



Friends of  
the Earth  
Europe

# The Citizens' Deal Against Climate Change - Summer 2006

**PEOPLES' WILL TO ACT.  
GOVERNMENTS' RESPONSIBILITY TO REACT!**







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# The urgency of the problem

Man made climate change is the single biggest threat to our planet. Burning coal, oil and gas – but also intensive agriculture and cutting down forests – all pollute our atmosphere with greenhouse gases that heat up the planet. If the global average temperature rises, so will the intensity and frequency of freak weather events. Rising sea levels will wipe whole countries like the Maldives from the face of the planet. Developing countries will be hit first and hardest, but Europe will also be affected – the 2003 heat wave and recent flooding in Central Europe gave us a first taste of what is still to come.

## The citizens' deal

During the summer of 2006, Friends of the Earth Europe raised public awareness about the problem of climate change and collected thousands of "Citizens' Deals against Climate Change". These deals represent an agreement made between citizens and political leaders. Citizens all over Europe promised to adopt more climate friendly behavior; in counterpart they expect their government to do the same on the policy level.

Throughout our street actions, we have seen that many Europeans are aware of the problem and are ready to take action to fight climate change. However, a recurrent problem is that too often their good will to take action is hampered by a lack of incentives – such as cheaper and better organised public transport, or financial reward for house insulation and solar heating. It is time for politicians to face up to their responsibility and induce a political change towards an energy revolution – the people who elected them are asking them to do so NOW!



# Political challenges ahead

Over the next few months, important political decisions will be taken on the EU and international level with regard to climate and energy policy.

In October 2006, EU Environment Ministers will agree on the common position that they will take at the next UN climate conference (COP/MOP2) in Nairobi. At COP/MOP2, governments must start negotiating for ambitious emission reduction targets for the post-2012 period. The EU should lead this process and should take a strong line to ensure that the negotiations are completely finalised by 2008. Meeting this 2008 deadline is crucial to avoid a dangerous gap between the first and second commitment periods.

In parallel and up until March 2007, the EU will make decisions on a future European energy policy. Here the EU has a chance to prove how serious it is about fighting climate change on the domestic level – as decisions on a future European energy policy will be taken. In order to fulfil our commitments under the Kyoto Protocol, we need an EU-wide energy policy that is sustainable, based on cutting energy waste and driving an economic shift towards renewable energy sources. Europe does have the knowledge, the technology and the economic strength to revolutionise the way we produce and consume energy.

## The people in this booklet

Throughout this booklet you will discover real faces of real people that want their governments to take action. Let their voices be heard in the political world – listen to what they have to say!





# The 2°C objective

To avoid catastrophic climate change, global warming must stay well below a **2°C temperature increase compared to pre-industrial levels**. This will require global emissions to peak in the next 10 years and steadily decline thereafter. The 2°C target should be the EU's and the international community's key paradigm defining further action and stimulating drastic cuts of greenhouse gas emissions. EU Heads of State adopted this target in March 2005. However, it has not yet been officially recognized by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).



“ I promise to use only energy saving light bulbs. In return I ask the Croatian government to ratify the Kyoto protocol. ”

Tomislav, Croatia





“

I prefer public transport and my own feet! Revitalize Rail!

”

Malgorzata, Poland



“ I will use energy saving light bulbs!  
I want to see standards for the  
efficiency of electric devices! ”

Asta, Finland







I won't leave electrical devices on stand-by and I want the government to promote energy efficiency.



No name given, Finland



# Equity

**D**eveloped nations, such as those within the EU, have to cut emissions while at the same time giving developing countries financial and technical assistance to ensure that their capacity to develop is not hampered. It is essential to recognise the principle of “**differentiated but common responsibilities**”. The level of action required from nations should be based on accumulated, historic greenhouse gas emissions per capita as well as on an indicator such as GDP per capita.



“ I will switch off the stand-by function of my television. The government should invest in renewable energy. ”

Laetitia, Belgium





IK NEEM ALTIJD DE  
FIETS OF HET OPENBAAR VERVOER  
BETERE & MEER FIETSPADEN EN MEER  
SUBSIDIES VOOR HET OPENBAAR VERVOER  
ZOU DIT VOOR MEER MENSEN  
AANTREKKELIJK MAKEN

“ I always go by bike or public transport. More and better bike paths and more subsidies for public transport would make this an attractive option for more people. ”

Magali, Belgium





I promise to use more ethanol as fuel in my car. In return I want the government to put an environmental tax on aviation.



Mats, Sweden







I would buy local organic food if it was cheaper: food should be transported from as nearby as possible!



Nikolett and Ildikó, Hungary





# Deep emission cuts for the developed world

**D**eveloped countries have a historical responsibility towards the developing world, as they have played a much bigger role in polluting the earth's atmosphere with greenhouse gas emissions. Therefore they have to take action first and drastically reduce their emissions. Reduction targets for developed countries, such as those within the EU, must be at least **minus 30% by 2020 and minus 80% by 2050, compared to 1990 levels**. Developing countries will also have to make real progress in cutting greenhouse gas emissions but confidence between rich and poor nations can only be built if the big polluters lead by the good example.



