

Members of Cabinet as of 8th September 2008.

Contents may settle over time. No refunds.

You don't *have* any statutory rights, once they invoke the Civil Contingencies Powers...

Prime Minister, First Lord of the Treasury and Minister for the Civil Service	Gordon Brown
Chancellor of the Exchequer	Alistair Darling
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs	David Miliband
Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor	Jack Straw
Secretary of State for the Home Department	Jacqui Smith
Secretary of State for Defence; and, Secretary of State for Scotland	Des Browne
Secretary of State for Health	Alan Johnson
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	Hilary Benn
Secretary of State for International Development	Douglas Alexander
Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform	John Hutton
Leader of the House of Commons (and Lord Privy Seal); Minister for Women; and Labour Party Chair	Harriet Harman
Secretary of State for Work and Pensions; and Secretary of State for Wales	Paul Murphy
Secretary of State for Transport	Ruth Kelly
Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government	Hazel Blears
Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury and Chief Whip	Geoff Hoon
Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families	Ed Balls
Minister for the Cabinet Office; and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster	Ed Miliband
Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport	James Purnell
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland	Shaun Woodward
Leader of the House of Lords (and Lord President of the Council)	Baroness Ashton of Upholland
Chief Secretary to the Treasury	Andy Burnham
Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills	John Denham
<p>Also attending the Cabinet Minister for the Olympics and London</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Rt Hon Tessa Jowell MP <p>Lords Chief Whip and Captain of the Gentlemen at Arms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Rt Hon the Lord Grocott <p>Attorney General</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Rt Hon the Baroness Scotland of Asthal QC <p>Minister for Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yvette Cooper MP <p>Minister for Africa, Asia and UN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sir Mark Malloch Brown KCMG <p>Parliamentary Private Secretaries to the Prime Minister</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ian Austin MP • Angela E Smith MP 	

The OC or the OCC?



Office of
Climate
Change

The Office of Climate Change (OCC) works across Government to support analytical work on climate change and the development of climate change policy and strategy. Many government departments are involved in tackling climate change, or in helping the UK and other countries adapt to its possible future impacts. The OCC is a shared resource for all departments.

The OCC's role is to:

- Run policy focused projects on difficult cross-cutting issues
- Programme manage (at a high level) the UK's climate change commitments
- Consolidate analysis and co-ordinate between departments
- Act as an advocate for climate change issues within government

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The OCC also supports the Stern Team and the Committee on Climate Change. The remaining members of the team who produced the Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change are also now based in the OCC. They continue to consolidate and disseminate the report's findings and support international negotiations. They also provide advice to other countries and regions who are planning similar work.

The Climate Change Bill proposes an independent Committee on Climate Change to advise the government on setting and achieving emissions reduction targets. To enable the Committee to make its first recommendations to government in December 2008, a shadow secretariat for the Committee has been set up to start the necessary detailed analytical work.

Who we work with

- The Secretary of State for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra)
- The Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR)
- The Foreign Secretary (FCO)
- The Secretary of State for International Development (DFID)
- The Secretary of State for Transport (DfT)
- The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Communities)

The Office was set up in September 2006. We have 45 staff, seconded from across government and outside government. We bring together project teams with relevant expertise to do focussed analytical work on challenging issues that cross departmental boundaries. We then present our recommendations to departments to take forward. We are funded by the departments we work for.

All this cheerfully lifted from the website www.occ.gov.uk/about/index.htm

With help from you, we can reduce CO₂



All cars on the road today contribute to climate change because their engines burn fuel and therefore produce carbon dioxide (CO₂) every time we drive. Yet you can easily reduce these emissions and save money too. By following a few simple tips and suggestions you can reduce your engine's workload, which means it will burn less fuel and produce less CO₂.

<http://actonco2.direct.gov.uk>

European Union for Numpties

The EU was basically set up after the World War 2 to stop the Germans and French from being able to kill each other in ridiculous numbers as they had been doing with distressing frequency (I simplify a little, but not so much). Its mission has shifted a little since!

