

United Nations: Protocols To Address Climate Change



The Kyoto Protocol

adopted by Parties under the UNFCCC* in Kyoto, Japan,
11th Decemebr 1997



* UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on
Climate Change, created in 1992)

The Kyoto Protocol is a treaty between world nations to address global warming.

Countries that signed the agreement set targets to reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases. The agreement acknowledged that developed nations were the main contributors to greenhouse emissions so targets focussed on 37 developed nations reducing their emissions. Developeped nations were encouraged to help developing countries apply policies for 'greener' growth.

The first commitment period ran from 2008-2012. The second commitment period includes the years 2013-2020. The agreement aims to reduce greenhouse gases to 18% below 1990 levels.

The Paris Agreement

adopted by Parties under the UNFCCC in Paris, France,
12th December 2015.



* UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on
Climate Change, created 1992)

The Paris Agreement is a new global agreement on climate change. The agreement entered into force on 4th November 2016. It aims to bring both developed and developing countries together to combat global warming and adapt to the effects of climate change.

The agreement aims to keep global temperatures to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels.

As of January 2017, 125 of the 197 parties involved have ratified the agreement.



The countries with the highest percentage of the world's greenhouse gas emissions (2010) include:

China 22.7 %

USA 15.6 %

European Union 10.9 %

India 6.7 %

Japan 2.9 %

Brazil 2.6 %

Germany 2.1 %

Indonesia 1.9 %

Canada 1.7 %

Iran 1.6 %

Mexico 1.6 %

South Korea 1.6 %

United Kingdom 1.4 %

Australia 1.3 %

France 1.2 %

Fossil fuel consumption is the leading contributor to greenhouse gas emissions.

What are some clean energy options?

