

The Real Bush Record.

The climate challenge is upon us. With the world looking to the U.S. for leadership, Bush is ducking behind false claims and hiding from his record on global warming.

A Special Report by the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming

2007

2000-
2007

The Key Questions



Mr. Bush: What About Your Campaign Promise?

When Will You Admit Carbon Dioxide is a Pollutant?

Why Are You Threatening to Veto a Cap and Trade Bill?

Mr. Bush: Why Did You Skip the UN Summit?

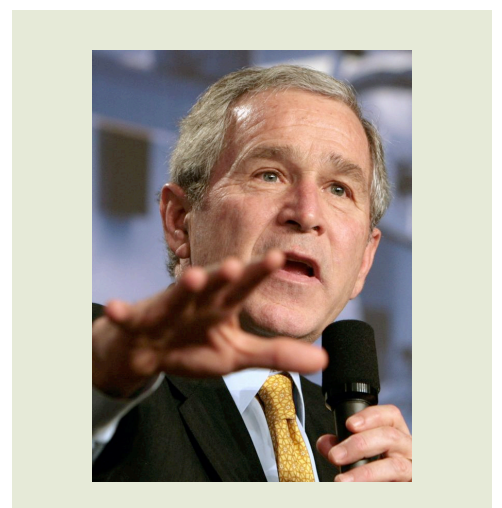
The Bush Global Warming Timeline.

Despite lofty campaign promises and years of rose-colored rhetoric, President Bush has put together a damning record

on global warming. He has both ignored the threat and undermined any serious efforts to address it.

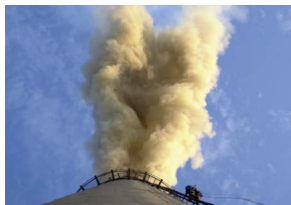
As his presidency draws to a close, Mr. Bush is now trying to convince the world he is committed to working to solve climate change. But in reality, the President is attempting to run out the clock on any measurable action that would solve global warming, thus passing the buck to his successor.

By threatening to veto clean energy bills and cap-and-trade legislation, the President is obstructing the United States on its path toward energy independence.





2000



Rhetoric:

Bush Campaign Promises: "As we promote electricity and renewable energy, we will work to make our air cleaner... We will require all power plants to meet clean air standards in order to reduce emissions of...carbon dioxide within a reasonable period of time. And we will provide market-based incentives, such as emissions trading, to help industry achieve the required reductions."

"In Texas, we passed one of the toughest laws in the nation to clean up so called 'grandfathered utilities' under the Clean Air Act. My opponent calls for voluntary reductions in such emissions. In Texas we've done better - with mandatory reductions, and I believe the nation can do better."

Reality:

Bush elected President of United States.

2001



Rhetoric:

At a meeting of G-8 ministers in Trieste, Italy, the U.S. EPA Administrator proclaims "Global warming is one of the greatest environmental issues we face, if not the greatest challenge. The reason I am here is to hear from and discuss these issues with our G-8 partners."

Reality:

Bush announces at the U.S./EU summit in Goteborg, Sweden that the Kyoto Protocol, in its current form, is "dead" and the U.S. will not sign on to it.

In a letter to three Senators, Bush goes back on a campaign promise to require reductions in carbon dioxide emissions: "I do not believe . . . that the government should impose on power plants mandatory emissions for carbon dioxide, which is not a pollutant under the Clean Air Act."

2002



Rhetoric:

Bush releases his alternative to Kyoto. It calls for voluntary reductions in greenhouse gas "intensity."

Reality:

Greenhouse gas intensity had already been falling for years, making Bush's non-binding plan a call for business-as-usual. As of 2007, the U.S. remains on target to meet Bush's intensity targets despite a 3% rise in emissions since he took office.

2003



Rhetoric:

The administration announces details of a 10-year plan to study global warming to determine whether greenhouse gases have contributed to an unnatural warming of the atmosphere.

