

FOIA MARKER

This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records
Subgroup/Office of Origin: WH Task Force on Climate Change
Series/Staff Member: Roger Ballentine; Paul Bledsoe; Julie Anderson
Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 41301
FolderID:

Folder Title:
Bioenergy Rollout

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
S	100	3	10	2



White House Climate Change Task Force

734 Jackson Place, N.W. • Washington, DC 20503

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION SHEET

To	Jennifer Love	From	PAUL BLEDSOE
Office	AD	Date	1/13/00
Fax Number	202-9573	Fax Number	395-2342
Office Number		Office Number	395-2310

Comments:

Pages: _____, including this cover sheet.

IF TRANSMITTAL IS INCOMPLETE, PLEASE PHONE



White House Climate Change Task Force

734 Jackson Place, N.W. • Washington, DC 20503

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION SHEET

To	P.D.	From	
Office		Date	
Fax Number		Fax Number	395-2342
Office Number		Office Number	395-2310

Comments:

Pages: _____, including this cover sheet.

IF TRANSMITTAL IS INCOMPLETE, PLEASE PHONE

President Clinton's FY 2000 Climate Change Budget

"Our most fateful new challenge is the threat of global warming...Tonight I propose a new clean air fund to help communities reduce greenhouse and other pollution, and tax incentives and investments to spur clean energy technology."

President Bill Clinton, State of the Union address, January 19, 1999

Meeting the challenge of global warming. In his FY 2000 budget, the President is proposing a 34 percent increase for R&D in energy efficient technology and renewable energy; a new Clean Air Partnership Fund to boost state and local efforts to reduce greenhouse gases and air pollution; a five-year package of tax incentives to spur clean energy technologies; substantial new funding to focus on the ways farms and forests can reduce and offset greenhouse gas emissions; and \$1.8 billion for global change research -- a total package for FY 2000 of over \$4 billion.

Clean Air Partnership Fund. The President proposes \$200 million for a new fund to provide grants to state and local governments for projects that reduce both greenhouse gases and pollutants like soot, smog, and air toxics.

Climate Change Technology Initiative (CCTI). The CCTI is a package of targeted tax incentives and investments aimed at increasing energy efficiency and spurring the broader use of renewable energy. The package will save consumers money and reduce greenhouse gas emissions at the same time. FY 1999 appropriations represented a 25 percent increase over the prior year. The President's new budget proposes a still more accelerated effort.

\$3.6 billion in tax incentives over five years. The proposed package contains \$3.6 billion over five years in tax cuts (\$383 million for FY 2000) for consumers who purchase energy efficient products and for producers of energy from renewable sources. Highlights include:

- Tax credits for energy efficient homes. Consumers can receive a \$1000-2000 credit toward the purchase of a new energy efficient home; a 10-20 percent tax credit for the purchase of selected energy efficient products for their homes and buildings; and a \$1000-2000 credit for installing a rooftop solar system.
- Tax credits for fuel-efficient cars. The package includes tax credits ranging from \$1000-4000 for the purchase of a qualifying electric, fuel cell or hybrid vehicle.
- Tax credits for renewable energy. The package extends the 1.5 cent per kilowatt hour tax credit for the production of electricity from wind and biomass; expands the biomass credit to cover additional sources of biomass; and adds a 1.0 cent per kilowatt hour tax credit for cofiring coal and biomass in power plants.

\$1.4 billion for Energy Efficiency & Renewables. The proposed package contains nearly \$1.4 billion in FY 2000 to research, develop, and deploy clean technologies for the four major carbon-emitting sectors of the economy -- buildings, transportation, industry, and electricity -- a 34 percent increase over the amount appropriated in FY 1999. Highlights include:

- Partnership for a New Generation of Vehicles. PNGV is a government-industry effort to develop comfortable, affordable cars that meet all applicable safety and environmental standards and get up to three times the fuel efficiency of today's cars. The combined proposal for PNGV in the FY 2000 budget is \$264 million, an increase from the \$240 million appropriated in FY 1999.

- Partnership for Advancing Technology in Housing. PATH is a government-industry partnership to improve the energy efficiency of new homes by more than 50 percent and to retrofit 15 million existing homes to make them 30 percent more energy efficient within a decade. The FY 2000 budget request for building efficiency efforts, such as PATH, Energy Star, and Building America, totals \$273 million, a 59 percent increase over FY 1999 appropriations.
- Renewable energy. The President proposes \$399 million for the Department of Energy's (DOE) solar and renewable energy programs, a 19 percent increase over the amount appropriated in FY 1999. The package includes expanded efforts in key renewable technologies, such as wind, bioenergy, photovoltaics, and geothermal energy.

