

EU and the Kyoto Protocol

Course: The Environment and Resource Management (CGR4M), Canadian and International Law (CLN4U)

The Kyoto Protocol, an amendment to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, is an international treaty on global warming. In order to deal with the negative effects of global warming on the environment, countries that ratify this protocol agree to reduce their emission of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. It was negotiated in Kyoto, Japan in December 1997 and came into force in February 2005, after Russia ratified the protocol in November 2004.

The European Union has been one of the most consistent supporters of the Kyoto Protocol. The EU and its member states ratified the protocol in May 2002. The goal of the EU and its member states is to collectively reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by 8% between 2008 and 2012.

Questions related to this topic:

- How does the EU compare with the rest of the world in greenhouse gas emissions by 8% between 2008 and 2012.
- What reasons did the EU member states for deciding to ratify the Kyoto Protocol?
- How does the EU plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions?
- What costs are there for implementing programs to support meeting the specifications of the Kyoto Protocol?

Links:

Web Sites:

- [Climate Change](#), European Commission
- [Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change](#), Europa Portal Activities of the European Union, Summaries of legislation
- [Kyoto Protocol and Greenhouse Gases](#), Global Virtual University
- [Climate Change Policies introduction](#), Environment Literacy Council
- [Climate Change overview](#), Environment Canada
- [Perspectives on the Kyoto Protocol](#) - from the International Institute for Sustainable Development web site
- [Climate Change/Kyoto Protocol activities](#), United Nations Industrial Development Organization
- [Greenhouse gases and the Kyoto Protocol](#), Energy Information Administration
- [Kyoto Protocol Climate Conference](#), Global Issues
- [Status of Ratification of the Kyoto Protocol](#), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

News:

- ["The Kyoto Protocol Comes into Force."](#) BBC News
- ["EU carbon trading system likely to be pointless, says study."](#) EU Observer
- ["EU leaders agree to flexible targets for 2020."](#) EURactiv

Documents:

- [Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#)

Articles:

- Dessai, Suraje. ["The climate regime from the Hague to Marrakech: Saving or Sinking the Kyoto Protocol?"](#) Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research, December 2001.
- Viguiier, Laurent et al. ["Costs of the Kyoto Protocol in the European Union."](#) Energy Policy, 2002.