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1. Australia to get new uranium mine

By Cathy Alexander AAP July 15, 2009 08:03am The Australian

AUSTRALIA is to get a new uranium mine - courtesy of former anti-nuclear campaigner Peter Garrett.

The environment minister has approved the country's fourth uranium mine, to be built in South Australia's northeast.

Mr Garrett sang against the nuclear industry in his days as Midnight Oil frontman.

Now he's sure the new Four Mile mine "poses no credible risk to the environment".

Opposition environment spokesman Greg Hunt, who supports uranium mining, attacked Mr Garrett for his backflip on the issue.

"The promises Peter Garrett chose to make on uranium mining stand for nothing - and nor does he, any longer," Mr Hunt said.

Mr Garrett said it had been a difficult decision to approve the mine but it was right for him to abide by Labor's policy, which allows for an expansion of uranium mining.

"The values that I had before entering parliament I hold dear", Mr Garrett said.

"(But) the government has made a decision ... on this matter, which I fully accept."

Mr Garrett said there had been a thorough assessment of the proposed mine, and it would be subject to strict conditions.

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd said the Labor Party had publicly changed its policy on uranium mining back in 2007, when the "no-new-mines" policy was dropped.

"It couldn't be more transparent than that," Mr Rudd told ABC Radio.

When asked why he didn't allow a domestic nuclear power industry, Mr Rudd said renewable energy and cleaner-coal technology was the best way for Australia to tackle climate change.

David Noonan, the nuclear-free campaigner with the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF), said the new mine's chemical and radioactive waste would leach into the groundwater.

<http://www.news.com.au/story/0,,25784856-1702,00.html>

2. Steve Fielding wants to convince Al Gore he's wrong

By staff writers and wires

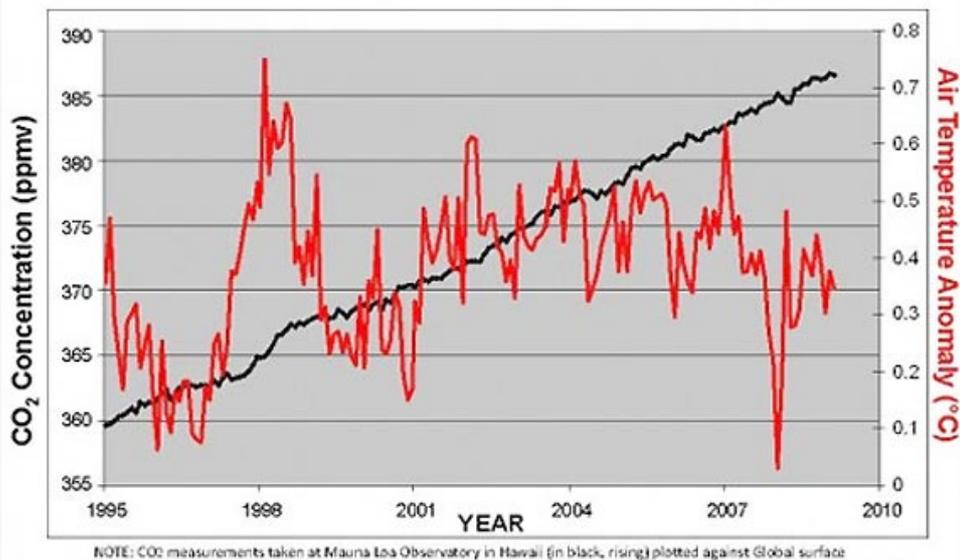
NEWS.com.au July 14, 2009 12:20pm

Climate change sceptic wants Gore meeting

Wants to convince him global warming is fake

Nominate your environmental heroes

CO₂ is rising ...But global temperature Isn't rising!



THIS is the chart climate change sceptic Senator Steve Fielding hopes will convince Al Gore that global warming is not real.

Senator Fielding is trying to score a one-on-one meeting with Mr Gore, who is in Australia promoting several environmental causes, to prove to him that climate change sceptics are right.

Senator Fielding has promised to clear his schedule for any chance to meet the former US vice-president and Nobel Prize-winning environmental campaigner. "The ball's in his court," a spokesman for the senator told news.com.au.

