

The Kyoto Protocol

Accomplishments and Failures

By Michael Chavez

A History



Treaty intended to achieve “stabilization of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.



Signed and ratified

Signed, ratification pending

Signed, not ratified

Non-Signatory

- The Kyoto Protocol emerged from the United Nations so called Earth Summit held in Brazil in 1992. Seeing the need to cut greenhouse gas emissions, the organization proposed a treaty that would help stabilize emissions “ at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.” (Quote on slide) This would be a ten year agreement to cut greenhouse gas emissions.
- Treaty was not finalized until 1997 and the United States and Australia both stated they would not ratify it, citing the absence of binding targets for developing nations.
- This map shows nations that have signed the treaty, signed and ratified, ratification pending, and non-signatory. Note that Australia has since signed and ratified the treaty, leaving the United States as the only major country to not have ratified the Kyoto Protocol.
- As of May 2008, 181 countries have ratified the Kyoto Protocol

Source for images:

Kyoto Protocol. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kyoto_Protocol. Last updated February 24, 2009. Retrieved February 24, 2009.

United Nations. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations. Last updated February 23, 2009. Retrieved February 24, 2009

Sources for information:

Henson, Robert. The Rough Guide to Climate Change. Rough Guides Ltd. New York 2008. Page 15.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations

Kyoto Protocol. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kyoto_Protocol. Last updated February 24, 2009. Retrieved February 24, 2009.