



## Fact Sheet: Earth Day 2008

### *Protecting Our Environment, Achieving Results*

On April 22, 2008, President Bush Celebrated Earth Day By Planting A Shumard Oak Tree In Lafayette Square In New Orleans. New Orleans lost 250,000 trees to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, 50,000 of which were in public spaces like Lafayette Square. The city has replanted nearly 5,000 trees, an effort vital to both the city's recovery and the environment.

Because of the President's efforts to encourage cooperative conservation, innovation, and new technologies, America's air is cleaner, our water is purer, our natural resources are better protected, and we are taking positive steps to confront the important challenge of climate change. For example:

- Particle pollution has decreased 11 percent and ozone pollution has decreased 5 percent, and two of the five most protective clean air rules in the Environmental Protection Agency's history – the Clean Air Nonroad Diesel Rule and the Clean Air Interstate Rule – were adopted.
- Since 2001, we have removed hazardous fuels from more than 24 million acres of Federal land. In 2004, the President committed to restoring 3 million acres of wetlands in five years. We've met our goal ahead of schedule, with 3.6 million acres protected, restored and improved, and conserved millions of acres of habitat through Farm Bill conservation programs.
- In 2006, actual greenhouse gas emissions declined 1.5 percent, while the economy grew 2.9 percent. Greenhouse gas intensity (how much we emit per unit of economic activity) declined 4.2 percent – the largest annual improvement since 1985.

**On Earth Day 2008, Administration Officials Will Participate In Events Across America To Highlight This Strong Commitment To A Healthy Environment.**

**The President Is Confronting Climate Change And Strengthening America's Energy Security With Cleaner Fuels, Improved Efficiency, And New Technologies.** The Administration's climate change policy is science-based, encourages research breakthroughs, and takes advantage of the power of markets to bring technologies into widespread use. The Administration is leading the way toward an international agreement to slow, stop, and reverse the growth of greenhouse gases.

- **New National Mid-Term Greenhouse Gas Emissions Goal:** Last week the President announced a new national goal to stop the growth in U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by 2025. The growth in emissions will continue to slow over the next decade, stop by 2025, and begin to reverse thereafter, so long as technology continues to advance. This will prevent billions of metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions from entering the atmosphere.
- **Record Funding for Climate-Related Science, Technology, and Incentive Programs:** Since 2001, the President has requested and Congress has appropriated on the order of \$45 billion for climate-related science, technology, observations, international assistance, and tax incentive programs.
- **Improving Fuel Economy and Use of Renewable Fuels:** Congress passed and the President signed the 2007 energy legislation, which responds to the President's "Twenty in Ten" challenge to improve vehicle fuel economy and increase alternative fuels. The Renewable Fuels Mandate will increase the use of renewable fuels by 500 percent – requiring fuel producers to supply at least 36 billion gallons of

renewable fuel in the year 2022. The Vehicle Fuel Economy Mandate specifies a national mandatory fuel economy standard of 35 miles per gallon by 2020, which will save billions of gallons of fuel and increase efficiency by 40 percent. Additionally, the Act advances the following efficiencies:

