

Climate Change Policy and Politics: A Status Report

Michele Betsill

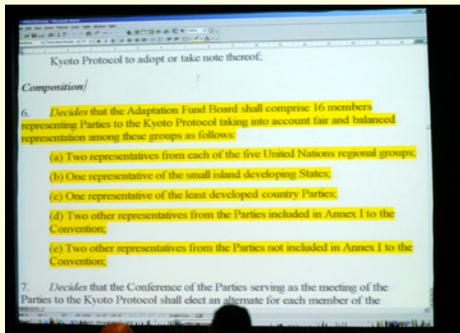
Department of Political Science
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CMMAP Team Meeting, 6 January 2009

International Climate Change “Regime”



- **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992)**



- **Kyoto Protocol to the UNFCCC (1997/2001)**



Photos courtesy of the International Institute for Sustainable Development

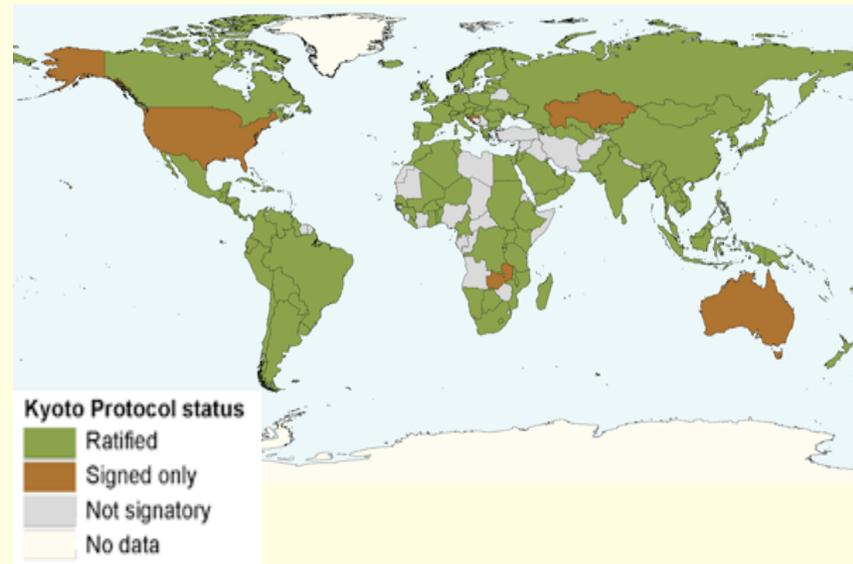
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

- Objective (Article 2)
stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent **dangerous** anthropogenic interference with the climate system.
- Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (Article 3 paragraph 1)



The Kyoto Protocol

- Industrialized countries shall reduce aggregate GHG emissions 5.2% below 1990 levels by 2008-2012.
- Flexible Mechanisms
 - Emissions trading
 - Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)/
Joint Implementation (JI)



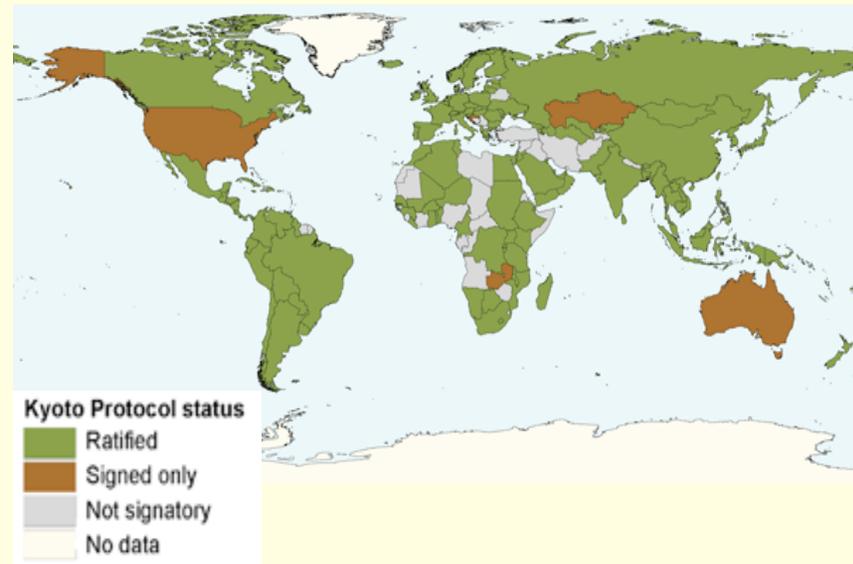
Source: World Resources Institute

The Kyoto Protocol

Country	Target (1990** - 2008/2012)
EU-15*, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Monaco, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland	-8%
US***	-7%
Canada, Hungary, Japan, Poland	-6%
Croatia	-5%
New Zealand, Russian Federation, Ukraine	0
Norway	+1%
Australia	+8%
Iceland	+10%

