

Weighing the Uncertainty

- The scientific uncertainty
- The IPCC assessment
- Narrowing the uncertainty
- Sustainable development
- Why not wait and see
- The precautionary principle
- Global economics

A strategy for Action

- Climate convention (UN Framework on Climate Change signed Rio 1992, slow and stabilize climate change)
- Stabilization of emissions
- Montreal Protocol
- Forests (reforestation)
- Reduction in the sources of Methane (15% GWP)
- Stabilization of CO₂ concentrations
- Realizing the climate convention objectives

Kyoto Protocol

- First legally binding treaty
- Aimed at cutting emission of GHG
- More than 150 nations signed in Dec 1997
- Industrial nations commit to targets 1990 -2010
- EU share entitlements
- US commitment 75 cut
- All countries must demonstrate progress by 2005

The Hague

- Countries were supposed to ratify Kyoto
- Problem with “flexibility mechanisms”
- Kyoto agreement that targets met by environmental carbon sinks (forests)
- EU believes must be a small part of targets
- US agree it couldn't claim planting forests in other countries
- US claim forest management should give credits
- Carbon credits for “watching trees grow”!

The Hague Issues

- Soil management as a carbon sink
- How to punish countries for failing?
- Meeting targets within own borders
- Carbon trading OK but how extensive?
- “hot air issue” US trading with Russia but will avoid taking action at home
- Nuclear energy replacement
- Obligations of developing countries
- What happens now?