



# CLIMATE WATCH **BRIEF**

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## INDUSTRY TAKES LEADERSHIP ROLE IN EMISSION REDUCTIONS

### ROUNDTABLE BACKS VOLUNTARY ACTIONS, NEW TECHNOLOGIES

According to a Business Roundtable (BRT) report released July 21, government policies are needed to expedite the development of technologies to be used to address climate change issues. The report is a result of a survey of BRT members, which includes chief executives of more than 200 of the largest U.S. companies, on how industry can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The Roundtable proposes a national summit to bring industry and government leaders together to discuss ways to speed the development and use of energy-efficient devices to help combat climate change.

"The Business Roundtable believes the development, large-scale commercialization and global dissemination of innovative long-term technologies will enable us to meet the world's growing environmental and energy needs," said Robert Burt, chairman of the roundtable's Environment Task Force. The group is opposed to the implementation of the Kyoto treaty, which "would have a negative impact on the U.S. economy and would bring no significant global environmental benefit."

The Global Climate Coalition welcomed BRT's report, saying it was in line with GCC's members' commitment to reducing carbon dioxide emissions through voluntary and cost-effective actions.

"With the Congress and now, the Administration, focusing more and more on voluntary programs, BRT's report provides further evidence of current and future progress," said Glenn Kelly, executive director of GCC. "We are proud of industry's efforts over the last 25 years to improve our environment and still keep our economy the strongest in the world."

### MOBIL REPORT SAYS DEVELOPING COUNTRIES MUST CUT EMISSIONS

According to a new Mobil Technology report, reducing worldwide emissions of carbon dioxide cannot succeed unless *all countries* and all industries join in the effort.

#### LATEST ESTIMATES OF JOB LOSSES UNDER KYOTO AGREEMENT

Alabama	67,500
Alaska	4,300
Arizona	102,000
Arkansas	20,600
California	278,000
Colorado	47,400
Connecticut	28,100
Delaware	4,500
Florida	142,000
Georgia	80,000
Hawaii	9,700
Idaho	11,600
Illinois	190,700
Indiana	99,700
Iowa	21,600
Kansas	18,400
Kentucky	56,500
Louisiana	64,500
Maine	7,000
Maryland	33,300
Massachusetts	45,600
Michigan	96,500
Minnesota	46,900

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The report, "Climate: Technology and Carbon Dioxide Emissions – A Global Review and Assessment," finds that if developed countries were to implement advanced technology they could achieve an 8-billion ton reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2030. However, those results would be greatly diminished by the increased emissions output of developing countries, which are expected to double over the next 30 years

"Sheer growth in developing countries simply overwhelms the emission reductions that developed countries can achieve with advanced technology," said Michael Ramage, chief technology officer at Mobil Corporation. "And by the end of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, developing countries are projected to contribute up to 80 percent of the world's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions."

## SCIENTISTS SAY HOT SUMMER NOT DUE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Researchers at the University of Buffalo reported that this year's heat and drought that have occurred across the country are due to normal climatological patterns, not global warming.

"Drought occurs in almost every region on earth on a somewhat regular basis," said Charles H.V. Ebert, SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor in the Department of Geography in the UB College of Arts and Sciences. "Patterns of relatively wet, dry, hot or cold weather usually run in six-to-eight year cycles. But media attention, combined with our poor memories of past weather, tend to generate unjustified alarm for our climactic future."

According to Ebert, hot spells have been occurring for thousands of years and each one is followed by a cooling period. People just don't remember, because "our memories are short."

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reported that in contrast to this summer's heat wave in the eastern United States, much cooler than normal temperatures dominated the western third of the country. Some parts of the southwest experienced a lack of normal heat. For example, Tucson, Arizona set a July record for consecutive days of cooler-than-normal temperatures.

In an August 24 *Washington Times* op-ed, environmental scientist Patrick Michaels criticizes the Clinton Administration for blaming the current drought on global warming and states that "any attempt to hype this thing into something that it isn't — some type of national or global catastrophe — is a clear and cynical attempt at distortion."

