



CLIMATE CHANGE SELECTED WEBSITES AND ONLINE PUBLICATIONS

No recommendation is made in respect of non-U.S. Government web sites listed.

[Global Climate Change](#)

[Fact sheet on climate change](#)

[Climate Change Solutions Campaign](#)

[Fact sheet on U.S. Climate Change Policy](#)

[Fact Sheet on Bilateral and Regional Partnerships](#)

U.S. Committed to Addressing Challenges of Global Climate Change: U.S. policies on climate change are based on meeting the multiple objectives of improving energy security, promoting economic growth and development, reducing poverty, reducing traditional air pollution, and mitigating greenhouse gases. [more](#)

Financial Investment and Partnerships: The U.S. invest nearly \$5.8 billion in 2005 on science and technology research and other initiatives aimed at cutting greenhouse gas emissions. The United States also has initiated 14 bilateral climate partnerships with countries and regional organizations, resulting in joint projects on climate change science, cleaner energy technologies, and new policy approaches to greenhouse gases. [more](#) | [Bilateral Treaties](#)

U.S. Invests in Understanding Climate Change: The United States has made significant investments in advancing human knowledge about climate, its role in the environment and its impact on human activities. Scientists have identified global-scale climate changes, and they are working to ascertain potential consequences and responses. [more](#)

Recent initiative: Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate: The United States has joined five nations in the Asia-Pacific region in an initiative to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote the sharing of energy technology. This new partnership includes the United States, Australia, China, India, Japan and South Korea. Zoellick said the six countries combined represent more than half of the world's economy, population and energy use, and also produce half of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. Zoellick said the new initiative is "a complement, not an alternative," to the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the 1997 Kyoto Protocol. [more](#)

U.S. Committed to Asia-Pacific Climate Partnership, Rice Says (2006-02-09) The newly established Asia-Pacific Partnership for Clean Development and Climate is an essential part of the U.S. commitment to promoting economic development while preserving the environment, says Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. The initiative employs partnerships between public and private sectors of the six partner countries to enhance energy security, promote economic growth and reduce greenhouse gases. "Through our partnership we seek to move beyond divisive politics and to advance common purposes," Rice said. "Everyone has something to contribute. Everyone stands to gain. And together we represent a powerful force for positive change." [more](#)

- [Climate Change Partnership Pursues Multiple Goals](#) - 20 April, 2006
- [U.S. Issues Inventory on Green House Gases](#) - 18 April, 2006
- [NASA, International Partners to Measure Sea Levels](#) - 12 April, 2006
- [U.S., Japan Partner Greenhouse Gases, Sustainable Development](#) – 27 March, 2006
- [Warmer Ocean waters Threaten Glaciers, Ice Sheets Worldwide](#) – 24 March, 2006
- [U.S. Studies Link Strong Storms, Rising Sea Surface Temperatures](#) – 20 March, 2006
- [U.S., India Collaborate on Deriving Clean Energy from Methane](#) – 17 March, 2006
- [NASA Study Links Smog to Arctic Warming](#)– 16 March, 2006
- [U.S., German Effort Detects Large Loss of Antarctic Ice Mass](#) – 3 March, 2006
- [Greenland Ice Loss doubled in 10 years, NASA Scientists Say](#) - 17 February, 2006

Major US Government Statements: A select list of major statements with policy value

- [Deputy Secretary Zoellick Unveils Asia-Pacific Energy Initiative](#) – 28 July, 2005
- [U.S. Invests in Understanding Climate Change](#) – 6 July, 2005
- [Science, Technology Shape U.S. Climate Change Strategy](#) – 6 July, 2005
- [U.S., Europe Share Goals on Climate Change, Energy Efficiency](#) - 23 February, 2005
- [U.S. Committed to Addressing Challenges of Global Climate Change](#) - 15 February, 2005
- [Economic Development Essential to Addressing Global Climate Change](#) – 17 December 2004
- [Better Technologies Key to Addressing Climate Change](#) – 17 December, 2004
- [Prosperous Economies Best at Dealing with Environmental Change](#) – 16 December, 2004
- [Economic Growth Key to Better Environment, Envoy Says](#) – 15 December 2004
- [U.S. Lays out Vision for Addressing Climate Change](#) – 15 December, 2004
- [Carbon Sequestration Technology Could Help Slow Global Warming](#) – 14 December, 2004

Latest US Government Statements

This list contains the latest official statements in reverse chronological order. To retrieve additional statements, please use the search engine.