The Kyoto Protocol

- Industrialized countries shall reduce aggregate GHG emissions 5.2% below 1990 levels by 2008-2012.
- Flexible Mechanisms
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Source: World Resources Institute

March 2001: US Withdrawal

As you know, I oppose the Kyoto Protocol because it exempts 80 percent of the world, including major population centers such as China and India, from compliance, and would cause serious harm to the U.S. economy.



*Text of a letter to Senators Hagel, Helms, Craig and Roberts
March 13, 2001*

What's Fair?

Source: WRI (2003)	Total million MtCO ₂
US	5,792
China	4,388
Russia	1,577
Japan	1,281
India	1,130
Germany	863
UK	549
Canada	548
South Korea	492
Italy	471

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What's Fair?

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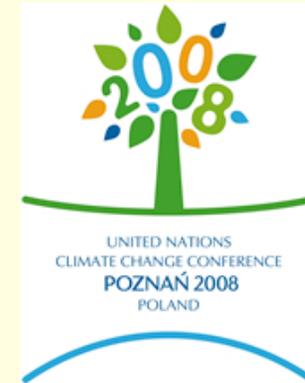
Source: WRI (2003)	Total million MtCO ₂	Per capita MtCO ₂ (<i>rank</i>)
US	5,792	19.9 (7)
China	4,388	3.4 (78)
Russia	1,577	8.8 (37)
Japan	1,281	10.9 (24)
India	1,130	1.1 (121)
Germany	863	10.5 (28)
UK	549	9.2 (33)
Canada	548	17.3 (8)
South Korea	492	10.3 (29)
Italy	471	8.2 (41)

“Bali Roadmap” to Copenhagen

- Ad hoc working group on long-term cooperative action to address climate change by enhancing implementation of the Convention (AWG-LCA)
 - Mitigation by developing countries
 - Adaptation
- Further commitments for industrialized Parties under the Protocol (AWG-KP)
 - Reference to IPCC AR4
 - 25-40% reductions for Annex I Parties (Box 13.7 WGIII)



Poznan 2008



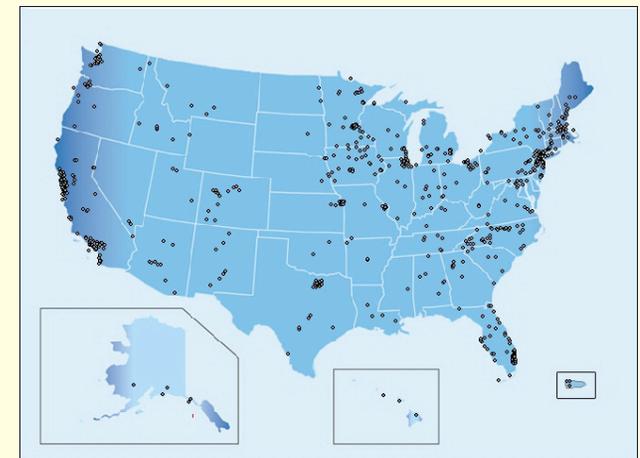
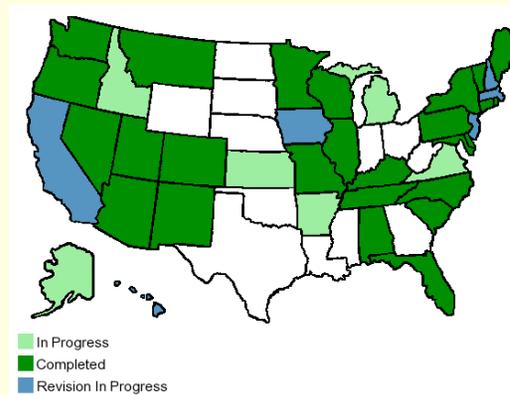
- **AWG-LCA**
 - Shared vision
 - Mitigation and means of implementation
 - Differentiation between developing countries
 - Adaptation and means of implementation
 - Delivering technology and financing
- **AWG-KP**
 - Emissions Reduction Objectives
 - 25-40% aggregate range
 - Individual emissions reduction commitments
 - Potential Consequences (positive and negative)

