeace in Quebec.

The new face of the biotech industry is being made over using nanotechnology and synthetic biology to produce cosmetically "clean energy" that will replace fossil fuels. "Technologies which transform plant cellulose into fuel are part of a massive industrial grab on 'biomass' – basically all living matter now found in forests, agricultural land and even our oceans," claims Jim Thomas from the international new-technology watchdog, ETC Group. "The consequences on biodiversity, sustainable agriculture, farmers and forests world-wide are devastating."

"Proponents of these technologies assume there is enough biomass to feed and fuel an expanding population. But the demand for plant biomass will be so vast it threatens to defoliate the surface of the planet just as we are recognizing the critical role of ecosystems in regulating climate," explains Rachel Smolker, PhD, of Biofuelwatch. "The problems with corn ethanol, which NGOs warned about three years ago, were only the tip of the iceberg!"

Breakfast Media Briefing

Monday 20th July 2009 - 7:30 am to 8:45 am

Éric Darier (Greenpeace) *Strategic Technological Assessment before it is too late*

Jim Thomas (ETC Group) *The Techno-hype of the New Sugar-based Economy*

Rachel Smolker (Biofuelwatch) *The Ecological Consequences of Industry's Assault on Biomass*

Location: very near the Convention center

(exact location will be given after registration that is mandatory)

Reply to: Eric.darier@greenpeace.org

Contact:

Eric Darier (www.greenpeace.org): 514 605-6497

Jim Thomas (www.etcgroup.org): 514 629 9236

Rachel Smolker (www.biofuelwatch.org.uk): 802 735-7794