The spokesman has said Mr Gore is aware that Senator Fielding holds a crucial vote in Parliament and that any major green schemes - such as the Government's model to reduce carbon pollution in Australia - essentially rely on his support.

"(Mr Gore) said 'look, the schedule's tight but hopefully we can work something out'," when Senator Fielding approached yesterday for a meeting on the issue, the spokesman said.

"We're clearing our schedule to see him. If he calls at three in the morning, we'd go," he said.

It is believed Mr Gore will only be in the country for another day or so.

Senator Fielding wants to present a graph to Mr Gore which argues global temperatures have stabilised during the past 15 years, even as carbon emissions have risen.

The graph was used by the UN in its reports on the effects of climate change. UN scientists say the world has warmed in the past 150 years, but temperatures have plateaued at warmer-than-normal levels in the past decade after a particularly hot year in 1998.

It is the same graph Senator Fielding showed Climate Change Minister Penny Wong when the pair met to negotiate on the proposed Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme, which will set a price on carbon emissions.

"The Government needs to explain to the Australian people why global temperatures have remained steady over the last 10-15 years despite skyrocketing man made carbon emissions," Senator Fielding said on his website. Senator Wong and Prime Minister Kevin Rudd have set a targets of cutting emissions by five to 25 per cent by 2020. Mr Gore said that was not enough.

<http://www.news.com.au/story/0,,25780407-2,00.html>

3. Obama hails 'historic consensus' on climate change

Dave Clark The Age July 10, 2009

US President Barack Obama hailed an "historic consensus" on battling climate change Thursday, saying rich nations had a duty to lead the fight as they won backing from emerging powers.

At expanded sessions at the G8 club of developed nations' annual summit in Italy, an agreement was

also reached that countries should resist calls for protectionism to cushion the impact of the economic crisis.

Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Mexico and South Africa all joined the G8 on its second day, determined that Obama and his wealthy partners pick up most of the tab for solving the economic crisis and reversing global warming.

The emerging powers, long wary of shackling their growth potential through limiting their carbon emissions, ultimately bowed to pressure from the industrialised world to agree a climate change target, but not without a fight.

As late as last week, China and India opposed ambitious reduction targets, arguing the rich world should lead the way in fighting climate change.

But according to a copy of a summit communique seen by AFP, the Major Economies Forum -- the 16 countries that between them produce 80 percent of the world's greenhouse gases -- has come to a deal on a target.

The G8 countries, despite the reticence of Russia, had earlier agreed that developed nations should cut their emissions by 80 percent by 2050.

Now the emerging economies have accepted the principle of limiting the rise in the Earth's average temperature to two degrees Celsius above its 18th-century level, before the industrial revolution.

"This week the G8 nations came to an historic consensus towards concrete goals to reduce carbon emissions," said Obama.

"Developed nations will reduce their emissions by 80 percent and we will work with all nations to cut global emissions in half. This ambitious efforts is consistent with limiting global warming to no more than two degrees Celsius.

"Developed countries, like my own, have a historic responsibility to take the lead," he said.

"And I know that in the past the United States has sometimes fallen short of meeting our responsibilities, so let me be clear, those days are over."

According to a G8 diplomat, Indian premier Manmohan Singh had told his Western counterparts during the talks that "the developed world should shoulder a historic responsibility for causing global warning."

UN chief Ban Ki-moon however expressed disappointment that the summit had missed a "unique opportunity" to make progress in the build-up to a major climate conference in Copenhagen in December.

And Brazil dismissed the G8's distant emissions reduction target as "not credible" without an earlier interim stage, echoing the position of Russia, which has also dismissed the goal.

"We can't be satisfied with a single long-term objective without losing all credibility," said Brazilian Foreign Minister Luiz Alberto Figueiredo Machado.

"We need strong and deep reduction goals for 2020."

These six developing countries agreed with the big eight -- Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia and the United States -- that they would oppose protectionism and move quicker towards a global trade deal.

"We confirm our commitment to maintain and promote open markets and reject all protectionist measures," the expanded group, known at the summit as the G14, said in its post talks statement, seen by AFP.

"We are committed to seek an ambitious and balanced conclusion to the Doha developmental round in 2010," it added, setting a deadline for the resolution of a long-delayed global trade agreement.