Forests and Farms. The FY 2000 proposal includes \$105 million for the Department of Agriculture's (USDA) climate change budget, an increase of \$50 million over the amount appropriated in FY 1999 and \$40 million over the Administration's FY 1999 request. The new proposal includes funding for a new, multi-agency Carbon Cycle Initiative to better understand how carbon is absorbed by agricultural soils and forests; a soil carbon inventory; pilot projects to demonstrate how improved farming practices can help store carbon; and programs to reduce emissions through means such as the conversion of waste to energy. In addition, DOE, in conjunction with USDA, will expand efforts aimed at broadening the use of biomass to produce power, fuels, and chemicals.

Cleaner Coal. The budget request contains \$122 million for R&D to develop next-generation technologies for coal combustion with much higher energy efficiency and lower greenhouse gas emissions.

Weatherization & State Energy Grants. The budget request includes \$191 million -- a \$25 million increase over FY 1999 appropriations -- to deliver energy conservation services to low-income Americans and to assist state energy offices in addressing their energy priorities.

U.S. Global Change Research Program. The FY 2000 request includes \$1.8 billion for scientific research to improve our understanding of human and natural forces that influence the Earth's climate system and to assess the likely consequences of global warming.

Bioenergy/Bioproducts Initiative

FY 2001 Budget

January 13, 2000

President Clinton's FY 2001 Budget includes a new initiative to accelerate the development and use of bio-based technologies, which convert crops, trees, and other "biomass" into a vast array of fuels and products. This initiative supports the President's August 1999 Executive Order 13134 and Memorandum on Promoting Biobased Products and Bioenergy, aimed at tripling U.S. use of biobased products and bioenergy by 2010. The initiative provides an increase of more than \$240 million over the amounts available for FY 2000, with \$49 million directed towards the Department of Energy (DOE) and \$193 million for stepped-up efforts at the Department of Agriculture (USDA). This initiative will increase the viability of alternative energy sources, help meet environmental challenges like global warming, support farm incomes, and diversify and strengthen the rural economy.

The DOE goal for this initiative is making biomass a viable competitor to fossil fuels as an energy source and chemical feedstock. Its efforts will be concentrated on developing "biorefineries" -- integrated systems for processing feedstocks simultaneously into a variety of products such as fuels, chemicals, and electricity. This will require increased collaboration among DOE, USDA, NSF, and other agencies, and will support research partnerships linking industry, university, and government research facilities selected on a competitive basis. The work will build on fermentation, gasification, and other biomass-related activities currently funded by the Energy Department.

Key areas of increased DOE activity will include:

- Development of inexpensive cellulase systems to break down cellulose into low-cost sugars for the production of bio-based chemicals and bioenergy. This will allow woody and grassy crops and agricultural waste such as corn stalks to take the place of high-value grain and food crops as biofuel feedstocks.
- Renewable Bioproducts, using multi-disciplinary and university/industry partnerships to develop and accelerate adoption of possible "leap-frog" technologies for converting crops, trees and residues into chemical feedstocks and consumer products.
- Biopower, promoting both the integration of biomass gasification systems with modern gas-turbine/steam-turbine generation systems, and the co-firing of biomass with coal at levels ranging from 5-15% biomass by heat value.

USDA's goals for the initiative are increasing the economic viability for farmers and foresters to grow biomass products, developing new uses for biobased materials, and providing incentives to use bioenergy. Key areas of increased USDA activity will include:

- Expanded Forest Service research on faster-growing trees and the use of small-diameter trees for commercial, biobased products.

- ÿ The Natural Resources Conservation Service funding methane gas recovery pilots to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from livestock operations, providing a clean energy source to the producer, and providing assistance to farmers that want to produce or market biobased products.
- ÿ Expanded Agricultural Research Service research (in association with DOE) to develop biobased materials from commodities and bioproducts, and convert biomass to energy.
- ÿ The Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service providing additional competitive resources for research partnerships involving universities. This will complement the new Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems announced by the Secretary of Agriculture on January 10th.
- ÿ Rural Development grants to rural electric cooperatives to develop pilot projects to demonstrate the commercial viability of small-scale biomass fuel generation, grants for technical assistance to cooperatives for processing and marketing biobased products, and loans for facilities and operating capital for organizations engaged in biobased production activities.
- ÿ The Commodity Credit Corporation providing up to \$100 million in FY 2000 and up to \$150 million in FY 2001 and 2002 in incentive payments to bioenergy producers to expand production of biobased fuels. Payments would be made on a portion of the increase in agricultural commodities purchased for expanded bioenergy production, with smaller and cooperatively-owned facilities receiving higher payment rates.