## JOB LOSSES

(cont'd)

Mississippi	28,600
Missouri	48,700
Montana	41,500
Nebraska	19,000
Nevada	27,300
New Hampshire	12,400
New Jersey	120,500
New Mexico	13,500
New York	140,000
North Carolina	107,200
North Dakota	3,600
Ohio	119,800
Oklahoma	26,600
Oregon	22,900
Pennsylvania	108,000
Rhode Island	3,400
South Carolina	32,500
South Dakota	7,200
Tennessee	39,500
Texas	124,600
Utah	12,700
Vermont	2,300
Virginia	34,600
Washington	47,700
West Virginia	19,400
Wisconsin	69,800
Wyoming	7,600

(Source: WEFA)



## **U.S. REAFFIRMS "STRONG OPPOSITION" TO EU POLICY**

The new U.S. Ambassador to the European Union, Richard L. Morningstar, publicly reaffirmed the U.S. Government's opposition to the EU policy limiting emissions trading. In an open letter dated August 6 and made available on the Internet, Morningstar declared: "We strongly oppose and regret the EU's decision in May to seek limits on the use of Kyoto Protocol flexibility mechanisms, such as emissions trading."

He continued: "Despite this, we welcome the constructive dialogue we had with EU officials at preparatory meetings this spring and hope we can work together at the next Conference of the Parties in November to make progress on a wide range of issues. We must work together to find ways to ensure meaningful participation of developing countries in the climate change process."

## **WORLD BANK TO INVEST IN EMISSION REDUCTIONS**

The World Bank recently announced plans to create an investment fund to help companies and governments in developing countries and Central and Eastern Europe to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Participants in the Prototype Carbon Fund, which will be launched in November, will receive emission reduction credits for investing in the fund.

The fund is set up much like a mutual fund, spreading risk for investment in any one emission offset project among all participants. The World Bank will begin accepting signed commitments for investments November 15 and will close the fund when commitments reach \$150 million.

A spokesperson for the World Bank said it has already signed memoranda of understanding (MOU) with dozens of companies and governments that are interested in investing in the fund. According to the spokesperson, companies that have signed MOUs include British Petroleum and Chevron.

## **STATE LAW ESTABLISHES REGISTRY FOR VOLUNTARY EMISSION REDUCTIONS**

New Hampshire has enacted a first-time law enabling companies to register voluntary efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The act is intended to encourage companies to achieve early emission reductions and increase the chances of the efforts being recognized if the Kyoto accord is implemented in the future.

The law, signed by the governor in early July, calls for the state's Department of Environmental Services to establish a greenhouse gas registry for companies to report emissions cuts made after 1990.

New Hampshire sources say that other states are considering similar legislation as they await the outcome of Congress' heated debate on early action crediting and the larger issue of U.S. ratification of the Kyoto treaty, which seems unlikely.

## **DEVELOPING COUNTRIES LEAD "KINGPINS OF CARBON" LIST**

The Global Climate Coalition described as "irresponsible" a new Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) report declaring the world's major coal, oil and natural gas companies to be "carbon pushers."

The report, released July 29, calculated the amount of carbon dioxide emissions produced by 122 energy producers and said they were responsible for 80 percent of the world's carbon emissions. NRDC's "Kingpins of Carbon: How Fossil Fuel Producers Contribute to Global Warming," is the first report to make a company-by-company tabulation of carbon emissions based on fuel production.

In the report, NRDC places blame on energy producers for meeting consumers' demand for energy, likening the companies to drug pushers and citizens to drug users. According to GCC, 14 of the world's top 20 energy producers named in the report would not be required to limit their emissions under the Kyoto Protocol because they are located in developing countries.

"This study is a perfect example of what a dead-end strategy the Kyoto Protocol is," said GCC executive director Glenn Kelly. "The NRDC's top 'kingpins' are the biggest state-run companies in China, India, Mexico, Indonesia, the Middle East and Russia. They are nowhere near our levels of efficiency, ingenuity and technology -- and they won't need to be."

## UPCOMING EVENT

The Pew Center on Global Climate Change hosts an Early Action Conference on September 13 – 14 at the Westin Grand Hotel in Washington, D.C. This year's conference focuses on stabilizing greenhouse gas concentrations and minimizing the costs of reducing emissions. Session topics include "The Case for Early Action," "Review of Early Action Proposals," legal and policy issues, carbon sequestration, past emissions and baselines and inventories.

## FINAL THOUGHTS...

*"Those who are worried about global warming can cool down."*

-- Sallie Baliunas, astrophysicist and senior scientist, George C. Marshall Institute, *Wall Street Journal*, August 5, 1999

*"We may have to think harder about what's driving the [climate] system on these long time scales. It could be the whole carbon dioxide paradigm is crumbling at least when it comes to explaining very long-term climate change."*

-- Thomas Crowley, paleoclimatologist, Texas A&M in College Station, *Science Magazine*, June 11, 1999