- The Lighting Efficiency Mandate will generate a 25 to 30 percent improvement by 2012-2014, 70 percent by 2020.
  - The Appliance Efficiency Mandate sets more than 45 new standards for appliances.
  - The Federal Government Operations Mandate: Following an Executive Order signed by the President, this will reduce the energy consumption of Federal Government facilities 30 percent by 2015. Additionally, all new Federal buildings will be carbon-neutral by 2030.
- **Broad Range Of Domestic Partnerships and Incentives:** The President launched a comprehensive portfolio of domestic initiatives to develop new technologies through dozens of voluntary, incentive-based, and mandatory programs, including Climate VISION and Climate Leaders, SmartWay Transportation Program, and the Hydrogen Fuel Initiative.
- **Major Economies Process on Energy Security and Climate Change:** The Administration launched a series of meetings of the world's major economies, which use the most energy and emit the most greenhouse gases. These meetings support the UN negotiations by recommending a collective long-term goal for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, commitments to national mid-term goals with plans to back them up, and ways to cooperate on goals and technology in key industrial sectors.
- **Low Carbon, Clean Coal Technologies:** The FY '09 Budget request for research, development, and demonstration of advanced clean coal technology calls for \$648 million. When combined with private-sector contributions, the clean coal investment will approach nearly \$1 billion. In addition, \$1 billion in tax credits were awarded last year, with another \$650 million more this year, to help offset \$9.1 billion in total investment to build highly efficient, advanced coal projects, using technology that cuts emissions through efficiency and holds the promise of cost-effective carbon capture and storage.
- **Accelerated Phase-Out of Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs):** Under President Bush's leadership in ozone layer protection, the Montreal Protocol Parties agreed to the United States' proposal to accelerate by 10 years the remaining phase-out of certain ozone depleting substances. Developed countries will phase out the production of HFCs by 2020, and developing nations will phase out production by 2030. The cumulative reduction in emissions of these greenhouse gases could equal or exceed what the current Kyoto Protocol commitment could achieve.
- **Clean Technology Fund:** President Bush is committing \$2 billion over the next 3 years to create an international clean energy technology fund to address the growing problem of accelerating greenhouse gas emissions in major developing countries. Along with contributions from other countries, this fund will increase and accelerate the deployment of cleaner, more efficient technologies in developing nations with large greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Joint Proposal On Environmental Goods and Services:** In 2007, U.S. Trade Representative Susan Schwab announced that the United States and European Union submitted a proposal – in the WTO – to reduce or eliminate trade barriers for environmental goods and services. The initiative places priority on technologies directly linked to addressing climate change and energy security.
- **International Partnerships:** The United States has launched partnerships with 20 nations and the European Union on issues ranging from climate change science to energy and sequestration technologies, and multilateral partnerships including the Asia Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate (APP). The APP has initiated more than 100 programs that substantially increase investment in promotion of energy security, reduce air pollution, and confront climate change in ways that foster economic growth and poverty reduction.

**This Administration Is Setting And Enforcing Tough Standards For Air Quality:** The Administration is implementing new clean air rules that will reduce power plant pollution by approximately 70 percent and cut pollution from diesel fuel engines by more than 90 percent.

- **The Clean Air Locomotive and Marine Diesel Rule:** Significantly reduces air pollution from engines by cutting particulate matter emissions by 90 percent and nitrogen oxide emissions by 80 percent.
- **The Clean Air Interstate Rule:** Addresses pollutants that move across state lines by requiring power plants in the eastern part of the United States to cut emissions of sulfur dioxide and mercury by nearly 70 percent and nitrogen oxides by nearly 60 percent from 2003 levels, producing significant improvements to air quality, human health, and natural resources. Through the Clean Air Mercury Rule, the Administration is also working to implement the first ever regulation to control mercury emissions from power plants.
- **Clean Air Nonroad Diesel Rule:** Requires that soot and nitrogen oxide emissions be reduced by more than 90 percent and the sulfur content of diesel fuel be cut by 97 percent.

**The President Is Protecting Our Oceans Through Wise Stewardship And Sensible Management:** In 2004, the President released his Ocean Action Plan to promote an ethic of responsible use and preservation of our oceans and coastal resources. Of the 88 actions in the President's 2004 Ocean Action Plan, this Administration has met or is on schedule to meet all commitments, and more than a quarter of the existing actions have activities that "moved beyond" the initial commitments.