Global Warming Is 'Real,' Report Finds

By JOBY WARRICK
Washington Post Staff Writer.

AM

A worldwide rise in temperatures at the Earth's surface is "undoubtedly real" and appears to have accelerated in recent decades, an independent scientific panel concluded in a major new report yesterday.

The panel estimated the increase in temperatures over the past century at between 0.7 and 1.4 degrees Fahrenheit—a 30 percent increase from earlier projections that reflects record-shattering high temperatures in the late 1990s.

Partly deflating a key argument used by skeptics of global warming, the report also dismissed as insignificant a glaring contradiction between two sets of measurements that have tracked temperature change over recent decades. Although land-based weather stations have shown a rise in temperatures, satellites that record temperatures in the upper atmosphere have shown little change in 20 years.

"The difference between the surface and upper-air trends in no way invalidates the conclusion that the Earth's temperature is rising," said John M. Wallace, a professor of atmospheric sciences at the University of Washington and chairman of the panel.

However, Wallace said, the disparity between the two sets of measurements points up weaknesses in scientists' ability to predict future warming. Most climate-forecasting models have predicted corresponding increases in temperature on land and in the air.

"There really is a difference between temperatures at the two levels that we don't fully understand," Wallace said in a telephone news conference on the eve of the report's official release today at the annual meeting of the American Meteorological Society in Long Beach, Calif.

The 11-member panel, which was organized by the National Academy of Sciences's National Research Council (NRC), included the two scientists responsible for tracking satellite temperature measurements. Roy Spencer, of NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, and John R. Christy, of the University of Alabama in Huntsville, had been among a vocal minority of atmospheric scientists who argued that the Earth's warming—if it were occurring at all—was likely very mild. While concurring with the panel's conclusions, Christy said that predicting future climate trends remains fraught with peril.

"It is still not clear whether this is a representative sample that will tell us how the greenhouse effect will be played out in the future," he said.

The report did not attempt to explain the reasons for the warming. Many scientists believe the century's warming is at least partly the result of man-made pollution—higher levels of carbon dioxide and other "greenhouse" gases that trap the sun's heat like an insulating blanket. Further warming could disrupt agriculture and cause sea levels to rise, swamping coastal cities, scientists say.

The NRC panel's chief task was to attempt to reconcile the differences between the observed temperature changes on land and in the troposphere, the layer of the atmosphere that extends six to nine miles above Earth. For years, the lack of notable

warming in the 20-year satellite record has provided potent ammunition to global-warming skeptics, who view the land-based temperature measurements as unreliable.

In recent months, small computing errors were detected in satellite readings that, when corrected, showed a slight warming trend in the upper atmosphere. Still, a "substantial disparity remains," the report said.

Although the difference cannot be fully explained, the NRC panel found a variety of factors that could have slowed the rate of warming high above Earth. Possible explanations include atmospheric cooling from volcanic eruptions in the 1990s and the depletion of Earth's ozone layer.

Also, the 20-year satellite record is too short to be reliable in analyzing long-term trends, the report said.

The NRC's study was immediately hailed by environmental groups that have called for the reduction of greenhouse gases to slow the warming trend.

"It totally deflates the argument of the so-called skeptics that had used the apparent difference between ground-based and satellite data to argue that we really didn't know whether the world is warming or not," said Michael Oppenheimer, an atmospheric scientist with the Environmental Defense Fund.

But Arthur Robinson, the president of and a professor of chemistry at the Oregon Institute of Science and Medicine, called the report a "political document" and evidence that the "National Academy Board has pretty much been taken over by euros." He contended that any global warming is part of a natural trend.

"One must not lose track of the fact that the Earth's temperature has been warming now for 300 years, not just 50 years. And there was no coal or gas 300 years ago," he said.

Staff writer Rick Weiss contributed to this report.

Global Warming Real, Says National Panel of Climate Experts

■ **Environment:** Experts find that surface temperatures on Earth have risen in the last 20 years at a rate greater than the average for the last 100.