The Doha round of trade liberalisation talks were launched in the Qatari capital in late 2001 but have foundered ever since, despite repeated attempts to infuse new life into the negotiations.

Progress has been hampered by disputes between developed and developing nations on measures to ease restrictions on trade in agricultural and industrial products.

Outside the summit venue -- a police training barracks hurriedly transformed into an international conference centre -- wives of several of the G8 leaders toured the town of L'Aquila, devastated by the April 6 earthquake.

The women, including US First Lady Michelle Obama, saw the work to recover the mountain town's historic centre and were ushered away from a protest by local residents who feel not enough has been done to rehouse them.

The G8 summit was to continue with more talks with leaders of the emerging economies Thursday, before coming to a conclusion Friday.

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<http://news.theage.com.au/breaking-news-world/obama-hails-historic-consensus-on-climate-change-20090710-dew9.html>

4. Don't leave sacrifices to us, says India

Matt Wade, New Delhi The Age July 10, 2009

FOR many Indians, the global debate on climate change is all about justice. There is a perception that rich countries are pushing for a carbon emissions deal that will let their people live in relative affluence, while tens of millions in countries like India remain trapped in relative poverty.

When the Indian Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh, unveiled his country's climate-change action plan last year he said everyone in the world deserved "an equal share of the planetary atmospheric space" and a "convergence" of per capita emissions was the only equitable basis for a global compact. The average Indian is responsible for a fraction of the greenhouse gas emissions of the average Westerner.

A story on the front page of *The Times of India* recently shows why many Indians are suspicious when rich countries push New Delhi to agree to greenhouse gas emission targets. It reported a forthcoming World Bank study which found that if the US replaced all its gas-guzzling four-wheel-drives with small, fuel-efficient cars, 1.6 billion poor people now living in the dark could get electricity without an increase in the greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change.

It is a comparison that resonates in a country where about half the population - more than 500 million people - do not have access to power. There is a strong political disincentive for the Government to commit to targets at this stage because it might appear to lock the average Indian into a lower standard of living than the average Westerner.

The most tangible target Singh has offered is to pledge that his country's per capita CO₂ emissions will never exceed the average of developing countries. This is more of a challenge than a commitment because it puts the onus on Western countries to make huge per capita cuts before India has to do anything.

Chandra Bhushan, of the Centre for Science and Environment in Delhi, says that the Government has undertaken to implement an ambitious domestic plan for the mitigation of climate change, introduced a year ago, no matter what other countries do. But any additional international commitments will have to be supported by finance and technology from developed countries.

"India is saying that we are doing everything we can domestically to reduce CO₂ emissions with our own resources but any international commitment that India has to take that deviates from business as usual has to be funded by developed countries," he said.

Bhushan believes unconvincing commitments and promises made by the world's richest countries mean India does not feel under much pressure to do more.

"Expecting India to put its cards on the table does not make any sense," he said. "If developed countries really took the lead and announced big binding cuts in emissions by 2020 it would put a lot of pressure on developing countries to do more but right now that is not happening."

Source: [The Sydney Morning Herald](#)

<http://www.theage.com.au/environment/global-warming/dont-leave-sacrifices-to-us-says-india-20090710-dfna.html>

5. G8 statement on climate change and environment

The Guardian

The leaders of the G8 rich nations [have agreed](#) to adopt a goal of at least halving greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The communiqué says that mid-term goals will be needed to hit the shared target for 2050, but that it would be up to individual countries to adopt them.

Here is the full text of the statement (the numbers refer to the paragraphs' position within the overall G8 document).

Climate change

22. We reconfirm the significance of the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) as providing the most comprehensive assessment of the science and encourage the continuation of the science-based approach that should guide our climate protection efforts. We reaffirm our commitment to take strong leadership in combating climate change and in this respect, welcome decisions taken in Bali as the foundation for reaching a global agreement in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process by 2009. We are committed to its successful conclusion. Enhanced commitments or actions by all major economies are essential for tackling climate change. Therefore, we endorse the positive contribution of the major economies leaders meeting to the UNFCCC.