There are 27 member states of the EU, and I'm not going to list them all. Even anoraks have their limits...

The European Parliament forms one half of the EU's legislature. The 785 Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) are directly elected by EU citizens every five years. Although MEPs are elected on a national basis, they sit according to political groups rather than their nationality. Each country has a set number of seats.

The Parliament and the Council form and pass legislation jointly, using co-decision, in certain areas of policy. The President of the European Parliament carries out the role of speaker in parliament and represents it externally.

The president and vice presidents are elected by MEPs every two and a half years.

A couple of the many notable British MEPs are:

Caroline Lucas (Green). General all-round good egg.

Chris Davies (Lib Dem). Fan of carbon capture and storage- on the basis that without it we are all toast thanks to China's legitimate need for energy, which is going to come from coal.

Here's his cheesily-named website- www.winwithchris.org.uk

You can see a list of MEPs for the North West here-

http://www.europarl.org.uk/uk_meps/northwest.asp

The Council of the European Union forms the other half of the EU's legislature. It is an organised platform where national ministers responsible for the area of policy being addressed, meet. Although the Council meets in different compositions, it is considered to be one single body. In addition to its legislative functions, the Council also exercises executive functions in relations to the Common Foreign and Security Policy.

This is where they get together and have a photo-call and the occasional public spat...

There's the **Commission**, which acts as the EU's executive arm and is responsible for initiating legislation and the day-to-day running of the EU. It is intended to act solely in the interest of the EU as a whole, as opposed to the Council which consists of leaders of member states who reflect national interests. The commission is also seen as the motor of European integration. It is currently composed of 27 commissioners for different areas of policy, one from each member state. The President of the Commission and all the other commissioners are nominated by the Council. Appointment of the Commission President, and also the Commission in its entirety, have to be confirmed by Parliament

The Environment Commissioner is Stavros Dimas

“Stavros C. Dimas has studied law and economics in Greece and the USA and has worked as a lawyer for the World Bank and Sullivan & Cromwell, a Wall Street Law Firm. He has been elected to the Greek Parliament ten consecutive times since 1977 and has held leading posts in Greek politics.”

http://ec.europa.eu/commission_barroso/dimas/index_en.htm

And, inevitably, he has a blog.

<http://blogs.ec.europa.eu/dimas/>

But you REALLY REALLY have better things to be doing that reading that...



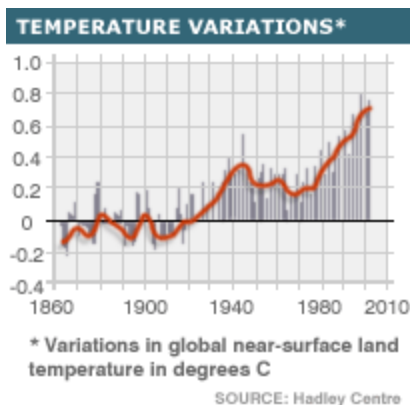
On Climate Change

The EU has been taking serious steps [that is, drafting reports] to address its own greenhouse gas emissions since the early 1990s. In 2000 the Commission launched the European Climate Change Programme (ECCP). The ECCP has led to the adoption of a wide range of new policies and measures. These include the pioneering EU Emissions Trading System, which has become the cornerstone of EU efforts to reduce emissions cost-effectively, and legislation to tackle emissions of fluorinated greenhouse gases.

Monitoring data and projections indicate that the 15 countries that were EU members at the time of the EU's ratification of the Kyoto Protocol in 2002 will reach their Kyoto Protocol target for cutting greenhouse gas emissions. This requires emissions in 2008-2012 to be 8% below 1990 levels.

However, Kyoto is only a first step and its targets expire in 2012. International negotiations are now taking place under the UNFCCC with the goal of reaching a global agreement governing action to address climate change after 2012.