- [Climate Change Partnership Pursues Multiple Goals \(2006-04-20\)](#)...
- [United States Issues Inventory on Greenhouse Gases \(2006-04-18\)](#)...
- [NASA, International Partners To Measure Sea Levels \(2006-04-12\)](#)...
- [U.S., Japan Partner on Greenhouse Gases, Sustainable Development \(2006-03-27\)](#)...
- [Warmer Ocean Waters Threaten Glaciers, Ice Sheets Worldwide \(2006-03-24\)](#)...
- [U.S. Studies Link Strong Storms, Rising Sea Surface Temps \(2006-03-20\)](#)...
- [U.S., India Collaborate on Deriving Clean Energy from Methane \(2006-03-17\)](#)...
- [NASA Study Links Smog to Arctic Warming \(2006-03-16\)](#)...
- [U.S, German Effort Detects Large Loss of Antarctic Ice Mass \(2006-03-03\)](#)...
- [Greenland Ice Loss Doubled in 10 Years, NASA Scientists Say \(2006-02-17\)](#)...
- [U.S. Committed to Asia-Pacific Climate Partnership, Rice Says \(2006-02-09\)](#)...
- [NASA Scientists Say 2005 Was the Warmest Year in a Century \(2006-01-26\)](#)...
- [U.S. Weather Agency Predicts Weak Spring La Niña Event \(2006-01-17\)](#)...
- [Climate Change Partnership Looks to Private Sector for Help \(2006-01-13\)](#)...
- [Bush To Request \\$52 Million for Asia-Pacific Energy Partnership \(2006-01-12\)](#)...

- [Climate Change Drives Amphibian Extinctions, Scientists Say \(2006-01-12\)](#)...
- [U.S. Delegation Arrives in Australia for Climate Ministerial \(2006-01-11\)](#)...
- [Global Warming Can Cause Extreme Climate Change, Scientists Say \(2006-01-05\)](#)...
- [Rice To Travel to Indonesia, Australia January 7-12 \(2006-01-03\)](#)...
- [U.S. Space Agency Responds to Coral Bleaching in the Caribbean \(2005-12-27\)](#)...
- [Most Arctic Near-Surface Permafrost May Thaw by 2100, Study Finds \(2005-12-20\)](#)...
- [U.S. Climate Agency Ranks 2005 Near Record for Heat \(2005-12-16\)](#)...
- [Climate Actions Must Consider Economic Growth, U.S. Official Says \(2005-12-09\)](#)...
- [U.S. Energy Department Sets Plan on Zero-Emissions Power Plant \(2005-12-07\)](#)...
- [United States Questions European Aviation Emission Trading Scheme \(2005-12-02\)](#)...
- [U.S. "Moving Forward" in Commitment to Slowing Climate Change \(2005-11-30\)](#)...
- [Study Documents Rise in Ocean Levels over 150-Year Period \(2005-11-25\)](#)...
- [Global Warming Will Reduce Future Water Supply, Study Finds \(2005-11-17\)](#)...
- [U.S.-India Partnership Based on Shared Values, State's Burns Says \(2005-10-24\)](#)...
- [Nigerian Scholar Links Drought, Climate Change to Conflict in Africa \(2005-10-24\)](#)...

US Government Fact Sheets

- [U.S. Joins Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Energy Technologies \(2005-07-28\)](#)
- [G8 Leaders Agree To Cancel Debts, Promote Clean Energies \(2005-07-08\)](#)
- [G8 Climate-Change Plan Serves Energy, Environment, Development \(2005-07-08\)](#)
- [White House Invests To Address Climate Change \(2005-07-01\)](#)
- [State Department Recaps Fourth Climate Change Working Group \(2005-06-22\)](#)
- [President Bush Tours First Hydrogen Fueling Station \(2005-05-25\)](#)
- [U.S. Outlines Results of Partnership with Greenland, Denmark \(2005-05-24\)](#)
- [White House Issues Global Climate Change Fact Sheet \(2004-12-07\)](#)
- [White House Reviews Action on Global Climate Change \(2004-09-24\)](#)
- [Ongoing U.S.-EU Cooperation on Hydrogen Technology Pledged \(2004-06-27\)](#)
- [USAID Preparations for 2004 Atlantic Hurricane Season \(2004-05-27\)](#)
- [U.S. Energy Dept. Releases Guidelines for Reporting Greenhouse Gases \(2003-11-28\)](#)
- [U.S. Spending on Climate Change to Reach Highest Level Ever \(2003-11-21\)](#)
- [USDA Supports Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Incentives \(2003-06-06\)](#)
- [White House Announces Multi-Track Climate Change Initiatives \(2003-02-28\)](#)
- [U.S. Industry Initiatives Aim to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions \(2003-02-13\)](#)