23. We are committed to avoiding the most serious consequences of climate change and determined to achieve the stabilisation of atmospheric concentrations of global greenhouse gases consistent with the ultimate objective of article two of the convention and within a timeframe that should be compatible with economic growth and energy security. Achieving this objective will only be possible through common determination of all major economies, over an appropriate timeframe, to slow, stop and reverse global growth of emissions and move towards a low-carbon society. We seek to share with all parties to the UNFCCC the vision of, and together with them to consider and adopt in the UNFCCC negotiations, the goal of achieving at least 50% reduction of global emissions by 2050, recognising that this global challenge can only be met by a global response, in particular, by the contributions from all major economies, consistent with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. Substantial progress toward such a long-term goal requires, inter alia, in the near-term, the acceleration of the deployment of existing technologies, and in the medium- and long-term, will depend on the development and deployment of low-carbon technologies in ways that will enable us to meet our sustainable economic development and energy security objectives. In this regard, we emphasise the importance and urgency of adopting appropriate measures to stimulate development and deployment of innovative technologies and practices.

24. Making progress towards the shared vision, and a long-term global goal will require mid-term goals and national plans to achieve them. These plans may reflect a diversity of mitigation and adaptation approaches. Sectoral approaches are useful tools among others for achieving national emission reduction objectives. We look forward to discussing this issue with leaders of other major economies tomorrow and to continuing the discussions among the major economies and in the UNFCCC negotiations over the coming months. We recognise that what the major developed economies do will differ from what major developing economies do, consistent with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. In this respect, we acknowledge our leadership role and each of us will implement ambitious economy-wide mid-term goals in order to achieve absolute emissions reductions and, where applicable, first stop the growth of emissions as soon as possible, reflecting comparable efforts among all developed economies, taking into account differences in their national circumstances. We will also help support the mitigation plans of major developing economies by technology, financing and capacity-building. At the same time, in order to ensure an effective and ambitious global post-2012 climate regime, all major economies will need to commit to meaningful mitigation actions to be bound in the international agreement to be negotiated by the end of 2009.

25. Sectoral approaches can be useful tools to improve energy efficiency and reduce GHG emissions through dissemination of existing and new technologies in a manner compatible with economic growth. We ask the IEA to enhance its work on voluntary sectoral indicators through improved data collection, complemented by business initiatives. We emphasise the importance of expeditious discussions in the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) for limiting or reducing GHG emissions in the international aviation and maritime sectors, bearing in mind the distinct processes under the UNFCCC toward an agreed outcome for the post-2012 period.

26. We recognise the importance of setting mid-term, aspirational goals for energy efficiency. In national goals and objectives, as well as in country specific action plans, we will maximise implementation of the IEA's 25 recommendations on energy efficiency. We welcome the recent decision to establish the International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC), of which the terms of association will be determined by the end of this year, as a high level forum for enhancing and coordinating our joint efforts to accelerate the adoption of sound energy efficiency improvement practices. We invite all interested countries to join those efforts.

27. We promote clean energy, given its importance in tackling climate change and for the enhancement of energy security, by setting national goals and formulating action plans followed by appropriate monitoring. We believe that there are significant and growing economic and employment opportunities in this sector. We recognise the important role of renewable energy in tackling climate change and in the long term reducing our dependency on fossil fuels. We underscore the importance of sustainable biofuel production and use. The same should apply for the broader use of biomass for fuel, heat and electricity. We support the work of the "Global Bioenergy Partnership" (GBEP) and invite it to work with other relevant stakeholders to develop science-based benchmarks and indicators for biofuel production and use. We are committed to continuing research and development of second generation biofuel technologies.

28. We witness that a growing number of countries have expressed their interests in nuclear power programmes as a means to addressing climate change and energy security concerns. These countries regard nuclear power as an essential instrument in reducing dependence on fossil fuels and hence greenhouse gas emissions. We reiterate that safeguards (nuclear nonproliferation), nuclear safety and nuclear security (3S) are fundamental principles for the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Against this background, an international initiative proposed by Japan on 3S-based nuclear energy infrastructure will be launched. We affirm the role of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in this process.

29. Recognising the linkage between the potential impacts of climate change and development, mitigation and adaptation strategies should be pursued as part of development and poverty eradication efforts. A successful global response to climate change requires a partnership between developing and developed countries. Developing countries' efforts to put in place appropriate national mitigation and adaptation plans to build low carbon, climate resilient economies, should be supported by scaled up assistance from developed countries.