In January 2007, as part of an integrated climate change and energy policy, the European Commission set out proposals and options for an ambitious global agreement in its [Communication "Limiting Global Climate Change to 2 degrees Celsius: The way ahead for 2020 and beyond"](#).



EU leaders endorsed this vision in March 2007. They committed the EU to cutting its greenhouse gas emissions by 30% of 1990 levels by 2020 provided other

developed countries commit to making comparable reductions under a global agreement. And to start transforming Europe into a highly energy-efficient, low-carbon economy, they committed to cutting emissions by at least 20% independently of what other countries decide to do.

To underpin these commitments, EU leaders set three key targets to be met by 2020: a **20% reduction in energy consumption compared with projected trends; an increase to 20% in renewable energies' share of total energy consumption; and an increase to 10% in the share of petrol and diesel consumption from sustainably-produced biofuels.**

In January 2008 the Commission proposed a major package of climate and energy-related legislative proposals to implement these commitments and targets. These are now being discussed by the European Parliament and the Council of the EU, and EU leaders have expressed their wish for agreement to be reached on the package before the end of 2008.

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/home_en.htm

EUETS- lots of hot air. And a fair old whack of dosh too...

The European Union Emission Trading System (EU ETS) is the largest multi-national, emissions trading scheme in the world, and is a major pillar of EU climate policy. The ETS currently covers more than 10,000 installations in the energy and industrial sectors which are collectively responsible

letter to Grauniad, 23 March 2007

● The EU needs a new "big idea" at its heart if it is to reconnect with the half billion Europeans it exists to serve. That idea must surely be about delivering sustainability and climate security. But it won't work if it's simply an add-on, as Timothy Garton Ash suggests (Comment, March 22).

The reality is that the EU is trying – driven at least in part by the 42 Green party MEPs in the European parliament – to enact environmental policies and drive greenhouse-gas emissions reduction. Its new standards for vehicle emissions and the recently adopted goal of cutting CO₂ emissions by 20% by 2020 are cases in point. The trouble is, neither is ambitious enough to succeed, as both have been drawn up in the context of the Lisbon agenda and pursuing economic growth at all costs.

The statistics Timothy Garton-Ash cites show that people associate the EU with the single market more than anything else. The goal of ever freer trade within and beyond Europe's borders is simply incompatible with the urgent need for ambitious EU-level action on tackling climate change. Instead the EU needs a shift away from ever more deregulated trade, and towards the diversification of more localised economies, supporting greater self-reliance and promoting fair trade. Only in this way will we be able genuinely to address the EU's public malaise, and build a more compelling vision of its role and purpose.

Dr Caroline Lucas MEP
Green party, South-East England

for close to half of the EU's emissions of CO₂ and 40% of its total greenhouse gas emissions.

Under the EU ETS, large emitters of carbon dioxide within the EU must monitor and annually report their CO₂ emissions, and they are obliged every year to return an amount of emission allowances to the government that is equivalent to their CO₂ emissions in that year. In order to neutralise annual irregularities in CO₂-emission levels that may occur due to extreme weather events (such as harsh winters or very hot summers), emission allowances for any plant operator subject to the EU ETS are given out for a sequence of several years at once. Each such sequence of years is called a Trading Period. The 1st EU ETS Trading Period expired in December 2007; it had covered all EU ETS emissions since January 2005. With its termination, the 1st phase EU allowances became invalid. Since January 2008, the 2nd Trading Period is under way which will last until December 2012. Currently, the installations get the allowances for free from the EU member states' governments. Besides receiving this initial allocation on a plant-by plant basis, an operator may purchase EU allowances from others (installations, traders, the government.) If an installation has received more free allowances than it needs, it may sell them to anybody.