US Climate Policy: The Bush (and Clinton) Years

- Federal (In)Action

- Climate Change Technology Program
- Climate Change Science Program
- Voluntary measures

- State and Local Action



US Climate Policy

“SOUND SCIENCE”

- *“Our actions should be measured as we learn more from science and build on it.” (George W. Bush, 2001; <http://www.climatevision.gov/statements.html>)*
- **More conclusive evidence necessary before regulatory action.**

PRECAUTIONARY APPROACH

- *“[U]se should be made of the precautionary principle where the possibility of harmful effects on health or the environment has been identified and preliminary scientific evaluation proves inconclusive for assessing the level of risk.”*
(EU Ministers, 2000; http://ec.europa.eu/dqs/health_consumer/library/pub/pub07_en.pdf)
- **Preponderance of evidence sufficient for regulatory action.**

US Climate Policy: Obama



“Few challenges facing America and the world are more urgent than combating climate change. The **science is beyond dispute** and the facts are clear.”

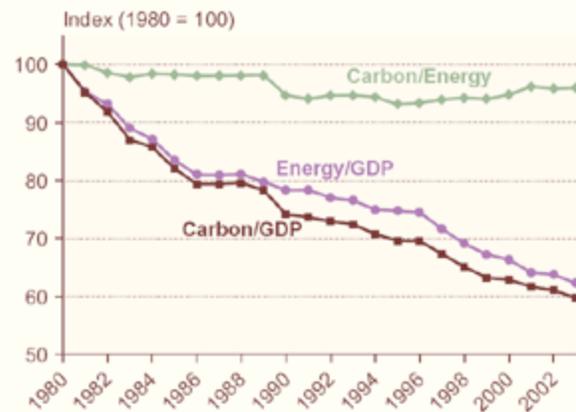
“Denial is no longer an acceptable response”

*Governors' Global Climate Summit
18 November 2008*

US Climate Policy: The Bush Years

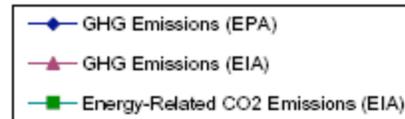
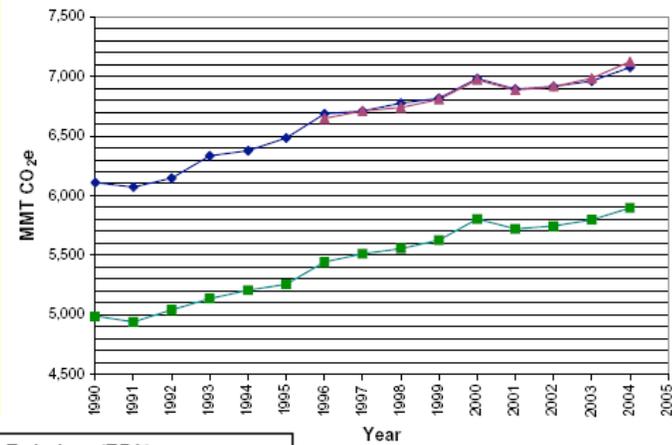
2002: Reduce GHG *intensity* of economy 18 percent (compared to 2002) by 2012

Intensity Ratios: Carbon/GDP, Carbon/Energy, and Energy/GDP



Source: Estimates presented in Appendix B of this report.

Source: Energy Information Administration http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/1605/gg04rpt/intensityfigure_1.html



Source: Pew Center on Climate Change <http://www.pewclimate.org/docUploads/USEmissions2004%5FFeb06%2Epdf>

US Climate Policy: Obama

- “Climate change and our dependence on foreign oil if left unaddressed will continue to weaken our economy and threaten our national security.”
 - **Climate action as economic stimulus**
- 1990 levels by 2020; 80% below 1990 levels by 2050
- A comprehensive approach
 - **John Holdren**, Science Advisor;
 - **Steven Chu**, Energy Secretary;
 - **Carol Browner**, Energy and Climate Coordinator;
 - **Lisa L. Jackson**, EPA Administrator;
 - **Nancy Sutley**, White House Council on Environmental Quality;
 - **Hillary Clinton**, Secretary of State;
 - **Jane Lubchenko**, NOAA Administrator

US Climate Politics: The Obama Years



US Climate Politics: The Obama Years

States v. Federal
Government



US Climate Politics: The Obama Years

Which
technologies?

States v. Federal
Government



US Climate Politics: The Obama Years

Which
technologies?



States v. Federal
Government

Regulation v.
Markets

Thanks

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