30. Recognising that poorer countries are among the most vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change, we will continue and enhance cooperation with developing countries, in particular least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states, in their efforts to adapt to climate change including disaster risk reduction. To address this issue, we commit to support urgent actions to mainstream adaptation into broader development strategies and encourage developing countries themselves to integrate adaptation into their development policies. The early start of activities under the UNFCCC Adaptation Fund should make an important contribution in this respect. We call on the multilateral development banks and other development agencies to support countries in this endeavor.

31. We will establish an international initiative with the support of the IEA to develop road maps for innovative technologies and cooperate upon existing and new partnerships, including carbon capture and storage (CCS) and advanced energy technologies. Reaffirming our Heiligendamm commitment to urgently develop, deploy and foster clean energy technologies, we recognise and encourage a wide range of policy instruments such as transparent regulatory frameworks, economic and fiscal incentives, and public/private partnerships to foster private sector investments in new technologies. We strongly support the launching of 20 large-scale CCS demonstration projects globally by 2010, taking into account various national circumstances, with a view to beginning broad deployment of CCS by 2020. To accelerate these and other efforts, we are committed to increasing investment in both basic and applied environmental and clean energy technology research and development (R&D), and the promotion of commercialisation including through direct government funding and fiscal measures to encourage private sector investment. In this respect, G8 members have so far pledged over the next several years over US\$10bn annually in direct government-funded R&D. We also agree to take various policy and regulatory measures to provide incentives for commercialising these technologies. We note the opportunity to promote research on complementary technological approaches which may contribute towards maintaining a stable climate. To respond to the growing demand for Earth observation data, we will accelerate efforts within the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), which builds on the work of UN specialised agencies and programs, in priority areas, inter alia, climate change and water resources management, by strengthening observation, prediction and data sharing. We also support capacity building for developing countries in earth observations and promote interoperability and linkage with other partners.

32. Substantial finance and investments will be needed to meet the urgent challenges of mitigation, adaptation and access to clean energy in developing countries. While the main sources of finance will be the private sector, public resources are essential to help the poorest and to leverage private resources, notably by financing incremental costs and can be very effective in inducing emissions reduction when national policies provide incentives for low carbon investment. In this regard, we welcome and support the establishment of the Climate Investment Funds (CIF) including the Clean Technology Fund (CTF) and the Strategic Climate Fund (SCF), administered by the World Bank. G8

members have thus far pledged approximately US\$6bn as an ODA contribution to the funds and welcome commitments from other donors. The CIF will scale up public and private finance. They will have broad-based and inclusive governance mechanisms and, as an interim measure, fill an immediate financial gap for urgent actions until a new financial architecture under the post-2012 regime is effective. The CTF will aim to promote low-carbon economies by helping to finance deployment in developing countries of commercially available cleaner energy technologies through investments in support of credible national mitigation plans that include low-carbon objectives. The SCF will help more vulnerable countries develop climate-resilient economies and take actions to prevent deforestation, and could provide helpful lessons in the context of discussions on post-2012 financing arrangements. These funds will complement existing multilateral efforts, including the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), which plays the key role as the main financial instrument of the UNFCCC and which we are committed to reinforcing. We also welcome various bilateral financial initiatives taken by G8 members, including public/private partnerships capable of generating additional investment. We expect such financial assistance to be delivered in a coordinated manner and encourage active engagement by developing countries in an effective post-2012 framework.

33. Market mechanisms, such as emissions-trading within and between countries, tax incentives, performance-based regulation, fees or taxes and consumer labeling can provide pricing signals and have the potential to deliver economic incentives to the private sector. We also recognise that they help to achieve emission reductions in a cost effective manner and to stimulate long-term innovation. We intend to promote such instruments in accordance with our national circumstances and share experience on the effectiveness of the different instruments. In this regard, we welcome the action plan for climate change to enhance the engagement of private and public financial institutions adopted by our finance ministers.