Reality:

Feeling pressure to act on global warming, the President chooses to throw research money at the problem and punt the issue for a decade.

In its annual "The State of the Environment," the White House removes sections on global warming as well as references to health and environmental risks posed by rising temperatures.

2004



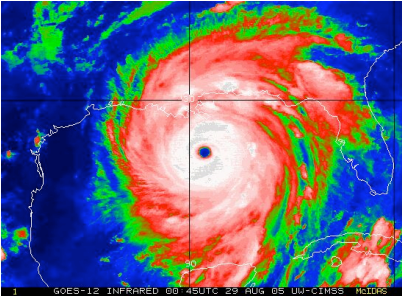
Rhetoric:

The administration releases a report to Congress claiming that emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are the only likely explanation for global warming over the last three decades.

Reality:

Bush highlights the "uncertainty" of the link between man-made pollution and global warming in an interview with the journal Nature.

In 2004 and 2005, Bush advocates for and signs into law over \$95 billion worth of subsidies to benefit fossil fuel producers and consumers.



2005

Rhetoric:

Shortly before the G-8 in Gleneagles, Scotland, Bush introduces the Asia-Pacific Partnership, claiming the new agreement “will allow our nations to develop and accelerate deployment of cleaner, more efficient energy technologies to meet national pollution reduction, energy security, and climate change concerns in ways that reduce poverty and promote economic development.”

The Reality:

The Asia Pacific Partnership lacks mandatory limits on greenhouse gas emissions, fails to create incentives to disseminate clean energy technologies, and has no action plan for overcoming barriers to technology transfer.

Bush blocks the G-8 from adopting a strong agreement on climate change at its annual meeting in Gleneagles, Scotland.

The American delegation walks out of the UN climate conference in Montreal over the wording of a draft statement calling for international cooperation on reductions in carbon dioxide emissions.

Hurricane Katrina levels New Orleans.



2006

Rhetoric:

Carbon dioxide emissions in the U.S. fall slightly during the year, which Bush claims are the result of “regulations, public-private partnerships, incentives, and strong economic investment.”

The Reality:

The Department of Energy reports the dip in annual carbon dioxide emissions is the result of an unusually warm winter that reduced demand for energy needed for winter heating.

It is revealed the Bush Administration attempted to silence James Hansen, NASA’s leading climate scientist, after one of his lectures mentioned the need to address global warming.

Bush says in an interview, “There’s a debate over whether [global warming is] man-made or naturally caused.”

In oral arguments before the Supreme Court, the Bush administration argues that carbon dioxide (CO₂)—the main cause of global warming—is not a pollutant.

“There’s a debate over whether [global warming is] man-made or naturally caused.”

-- George Bush

in 2006

2007

As the pressure to act on global warming has reached a fever pitch this year, the Bush Administration has risen to the occasion by ratcheting up delay tactics.

January 2007

Rhetoric:

State of the Union: Bush mentions “the serious challenge of global climate change”

President proposes new targets for renewable fuels such as ethanol, calling for an “Alternative Fuels Standard” that would require that U.S. transportation fuel supply include 35 billion gallons of “alternative fuels” and conserve regular gasoline usage by 20 percent by 2017.

The Reality:

Bush send legislation to Capitol Hill making clear that his “Alternative Fuels Standard” includes permitting a major new source of greenhouse gas pollution – coal-to-liquids – which would reverse progress on climate change.

In testimony before the Oversight & Government Reform Committee, witnesses from Union of Concerned Scientists reported that almost half of 279 government researchers whom they surveyed reported being pressured to remove or alter references to global warming and climate change from their scientific findings.

A month after the State of the Union, Bush sends legislation to Capitol Hill on fuel economy which includes no new goals and provides more discretion to the same agency—the Department of Transportation—to increase fuel economy standards for passenger cars. This is the same agency that has had the authority and chosen to do nothing with it for over 20 years.

February 2007

Rhetoric:

White House press release: “climate change has been a top priority since the President’s first year in

office. Beginning in June 2001, President Bush has consistently acknowledged climate change is occurring and humans are contributing to the problem.”