“ We are traveling by bike.  
We demand energy saving technologies! ”

Ania and Robert, Poland





“ I will buy a fuel-efficient car, in return I want strict restrictions for greenhouse gas emissions. ”

Aleksandra, Bulgaria



# A shared global solution

**G**lobal warming urgently needs a solution on the global level. A more dynamic framework will be required to reflect the range of **commitments and actions of all nations – developed and developing**. According to the principle of “common but differentiated responsibilities”, the biggest polluters have to act first. However, growing developing nations will have to take their responsibilities too. The negotiations for the post-2012 period should aim towards greater quantified contributions from some of the developing countries, according to their capacities and needs.



“

I promise to save electricity. The government should do the same in return.

”

Sara, Slovenia





“

I will continue to use my bike.  
The government should arrange  
more biking paths, also in the  
region of Zasavje.

”

Tajda, Slovenia







I will use renewables and support Czech organic farms. I expect you to invest in these sectors.



Veronica, Czech Republic







“ I avoid taking the car as much as possible – I use the bike instead. Let's eat less meat and chose less wrapped products. I ask the government to stop nuclear power and to really invest in renewable energy. ”

Deborah, France



# Effective market mechanisms

The market mechanisms such as the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) under the Kyoto Protocol but also the European Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) should be encouraged in order to develop a climate friendly economy. However, they must take sustainable development criteria into account and truly trigger emission cuts. The CDM should enable poor developing countries to choose climate friendly development paths, for example through renewable energy projects.



“ We use low energy light bulbs and we ride bicycles. We ask for more bike lanes and public garages outside the city. ”

Fran, Sanja and their son, Croatia





I will turn off all appliances at night. The Croatian government should stop all unsustainable Hydro Power Plant projects on Drava and Dobra river.



Helena, Croatia





I promise to design a building that produces more energy than it consumes.  
In return the Government has to make it more attractive to people to act in a more energy-responsible way.



Troels, Denmark







Vi SÆNKER INDETEMP

ERATUREN MINDST 1 GRAD PÅ SDRVANG SKOLE NÅR

DET ER VINTER! REGERINGEN SKAL LAVE SOLENERGI  
PÅ SKOLENE!

-Pigerne fra 7.a



We promise to lower the indoor temperature during winter by at least 1 degree at Sdr.Vang School. In return the Government should install solar energy in schools.



The girls from 7. A, Denmark





# A sustainable energy future

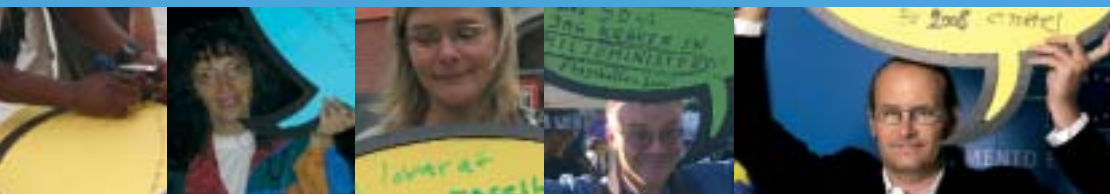
The only way for the EU to respect its Kyoto commitment and to meet the 2°C target is to encourage an economic shift towards a low carbon economy, based on energy efficiency and renewable energy sources. When major energy decisions are taken over the next few months, the EU must remember its commitment to cutting emissions. We believe that five preliminary conditions are necessary to cut greenhouse gas emissions successfully and truly implement a sustainable energy future:

- make Europe the most energy efficient economy in the world,
- boost renewables such as wind, solar, tidal and geothermal,
- induce a modal shift in transport i.e. from road to rail, and efficiency in cars,
- ban nuclear power, a dangerous and economically non-viable energy source,
- remove perverse subsidies from dirty energy sources and encourage a more faire pricing of renewable energy sources.



I prefer public transport and my feet! Make rail and bus an attractive travelling option.

Mr. John BOWIS, UK, EPP-ED





I will vote in favor of a sustainable EU energy strategy. I want the European Commission to push for strong energy savings: 20% by 2020.

Mrs Satu HASSI, Finland, Greens/EFA







**Friends of  
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This report has been produced by Friends of  
the Earth Europe's Climate Change Campaign



**Friends of the Earth Europe**

Friends of the Earth Europe campaigns for sustainable and just societies and for the protection of the environment, unites 31 member organisations with thousands of local groups and is part of the world's largest grassroots environmental network, Friends of the Earth International.

Friends of the Earth Europe is grateful to its 31 member organisations, the Oak Foundation and the European Commission's DG Environment for financial support. Sole responsibility for the content of this publication rests with its authors.