34. Efforts in the WTO negotiations to eliminate tariffs and non-tariff barriers to environmental goods and services should be enhanced with a view to disseminating clean technology and skills. Additionally, consideration should be given to the reduction or elimination of trade barriers on a voluntary basis on goods and services directly linked to addressing climate change. We also agree to encourage initiatives contributing to climate change mitigation including purchasing and investment policies and practices that promote and support the cleaner and more efficient products and services that can contribute to lower carbon emissions.

35. We welcome the final report of the Gleneagles dialogue on climate change, clean energy and sustainable development. We also welcome the reports submitted by the IEA and the World Bank on their work related to the Gleneagles plan of action and continue to cooperate with those organisations. We value the useful exchange of views both between member countries and also business and civil society participants and acknowledge the role that further exchanges of this nature can play in supporting action on climate change and the UNFCCC process. We note the significant progress made by the multilateral development banks on the Clean Energy Investment Framework (CEIF) agreed at Gleneagles and welcome their joint level of ambition to mobilise public and private investments of over US\$100bn up to 2010 from within existing resources. We call upon these Banks to build on the CEIF to develop comprehensive strategies to guide the integration of climate change into their development work and to set specific targets for low carbon investments like renewable energy.

Forests

36. We encourage actions for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (REDD) including the development of an international forest monitoring network building on existing initiatives. Recognising the urgent need to curb illegal logging and its associated trade, we welcome the G8 forest experts' report on illegal logging. We will follow up, as appropriate, its preliminary list of options. We will make all possible efforts by ensuring close coordination among various fora and initiatives with a view to promoting effective forest law enforcement and governance and sustainable forest management worldwide. We will also consider ways to enhance our cooperation to combat forest fires.

Biodiversity

37. Recognising the crucial importance of the conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity as highlighted at the 9th meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity held in Bonn, we share the concerns regarding the vulnerability of biodiversity. We endorse the Kobe Call for Action for Biodiversity and reiterate our commitment to increase our efforts to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss significantly in order to achieve the globally agreed 2010 biodiversity target, including by reducing threats from the illicit trade in wildlife. We will promote a co-benefits approach that will lead

to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity as well. We note the importance of improving the interface between research activities and the public and policy makers.

Waste

38. In implementing the principles of the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle), we recognise the importance of how we use resources throughout their life cycles to a thriving global economy and environment. To this end, we endorse the Kobe 3R Action Plan. We will set targets as appropriate taking into account resource productivity, based on the work of the OECD in furthering efforts to optimise resource cycles. We recognise the importance of information sharing, stakeholder partnerships, and the inclusion of 3R viewpoint in project development and investment. We recognize the significance of reducing barriers to trade in remanufactured goods and for the G8 members to the WTO to support the recently submitted proposal to liberalise trade in remanufactured goods under the WTO Doha Round. We support the international circulation of reusable and recyclable materials and resources in an environmentally sound manner consistent with the Basel Convention.

Education for sustainable development

39. We promote Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) by supporting the Unesco and other organisations in the field of ESD and through knowledge networks among relevant institutions including universities to encourage actions by the public leading to a more sustainable and low-carbon society.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2008/jul/08/climatechange.carbonemissions>

6. Energy white paper is set to shake up the green industry

The Guardian

Energy secretary Ed Miliband says legally binding carbon budgets will revolutionise policy-making

Watching the US political drama the *West Wing* one night, [Ed Miliband](#) found he had something in common with Josh Lyman, who plays the deputy White House chief of staff. Both, Miliband says, have been exasperated by the infighting within the [energy](#) industry.

The energy and [climate change](#) secretary recounts the episode in which Lyman crashes his SUV into a Prius, symbol of the environmentally conscious. As penance for such sacrilege, the White House staffer has to attend an industry summit where people are promoting different low-carbon technologies. "They end up having a big fall-out with each other," Miliband says. "Sometimes the UK debate feels a bit like that: the renewables lot say you should only do renewables and shouldn't do nuclear or coal. Nuclear people say all this wind will lead to big problems. Coal people say, 'Why are you going on about renewables and nuclear?'"

On Wednesday Miliband will publish a white paper outlining how the UK will make the transition to a low-carbon economy. Companies of all shades of green are on tenterhooks, waiting to find out if their lobbying for subsidies (although they would never profess to use such a dirty word) for their industry or particular technology has been successful. Everyone has an opinion on how best to solve climate change.