Non-US Government Reports

[The Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-2004](#). Source: EPA, April 17, 2006.

[Our Changing Planet: The U.S. Climate Change Science Program for Fiscal Year 2006](#). Source: U.S. Climate Change Science Program (CCSP) Nov. 9, 2005.

[Vision Statement on Clean Development and Climate](#) New Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate

Non-US Government Reports

[Protecting Two Million Internally Displaced: The Successes and Shortcomings of the African Union in Darfur](#). Brookings Institution. November 2005.

[More Than Humanitarianism: A Strategic U.S. Approach Toward Africa](#). Independent Task Force Report; Sponsored by the Council on Foreign Relations. December 2005.

Congressional Hearings

December 07, 2005 Press Release

[Bingaman's Climate Speech in Canada](#)

December 06, 2005 Press Release Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

[Senators Press President on Climate Change](#)

 [U.S.-International Climate Change Approach: A Clean Technology Solution.](#) Source: U.S. Senate, Foreign Relations Committee, Nov. 14, 2005.

Witnesses:

Panel 1

[The Honorable Paula J. Dobriansky](#)

Under Secretary for Democracy and Global Affairs

Department of State

Washington, DC

[The Honorable David Garman](#)

Under Secretary for Energy, Science and Environment

Department of Energy

Washington, DC

[The Honorable James L. Connaughton](#)

Chairman

White House Council on Environmental Quality

Washington, DC

Panel 2

[The Honorable Eileen Claussen](#)

President

Pew Center on Global Climate Change

Arlington, VA

 ["Climate Change Science and Economics"](#) Source: U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Sep. 20, 2005.

To receive testimony regarding the current state of climate change scientific research and the economics of strategies to manage climate change. Issues to be discussed include: the relationship between energy consumption and climate change, and the potential effects on the U.S. economy of climate change and strategies to control greenhouse gas emissions.

Witnesses

Panel 1

[Dr. Anne Smith](#) / [Dr. Richard Morgenstern](#) / [Mr. Jason Grumet](#) / [Dr. Howard Gruenspecht](#)

Global Climate Change Policy and Budget Review. Source: U.S. Senate, Commerce Committee, Science & Transportation, July 20 2005

Webcast: [Click here](#) to view a live webcast of this hearing.

Description: The Senate Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Global Climate Change and Impacts will hold a hearing on Wednesday, July 20 at 10 a.m. in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building. The hearing will feature a review of United States climate policy and the \$5 billion budget request for climate-related science and technology in Fiscal Year 2006.

[Click here for audio of this hearing.](#)

Witnesses are:

Senator David Vitter (R-La.)

Chairman, Subcommittee on Global Climate Change and Impacts

The Honorable James Richard Mahoney

Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, U.S. Department of Commerce

Mr. David W. Conover

Director, U.S. Climate Change Technology Program, U.S. Department of Energy

Mr. Daniel Reifsnyder

Director, Office of Global Climate Change, U.S. Department of State

Dr. Ralph J. Cicerone

President, National Academy of Sciences

[Business Actions Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions](#). Source: U.S. House, Full Science Committee, June 8, 2005
[Hearing Charter](#) - pdf
[Opening Statement - Chairman Boehlert](#)
[Hearing Testimony](#)
[Mr. James E. Rogers](#) – pdf/ [Dr. Mack McFarland](#) – pdf / [Mr. Ron Meissen](#) – pdf / [Dr. Robert Hobbs](#) - pdf

Supplemental Materials

National Academy of Sciences, [Climate Change Science: An Analysis of Some Key Questions](#) - pdf
Webcast - [Archived Webcast](#) Press Releases

** MEDIA ADVISORY **

[CINERGY CEO, OTHER CORPORATE LEADERS TO TESTIFY ON INDUSTRY'S EFFORTS TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE](#) - June 7, 2005
[INDUSTRY TAKING STEPS TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS](#) - June 8, 2005

"Top industry leaders, including the chief executive officer (CEO) of Cinergy Corp., testified before the House Science Committee today on the voluntary efforts their companies are taking to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The witnesses told the Committee that their investments are not only achieving environmental gains, but are also providing their companies an economic benefit through reduced energy consumption and minimized waste. Moreover, the witnesses said, their efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions today will give their companies a competitive advantage if mandatory emission caps are adopted in the future."