By ROBERT LEE HOTZ
TIMES SCIENCE WRITER

A4

Despite major conflicts in temperature records, a National Research Council panel concluded Wednesday that the warming of the Earth's surface is "undoubtedly real," and that surface temperatures in the last two decades have risen at a rate substantially greater than average for the last 100 years.

The 11 climate experts on the panel spent nine months investigating the troubling differences in global warming as measured at Earth's surface and in the upper atmosphere. The discrepancies had caused some scientists to question whether a long-term warming trend was just an artifact of poor record-keeping and faulty satellite measurements.

Because global warming is a long-term process that can be masked by year-to-year changes in climate, warming trends are most clearly revealed by surface temperature measurements, which have been recorded daily at hundreds of locations for more than a century.

These data indicate that the Earth is, in fact, warming, the panel said. By the best ground measurements, Earth's surface temperature has risen about 0.7 to 1.4 degrees Fahrenheit in the last century. But data collected by satellites and balloon-borne instruments since 1979 indicate little if any warming of the atmospheric layer extending up to about 5 miles from the Earth's surface.

Most climate models of global warming—caused by the buildup of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide—generally predict that temperatures should increase in the upper air as well as at the surface. Critics of the global warming theory often have cited the satellite and balloon data as evidence that the threat of climate change has not been proven.

However, after examining all available ground and atmospheric temperature records, the panel concluded that the difference in surface and atmospheric temperatures may be real, but it does not undercut the case for global warming.

"In the opinion of the panel, the warming trend . . . during the past 20 years is undoubtedly real and is substantially greater than the average rate of warming during the 20th century," the group concluded. "The disparity between surface and upper air trends in no way invalidates the conclusion that the surface temperature has been rising."

Panel Chairman John M. Wallace, director of the University of Washington's environment program, emphasized that the group was not asked to address the cause of the rising temperatures or whether human influences, such as the burning of fossil fuels or greater urbanization, might be involved.

"It is a reaffirmation of the fact that the surface temperature is rising and has risen substantially in the past 20 years. We are not saying that rise is due to greenhouse gases nor are we saying it is going to continue," Wallace said.

In addition, the panel warned that temperature records for any single 20-year period may not be representative of a long-term climate trend.

"Twenty years is a short time," Wallace said. "This particular 20 years had two big volcanic eruptions,

which affected the atmosphere, and the two biggest El Niño events on record. That may make the trends different from what we might otherwise see."

A combination of human activities and natural causes has contributed to rising surface temperatures, while other human and natural forces actually may have cooled the upper atmosphere. Natural events such as the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo in 1991 tended to decrease atmospheric temperature for several years. And burning coal and oil for energy produces tiny aerosol particles in the atmosphere that can have a cooling effect.

Upper-air temperatures also can be reduced by depletion of ozone in the stratosphere caused by chlorofluorocarbons and other chemicals being emitted into the atmosphere.

When these variables are accounted for in atmospheric models, satellite and balloon data more closely align with surface-temperature observations, Wallace said.

Some environmentalists said the report effectively countered those who have argued that there is no global warming trend.

"It totally deflates the argument of the so-called skeptics [who] had used the apparent difference between ground-based and satellite data to argue that we really didn't know whether the world is warming or not," said Michael Oppenheimer, an atmospheric scientist with the Environmental Defense Fund.

But Arthur Robinson, president and professor of chemistry at the Oregon Institute of Science and Medicine, called the report a "political document" and evidence that the "National Academy Board has pretty much been taken over by enviros."

He contended that any global warming was part of a natural trend.

Scientists Near Accord on Rate Earth Warms

By JIM CARLTON

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

A National Research Council report shows something close to a consensus for the first time among academics on exactly how much the Earth is warming: a half degree in the past 20 years, or the fastest rate of increase in the past century.

Scientists have been divided on rates of increase, with some arguing for greater increases and others suggesting there has been little or no warming.

However, a panel of 10 scientists from the U.S. and one from the United Kingdom concluded in the report that global warming in fact is occurring, with the Earth's surface temperature having increased from 0.7 to 1.4 degrees Fahrenheit in the past 100 years. Much of that increase—0.50 of a degree—has taken place since 1979, according to the researchers.

"This is a fairly rapid rate of rise, but it is still a very small rise," said John Wallace, chairman of the panel that wrote the report and professor of atmospheric sciences at the University of Washington. The National Research Council, a private think tank of the National Academy of Sciences and National Academy of Engineering, was commissioned by the federal government to undertake the global-warming study about a year ago.

