

# U.S. Plays A Leading Role In Advancing Climate Science And Addressing The Issue of Global Climate Change

*"First, we know the surface temperature of the earth is warming. ... There is a natural greenhouse effect that contributes to warming. ... Concentration of greenhouse gases, especially CO<sub>2</sub>, have increased substantially since the beginning of the industrial revolution. And the National Academy of Sciences indicates that the increase is due in large part to human activity."*  
- **President George W. Bush, 6/11/01**

U.S Secretary of Energy Samuel W. Bodman, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Stephen L. Johnson, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Administrator Vice Admiral Conrad Lautenbacher met today to discuss the U.S. contribution to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group I report and U.S investments to advance climate science and clean energy technology research.

- IPCC's reviews are the largest and most comprehensive efforts to characterize the state of the planet's climate system and serve as a basic reference for the known science.
- The Panel assesses the best available scientific, technical and socio-economic information on climate change from around the world, based on peer-reviewed literature, in industry literature and traditional practices.
- The report, which draws on the work of hundreds of experts from all regions of the world, seeks to ensure a balanced reporting of existing viewpoints and to be policy-relevant but not policy-prescriptive.

**The Bush Administration continues to support and embrace the work of the IPCC and the science behind their most recent report.** The U.S. has been a full participant in the development of the Fourth Assessment Report because the President believes that a better understanding of climate science is an important input into the policy process.

- Numerous U.S. scientists, both within government and in the private sector, helped draft and review the report, while federal climate observation networks, computer modeling labs, and research programs provided much of the data and analysis on which the report is based.
- A NOAA scientist, Dr. Susan Solomon, served as the co-chair of Working Group I, helping to lead the development of the report.
- U.S. review of the report was conducted in a transparent and comprehensive manner, in which scientists both within the Federal government and outside were given the opportunity to provide comments.

## The Bush Administration Is Committed To Addressing Climate Change

**The Bush Administration is meeting unparalleled financial, domestic and international commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.** The Bush Administration has spent over \$29 billion addressing climate change, more than any other country.

- Since 2002, the Bush Administration has spent more than \$9 billion on climate change research through the interagency Climate Change Science Program.

**Our aggressive yet practical strategy is delivering real results:**

- **The Administration's Commitment:** The President set a target of cutting our greenhouse gas intensity by 18 percent through the year 2012, and his budgets have devoted nearly \$29 billion to climate-related science, technology, international assistance, and incentive programs.

- **Twenty In Ten Energy Plan:** Announced a plan to reduce U.S. gasoline usage by 20 percent in the next ten years that will help confront climate change by stopping the projected growth of carbon dioxide emissions from cars, light trucks, and SUVs within 10 years. By 2017, the renewable fuel and fuel efficiency components of the plan could cut annual emissions from cars and light trucks by as much as 10 percent, about 175 million metric tons – equal to zeroing out the annual emissions of 26 million automobiles. The plan could cumulatively prevent the buildup of more than 600 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions.
- **Asia-Pacific Partnership On Clean Development And Climate:** Launched the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate, in concert with partners Australia, China, India, Japan, and South Korea, representing 50 percent of the world's economy. The Partnership is accelerating investment and opening markets for cleaner, more efficient technologies, goods, and services while fostering sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction. Nearly 100 programs and actions are underway in eight public-private task forces: aluminum, building and appliances, cement, cleaner fossil energy, coal mining, power generation and transmission, renewable energy and distributed generation, and steel.
- **Working With G-8 Leaders:** Worked with G-8 leaders on a wide range of initiatives, including the 2005 launch of the G-8 Gleneagles Plan of Action for Climate Change, Clean Energy, and Sustainable Development, which encompasses more than 50 practical, results-oriented actions to address the interlinked issues of energy security and access, air pollution control, and climate change.
- **International Technology Partnerships:** Launched and actively contributed to major international technology partnerships to share breakthroughs and advances in fusion, hydrogen, next-generation nuclear power, renewable energy, energy efficiency, capture and underground storage of carbon dioxide emissions, and profitable capture of methane emissions from coal mines, landfills, inefficient oil and gas systems, and agricultural operations.
- **Cooperation With Private Industry:** Obtained specific commitments from 14 industrial sectors and the Business Roundtable, led by more than 100 major corporations, to address greenhouse gas emissions in partnership with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Agency.
- **Advancing Lower Carbon, Clean Coal Technologies:** Awarded nearly \$1 billion in tax credits last year, and will award \$650 million more this year, to help offset the cost of nearly \$10 billion in total investment to build more than nine highly efficient, advanced coal projects in at least nine states, using technology that cuts emissions through efficiency and holds the promise of cost-effective carbon capture and storage. This experience will culminate in 2012 with the construction of the \$1 billion FutureGen demonstration power plant, a public-private international partnership to build the world's first coal-fired power plant that produces electricity and hydrogen with nearly zero-emissions. The Administration is also pursuing large-scale tests in the United States designed to advance carbon sequestration technologies which can have the potential to store more than 600 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide, the equivalent of more than 200 years of emissions from energy sources in the United States.
- **Methane To Markets Partnership:** The United States and several major international partners formed the Methane to Markets Partnership, a new and innovative program to increase energy security, improve environmental quality, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions throughout the world. Under the Partnership, members work in coordination with the private sector to share and expand the use of technologies to capture methane emissions that are now wasted in the course of industrial processes and use them as a new energy source.
- **New Source Review:** Proposed reforms to the New Source Review (NSR) program to eliminate regulatory uncertainty for power plants, refineries, and manufacturing facilities that want to improve efficiency, pollution control, and reliability. In the power sector, NSR reform will allow immediate efficiency investments and significantly lower carbon dioxide emissions, even as the power plants invest about \$50 billion over the next 15 years to cut their pollution to satisfy the new clean air regulations.