

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY LAW

INTERNATIONAL, Linked to United Nations
5% by 2012; varying amount by 2020 & 2050

1. The Kyoto Protocol, adopted on December 11, 1997 and in force on February 16, 2005. Agreed on binding targets for 37 industrialized countries and European community, reducing 1990 levels of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by 5% by 2012. The U.S. signed at the Kyoto Conference but has refused to ratify the Protocol (make it binding on U.S.)



Goal: 5% reduction in GHG by 2012

Green = ratification of treaty
Red = no ratification
Grey = undecided

2. The Copenhagen Accord, adopted in December 2009, expressed the concern that global warming should be limited to 2 degrees Celsius and agreed that deep cuts in global emissions are required to meet this goal. Nations were asked to submit their plans to lower CO₂ emissions, and countries representing 80% of global emissions agreed.

NATIONAL U.S: 17% CO₂ reduction by 2020; 80% by 2050
EPA REGULATIONS on GHG CAFE Standards LIGHTING standards

1. On Jan. 28, 2010, the U.S. estimated a likely emissions reduction of 17% by 2020.
At Copenhagen, President Obama also pledged to GHG reductions of 80% by 2050
2. On May 14, 2010, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized its rules to cut greenhouse gas emissions from the largest stationary sources at facilities such as power plants and oil refineries that are responsible for 70 percent of GHG emissions. In July 2011, permitting requirements will expand to cover all new facilities with GHG emissions of at least 100,000 tons per year. According to the EPA, in 2005 the James DeYoung plant in Holland emitted 465,712 tons of carbon dioxide. So, even if the proposed new 70 MW plant is cleaner, by doubling the size of the current plant, it will likely have to cut those emissions still further.
3. The EPA has a website devoted to helping local governments plan for their energy future. www.epa.gov/statelocalclimate/resources/strategy-guides.html.

4. In 1990, national fuel economy standards demanded an industry-wide average of 27.3 mpg for cars and light trucks. In April 2010, U.S. Dept. of Transportation and EPA, Announced a new standard of between 34.1 and 35.5 mph for a 2016 vehicle.
5. The 2007 Energy Independence & Security Act requires light bulbs that are 30% more energy efficient than current incandescent bulbs by 2012-2013. The efficiency standards start with 100-watt bulbs in January 2012 and end with 40-watt bulbs in January 2014.

MIDWEST REGION

April 2010 -- Midwestern GHG Reduction Agreement

Iowa, Illinois, Kansas, Manitoba, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin

The report from this advisory group, composed of appointees from each governor, establishes a cap-and-trade program to reduce anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases from the covered sources. The goals are to achieve GHG reductions of:

- 20% below 2005 levels by December 31, 2020
- 80% below 2005 levels by December 31, 2050.

MICHIGAN STATE

2008 energy law MI Climate Action Council

In 2008, Gov. Granholm signed into law legislation that calls for:

- A. 10% of state electricity to be generated from renewable sources by 2015.
- B. Requirements to cut power demand by 5.5% by 2015 through energy efficiency work.

The Michigan Climate Action Council, established by executive order in 2007, released its final action plan in March 2009. The plan proposes statewide GHG reduction goals of 20 percent below 2005 levels by 2020 and 80 percent below 2005 levels by 2050.

As of May 20, 2010, at least ten bills have been introduced in the House calling for stronger renewable energy and energy conservation standards. Bills with the largest increase calls would only apply to utilities with more than 1 million customers.

Michigan's Bureau of Energy Systems provides information on grant opportunities as well as general information on developing local energy efficiency and conservation programs.