Still unexplained is the cause, whether man-made or from natural, recurring events. Many environmentalists believe the

Earth's atmosphere has heated up from all the industrial activities of the 20th century, such as manufacturing and traffic congestion. Others believe that since meteorological records go back only about 150 years, the warming could be part of a cyclical trend.

The scientists said more detailed monitoring is needed to help determine the extent of man-made activities on the atmosphere. They suggested, among other things, that more data be compiled into electronic databases for the entire scientific community to evaluate.

The New York Times

Circ: 1,187,900

Earth Report Shows Accelerated Warming

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12 (AP) — Despite conflicts in temperature data, there is strong evidence of an accelerated warming of the Earth's surface during the past 20 years, a panel of the National Academy of Sciences concluded today.

Still the panel hedged on whether the warming will continue or whether it is tied to the "greenhouse effect" caused by manmade pollution of the atmosphere.

The panel said global temperatures increased 0.45 to 0.72 degrees over the last 20 years. By comparison, temperatures increased 0.72 to 1.44 degrees over the last 100 years, the panel reported.

The panel, of the academy's National Research Council, discounted the significance of conflicting temperature data from ground monitors and those on weather balloons and satellites.

According to surface monitors, the temperature of the earth over the last 100 years has increased 0.7 to 1.4 degrees.



JAN 13 2000

Circ: 1,557,171

Rate of global warming increases

3A
Strong evidence indicates that the warming of the Earth's surface is "undoubtedly real" even though there is no corresponding increase in atmospheric temperatures, a report released Wednesday says.

Surface temperatures over 20 years have risen at a rate substantially greater than the average for the past 100 years, says a report by the National Research Council of the National Academies. The report examines the apparent conflict between temperatures on the surface and in the upper air, which skeptics say casts doubt on the ability to predict global warming.

Earth's surface temperature has risen about 0.7 to 1.4 degrees Fahrenheit in the last century, the report says. But data collected by satellites and balloon-borne instruments since 1979 indicate little if any warming of the low- to mid-troposphere — the atmospheric layer extending up to about 5 miles from the Earth's surface.

The study, funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Aluminum Corp. of America, said the difference does not disprove global warming. The National Research Council is a private, non-profit institution that provides science advice under a congressional charter.
— Steve Marshall

90
GLOBAL WARMING: Increasing global temperatures are "undoubtedly real," despite differences in satellite and ground climate measures, say federally chartered researchers. The National Research Council committee report, released Wednesday, sought to examine conflicts between surface numbers, which show increased global warming over the last two decades, and high-altitude readings, which show little change. "We're saying quite emphatically that these are not equivalent measures," says committee chair John Wallace of the University of Washington in Seattle. The 20-year record of temperature measurements does not necessarily indicate that warming will continue, he adds.

Electricity Seller to Refund \$250,000 in Billing Dispute

■ **Energy:** Commonwealth also agrees to ban exec from state operations and to pay \$100,000 for consumer education fund.

By ROBIN FIELDS
TIMES STAFF WRITER

CI

Electricity marketer **Commonwealth Energy Corp.** has tentatively agreed to pay about \$250,000 in refunds and to remove its former chief executive from the company's California operations to end a six-month state investigation into alleged billing irregularities.

The Tustin company also will pay the California Public Utilities Commission \$100,000 to fund a consumer education program, agency officials said Wednesday.

"This has been a costly blunder for Commonwealth," said Larry McNeely, deputy director of the PUC's consumer services division. "The settlement makes customers whole and . . . sets a standard in this fragile, brand-new market."

Commonwealth executives still dispute the PUC's contention that the company improperly billed customers but said they settled to avoid an expensive legal battle.

"We think it's in our best interest to move on," said Jay Goth, Commonwealth's vice president of marketing. "We've already issued refunds to many customers and whoever hasn't received one will."

Commonwealth is the largest of about three dozen service providers that emerged

after California's electricity market was opened to competition on March 31, 1998. The company grabbed consumers' attention by advertising aggressively and touting environmentally friendly energy sources and discount prices.

The company's billing problems occurred from July to December 1998. After realizing it had underbilled about 19,000 customers, Commonwealth sent them a second round of bills ranging from a few cents to \$2,000.

"You can only do that if you get prior approval and if the customer understands the terms and conditions in advance," said William Schulte, director of the PUC's consumer services division.