In January 2008, the European Commission proposed a number of changes to the scheme, including centralized allocation (no more national allocation plans) by a EU authority, a turn to auctioning a greater share (60+ %) of permits rather than allocating freely, and inclusion of other greenhouse gases, such as nitrous oxide and perfluorocarbons. These changes are still in a draft stage; the mentioned amendments are only likely to become effective from January 2013 onwards, i.e. in the 3rd Trading Period under the EU ETS. Also, the proposed caps for the 3rd Trading Period foresee an overall reduction of greenhouse gases for the sector of 21% in 2020 compared to 2005 emissions. It is will be extended to airlines, subject to details being ironed out.

see en.wikipedia.org/European_Union_Emission_Trading_Scheme

On carbon trading generally, see www.carbontradewatch.gn.apc.org

Further reading

Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies Supporting European Climate Policy

Funded by the European Commission and co-ordinated by the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research in the UK, ADAM (Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies: supporting European climate policy) is an integrated research project running from 2006 to 2009 that will lead to a better understanding of the trade-offs and conflicts that exist between adaptation and mitigation policies. ADAM will support EU policy development in the next stage of the development of the Kyoto Protocol and will inform the emergence of new adaptation strategies for Europe.

www.adamproject.eu

Factor X and the EU: How to make Europe the most resource and energy efficient Economy in the World

A Guidebook to Policies and Legislative Initiatives within the European Union
Aachen Foundation 2006

www.aachenfoundation.org/projekte/ueberregionale-projekte/factor-x-and-the-eu

Greens/European Free Alliance Group in the European Parliament

www.greens-efa.org/index.htm

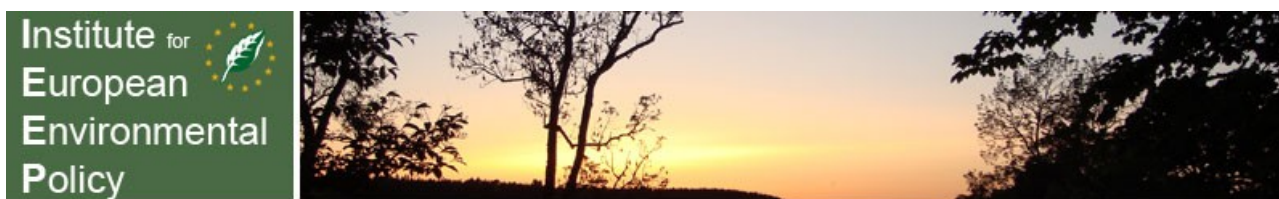
“Paying the climate change bill” by Tony Barber

4th September 2008 Financial Times (www.ft.com)

“How much will it cost the European Union to fight global climate change? Clearly, the answer depends on what your target is, how you propose to get there, and the size of the EU’s contribution compared with those of the US, China and so on. But a new report from the Centre for European Policy Studies thinktank offers some useful estimates.

The report assesses six recent studies, ranging from the Stern Review and a World Bank analysis to research prepared by Vattenfall, the Swedish energy company. In these reports, the average annual global costs for mitigating and adapting to climate change are put at anything from €230bn to €614bn, based on 2006 data...”

And a couple of similar sounding think-tanks....



IEEP is an independent not for profit institute dedicated to advancing an environmentally sustainable Europe through policy analysis, development and dissemination.

<http://www.ieep.eu/>

Ecologic - Institute for International and European Environmental Policy

Ecologic is a private not-for-profit think tank for applied environmental research, policy analysis and consultancy with offices in Berlin, Brussels, Vienna, and Washington DC. An independent, non-partisan body, Ecologic is dedicated to bringing fresh ideas to environmental policies and sustainable development.

www.ecologic.de

There's lots more information about the EU Climate Programme on their website

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/eccp.htm>

And the as-yet-unanswered question:

What importance and influence does the EU have for North West and Climate Change?

Someone should look into this. We could do worse than start with Chris Davies or else these guys.



“The Greater Manchester Brussels Office offers expertise, analysis, information and advocacy to various Greater Manchester organisations on European matters.

