

[News Front Page](#)
[World](#)
[UK](#)
[England](#)
[Northern Ireland](#)
[Scotland](#)
[Wales](#)
[Business](#)
[Politics](#)
[Health](#)
[Education](#)
[Science/Nature](#)
[Technology](#)
[Entertainment](#)
[Have Your Say](#)
[Magazine](#)
[In Pictures](#)
[Week at a Glance](#)
[Country Profiles](#)
[In Depth](#)
[Programmes](#)
[BBC SPORT](#)
[BBC WEATHER](#)
[cbbc news](#)
[BBC ON THIS DAY](#)

Last Updated: Tuesday, 7 December, 2004, 21:35 GMT

 [E-mail this to a friend](#)
 [Printable version](#)

## US rules out joining Kyoto treaty

By Elizabeth Blunt  
BBC News, Buenos Aires

**The US has told a UN conference on global warming that it has no intention of re-joining international efforts to cut greenhouse gas emissions.**

The chief American negotiator at the conference in Argentina's capital Buenos Aires ruled out any move to sign up to the Kyoto Protocol for years.

Dr Harlan Watson said efforts to cut emissions were based on bad science.

The US was focused instead, he said, on implementing President George W Bush's plans to promote energy efficiency.

At the beginning of this year's conference on global warming, the head of the Climate Change Convention had seemed to be offering an opening to the US.

### Olive branch

It was suggested that in the next phase of action after 2012, countries might be able to pursue different routes towards a similar end.

The US mantra has been that it is committed to addressing climate change but has simply chosen a different path.

But if it was an olive branch, the US has brushed it aside.

Dr Watson, who is leading the American delegation here, told a news conference that this was not the moment for the US to reassess its policies.

### Scathing judgement



The US says its plan to cut greenhouse gases will be effective

### Planet under pressure

[In Depth](#)

A six part series looking at the biggest problems facing the Earth

[Introducing Planet Under Pressure](#)

#### PART 5: CLIMATE CHANGE

[Entering uncharted waters?](#)

 [Rising tides](#)  
Life in Bangladesh's low-lying Ganges delta.

[Photojournal: Facing rising tides](#)

[Quiz: Test your knowledge](#)

[Q&A: The Kyoto Protocol](#)

[Animated guide: Climate change](#)

 [Warming: The evidence](#)

#### CLIMATE IN THE NEWS

[Argentina warns of climate crisis](#)

[UK's carbon trading plans](#)

[Talks look for new climate effort](#)

[Start date set for Kyoto treaty](#)

#### HAVE YOUR SAY

[Send us your pictures and stories](#)

#### VIDEO AND AUDIO

 [Reports on the issues](#)

#### FROM OTHER NEWS SITES:

[MSNBC](#) U.S. on defensive at climate talks - 33 mins ago

[ABCNEWS.com](#) U.S. Defends Global Warming Strategy - 2 hrs ago

[Taipei Times](#)

[Online](#) Environmentalists sad US, China don't join Kyoto protocol - 3 hrs ago

[Boston Globe](#) IRA says it reopened disarmament talks - 6 hrs ago

[Independent](#) Blair climate change plan hit by failure to meet green targets - 14 hrs ago

[About these results](#)

#### HAVE YOUR SAY

“ The result of no action will be no planet ”

Brian Bailey, Winterthur, Switzerland

[Send us your comments](#)

He said US President George W Bush had a 10-year programme to reduce the carbon intensity of the US economy by 18% by 2012.

The government was totally committed to carrying out the programme and wanted to wait to see the results, he added.

But Dr Watson admitted that even if the US achieved its target, it would still be producing 15-16% more greenhouse gases while the rest of the industrialised world was committed to an absolute reduction.

He was scathing about the way the rest of the world was approaching climate change, arguing that the Kyoto Protocol was a political document and not based on sound science.

Dr Watson said the protocol was more about being seen to agree than about actual action.

He challenged any of the Kyoto parties to match the US in the practical steps it was undertaking.

The BBC is not responsible for the content of external internet sites

**RELATED INTERNET LINKS:**

[US COP-10 Address](#)

The BBC is not responsible for the content of external internet sites

**TOP SCIENCE/NATURE STORIES NOW**

[EU set to close fishing grounds](#)

[New sub-species of tiger found](#)

[US rejects climate policy attacks](#)

[UK 'failing on greenhouse gases'](#)

 [E-mail this to a friend](#)

 [Printable version](#)

**LINKS TO MORE SCIENCE/NATURE STORIES**

[News alerts](#) | [E-mail services](#) | [Desktop ticker](#) | [Mobiles/PDAs](#) | [Headlines for your site](#)

 [MMIV](#)

[Help](#) | [Privacy & Cookies Policy](#) | [News sources](#) | [About the BBC](#)

[Back to top](#) ^^

[News Front Page](#) | [World](#) | [UK](#) | [England](#) | [Northern Ireland](#) | [Scotland](#) | [Wales](#) | [Politics](#)  
[Business](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Science/Nature](#) | [Technology](#) | [Health](#) | [Education](#)

[Have Your Say](#) | [Magazine](#) | [In Pictures](#) | [Week at a Glance](#) | [Country Profiles](#) | [In Depth](#) | [Programmes](#)

[BBC Homepage >>](#) | [BBC Sport >>](#) | [BBC Weather >>](#) | [BBC World Service >>](#)

**NEWSWATCH**

[Notes and corrections](#) | [Feedback](#) | [About BBC News](#) | [Profiles](#) | [History](#)