[Global Climate Change](#). Source: U.S. Senate, Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, Nov. 16, 2004

[Senate Committee Hears Testimony on Arctic Assessment \(2004-11-16\)](#) Many long-term impacts of global warming could be significantly reduced by lowering global greenhouse gas emissions over this century, said Robert Corell, chair of the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment, in November 16 testimony before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation. The hearing, chaired by Senator John McCain, Republican of Arizona, was held to discuss the assessment by the Arctic Council and the International Arctic Sciences Committee entitled, "Impacts of a Warming Arctic." It is also part of a series of climate change hearings held by the committee. [more](#)

[Impacts of Climate Change](#). Source: U.S. Senate, Science and Transportation Committee, Sep. 15, 2004

[Impacts of Climate Change and States' Actions](#). Source: U.S. Senate, Science and Transportation Committee, May 6, 2004

 [Sen. McCain Calls for National Action on Climate Change](#) (Oct. 30, 2003) For too long, the national debate on climate change has been deadlocked. On one side are those calling for deep cuts in greenhouse gas emissions, despite the economic costs. On the other side are many business leaders who have played down the global warming threat, fearing that new regulations will cut their profits and their payrolls. The debate on global warming itself has become overheated with acrimony and polluted by misinformation. [more](#)

USG Reports

 [The Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-2004](#). Source: EPA, April 17, 2006.

The United States is making progress in efforts to reduce greenhouse gas intensity, according to a report the nation will present to the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Released April 17, The Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-2004 finds that emissions have grown by 15.8 percent over that time span, while the economy grew by 51 percent. Methane and nitrous oxide emissions decreased from 1990 levels by 10 percent and 2 percent, respectively. Of the half-dozen greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change, methane and nitrous oxide have the greatest capability to trap and retain heat in the atmosphere. In 2004 alone, the inventory released by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) shows that U.S. greenhouse gas emissions increased by 1.7 percent from the previous year. "Even with a dramatic increase in economic activity," said EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson, "the United States is making significant progress toward the President's greenhouse gas reduction goals by working with our partners to reduce their climate footprints in cost-effective ways, both at home and abroad."

 [Charter for the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate](#) | [Communiqué for the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate](#) | [Work Plan for the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate](#). Source: Asia-Pacific Partnership for Clean Development and Climate (APP), January 2006.

[Climate Change Partnership Looks to Private Sector for Help \(2006-01-13\)](#) Representatives of the new U.S.-led Asia Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate wrapped up the January 11-12 inaugural meeting in Sydney, Australia, by announcing the establishment of eight public-private task forces that will accelerate clean technology deployment and share best practices in key business sectors.

The voluntary initiative – in which Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea and the United States are participating – is designed to accelerate the development and use of cleaner, more efficient technology in a way that promotes economic development and reduces poverty.

The task forces are focusing on cleaner use of fossil energy, renewable and distributed generation, power generation and transmission, aluminum, steel, cement, mining and buildings and appliances.

On January 12, the last day of the meeting, ministers adopted three documents – a charter that provides a framework and a structure, a communiqué that highlights key meeting outcomes and a work plan that maps out an intensive agenda of near-term work for the task forces.

[The Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate: Implementation, Action, and Results](#). Source: Asia-Pacific Partnership for Clean Development and Climate (APP), January 2006.

 [Our Changing Planet: The U.S. Climate Change Science Program for Fiscal Year 2006](#). Source: U.S. Climate Change Science Program (CCSP) Nov. 9, 2005.

[U.S. Program Releases Annual Survey on Climate Science \(2005-11-10\)](#) The U.S. Climate Change Science Program (CCSP) released its annual report November 9 summarizing the diverse research that U.S. agencies are conducting for a better understanding of climate and better management of the human response to changes in climate.