- **Ocean Programs Funding:** The Administration's FY '09 Budget Request includes \$217 million for the President's Ocean Initiative, \$62 million more than was requested for the Oceans Initiative in 2008, and about \$64 million more than Congress approved in the recent 2008 omnibus appropriations act.
- **Coral Triangle Initiative:** In December 2007, the Administration announced its support for six nations in Southeast Asia as they enhance coral conservation, promote sustainable fisheries, and ensure food security. The U.S. intends to commit \$4.35 million in new funds to this initiative.
- **Preventing and Cleaning Up Marine Debris:** In November 2007, Mrs. Bush announced a new Marine Debris Initiative to address the estimated 6.4 million tons of marine debris that litters the ocean. The initiative encourages the private sector to clean up marine debris and educate the public on what they can do to prevent its spread.
- **Striped Bass and Red Drum Fish Protections:** In October 2007, President Bush signed an Executive Order to conserve two of America's most popular recreational fish – striped bass and red drum – for the recreational, economic, and environmental benefit of present and future generations.
- **Promoting Ocean Literacy:** President Bush proclaimed June 2007 as National Oceans Month – calling upon Americans to learn more about the role oceans play and ways we can conserve them. To underscore the importance of ocean education, Mrs. Bush designated the J.L. Scott Marine Education Center as a Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center – the 21st partnership between the Federal Government and a marine education center.
- **Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation And Management Reauthorization Act Of 2006:** By signing this bill, the President reaffirmed our commitment to protect America's fisheries and keep our commercial and recreational fishing communities strong. Implementation of this Act is helping to end over-fishing, replenish our fish stocks, and advance international cooperation and ocean stewardship.
- **Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument:** President Bush created the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument, enabling nearly 140,000 square miles of the

Northwestern Hawaiian Islands to receive our Nation's highest form of marine environmental protection. In March 2007, Mrs. Bush announced the native Hawaiian name of the Marine National Monument, Papahānaumokuākea. The Monument is the largest single area dedicated to conservation in the history of our country and one of the largest protected marine areas in the world.

**The Administration Is Encouraging Good Stewardship And Conservation Of Our Natural Resources:** The President believes the best way to preserve and protect our resources is through cooperative conservation – a collaborative partnership between government, the public, and private entities. Through smart choices and sensible management, we can ensure our natural resources will be viable for generations to come.

- **Brownfields:** The Brownfields program encourages redevelopment of America's estimated 450,000 abandoned and contaminated waste sites. The program has resulted in more than \$10.4 billion in public and private cleanup and redevelopment funding and 47,201 jobs in cleanup, construction, and redevelopment. Assessments have been performed on 11,738 properties and 256 properties have been cleaned up under the Cleanup Grants, Revolving Loan Fund Pilots/Grants, and State Site-Specific Cleanups.
- **Maintaining Our National Parks Through The Centennial Initiative:** The President's National Parks Centennial Initiative will enhance our parks leading up to their 100th anniversary by providing up to \$3 billion in public and private investment over 10 years. The Initiative includes a Federal commitment of \$100 million per year over 10 years for improvements to our parks. In addition, the President's Centennial Challenge urges individuals, foundations, and the private sector to help support the parks by contributing \$100 million annually for 10 years. The President's FY '08 Budget proposes matching these contributions.
- **Record Funding For National Parks:** The President's FY '08 parks budget, totaling nearly \$2.1 billion, an increase of \$161 million over the FY '08 enacted amount. This represents a 15 percent increase for park operations over 2 years. Since taking office, the President has amplified park operational spending by more than 40 percent.
- **Migratory Bird Initiative:** The President's Migratory Bird Initiative is preserving and restoring stopover habitat for migratory birds in the United States. Efforts include an innovative policy called recovery credit trading, which will provide a new tool to help in habitat conservation; an FY '08 Budget proposal to provide conservation tax incentives; producing a "State of the Birds" report by 2009; and improving the status of five species over the next 5 years.
- **Conservation Tax Incentives:** The President called on Congress to pass the Administration's Conservation Tax Credit. This credit was enacted for 2006 and 2007, and the Administration proposed to make it permanent in the FY '09 Budget. The proposal allows landowners to carry forward a tax credit for charitable donations of land for conservation.
- **Colorado River Water Guidelines and Coordinated Operations:** The Department of the Interior facilitated agreement among Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming on water allocation during shortages and surpluses. This 2-year effort enables Interior to better manage Federal reservoirs while meeting the water needs of the seven States.