We work closely with the institutions of the European Union, other interest groups and representational offices based in Brussels. The office also promotes the interests of Greater Manchester, its needs, priorities and achievements within these institutions.

The office has a broad membership which is reflected in its key policy interests: public transport, waste, aviation and regional policy.”

www.greater-manchester.eu

Global

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Back in the late 1980s scientists managed to wake some politicians up about climate change.

The politicians met in Toronto and there were plans to aim for a 20% cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2005. But as you know, it wasn't to be. If it had been, we wouldn't probably be staring down both barrels of a shotgun called "positive feedbacks".

That target got scuppered, and by the time the world's assorted leaders pitched up in Rio, in May of 1992 for the "Earth Summit", then a lot less was going to be on the table. That summit was about global warming and the collapse in this planet's bio-diversity, which you hear a lot less about than you used to.

They signed the "UNFCCC" the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The most quoted bit of that is Article 3 on "Principles" Paragraphs 3.1 and 3.2, say:

1. The Parties should protect the climate system for the benefit of present and future generations of humankind, on the basis of equity and in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. Accordingly, the developed country Parties should take the lead in combating climate change and the adverse effects thereof.

2. The specific needs and special circumstances of developing country Parties, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, and of those Parties, especially developing country Parties, that would have to bear a disproportionate or abnormal burden under the Convention, should be given full consideration.

Common but differentiated responsibilities is a simple phrase with lots of wiggle room. We're all in the same boat, but some of us have are more responsible for it sinking and should be bailing harder. But the more responsible have been acting very irresponsibly for quite a while now...

Anyway, back to the story: Then they all schlepped off to Berlin, once their home legislatures had signed up, and agreed that to make the Convention into something that would er, *do something*, they needed some Protocols to that. So they met three years in a row (at the "Conference of the Parties" meetings) and in Kyoto came up with a deal that said that they'd cut between 5 and 12 per cent by 2008-12. "They" being the industrialised countries.

But this was a non-starter for the Americans, who wanted the Chinese and Indians and so forth to sign up. And so the Kyoto Protocol only became 'law' in 2005, when the Russians, who had the EU over a barrel, signed up. But Kyoto "runs out" in 2012, and so the race is on for a replacement.

In December 2007 the UNFCCC meeting tipped up in Bali, Indonesia. They came up with a(nother) plan They'd spend two years- 2008 and 9- negotiating and by the end of 2009, at the COP-15 meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark. There'd be a deal to sign, that could then be ratified by home legislatures, and then be ready for when Kyoto expired.

But frankly, if you believe that, I've got this bridge in Sydney to sell you.

For a cartoon take on this involving aliens, ray guns and contraction and convergence, see www.climatecartoons.org.uk/crisis.html

What's US gonna do?

The real action is currently taking place at the State level (Mayors) and regional groupings

Lots of carbon trading

Lots of faith in "technofixes"

It's hard to tell if either Obama or McCain would actually do anything substantive. Manchester Climate Fortnightly will run a story on this soonish. There's an excellent blog called "Climate

Progress” from which we'll be stea... er “using as background material”, so if you can't wait-
<http://climateprogress.org>

What's China doing?

The Chinese Communist Party has a sort of unspoken deal with the “small” but important Chinese Middle Class. If the middle-class stays out of politics, the Communist Party will maintain the conditions of economic growth.

But the Chinese elite can see the consequences of economic growth all around them. The glaciers of the Himalayas are busy melting, the deserts expanding etc.

(For more info, check out either Earth Odyssey by Mark Hertsgaard or High Tide by Mark Lynas)

It's also easy to over-estimate the control that central government has. As one knowledgeable observer puts it “they can pull on the big lever that says 'stop', but they never can be sure the lever won't come off in their hands...!”

While China has recently become the single biggest greenhouse gas emitter, that's because their population is huge. The emissions per head of population are still low(ish), and a significant proportion of those emissions is producing stuff for the West (factory jobs have been shipped out to low wage areas). That's what's known as “embedded carbon”.