This week, it was the turn of the CBI. The business group told Miliband to water down the target to produce about a third of the UK's electricity by 2020 from renewables such as wind. It claims this will jeopardise plans to build low-carbon forms of generation such as nuclear reactors and clean coal plants.

Miliband says: "You have to be ambitious on nuclear. I know that's hard for some people." It's brave, not just because he risks incurring the wrath of the environmentalists, but also that of his family. His brother David, the foreign secretary, is president of Sera, the Socialist Environment and Resources Association, a staunch opponent of [nuclear power](#). Their father, Ralph, campaigned for nuclear disarmament. "I didn't grow up in a terribly pro-nuclear family, as you can imagine. But lots of people have changed their mind about nuclear as a result of climate change."

Miliband calls himself a "hard-headed environmentalist", not favouring one technology over the other. "Hard-headed environmentalism is about saying we're not going to operate on the basis of preconceived notions," he says.

The white paper will unveil the world's first legally binding carbon budgets, which will eventually commit the UK to cutting its greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. In April, the chancellor outlined the first five-year budgets. Between 2008 and 2012, the country is required to cut its

emissions by 22%, ratcheting up to 34% in 2022. If the UK exceeds the limit, it will have to buy in credits from overseas, but Miliband stresses that the aim is to stay within the budget by domestic reductions only.

He says that this will revolutionise policymaking: "Every major policy will be scrutinised for its carbon impact. Government will have to operate within a carbon budget in the same way it has to operate in a financial budget. If we go over the carbon budget, there will be financial penalties – that is going to be a big cultural change across government."

Not all the government's decisions are predicated on the need to slash emissions, as the decision to approve a third runway at Heathrow demonstrated. Miliband was said to be one of the cabinet voices who spoke out most strongly against the plans, although he has never publicly dissented. Instead, he argues that increased emissions from aviation can be accommodated within the carbon budgets by, for example, promoting sustainable forms of transport, such as electric cars.

Not surprisingly, Miliband isn't too impressed by David Cameron's professed support for renewables. The wind farm that Miliband opened on Monday – built by RWE npower renewables at Little Cheyne Court in Kent and the largest onshore wind farm in the south-east – was opposed by the local Tory MP and former home secretary Michael Howard. The Tories also want to abolish the new central planning commission designed to help projects like wind farms overcome local opposition.

Miliband says: "It is not coherent to say you are in favour of renewable energy, which they say they are, to oppose our planning reform and for local councils all over the place to oppose the building of wind farms."

He is optimistic about the chances of avoiding catastrophic climate change. You have to give people "green hope, not green despair", he says, by explaining what they can do to help.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2009/jul/13/miliband-energy-white-paper-tories-carbon-budgetspower>

7. Poorer Nations Reject a Target on Emission Cut

Jason Reed/Reuters By PETER BAKER Published: July 8, 2009 New York Times

L'AQUILA, Italy — The world's biggest developing nations, led by China and India, refused Wednesday to commit to specific goals for slashing heat-trapping gases by 2050, undercutting the drive to build a global consensus by the end of this year to reverse the threat of climate change.

As President Obama arrived for three days of talks with other leaders of the Group of 8 nations, negotiators for 17 leading polluters abandoned targets in a draft agreement for the meetings here. But negotiators embraced a goal of preventing temperatures from rising more than 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit, and developing nations agreed to make "meaningful" if unspecified reductions in emissions.

The mixed results underscored the challenges for Mr. Obama as he tries to use his first summit meeting of the Group of 8 powers to force progress toward a climate treaty. With Europe pressing for more aggressive action and Congress favoring a more restrained approach, Mr. Obama finds himself navigating complicated political currents at home and abroad.

If he cannot ultimately bring along developing countries, no climate deal will be effective.

The debate over warming dominated the opening of the summit meeting, but the Group of 8 nations also tackled the global economic recession, Middle East peace, the war in Afghanistan and development in Africa. Mr. Obama invited his colleagues to a nuclear security conference in Washington in March and prepared to announce a \$15 billion program to combat world hunger. And in a statement, the leaders said they "deplore postelectoral violence" in Iran, and they pressed Tehran for a diplomatic solution to the standoff on its nuclear program.

