

Who are G8?

- France, Germany, Italy, Japan, UK, US, Canada, Russia (7 of the world's leading industrialised nations)
- Goals: Boost cooperation over trade and finance; Strengthen the global economy; Promote peace and democracy; Prevent and resolve conflicts
- 13% of population, 45% of greenhouse gas emissions
- Met in Gleneagles in July

What did we want?

- Global average temperatures must not be allowed to rise two degree centigrade higher than pre-industrial levels. To minimize the risks of warming above two degrees centigrade global greenhouse gas emissions need to peak and decline within the next 10-15 years.
- An agreement by G8 nations for specific, substantial and timetabled cuts in their domestic emissions of greenhouse gases.
- An agreement that offers innovative and substantial financing mechanisms to increase and diversify the energy mix. This must include more renewable energy and greater efforts towards energy efficiency.
- Urgent assistance is needed for developing countries already facing the devastating effects of climate change

What did we get?

- **Bush didn't budge...** Tony Blair was lobbying hard to get climate as one of the key issues at G8. Sadly, President Bush blocked all attempts to make progress on climate at the meeting.
- **Communique and Action Plan on Climate Change** - does not take us forward, and neither does it take us back. Contains no targets or timetables, or indeed action.
- **but climate received a boost...** The good news is that Tony Blair's actions weren't entirely vain. The G8 meeting helped to raise awareness of climate change - both with the public, and also amongst MPs.
- **and more climate talks are planned...** The G8 announced a new "Dialogue on climate change, clean energy and sustainable development"

What is the "new dialogue"?

- Blair: purpose is "to create a pathway to a post Kyoto agreement"
- First meeting in the UK on 1 November between the G8 countries and ten other countries - including Brazil, China, India and Mexico - then twice a year after that
- Aims to set out the terms of reference for the dialogue, its role and expected outcomes
- Such a meeting could create a forum to informally develop ideas - and build confidence - before the next Kyoto Protocol meeting in late November/December.
- But, we will need to make sure this process does not replace formal UN negotiations.

What about the Asia-Pacific Partnership?

- The Asia-Pacific Partnership for Clean Development and Climate announced in July
- Deal between the US, Australia, China, India and South Korea, will look to work together to develop and share technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions,
- Sounds good, but refers to 'civilian nuclear power' and 'clean coal', and contains no binding targets - will allow signed-up countries to set goals for reducing emissions individually, with no enforcement mechanism
- WWF: Deal on climate change that doesn't limit pollution is same as a peace plan that allows guns to be fired
- "We are taking action on climate change in a broad, pro-growth context..."
- Meeting in November in Adelaide - suspicious timing... The APP must not distract the US and Australia from committing to this next phase of the Kyoto Protocol. They must agree to tough cuts of their emissions.

What's next for the Kyoto Protocol?

- The [Kyoto Protocol](#) is the only international treaty that legally commits countries to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases they produce. Became law on Feb 16th 2005, but is just a start...
- Countries are currently committed to making certain reductions by 2008 - 2012 - overall 5% on 1990 levels. The cuts that countries must make after that date have yet to be decided.
- This will be the focus of the next Kyoto Protocol meeting, the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 11 and COP/MOP 1), Montreal, 28 November to 6 December

How can I take action?

- Saturday 3rd December: International Day of Climate Protest, including London Demo - www.campaigncc.org
- Check out the website of the "Stop Climate Chaos" coalition, which includes RSPB, WWF, Greenpeace, Oxfam, People & Planet, Christian Aid, Tearfund, Women's Institute www.stopclimatechaos.org
- Join the Big Ask and write to your MP to ask them to support new legislation requiring annual cuts in carbon dioxide emissions - www.thebigask.com