The Reality:

The White House continues to refuse to turn over global warming documents requested by Congress six months ago.

IPCC Working Group I Report released: Earth’s warming “is unequivocal” and the observed temperatures increases are due to the increase in heat-trapping gases from human activities.

Bush issues no policy shift, thereby remaining opposed to mandatory limits on carbon emissions.

April 2007

Rhetoric:

In his Earth Day remarks, Pres. Bush says: “We are taking positive steps to confront the important challenge of climate change. Our work is not done. We have a responsibility to pass on to future generations our commitment to the environment.”

The Reality:

In *Massachusetts v. EPA*, the Supreme Court rebukes Bush’s EPA for not taking action against global warming. It rules carbon dioxide is a pollutant and it can be regulated under the Clean Air Act.

IPCC Working Group II Report released: warns of the global effects of climate change, including extreme weather patterns, increasing droughts that lead to famine and disease, massive floods and avalanches in Asia, and species extinction unless significant action is taken on a global level to abate climate change.

US, Saudi Arabia and China are reported to be working to tone down the IPCC panel’s report, lead-

ing many of the report’s most alarming projections to be generalized.

May 2007

Rhetoric:

A month after the decision, Bush reacts to *Mass v. EPA* with an Executive Order calling for the “starting point” of regulation by the EPA, and the Departments of Energy, Agriculture, and Transportation.

Bush announces “new” climate policy: “America and other nations will set long-term global goals for reducing greenhouse gases...the US would convene a series of meetings of nations...form working groups that will cooperate on ways to share clean energy technology and best practices.”

The Reality:

The “starting point” plan is not due to the President until 3 weeks before he leaves office.

The “series of meetings of nations” is not part of the official UN process for negotiating a new international climate agreement. Its target of reaching agreement on “aspirational goals” is a move to bring the international discussion away from mandatory action and towards voluntary measures. It repeats a strategy from 2005, in which Bush directed attention away from commitments and toward further voluntary measures through the creation of the Asia-Pacific Partnership, another project that has produced nothing in the way of emissions reductions.

US negotiators try to weaken language of a climate change declaration set to be unveiled at the following month’s G-8 summit. They seek to strike language on limiting the temperature rise to 3.6°F and reducing global greenhouse gas emissions to 50% below 1990 by 2050. Also tries to strike: “We ac-

knowledge that the UN climate process is the appropriate forum for negotiating future global action on climate change."

The Administration goes to federal appeals court in San Francisco to fight a lawsuit brought by 11 states, the District, and 4 environmental groups that said the Department of Transportation's 1.3 mile-per-gallon increase in standards for light trucks was inadequate.

Bush's NASA Administrator Michael Griffin says he is "not sure that it is fair to say that it (climate change) is a problem we must wrestle with...I don't think it's within the power of human beings to assure that the climate does not change"

The White House approves a behind-the-scenes lobbying effort to block California from regulating greenhouse gas emissions from motor vehicles. The lobbying campaign is personally directed by the Secretary of Transportation, with the goal of getting members of Congress and state governors to oppose the Environmental Protection Agency's approval of the new California motor vehicle standards.

June 2007

The Reality:

When EPA Administrator Stephen Johnson is repeatedly asked during a hearing before the House Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming whether massive quantities of CO₂ in the atmosphere is a danger to the American people, he indicates that he has not yet decided.

September 2007

The Reality:

Bush's science advisor John Marburger says it is more than 90% certain that greenhouse gas emissions from mankind are causing global warming, that the Earth may become "unlivable" without cuts in CO₂ output, but says targets for curbing temperature rise are "arbitrary" and chooses not to support any targets at all.

EPA Administrator Stephen Johnson **STILL** has not yet decided if carbon dioxide is a danger to the American people.
--2007

The Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming

Rep. Edward J. Markey, Chairman

B243 Longworth House Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20515

202.225.4012

www.globalwarming.house.gov