And, famously, they're opening coal-fired power stations quicker than you can count. So if “carbon capture and storage” technology doesn't get invented and installed really soon, life isn't going to be much fun for this species of ours.

EU-China Interdependencies on Energy and Climate Security

www.eu-china-energy-climate.net/

For more on china and climate change

A genuinely bi-lingual website

www.chinadialogue.net

China Comment: Energy, Environment, Economy, and Politics

<http://chinacomment.wordpress.com/>

Bits of further reading

China stifles “green GDP”

“China won't release highly controversial estimates of the cost of pollution, setting back efforts to quantify the toll of its breakneck economic growth.”

Wall Street Journal sometime in 2007...

“Stirrings in the suburbs: Beijing listens carefully as a rising middle class finds its voice”

Geoff Dyer Financial Times July 21 2008

What's India doing

The climate alert from the **Centre for Science and Environment** / Down To Earth on recent developments on climate change issues in India is out. You can read it at

www.cseindia.org/programme/media/climate-alert.htm

Centre for Social Markets

www.csmworld.org

Beyond Copenhagen



Before



After

There's a play by Michael Frayn called Copenhagen. Its major themes include radical scientific uncertainty and a terrible destructive power being unleashed that could destroy quite a lot of human civilisation.

It wasn't about the climate negotiations in December 2009 that are the current focus of attention of the world's climateriat, but maybe someone should write a play about them. I suggest a tragedy, then a farce.

As the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) meeting at Copenhagen draws closer, more and more attention will be paid to it, both by its advocates and critics. I suspect both groupings will be in danger of thinking of it as the ball at which Cinderella (the solutions) will turn up incognito and have Prince Charming fall in love with her. Throw in a fairy godmother (I believe the technical term is "*deus ex machina*") and business gets the long loud signal that it's been asking for. Governments get to brandish their problem-solving credentials. The poor get the development aid and atmospheric pollution rights they are entitled to. And a squadron of the Danish Air Force's Red Pigs will do a fly-past in salute.

Sure, maybe the whole circus will have to sit in semi-permanent session, or the thousands of negotiators and lobbyists and hacks will schlepp off to Bonn, but there is almost certainly going to be a Deal. Even with a new American President, a new UK government (mebbe), and a new EU president, a Deal Will Be Made. There'll be too many eyes on the game for anyone to want to be labelled as the wrecker.

But in those circumstances, the Deal will probably be weak. LCD won't just stand for lowest common denominator, it'll also stand for lousy climate deal.

No matter what, it will become harder to push the kind of radical emissions reductions/sink protections on climate change, because the Deal will be the only show in town with anything approaching democratic legitimacy. The world's denialists, coal lobbies, knuckle-draggers, knuckle-heads, volcano-nutters and China-baiters will all be trying to stop their own countries' legislatures signing it. Greens will be wanting to criticise the Deal as too weak but still wanting it to be ratified. That's where the NGO energy will go, because it offers the best chance of lobbying ministers and appearing important to NGOs' core constituency (guilt-ridden ignorant middle-class people). Kyoto the Sequel, anyone?

And if the recent Nature article predicting a temporary decrease in global average temperature due to ocean currents is correct, then energy will also be diverted to convincing people that Dangerous Anthropogenic Interference is even happening. What interesting times we live in.

Further Reading

Copenhagen by Michael Frayn

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Copenhagen_\(play\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Copenhagen_(play))

Advancing Decadal-Scale Climate Prediction in the North Atlantic Sector: *Nature*, 453, 84-88.

Keenlyside, N.S., M. Latif, J. Jungclaus, L. Kornbluh, and E. Roeckner (2008)

<http://www.nature.com/climate/2008/0805/full/453043a.html#B2>

Copenhagen Climate Council

<http://copenhagenclimatecouncil.com>