

# Face Off:

## Should America join the Kyoto Protocol to limit gas emissions?

**U.S. should join Protocol to show concern for future generations**

**Jadon Triplett**  
The Clackamas Print

In the never-ending debate regarding global warming, the pertinent question is not whether global warming is a real threat; the pertinent question is do we as human beings have a responsibility to do something about it.

How does global warming affect you or me? That depends on who you are. Skeptics say that it is all about how you interpret the data. In 1988 the United Nations Environment Program and the World Meteorological Organization brought together 200 leading scientists to consider the evidence for global warming and its causes. Together, they formed the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

In 2001, the IPCC released their Third Assessment Report, which concluded that global temperature has risen by one degree Fahrenheit since 1861. This may not seem like much, until one considers that the panel believes this change is caused primarily by human activities. The panel predicted that the temperature would continue to rise by 2.5 to 10.4 degrees.

The interesting thing about carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, is that it takes about a century for nature to dispose of it. This means that by this time next century, the gas that we put into the environment now will just be on its way out.

The United States uses the lion's share of the world's resources, and also produces the most emissions. This is why our participation was integral to the success of the Kyoto Treaty, an international treaty aimed at lowering emissions. The treaty is perfect, and it would force the United States to make the most drastic changes, far as emission reduction goes.

Those against the Kyoto Accords say that this would force some industries to shut down, and would also be expensive. However, the potential benefits of such a treaty outweigh the risks. The truth is if we forced industries to clean up, then the likely result would be that cleaner industries, such as high-tech, would fill the gap left by older ones.

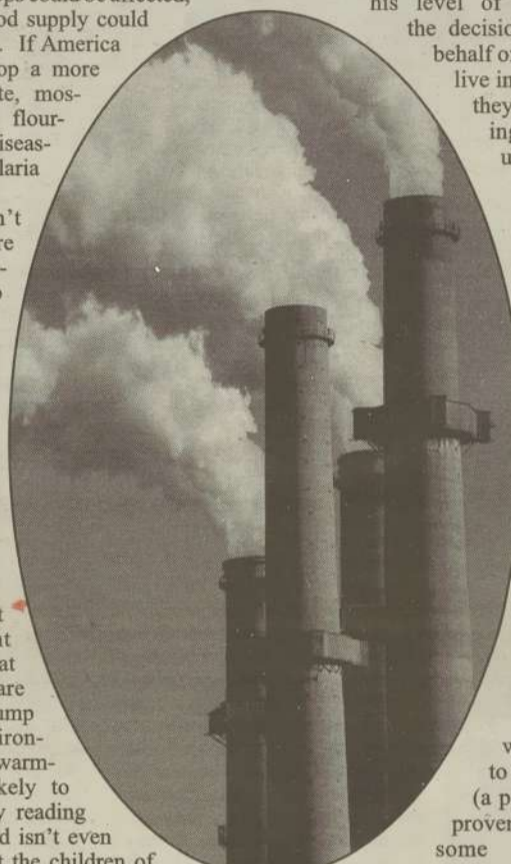
As far as the expense goes, can we really put a price tag on the life of our

planet, or for that matter, the lives of our great-great grandchildren? If trends continue and our planet continues to develop a warmer climate, island nations that are only a foot above sea-level could be completely flooded.

Farmers' crops could be affected, and Earth's food supply could be jeopardized. If America were to develop a more tropical climate, mosquitoes would flourish and bring diseases such as malaria with them.

You don't have to care about the environment to care about global warming. You don't have to worry about the die-offs of polar bears because their environment is melting. You don't even have to care about the amount of poison that corporations are allowed to pump into our environment. Global warming is not likely to affect anybody reading this article, and isn't even likely to affect the children of anybody reading this article.

However, if the reckless polluting of our planet continues unabated, future generations will suffer. It's easy to read this and conclude that it isn't worth your time as a result. Try putting yourself in the shoes of your great-great grandchild, and ask yourself if you wouldn't be a little confused as to why your forefathers didn't consider you and your world in their grand designs.



