



Climate Politics Timeline

Model Senate ~ 2014-15



Pre-1980s

1955 - Scientist Charles Keeling finds CO₂ has risen to 315 ppm

1962 – Rachel Carson writes *Silent Spring*

1963 – Clean Air Act of 1963

1970 - Earth Day – April 22, 1970

1970 - Clean Air Act of 1970



1980-1989

1987 – International treaty to address Ozone Hole

1988 – Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) set up to report science of climate change



1990-1999

1992 – Rio Earth Summit establishes the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

1997 – Kyoto Protocol

- Binding targets- 5% reduction below 1990 level
- Not enough, but first step to bigger reductions
- Ratified by 113 countries (not United States)
- Did not address developing countries
- Established the idea of “emissions trading”



2000-2009

2005 – Kyoto goes into effect

2005 – Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement begins in Seattle

2005 – Energy Policy Act of 2005 provides renewable energy tax credit

2005 – Hurricane Katrina hits Gulf Coast



2005-2009

2006 – Passage of AB32 in California that calls for reduction to 1990 levels by 2020; establishes emissions trading program

2007 – Massachusetts v. EPA requires agency to regulate GHG emissions

2008 – Renewable energy tax credit extended to wind energy



2009 - Obama's Climate Year

- \$\$ for renewable energy and energy efficiency upgrades as part of recovery bill
- Obama negotiates sharply higher fuel standards for cars and trucks as part of auto bailout
- Waxman-Markey Climate Bill passes House of Representatives 219-212; dies in Senate



2009 – Copenhagen Accord

- Pledges from countries responsible for 80% of global emissions
- But no binding targets
- U.S. agrees to 17% below 2005 by 2020; roughly equal to Kyoto's global goal.
- Europe – 20-25% below 1990s level
- China, India, Brazil set their own targets
- \$100 billion pledge to developing countries by 2020



2010-2014

2011 - Protesters against Keystone XL pipeline arrested in front of White House

2012 – Superstorm Sandy

2013 – CO2 levels reach over 400 ppm

2013 – Fossil Fuel divestment campaign starts

2014 – EPA proposes reduction target for existing power plants 30% below 2005

2014 – 300K+ attend Climate March in NYC

2014 – U.S. & China announce bilateral agreement – 26% below 2005 by 2025



2015

Climate talks in Paris next December where diplomats hope to reach a new international treaty with binding targets