CLIMATE CRIME FILE

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TONY BLAIR

TONY BLAIR'S CRIMES AGAINST THE CLIMATE

Climate change is the greatest threat facing the planet. It is caused by the world's dependence on dirty fuels like oil and coal. To drastically reduce climate-changing CO_2 emissions, a switch from inefficient, dirty and dangerous energy sources, such as coal and nuclear power, to decentralised, clean energy systems is urgently needed. Tony Blair talks big on climate change, but his actions do not match his words. In fact his actions are now making things worse, not better.

THE RHETORIC

Over the last few years, Tony Blair has given several speeches in which he has stressed the urgency and the gravity of climate change, and promised action to tackle the problem:

'There will be no genuine security if the planet is ravaged by climate change.' 24 February 2003¹

'The issue of climate change is now very, very critical indeed.' 27 April 2004^2

'Global warming [is] a challenge so far-reaching in its impact and irreversible in its destructive power that it alters radically human existence.' 14 September 2004³

'I said earlier it needed global leadership to tackle the issue. But we cannot aspire to such leadership unless we are seen to be following our own advice ... To acquire global leadership on this issue Britain must demonstrate it first at home.' 14 September 2004⁴

'There is no doubt that the time to act is now ... the issue is urgent. If there is one message I would leave with you and the British people today it is one of urgency.' 14 September 2004⁵

'This year offers a unique set of opportunities. I am committed to using the UK's G8 and EU Presidencies to try to make a breakthrough on ... climate change.' 27 January 2005⁶

THE REALITY

Tony Blair clearly knows that government-led action on climate change is urgently needed, yet he has consistently failed to take any significant action. Government energy and transport policies are not only disjointed and contradictory, but in many instances actually incentivise fossil fuel burning. The overall thrust of Blair's policies drives climate change, rather than mitigates it.

Tony Blair's climate crimes:

- Overseeing an increase in greenhouse gas emissions. CO₂ emissions have gone up since Blair became Prime Minister in 1997.
- **2.** Sacrificing the climate in the face of industry lobbying. Blair is taking the EU to court after it prevented him from increasing the amount of CO₂ British industry is allowed to emit.
- **3. Breaking promises on reducing emissions.** Blair has failed to bring in policies that will achieve the goals set out in the 2003 Energy White paper. He has also withdrawn funding from renewables and is missing targets. Tony Blair is now performing a U-turn on the Kyoto Protocol, the only global agreement in place to tackle climate change.
- **4. Bankrolling increased emissions from the coal.** Seven Government policies make it financially attractive to burn coal – the most polluting of all fuels. Others help coal-fired power stations avoid the costs of EU pollution legislation.
- 5. Failing to stem the flow of wasted energy from UK buildings. A new home built to current UK building regulations will use on average 65% more energy than a home built in Sweden. Increasing energy efficiency would save homeowners money as well as protect the climate.
- 6. Failing to end the scandalous waste of energy from the UK electricity generation and distribution system. Over 75% of the energy in fossil fuels is wasted by Britain's inefficient generation, transmission and distribution system and inefficient end-use. Tackling this inefficiency could dramatically reduce CO₂ emissions, but Blair's energy policies discriminate against much more efficient and clean energy systems and starve them of investment.

- 7. Paving the way for new nuclear power stations. Nuclear power stations require enormous amounts of public money to build and operate. A far safer, more reliable and cleaner option – and one the Government explicitly supported in the Energy White Paper – would be a clean, decentralised energy system in which electricity is generated near to point of use.
- 8. Pushing airport expansion. Air transport is the fastest growing source of greenhouse gas emissions. The Government's aviation White Paper urges operators to expand airport capacity as soon as possible to accommodate the predicted increase in air travel. Such an expansion would wipe out CO₂ reductions made from all other sectors put together.
- **9.** Failing to halt the growth in greenhouse gas emissions from traffic and embarking on a new road building programme. While, in just two years, Ken Livingstone reduced emissions by nearly 20% in London's congestion charge zone, Tony Blair is way behind. Blair is spending millions on building more roads and is relying on voluntary fuel efficiency targets for car manufacturers to reduce CO₂ emissions.
- **10. Weakening international policies in place to tackle climate change.** In recent speeches, Tony Blair has begun to undermine the Kyoto agreement. His court case against the European Commission threatens the bedrock of Europe's attempts to meet its Kyoto target for greenhouse gas reductions as other Member States follow suit and sue for the right to emit more CO₂.

