

Dear Friends,

KyotoUSA received some exciting news this week that I am pleased to pass on to you!

We were notified by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that KyotoUSA has been provisionally admitted to the Conference of the Parties (COP 11) as a non-governmental “observer”. The UNFCCC is the organization that is responsible for developing a universal response to global warming and is where the Kyoto Protocol was brokered. As “observers” we are able to attend the next major [UNFCCC conference in Montreal](#) in late November and to participate with other NGOs in recommending policies to the official bodies that are considering the design and details of the global agreement that should go into effect when the Kyoto Protocol expires in 2012.

At present, the likelihood of a positive outcome from COP 11 is unknown. Reuters is reporting that EU Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas commented that "I would like to have an agreement on future cuts (in greenhouse gases) in Montreal but that's unrealistic. The whole process of what to do after 2012 will take some time and will be quite difficult," he said. Canadian officials are reporting that the focus of the talks will be to convince the major non-signatories of the Kyoto Protocol (the U.S. and Australia) to join the talks on a post Kyoto agreement. We think that given the extreme climate events that we have witnessed recently and the mounting evidence that climate change is endangering the existence of all species (including we humans), COP 11 is an opportunity for the creation of a truly global response to climate change that the planet cannot afford to lose.

Your efforts at the local level are having an effect – change is occurring everywhere. The Bush Administration is becoming increasingly isolated from even its most ardent constituencies. For example, conservative religious organizations are expressing concern about global warming ([Evangelical Leaders Swing Influence Behind Effort to Combat Global Warming](#)), major business interests are demanding government direction ([90% of largest companies concerned about climate change](#)), and cities in blue and red States are recognizing the seriousness of global warming and its local impacts and are taking action to reduce the GHGs that they produce ([US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement](#)) and ICLEI's [Cities for Climate Protection](#).

More can be accomplished without causing the degree of economic disruption – personal and national - that has been cited by President Bush as the reason for withdrawing from Kyoto. Twice as many people are working in the renewable energy sector in California alone (170,000) than in the entire US coal industry (83,000) which receives many millions of dollars in government subsidies (see, The Climate Group report: [Low Carbon Leader: California](#)). There are also significant differences in per capita production of GHGs in different regions of the country (California residents produce about 60% of the US average <12 tons vs. 20 tons>, for example) which highlights the possibility that significant reductions can be achieved as people become more aware of the problem and implement changes in consumption patterns, energy use, building practices, and transportation systems that have already proven to be effective.

This is the point at which your efforts to engage your city, the institutions of which you are a part, and yourself in meaningful reductions of GHGs becomes critical. Cities, States, universities, religious institutions, corporations, utilities, and people around the country are responding by acknowledging the crisis we are facing and their contribution to it. Americans are beginning to act. The more we do ourselves (and the sooner we do it) will make it more likely

that the US will start acting responsibly and will join the community of nations that are working to head off the most serious impacts that global warming holds for us. That is the message that KyotoUSA would like to take to Montreal. We would like to point to our collective actions to support our belief that the people of this country and the institutions over which we exert some influence are exceeding the GHG reduction targets established under the Kyoto Protocol. This message will encourage COP members to raise their goals – knowing that we in America are doing our part.

Concerns about global warming are beginning to coalesce into a change in attitude that provides us with greater opportunities to advocate for a positive response from our own cities and local representatives. Consider this - at the beginning of the year, we approached our first city (Berkeley) to endorse the Kyoto Protocol and to reduce its GHGs well below Kyoto targets. Berkeley endorsed, joined the [Chicago Climate Exchange](#) (CCX is world's first and North America's only voluntary, legally binding rules-based greenhouse gas emission reduction and trading system) and is well on its way to adopting [Community Choice Aggregation](#) – the program that allows California cities to purchase and distribute electricity to its residents and businesses. Now, Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels' national initiative mentioned above has 179 signatories. KyotoUSA is now working with mayors from Berkeley (Tom Bates), San Leandro, (Shelia Young) and Hayward (Roberta Cooper) and ICLEI to approach the mayors of all 14 cities in Alameda County to seek their support for a county-wide response to reducing their greenhouse gas emissions. We'll be calling on you soon to help us contact the mayors and city councils in these cities to encourage them toward participation.

And finally, if you can help to **defray the costs of KyotoUSA's participation in the UNFCCC meeting** we'd be most grateful. You can donate through our website (www.kyotousa.org) or by sending a check made payable to:

The Sequoia Foundation/KyotoUSA
800 Hearst Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94710

Thanks!

Tom

The Sequoia Foundation is a California 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization so your donations are fully tax deductible – to the extent allowed by law.

If you would like us to send these occasional updates to friends or family (or remove your name from the list), please don't hesitate to let us know.

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