



1992 RIO SUMMIT

Agenda 21
An action plan to achieve sustainable development into the twenty-first century.

U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change
Provides a framework for the negotiation of detailed protocols like emission control and deforestation.

Convention on Biological Diversity
Created to achieve the goals of Agenda 21 by promoting conservation and sustainability.

The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development
Provides a framework of international environmental law with discrete, discipline-specific principles.

The U.N.-sponsored initiative seeks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, one of the leading causes of climate change. Two stipulations mandated by the treaty must be met before it can be brought into force:

- (1) At least 55 nations need to ratify the treaty.
- (2) The aforementioned countries must represent 55 percent of industrial nations' 1990 carbon-dioxide emissions.



1997 KYOTO PROTOCOL

2001 GEORGE W. BUSH ABANDONS KYOTO PROTOCOL
Justifies the move by noting potential economic damage and the exclusion of developing countries.



2002 EUROPEAN UNION COMMUNITY RATIFIES KYOTO PROTOCOL

E.U. ratification brings the total number of countries to 70, exceeding the first requirement of the Kyoto Protocol.



2004 RUSSIA RATIFIES KYOTO PROTOCOL

With Russia's ratification, the second requirement of the Kyoto Protocol is met.

The treaty is brought into force on **FEBRUARY 16, 2005.**

Seattle mayor Greg Nickels initiates an effort for U.S. cities to meet or beat Kyoto targets. So far 202 mayors, representing 41 million Americans, have signed on.

CITIES INCLUDE CHICAGO, LOS ANGELES, NEW YORK, SAN FRANCISCO, BOSTON, DENVER, SAN JOSE, NEW ORLEANS, MINNEAPOLIS, AUSTIN, PORTLAND, PROVIDENCE, MIAMI, LOUISVILLE, AND LAS VEGAS.



2005 U.S. MAYORS CLIMATE PROTECTION AGREEMENT

1992

1995

1997

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2006

Setting the stage for the Rio Summit are:

1970 Earth Day
20 million Americans take to the streets to demonstrate for a healthy environment. The event helps spark passage of the Clean Water and the Endangered Species acts.

1972 Stockholm, Sweden
Participants from 113 countries arrive in Stockholm for the U.N. Conference on the Human Environment. The conference brought about the establishment of the U.N. Environment Programme (UNEP).

Hundreds of prominent scientists assembled by the U.N. release a report concluding that there is a "discernable human influence on global climate."



2000 HANNOVER PRINCIPLES

Three of the Nine Credos:
Recognize interdependence [with nature].
Eliminate the concept of waste.
Understand the limitations of design.

Bonn: A Revised Kyoto Agreement
Considerable compromises are made: countries can offset their targets with carbon sinks; Russia, one of the countries with a large forest credit, would see the required cuts in its greenhouse gas emissions reduced.



2001 BONN CLIMATE TALKS

"CARBON SINKS" ARE AREAS LIKE FORESTS, CROPLANDS, AND OCEANS THAT ABSORB CARBON DIOXIDE.



2005 REGIONAL GREENHOUSE GAS INITIATIVE

Seven Northeastern States
In response to a lack of federal action on climate change, seven states establish a market-based program aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

PARTICIPATING STATES ARE MAINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE, VERMONT, NEW YORK, NEW JERSEY, CONNECTICUT, AND DELAWARE.

The Environmental Performance Index
First issued at the World Economic Forum, in Davos, Switzerland, the EPI establishes targets for environmental performance, along with a system for measuring how close individual countries come to meeting their predetermined goals.

Target dates for the emission cuts mandated by the Kyoto Protocol: 2008-2012

At present no regulatory agency has been established to measure greenhouse gases on a country-by-country basis. The EPI is an effective tool, but enforcement of the Kyoto Protocol remains nonbinding and largely symbolic. Meanwhile, the polar ice caps continue to melt, the view from space looks increasingly disturbing—and the ecological clock keeps ticking.