BLAIR'S CLIMATE CRIMES: THE EVIDENCE

1. Failing to make any reductions in greenhouse gas emissions

Labour promised in its 1997 manifesto, and in each election manifesto since, to reduce CO_2 emissions by 20% by 2010. But between 1997 and 2004, emissions of CO_2 increased by 2.9%.⁷ Coal consumption by electricity generators rose 6.4% in the second quarter of 2005 compared to 2004.⁸ This, together with increasing emissions from transport, indicates that CO_2 emissions are now rising rapidly.

2. Sacrificing the climate in the face of industry lobbying

The Prime Minister has asserted that the UK's efforts to thwart climate change will not adversely affect our economic interests. In September 2004, he said: 'The UK has already shown that it can have a strongly growing economy while addressing environmental issues.'⁹

Yet in October 2004, the Government attempted to increase the amount of CO₂ that industry could emit, by amending the UK's National Allocation Plan (NAP) agreed under the European Emissions Trading Scheme.¹⁰ Following lobbying from the CBI, Tony Blair told MPs that he had been responsible for the decision to seek this higher allocation of CO₂ emissions for Britain, saying that it was necessary 'because otherwise we will do unnecessary damage to our business'.¹¹ The European Commission refused to allow an increase in CO₂ emissions; now Blair's Government is taking the Commission to court – in effect, for trying to protect the climate.

3. Breaking promises on reducing future emissions

Blair's Government made the following commitments to help tackle climate change. It is now clear that all of these promises will be broken.

• 20% reduction in CO₂ by 2010 (from 1990 levels) The UK's CO₂ emissions are rising. The Government has demonstrated it is not prepared to take steps that will result in sufficient CO₂ reductions, and now it will not even come close to meeting its target of 20% reductions by 2010. 10% of electricity generated from renewable energy sources by 2010.

It is likely that the Government will miss its target for generating 10% of electricity from renewables by 2010 that was set out in the 2003 Energy White Paper. In contrast, Spain increased its 2010 target for renewables to 12.1% in 2005.¹² The UK still has only 1.3GW of wind power installed, compared to Spain's 9GW, and Germany's 17GW.

The Government's main support mechanism for renewables, the Renewables Obligation, has incentivised onshore wind, but fails to offer any significant support to other renewable technologies. It also fails to tackle the inefficient and outdated regulatory regime that discriminates against the smaller-scale renewable technologies essential to a clean, decentralised energy system.

The Government provided capital grants for the first round of offshore wind developments, but failed to provide support for the second round where most capacity was expected, and it failed to alleviate the cost of connection to the National Grid. The Government pledged £50 million for research and development of wave and tidal power, but so far nothing has been to done to incentivise these potentially crucial technologies in the market place.

- 10GW of combined heat and power generation by 2010 The Government has failed to aid development of combined heat and power (CHP) generation, cited as a major contributor to the 10% renewables target. As a result, very little new CHP capacity is being built.
- 20% improvement in energy efficiency in households by 2010

The two principal policy mechanisms for delivering CO₂ reductions from households are inadequate. The Government has scaled down energy efficiency requirements in the new Building Regulations and the saving of five million tonnes of carbon (5MTC) promised from domestic and business premises is likely to be at least a million tonnes short.

 £150 million ten-year programme for solar panels on 70,000 domestic roofs and 1,400 larger buildings The current Government support programme for solar energy is to be wound down six years early, despite attracting major private sector investment in solar PV manufacturing. The programme spent just £31 million of the £150 million committed in 2002.¹³ In the same week that Blair urged China and India to invest more in zero and low-carbon technologies, he slashed the UK's Low Carbon Buildings Programme support for micro-renewables from an average of £11.25 million to £9.5 million per annum.¹⁴ The UK has only 7.8MW of installed solar PV capacity compared to Germany's 794MW and The Netherlands' 48MW.¹⁵

4. Bankrolling increased emissions from coal

The electricity generation industry is the biggest source of CO_2 in the UK (30% of total emissions). Coal emits more CO_2 per unit of energy generated than any other fuel and is responsible for two thirds of power sector emissions – approximately 20% of the UK's total CO_2 pollution. Despite this, the Government has a number of policies that benefit coal over cleaner fuels such as gas and renewables.