Internet Photo

**Bush made right decision; Kyoto Protocol bad for economy**

**Jeff Sorensen**  
The Clackamas Print

Bush's decision to decline the U.S.'s participation in the Kyoto Protocol is one that many criticize him for without looking into what the protocol is, let alone why he backed out.

People make fun of the way he talks, his level of professionalism, the decisions he makes on behalf of the millions who live in this country, and they insist on preaching their opinions under the abused pretense of "free speech."

The Kyoto Protocol, formed by the United Nations in 1997 in Kyoto, Japan, is based on carbon emission measurements taken in 1990, and establishes specific targets for reduction of each country's carbon emissions which contribute to global warming (a phenomenon that's proven to have started some 300-plus years ago).

First, the target established for the States is estimated 35 percent below the projected emissions for 2010. Because the protocol is based on studies from 1990, the incredible economic boom in America during the 1990s has been completely overlooked. None of the European countries saw the same kind of change in their economy, which means the U.S. would

have to literally destroy its economy just to come close to their "goal."

Next, the protocol completely disregards natural "carbon sinks" (what most people just call forests) that the U.S. and other countries have at their disposal to help dispel much of the carbon emissions. Bush wanted to use this natural resource to buffer the U.S.' commitment to the protocol, but at first the UN disagreed. Then Bush came back with a rather humble revision to his original request and, while the British were willing to help the U.S. find a suitable accommodation, French Environment Minister Dominique Voynet determinedly refused on behalf of all European countries. Bush wanted to sign the protocol... and the French think we're arrogant?

Lastly, the Protocol exempts all "developing countries" (NOTE: this is not defined in the actual protocol, but is assumed to mean countries in third world status) from any carbon restriction commitment, focusing instead on larger, economically stable world powers. Bush not only found this unfair and unethical, he felt the U.S., being the most economically advanced country in the world, would be in a position to fall the hardest if the Protocol were allowed to place heavy restrictions on energy consumption.

The price of gasoline alone is horrible right now, let alone the price of electricity and heating. A blow to our economy like that would financially cripple our country in ways that no stock crash could ever compare to.

Bush's biggest problem isn't that he has trouble speaking in public, or even that terrorists are posing all kinds of threats on the American people and their way of life. The problem is that many of Bush's own people refuse to back him up on anything, and it's making his job of running this country harder than it needs to be. If those people who absolutely must question our president's every move did 10 minutes of research (like I did) and learn what happened, many would undoubtedly have a different opinion.

## Academic advising helpful, should strive for perfection

**Jeremy Freid**  
The Clackamas Print

My experiences with the academic advising staff have been pretty good, but there have been times where I felt that things were not handled with the proper consideration that was my due as a student of this college.

On the whole, academic advising is friendly and generally helpful in getting students

on a track that will get them to where they want to go. There are students out there, however, that have been told to take classes, or even entire course sequences, that they never needed to get the degree they want.

I would like to make it clear that while I can appreciate the good that they do for us, I am not here as a proponent of keeping things as they are. Though they are often friendly, and can be helpful, they are not as strong in some areas as they believe

themselves to be. While attending the college, I have spoken to many students who think academic advising is not fulfilling its duties; they do not say anything because they feel they will not be listened to by the college, and from my standpoint I can't say I blame them.

From my perspective things need to change. Keep their friendliness and willingness to help, but change things like more continuous updates from the various departments to academ-

ic advising. Maybe some sort of message board system could be created that each department would post to. This would allow academic advising information that they could readily access and print out, like new classes or upcoming degree paths, as well as maintain a better communication with the departments.

Some ways to make continuing improvements that would benefit everyone is to try to be perfect; set that as a goal. Even though such a goal is almost

impossible to reach, just the act of striving towards it will help make improvements, short term as well as long term. One thing to keep in mind: one can always do better.

In the end, it really does not make a difference what each side's opinion is; all that matters is that one side has its voice heard and the other side will hopefully make changes that will benefit everyone in the future.

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