More than 150 customers complained, many contending that the additional bills wiped out the 15% to 25% savings the company had promised in persuading them to switch from their former providers.

Under the settlement's terms, Commonwealth will issue refunds or credits to about 12,000 customers who paid the makeup bills or still have the charge on their records, Schulte said.

The deal also requires Commonwealth's founder and former chief executive, Fred Bloom, to have no involvement in the company's California operations for at least two years.

Bloom failed to disclose in Commonwealth's registration application that he had been ordered to stop selling unregistered securities or commodities by five states, including California, since 1988, the PUC's investigative report said.

Under state law, Commonwealth could have lost its license for filing

a false statement, McNeely said. Regulators agreed to the ban on Bloom instead because they were convinced that the current managers were reliable.

Bloom was replaced as Commonwealth's chief executive late last year as part of a broader restructuring.

"We think the sanction that we're recommending fits the crime," McNeely said. "If they had told us the truth, there's a good probability that the license would have been granted, at least on a provisional basis, and they did not use the license for fraud."

Commonwealth executives said the stipulation will not have much practical impact.

"It's pretty meaningless to our current structure," Goth said.

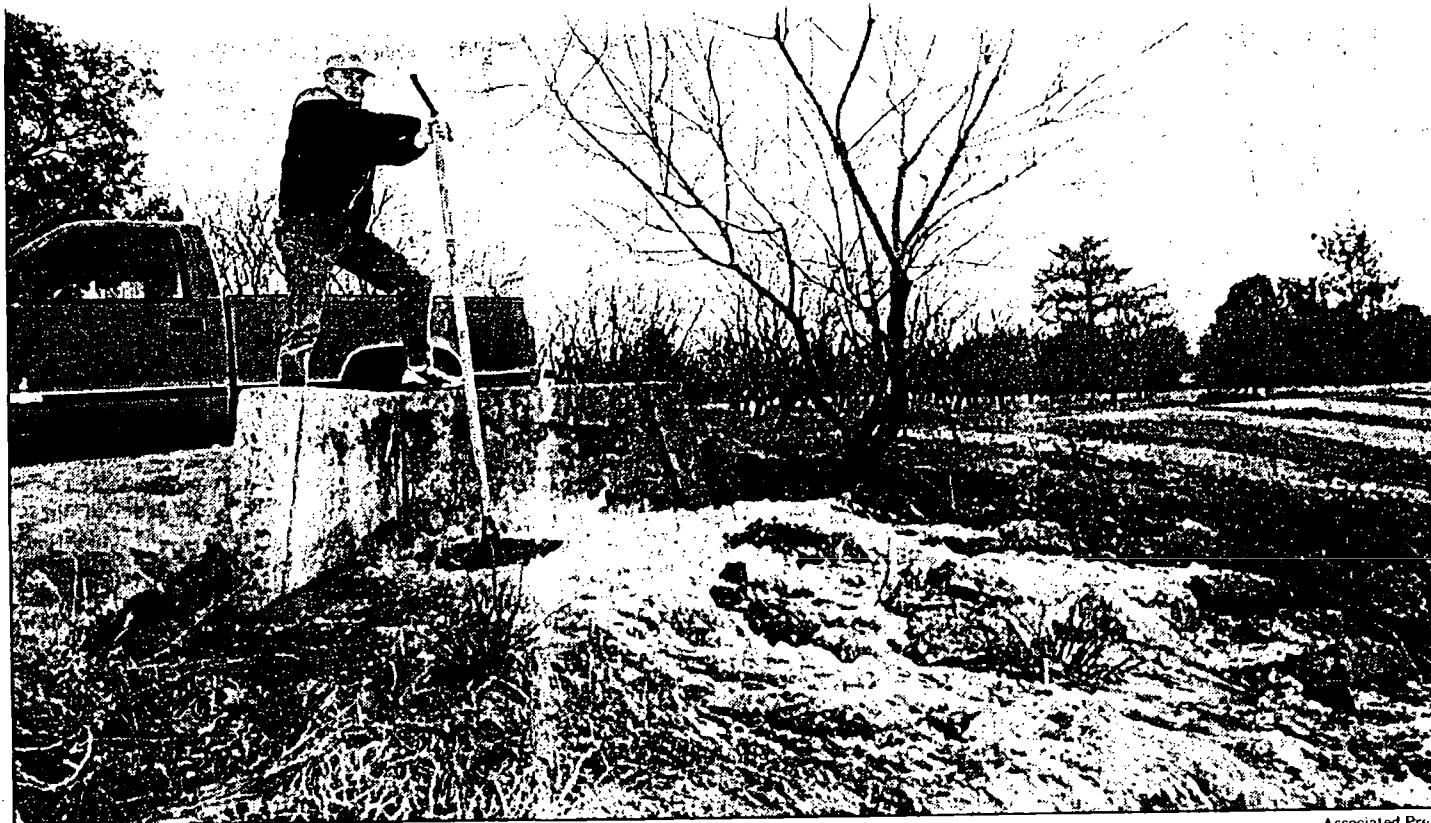
"Fred Bloom has moved into the national marketplace."