Greenpeace has identified no less than seven separate Government policies that offer financial advantages to burning coal or that help coal-fired power stations avoid the costs of EU pollution legislation:

The Climate Change Levy

The Climate Change Levy is a tax on industry designed to internalise the environmental costs of using large amounts of energy. It is considered the primary environmental tax aimed at reducing national greenhouse gas emissions. Power generation is exempted from the Climate Change Levy. As coal is the most carbon-intensive fuel, this exemption acts as a subsidy for coal.

Coal Investment Aid programme

The newly created Coal Investment Aid programme is intended to support the creation of additional jobs in the coal-mining industry, but it does this by allocating scarce budgetary resources to coal mining corporations (most of it to one corporation, UK Coal). The resources would be better spent on retraining miners for careers in more sustainable industries with a longer future. Such subsidies could assist small-scale decentralised generation or aid expansion of the existing infrastructure to accommodate new renewable installations. Both decentralised generation and renewables-linked infrastructure expansion would enhance British energy security.

Renewables Obligation Credits

Coal-fired power stations receive Renewables Obligation Credits (ROCs) if they mix biomass with coal. This can actually lead to an increase in greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants because biomass has a lower energy content than coal and more coal may be used to compensate. The financial reward ROCs represent make coal-burning more attractive to generators and may therefore lead to more coal being burned instead of cleaner options, such as gas, that emit less CO₂. At the same time, investment in biomass co-firing distracts capital flow from renewable energy sources, such as wind, solar and tidal, that provide much larger environmental benefits.

• EU Large Combustion Plant Directive

To avoid the costs of pollution abatement for coal-fired power stations, the Government is bending the rules of

the EU Large Combustion Plant Directive. This Directive is intended to reduce emissions of harmful acid gases, but the UK is intent on interpreting the Directive in a way that will allow old coal-fired plants to burn more coal, emit more pollution and operate for longer than intended by the Directive:

- a) Start-up and shut-down time have been excluded from emissions calculations. Many coal-fired power stations regularly start up and shut down (some on a daily basis). Each operation takes about two hours to complete, and this means a substantial amount of emissions would go unrecorded.
- b) The Directive requires operators to either keep sulphur and nitrogen emissions within specified limits or for operators to opt out of the Directive permanently and close after 20,000 hours of operation. The UK Government will allow coal-fired plants to opt out now but opt back in until the end of 2008 in a bid to ensure coal remains in the UK's energy mix for as long as possible.
- c) The UK Government wants to divide a power station up into separate units so that each boiler counts as a separate power station. Because power stations consist of four or more boilers that are rarely all used at the same time, such a definition would allow each boiler 20,000 hours of operation. This could double the running hours of some plants and lead to emissions way higher than would be permitted otherwise.
- d) The Government has decided to subject power stations to different rules from the rest of UK industry. It will specify an Emission Limit Value for each power station rather than placing them under the single national emissions 'bubble' that the rest of industry must operate under. Again this leaves scope for much higher levels of coal burning because there will be no overarching cap on generators emissions.¹⁶

• Business rates

Business rates have been changed so that coal-fired power stations now pay less and renewable generators pay more. This change in rates is worth £55 million a year to coal-fired power stations.¹⁷

• EU Emissions Trading Scheme

Electricity generators using coal are given extra allowances to emit CO_2 under the EU Emissions Trading Scheme: the more coal that the generators use, the more credits they get (CO_2 is currently worth over $\in 20$ a tonne). This is akin to a free handout of capital for power stations which emit millions of tonnes of CO_2 every year. Under the Government's plans, generators will be able to sell these credits if they turn their power stations off at opportune times, enabling them to profit by 'gaming' with their allocation. This amounts to a windfall for coal generation.

New Electricity Trading Arrangements

Electricity trading arrangements brought in by the Blair Government favour methods of electricity generation that can be turned on and off quickly to meet fluctuating prices. Coal stations are able to do this better than other, cleaner forms of generation like wind and gas.

These policies help make coal a more attractive proposition than gas and renewables. Together with the rising price of gas on the world market, they have led to an increase in the use of coal under the Blair Government and a consequent increase in the UK's CO_2 emissions. This is not even good news for British miners as nearly all of the increase is accounted for by imported coal.