The report, Our Changing Planet, is issued in keeping with the CCSP mission to integrate the array of research activities being conducted by 13 U.S. government agencies, according to the program.

 [Draft strategic plan](#). Source: U.S. Department of Energy, Sep. 22, 2005.

U.S. Department of Energy released for public review and comment September 22 a plan to accelerate the development and lessen the cost of advanced technologies that reduce or capture and store greenhouse gas emissions.

The plan, according to a DOE press release, describes the technology component of a comprehensive U.S. approach to climate change.

The plan's goals are to:

- Reduce emissions from energy use and infrastructure;
- Reduce emissions from energy supply;
- Capture and store carbon dioxide;
- Reduce other greenhouse gas emissions;
- Measure and monitor emissions; and
- Bolster the contributions of basic science to understand and mitigate climate change. [more](#)

[GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE](#). Source: John R. Justus and Susan R. Fletcher, Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service. Updated Sep. 7, 2005.

[Climate Change Legislation in the 109th Congress](#). Source: CRS Report for Congress, Brent D. Yacobucci, Specialist in Energy Policy Resources, Science, and Industry Division, Kyna Powers Environmental Policy Analyst, Resources, Science, and Industry Division, Updated Sep. 9, 2005.

Climate change and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are an issue in the 109th Congress, as they have been in past Congresses. Bills directly addressing climate change issues range from those focused primarily on climate change research to comprehensive emissions cap-and-trade programs for the six greenhouse gases covered under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Additional bills focus on GHG reporting and registries, or on power plant emissions of carbon dioxide as part of wider controls on pollutant emissions. Most notably, on August 8, 2005, President Bush signed the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-58, H.R. 6). Among other provisions, Title XVI of the bill establishes programs to promote the development and deployment of technologies to reduce greenhouse gas intensity. This report briefly discusses the basic concepts on which these bills are based,

and compares major provisions of the bills in each of the following categories:

climate change research, technology deployment, GHG reporting and registries, and emissions reduction programs.

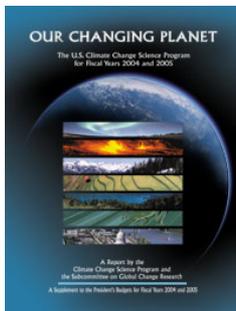
[Interview: US's James Connaughton on climate change policy](#)

Senior White House environment advisor James Connaughton explained the US policy on climate change at a press briefing on 18 May. Among other topics, he talked about the US stance on the post-Kyoto debate and the measures being undertaken to reduce the greenhouse gas intensity of the US economy. (Courtesy Euractiv)

James Connaughton, Chairman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality gave a press conference in Brussels on 18 May. EurActiv has reproduced excerpts of this briefing. (Video and sound available [here](#) from the US EU Missions's web site)

[An Overview of U.S. Global Climate Change Policy In Advance of the Upcoming Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change \(Buenos Aires, December 6-17\)](#)

Source: Foreign Press Center Briefing, Harlan L. Watson, Senior Climate Negotiator and Special Representative, U.S. Department of State; David W. Conover, Director, Climate Change Technology Program, U.S. Department of Energy, December 2, 2004.



[Our Changing Planet -- The U.S. Climate Change Science Program for Fiscal Years 2004 and 2005](#)

Updated August 25, 2004. A Report by the Climate Change Science Program and the Subcommittee on Global Change Research - A Supplement to the President's Fiscal Year 2004 and 2005 Budgets.

The newest edition of "Our Changing Planet," issued by the U.S. Climate Change Science Program (USCCSP), was released as a supplement to the annual budget document prepared by the Bush administration.

The report outlines a vision for this science to develop the knowledge to "manage the risks and opportunities of change in the climate and related environmental systems." The USCCSP mission is devoted to acquiring that knowledge and sharing it with domestic and international communities.

The USCCSP, in place since 1990, works to coordinate and guide the activities of 13 U.S. government agencies that share responsibility for climate change research, working to create a whole that is greater than the sum of the parts.

The report outlines the goals of U.S. climate change science, which include improving knowledge of global climate both past and present, enhancing quantification of the factors influencing climate change, and reducing uncertainty in the projections of future change.