Bloom now serves as president of ElectricAmerica, an offshoot created to market Commonwealth's services in other states. He continues to hold a stake in Commonwealth, Goth said.

Commonwealth has about 85,000 customers in California, about 80% of them residential. Its client roster also includes the city of Santa Monica, Orange-based **St. Joseph Health System** and **Universal Studios**. The company has added about 5,000 customers in Pennsylvania this year and plans to expand its service into New Jersey, Goth said.

The proposed settlement must be approved by the administrative law judge overseeing the case.

Los Angeles
Times
A10
1-12-00



Associated Press

Almond farmer Steve Cooper of Modesto opens water valve to irrigate his trees. The Central Valley has had a dry winter thus far.

Dry Spell Raises Drought Fears in Central Valley

■ **Weather:** Conditions in nation's top farming region are 'critically dry,' but state's reservoirs are checking in over capacity.

From Associated Press

MODESTO—The irrigation canals in this Central Valley city usually are empty this time of year, as rainfall nourishes the rich soil. But they're full of water now, thanks to a long dry spell that has farmers far short of the water they need to keep their crops alive.

Bracing for what they fear could be California's first real drought in nearly a decade, the Modesto Irrigation District and others stretching along the nation's top farm belt are making emergency water deliveries and stepping up conservation measures.

"Right now, all the measurements show it's critically dry — well below normal," said Ed Tobias, Irrigation Manager for the Modesto district, which serves about 3,300 agricultural customers with roughly 63,000 acres.

Modesto began filling water orders this week, the first time since 1991 and only the seventh time in its nearly 100-year history that it has made such a move as early as January.

Other irrigation districts in the Central Valley—which generates close to half of California's nearly \$30 billion in farm receipts—report they are filling up their systems ahead of schedule.

Dry conditions in the first half of this winter have left the ground parched and roots thirsty across the valley floor, with only traces of rainfall reported in November and

December, and more sunshine and warmer temperatures than usual.

Weather patterns in the mountains have been equally arid, with snowpack readings across the Sierra Nevada far below average, said Frank Gehrke, who is in charge of snow surveys for the state Department of Water Resources.

Water districts are tempering their fears about shortages with the hope that after four or five straight years with plentiful rainfall, they will have banked enough water to carry them through even if the situation approaches drought proportions.

"The reservoir storage is about 110 percent average," said Maurice Roos, chief hydrologist for the Department of Water Resources. "We aren't going to declare a drought when we have that kind of storage on a statewide basis."

CEQ NEWS
CLIPS

The Wall Street

Journal

A14

1-12-00

10

GM Stops Making Electric Car, Holds Talks With Toyota

By GREGORY L. WHITE

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

DETROIT—General Motors Corp. has ceased production of its slow-selling EV-1 electric vehicle and is in talks with Toyota Motor Corp. about possible joint production of a hybrid-powered vehicle, GM Vice Chairman Harry Pearce said.

"We recognize the limitations of a pure electric vehicle," he told reporters at the Detroit Auto Show.

GM's decision to halt production of the EV-1 comes a few months after Honda Motor Co. discontinued its electric car and highlights the auto industry's turn away from pure electric-vehicle technology. While GM's Mr. Pearce left the door open to resume EV-1 production if demand materializes, the reality is that GM and its rivals are racing now to develop hybrid vehicles with batteries and small internal-combustion engines. Longer term, the industry's efforts to develop an economical, clean alternative to century-old internal-combustion technology are focused on fuel cells, which create electricity rather than merely storing it.

GM started leasing the EV-1 to consumers in 1996 with considerable fanfare. GM executives said the car demonstrated the auto maker's leadership in key areas of alternative-fuel vehicle technology. But customers were never as impressed and have leased only about 600 of the EV-1 vehicles. The two-seat cars have much shorter useful ranges than traditional vehicles and take hours to recharge. Mr. Pearce said GM will continue to keep the current fleet of EV-1s on the road.