5. Failing to stem the flow of wasted energy from UK buildings

Britain's homes are responsible for 28% of our CO₂ emissions.¹⁸ The Government's Energy Efficiency Commitment (which requires domestic energy suppliers to promote improvements in energy efficiency) is expected to deliver savings of just 0.4 million tonnes of carbon. New Building Regulations (due to come into force in April 2006) are a watered-down version of earlier proposals, now requiring only an 18% improvement in energy efficiency. A new home built to current UK building regulations will use, on average, 65% more energy than a home built in Sweden.¹⁹ Denmark, which already had tighter building regulations than the UK, improved them by a further 30% in 2005.²⁰

6. Failing to end the scandalous waste of energy from the UK electricity generation and distribution system

An average UK coal-fired power station converts only about 36% of the energy in coal into electricity, the rest is wasted as heat, up the cooling towers. Gas-fired stations manage about 46%,²¹ while Combined Heat and Power (CHP) systems can raise efficiency to over 70% by using waste heat.

Woking Borough Council has slashed CO_2 emissions by 77% and cut energy prices for customers by generating its own energy using CHP. But current regulations work heavily in favor of centralised generation and a number of regulations stand in the way of schemes like Woking's.

Paving the way for new nuclear power stations

Instead of switching to a clean, safe and efficient energy system to reduce CO₂ emissions, Tony Blair is attempting to pave the way for more nuclear power stations that are dangerous, unreliable and very expensive. While Blair always stated that he would not rule out the nuclear option, he is now making it clear that he wants new nuclear power stations in the UK.

The Government's 2003 Energy White Paper contained a good, solid set of policy objectives to move the UK towards a low-carbon economy, but they simply have not been put into operation. Now, Blair has initiated a review of the White Paper and the intention is clear – to include new nuclear power stations in the strategy.

8. Pushing airport expansion

According to the Sustainable Development Commission, the growth in emissions from air travel threatens to negate all other reductions made in other sectors of the economy.²² Research by the Tyndall Centre indicates that if aviation continues to grow at its present rate all other sectors will have to reduce emissions to zero to make the reductions necessary by 2050.²³

In spite of this the Government, in its Aviation White Paper, states that it wants to encourage growth at airports across the country. It predicts a two to three fold increase in air passengers by 2050 'if sufficient capacity were provided'. And Tony Blair intends to provide that capacity. The White Paper states: 'The Government invites airport operators to bring forward plans for increased airport capacity in the light of the policies and conclusions set out in this White Paper. In doing so they are asked to produce new or revised airport master plans as quickly as possible.'

This encouragement of airport expansion, against the advice of the Royal Commission and a plethora of other parliamentary, scientific and environmental bodies, demonstrates an utter lack of consistency with its commitments to tackling climate change and a complete unwillingness to take the steps necessary to address the problem.

One of the major drivers of the huge increase in flying as a transport mode is the artificially low price of airfares. There is no tax on aviation fuel, no VAT on air tickets and no internalisation of the cost of the environmental impact of aircraft. Together, these tax breaks amount to a public subsidy of around £9 billion per year.²⁴ But Tony Blair does not have the courage to address this: 'I repeat and I know people think it is not the right thing to say but I believe it is

true, hands up around this table how many politicians ... would vote to end cheap air travel? Right. None ... I do not think you are going to have any political consensus for saying: "We are going to slap some huge tax on cheap air travel"²⁵

The Prime Minister says he supports proposals to bring aviation into the European Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS). Unfortunately, this move will have far too little impact. Firstly, the earliest aviation could be included in the ETS would be 2012, by which time the huge expansion of airports and associated infrastructure will be well underway. Secondly, if aviation is to be included in the ETS it must be on the basis of its full climate impact (approximately three times its CO_2 emissions), otherwise other industries will be subsidising the aviation industry. Blair has given no indication that he would support such a move.

The House of Lords EU sub-committee on Environment and Agriculture summed up Tony Blair's approach to aviation: 'It is extraordinary that on the one hand the Government is concerned with climate change and on the other hand it's encouraging a rapid increase in air travel.'²⁶

9. Failing to halt the growth in greenhouse gas emissions from traffic and embarking on a new road building programme

Emissions from road vehicles comprise about 25% of the UK's CO_2 emissions.²⁷ 80% of this comes from cars. The Department for Transport predicts a 20–25% rise in traffic by 2010.²⁸ The Government's response to this has been to propose more roads, instead of encouraging a shift to other modes of transport or bringing in policies to improve vehicle efficiency. In contrast, Ken Livingstone reduced traffic and emissions in central London by 20% with the congestion charge, in just two years.