"Our Changing Planet" also highlights the latest findings of ongoing research being conducted by government agencies in the areas of atmospheric composition, climate variability and change, the global water cycle, land use/land-cover change, global carbon cycle, ecosystems and human contributions and responses.

Regarding USCCSP-supported research on ecosystems, the report says scientists are studying "how natural and human-induced environmental changes interact to affect the structure and functioning of ecosystems (and the goods and services they provide)" and maintaining the sustainability of goods and services derived from those ecosystems.

[An Abrupt Climate Change Scenario and Its Implications for United States National Security](#), October 2003, A report commissioned by the U.S. Defense Department, By Peter Schwartz and Doug Randall.

"An imminent scenario of catastrophic climate change is "plausible and would challenge United States national security in ways that should be considered immediately," according to a report commissioned by the Pentagon and obtained by media outlets in February 2004."

[U.S. Climate Change Plan Endorsed with Cautions \(2004-02-20\)](#) In a [report](#) released February 18, an independent scientific panel offered an endorsement of a U.S. government [plan](#) to address climate change. The National Research Council (NRC) study called for rapid implementation of the plan even while it questioned the availability of appropriate funding for the activities outlined in the plan. The NRC conducted the analysis on the request of the U.S. Climate Change Science Program (CCSP), the architect of the new strategy to counter global warming. A Bush administration initiative, the CCSP was created two years ago to coordinate the activities of 13 different federal agencies that are all developing research and activities to counter climate change. This new strategic plan was unveiled in July 2003.

[CLIMATE CHANGE: SELECTED NATIONS' REPORTS ON GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS VARIED IN THEIR ADHERENCE TO STANDARDS](#). Source: United States General Accounting Office (GAO). [GAO-04-98] January 23, 2004.

In 1992, the United States and other nations agreed to try to limit dangerous human interference with the climate by participating in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The parties agreed, among other things, to report on their emissions of carbon dioxide and five other gases whose buildup in the atmosphere is believed to affect the climate. The parties developed standards for these reports and processes for periodically evaluating the reports. Expert teams selected by the parties review the developed nations' reports; staffs of the Framework Convention's administrative arm (the Secretariat) assess developing nations' reports. GAO agreed to describe the results of the most recent reviews and assessments of reports from selected economically developed and developing nations, as well as the parties' plans to improve the reports. For the developed nations, GAO agreed to study four geographically dispersed nations with high levels of emissions—Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States. For the developing nations, GAO studied China, India, and Mexico, which also have high emissions levels and are geographically dispersed. GAO found that: U.K. and U.S. inventories were largely complete, but German and Japanese inventories lacked critical elements; the four developed nations reported generally high confidence in their latest emissions data, but future assessments of confidence must be more precise; little nation-specific inventory information is available for the three developing nations.

[Climate of 2003 - 2003 in Historical Perspective](#). Source: National Climatic Data Center, 16 December 2003.

In a December 16 report providing an overview on U.S. and international weather conditions for the year, NOAA said that 2003 was an above average year for hurricanes. Seven tropical storms grew up to be hurricanes in the 2003 season, contrasted with an annual average of five to six killer storms. The data from 2003 place the year in the top ranks of record warmth years, behind 1998, the hottest year on record, and 2002. The historical data show a steadily rising temperature pattern over the last century, a trend that has accelerated since 1976. Examining data collected through November, NOAA found that temperatures for the year were as much as 1.7 Celsius degrees above average across large parts of Asia, Europe and the western United States.

[Research and Current Activities](#). Source: U.S. Department of Energy, Dec. 2, 2003.

The report "says participating federal agencies are pursuing research in carbon sequestration, hydrogen fuel cells, bio-energy, nuclear fission and fusion, and other revolutionary technologies that will ensure secure, affordable and clean energy to power economic growth worldwide. To help achieve this goal, the report says President Bush has committed more than \$4 billion for climate change-related R&D and other activities in his fiscal year 2004 proposed budget -- the largest federal budget for climate change activities so far -- and has established the first cabinet-level climate change management structure. The report discusses several major technology programs already under way, such as the hydrogen fuel initiative, which together with the FreedomCAR initiative -- a partnership of major U.S. automakers -- will facilitate commercialization of hydrogen-powered fuel cell vehicles and hydrogen infrastructure technologies by 2015.

A companion report, "[Technology Options for the Near and Long Term](#)," provides a more complete list of the technologies in the U.S. climate change portfolio.

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