President Nicolas Sarkozy of France told reporters late Wednesday that the major powers would give talks with Iran until September to make progress; but "then we will have to take decisions," he said.

Mr. Obama put climate change front and center by scheduling a meeting on the sidelines of the main talks on Thursday and inviting nine other nations that, along with the Group of 8, pump out 80 percent of the world's greenhouse gases. American officials called the results a step forward in the arduous process intended to lead to a worldwide climate treaty at a conference in Copenhagen in December.

But the impasse over the 2050 targets demonstrated again the most vexing problem in reaching a consensus on climate change: the longstanding divisions between developed countries like the United States, Europe and Japan on one side, and developing nations like China, India, Brazil and Mexico on

the other.

While the richest countries have produced the bulk of the pollution blamed for climate change, developing countries are producing increasing volumes of gases. But developing countries say their climb out of poverty should not be halted to fix damage done by industrial countries.

As various sides tried to draft an agreement to sign Thursday, those tensions scuttled the specific goals sought by the United States and Europe. The proposed agreement called for worldwide emissions to be cut 50 percent by 2050, with industrial countries cutting theirs by 80 percent. But emerging powers refused to agree because they wanted industrial countries to commit to midterm goals in the next decade and to follow through on promises of financial and technological help for poorer nations.

"They're saying, 'We just don't trust you guys,'" said Alden Meyer, of the Union of Concerned Scientists. "It's the same gridlock we had last year when Bush was president."

Still, American officials said the agreement on Thursday would include important conceptual commitments by the developing nations to begin curbing emissions and to set a target date for gases to peak.

Moreover, a separate statement approved by the Group of 8 nations embraced the 80 percent emission cut for industrial nations and said scientists believed that the increase in world temperature "ought not to exceed" 2 degrees Celsius, or 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit.

"There were a number of different steps that create a meaningful commitment on emissions control," said Mike Froman, Mr. Obama's chief Group of 8 negotiator, "and we're still a fair ways away from Copenhagen, and we'll be working with the developing countries between now and then to try and firm up commitments."

The complicated multidirectional negotiations reflect varying messages that the Obama administration is sending different audiences. It is telling the Europeans it agrees with their long-term goals but will not commit to their ambitious short-term targets. At the same time, it is not demanding that leading developing countries make comparable commitments, stoking suspicions in Europe that Mr. Obama is pursuing a separate diplomatic track with China that will result in less ambitious targets.

Other Group of 8 leaders emphasized that any solution to climate change depended on the developing world's joining the battle. Without China and India, said Arkady Dvorkovich, the chief Russian negotiator, any further discussions would not lead anywhere. Besides the United States, Russia and France, the Group of 8 includes Britain, Germany, Italy, Japan and Canada.

Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy, the meeting's host, said it made little sense for Group of 8 countries to take on onerous commitments if "five billion people continue to behave as they have always behaved."

Any deal with developing nations became even more elusive after President Hu Jintao of China left for home to deal with unrest in the west of his country. Without agreement from the developing nations on specific targets, the Group of 8 nations watered down their commitment to the 2-degree benchmark.

A recent draft of the Group of 8 agreement said emissions should be reduced "to limit the average increase in global temperature to 2 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels." The final version said the nations "recognize the broad scientific view" that it should not rise more than 2 degrees Celsius.

Mr. Meyer said temperatures had already risen by 0.8 degree and would probably rise by another 0.6 degree based only on pollution already in the air, meaning that embracing that goal would require that major steps be taken almost immediately.

President George W. Bush agreed to a 50 percent cut in global greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, but not to an 80 percent reduction in those produced by industrial countries. With Mr. Obama's support, the House recently passed legislation to curb emissions, though not nearly as fast as the Europeans want.

Jake Schmidt, the international climate policy director at the Natural Resources Defense Council, said that despite the rejection of the 2050 goals, it was heartening that the developing countries were committing to make reductions, and he added that the 2-degree benchmark would be an important yardstick.

"Now," he said, "every action that is put forward from any country is viewed through this lens — does it help to hold global temperatures below 2 degrees?"

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/09/world/europe/09prexy.html?_r=1&scp=5&sq=Climate%20Change&st=cse