In July 2004, the Government published its ten year transport spending plan. Its main aim is to reduce congestion and local air pollution while ensuring transport continues to support economic growth. It has targets to increase rail and bus use, but none to reduce road mileage. The document promises widening of 360 miles of the road network, 80 major trunk road schemes and 100 new bypasses on trunk and local roads. There are no proposed new measures to discourage car use.

Cars sold in the UK are more polluting than the European average, but Tony Blair has no plans to address this and will rely on car makers to meet voluntary fuel efficiency targets. The November 2005 announcement that 5% of fuel must come from biofuels by 2010 will not lead to reduced CO₂ emissions from road transport without measures to address fuel efficiency and growth in car travel.

10. Weakening international policy to tackle climate change.

Before the G8 meeting in July 2005, Tony Blair promised to use his 'special relationship' with the US President to reengage the Bush Administration on climate change. However, far from re-engaging Bush, Blair appears to be deferring to the US President's wishes.

Blair is undermining the Kyoto Protocol

The Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change binds signatory countries to specific greenhouse gas reduction targets. It is the only global agreement that does this. Phase one of the Protocol runs out in 2012. The USA has not signed the Kyoto agreement because President Bush believes it would damage US industry.

After initially supporting the process Tony Blair now appears to be trying to derail a phase two Kyoto agreement. At a summit of environment and energy ministers in London he said that legally binding targets make people 'very nervous and very worried'. He added: 'I think in the world after 2012 we need to find a better, more sensitive set of mechanisms to deal with this problem.'²⁹

Without the second phase of the Kyoto Protocol, it will be much more difficult to get the international action necessary to reduce CO₂ emissions and it will certainly take longer. Blair's U-turn is particularly damaging because the UK currently holds the EU presidency and will lead the EU delegation at the next Kyoto meeting in Montreal. Until now the EU has been the most progressive force in driving forward the Kyoto process and Blair could change that.

Blair is undermining European climate change measures

Tony Blair has undermined EU climate change measures like the Emissions Trading Scheme and is now taking the Bush Administration's approach and placing his faith entirely in the development of new technologies. While technological innovation is necessary to help stabilise the climate, without incentives to reduce CO₂ the technologies are unlikely to deliver.

Binding targets for reducing CO_2 emissions are needed as incentives; to force reductions and to drive the necessary investment. This is illustrated by the fact that much of the technology needed to combat climate change is already proven and available but is not being deployed rapidly enough. On- and off-shore wind, decentralised generation using CHP, energy-efficient buildings and fuel-efficient transport can all bring huge CO_2 savings with tried and trusted technologies.

THE CHALLENGE FOR BLAIR

Tackling climate change means urgent reductions in CO₂ emissions. In 2004, 27.5 billion tonnes of CO₂ was emitted globally. This must be slashed by about 80% by 2050 in order to avoid large scale, irreversible disruption, such as destabilisation of the Antarctic ice sheets. Because CO₂ remains in the atmosphere for hundreds of years, we need to begin making those reductions now. A conference of the worlds top climate scientists, in February 2005, concluded that a delay of just five years would make the problem significantly harder to solve, making even bigger reductions in CO₂ necessary.³⁰

There are three major sources of CO₂ pollution: the generation of electricity and heat for buildings; transport; and industrial production processes like chemicals and steel manufacture. Emissions from all of these sectors must be reduced each year if we are to avert dangerous levels of climate change.

Industrialised nations are large-scale consumers of heat, electricity and transport miles. Individuals have a responsibility to participate in CO₂ reductions, but the overriding responsibility lies with Governments to provide the conditions under which individuals can act for positive change. The UK, as the world's fourth biggest economy and a major player in the EU, has perhaps the biggest responsibility of all. We need a Government and a Prime Minister willing to take on that challenge – and to succeed.

