

UNITED STATES

1. Official Position

The United States believes that a successful climate change policy must be:

- comprehensive, addressing all greenhouse gases, and both their sources and sinks;
- long-term, taking account of the social, economic and environmental consequences and effectiveness of policies over the long term;
- flexible, building on diverse actions which are readily adjustable as knowledge improves through a strong research and development programme;
- global, designed to involve all nations and incorporate the unique circumstances of each in the development of response strategies.

The United States is undertaking and planning substantial actions to implement this policy. Examples of actions to reduce emissions of greenhouses gases (GHGs) include: amendments to the Clean Air Act which will reduce CO₂ and methane as well as the GHG precursors such as nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds and carbon monoxide; phasing out production and consumption of CFCs and related gases by the year 2000 on a schedule which accelerates the requirements of the Montreal Protocol; new initiatives, including expanded appliance efficiency standards and measures to accelerate adoption of energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies; proposed regulations to capture emissions of VOCs and methane from landfills; and initiating a programme to plant 1 billion trees per year. Together, these initiatives will result in the United States' net GHG emissions in the year 2000 being at or below their present level.