- 1 Prime Minister's Speech on Sustainable Development, 24 February 2003
- 2 Prime Minister's speech at the launch of the Climate Group, 27 April 2004
- 3 Prime Minister's Speech on Climate Change, 14 September 2004
- 4 Prime Minister's Speech on Climate Change, 14 September 2004
- 5 Prime Minister's Speech on Climate Change, 14 September 2004
- 6 Prime Minister's keynote speech to the World Economic Forum,
- 27 January 2005
 7 DEFRA. Provisional 2004 UK Climate Change Sustainable Development Indicator and 2003 Air Pollutant Emissions Final Figures, March 2005.
- 8 DTI, Energy Trends, September 2005
- 9 Prime Minister's Speech on Climate Change, 14 September 2004
- 10 The NAP specifies the amount of CO₂ the Government will allow each industrial sector to emit under the European Union Emissions Trading Scheme.
- 11 ENDS Report 361, February 2005
- 12 Ernst & Young, 'Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Indices' Autumn 2005
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- 14 DTI Commons statement on the Clear skies initiative, solar PV funding and the new Low Carbon Buildings Programme, 9 November 2005
- 15 Eurobserv'ER, Photovoltaic Energy Barometer, April 2005, www.energies-renouvelables.org/ observer/stat_baro/erec/baro166.pdf
- 16 ENDS Report 369, October 2005

- 17 ENDS Report 358, November 2004
- 18 Source: DEFRA. In 2002 the figure was 28%, or 40.4 million tonnes of carbon www.defra.gov.uk/ environment/statistics/globatmos/kf/gakf07.htm
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- 20 www.senternovem.nl/impact/News/Denmark_Newsitem_2.asp
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- 25 Select Committee on Liason, Minutes of Evidence, 8 February 2005
- 26 Lord Renton of Mount Harry, Chair, House of Lords EU subcommitteee on Environment and Agriculture, 10 November 2004
- 27 DEFRA eDigest 2005
- 28 Department of Transport, Managing our Roads, 2003
- 29 The Guardian, 2 November 2005
- 30 International Symposium on the Stabilisation of greenhouse gas concentrations, Hadley Centre, Met Office, Exeter, UK 1-3 February 2005. Report of the International Scientific Steering Committee May 2005

DEMANDS

- Commit to CO₂ reductions targets. Tony Blair must recommit to achieving 20% CO₂ reductions by 2010, on the way to 60% or greater reductions by 2050.
- Deliver real cuts in CO₂ in the energy sector: Tony Blair must deliver on the objectives set out in the 2003 Energy White Paper and abandon ideas for nuclear new build.
- **3. End subsidies and policy support for coal-fired electricity generation:** Tony Blair must tighten the EU emissions Trading Scheme cap on the power sector.
- 4. Bring in measures to support the transition to a clean and efficient, decentralised energy system.
- **5. Ensure energy efficiency of buildings:** Blair must strengthen the housing regulations so that all new buildings will be zero emission developments, while ensuring that existing buildings are made much more energy efficient.
- 6. Cut emissions from air travel: Blair must withdraw the aviation White Paper and draw up a new policy prohibiting any further expansion of UK airports. He should increase Air Passenger Duty and work within Europe to introduce an emissions tax and a tax on aviation fuel for all aircraft using European airports. Blair must ensure aviation is included in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme on the basis of its full climate impact.
- **7. Cut emissions from transport:** Tony Blair must abandon the road building programme detailed in the transport White Paper, increase Vehicle Excise Duty for fuel-hungry cars, bring back the fuel duty escalator, enforce speed limits, introduce congestion charging in all major UK cities and a national road user charging scheme based on CO₂ emissions. Play a leading role in Europe by urging the Commission to introduce a mandatory fuel efficiency target of 120g/km average for all car manufacturers selling in Europe.
- 8. Support international action to tackle climate change: The Prime Minister must work with other European Union Member States to lay the ground for a Kyoto phase two at the meeting in Montreal in November and ignore the Bush administrations call for agreements based on technology transfer alone.

Visit www.choosecleanenergy.com to find out more about the world's biggest climate criminals, how to stop them and other ways you can be part of the solution.

Greenpeace's clean energy campaign is committed to halting climate change caused by burning oil, coal and gas.

We champion a clean energy future in which the quality of life of all peoples is improved through the environmentally responsible and socially just provision of heating, light and transport.

We promote scientific and technical innovations that advance the goals of renewable energy, clean fuel, and energy efficiency.

We investigate and expose the corporate powers and governments that stand in the way of international action to halt global warming and who drive continued dependence on dirty, dangerous sources of energy, including nuclear power.

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