He noted that the EV-1 has offered GM useful experience in developing its electric-drive technology, which is needed for other advanced power systems, including hybrids and fuel cells.

Mr. Pearce declined to comment on when GM and Toyota might release a hybrid vehicle, if they agreed to do so. Toyota already sells its own hybrid, the Prius, but Mr. Pearce said that car would need more power to gain acceptance in the U.S. A joint vehicle, he said, would include technology from both companies.

GM views hybrids as an interim solution in the search for new power sources. The ultimate goal is the use of fuel cells, which use hydrogen as a fuel to generate electricity, releasing no noxious emissions.

Mr. Pearce said GM believes that future fuel cells will be powered by hydrogen stored in a solid form as hydride. Systems using gasoline or methanol as a fuel would be too large to be practical, he said.

At the auto show, GM unveiled a concept car powered by a fuel cell that Mr. Pearce said would be operational by the end of the year. He declined to specify when GM plans to market a fuel-cell vehicle.

Asked about traditional vehicles, Mr. Pearce reiterated that he expects GM to increase its share of the key U.S. market this year.

"Do we have the business initiatives in place to address that? Absolutely," he said. "I see a pretty bright picture with respect to growth of market share in the U.S."



StarNews.com

\$350 million later, GM bails out on electric-car effort

[News](#)
[Sports](#)
[More Services](#)

By Bill Koenig
The Indianapolis Star

DETROIT (Jan. 12, 2000) -- General Motors has pulled the plug on its EV1 electric car and plans to develop cars powered by fuel cells and hybrid fuel-electric engines.



On Tuesday, GM unveiled two ultra fuel-efficient cars, both called the Precept.

One has a diesel engine coupled to an electric motor. It gets the equivalent of 80 miles per gallon of gasoline.

The other uses a fuel cell, which generates electricity from a soup of chemicals.

GM said it wants such a vehicle on a test track by the end of the year. A car with a fuel cell has the potential to have energy efficiency equivalent to more than 100 miles per gallon of gasoline.

"These vehicles are the first step in a very long journey," said Larry Pearce, GM's vice chairman. The vehicles also mark an inglorious end to GM's electric-car program.

GM began building the EV1 in 1996 and had developed parts for its power systems at a GM facility in Castleton.

It hoped to eventually sell thousands of battery-powered vehicles as pollution-free transportation -- especially in warm climate cities beset by smog.

It spent \$350 million to develop the EV1, and promoted it heavily, delivering some of the first vehicles to celebrities such as Sylvester Stallone. It billed the EV1 as a household's second car.

But few customers came forward. EV1 leases cost between \$400 and \$600 a month. The cars went only about 80 miles before needing recharged, and that process took several hours.

Time wasted on the doomed EV1 may now come back to haunt GM. Honda Motor Co. will begin selling its gas-line-electric Insight here this year. Toyota Motor Corp. will begin importing a similar vehicle, called the Prius, by next year.

Car makers are under increasing pressure from state and federal regulators, and from some customers, to develop more environmentally friendly cars.

Fuel cells are attractive because their only byproduct is water. But technical challenges include finding safe ways to store hydrogen onboard. The Precept's fuel cell uses a gaseous substance, instead.

The GM presentation came a day after Ford Motor Co. introduced a group of products under the Th!nk (pronounced think) brand. The Th!nk Neighbor is an electric vehicle a little bigger than a golf cart that can reach 25 mph. Th!nk Pedal is a line of bikes that can go on pedal power or an electric motor.

Ford also used the auto show to unveil the Ford Prodigy, its own hybrid car. There are no plans for production, at least not this year.

Analysts said the environmental sentiments aren't happening in a vacuum.

"It's definitely a reaction to the Japanese," said Dennis Virag, executive director of Automotive Consulting Group Inc. in Ann Arbor, Mich.

"It's more of a vocal message than a practical message."

Nevertheless, Joseph Phillippi, auto analyst with Philip Webber in New York, said consumers are interested in green cars "once you get it to the point it's really a car and it's affordable."

"It's not essentially the same price (as conventional cars), people will buy it as long as it's not compromised in what (cars) they want."

The Associated Press contributed to this report.



Click Here



- [MAIN PAGE](#)
- [WORLD](#)
- [U.S.](#)
- [LOCAL](#)
- [POLITICS](#)
- [WEATHER](#)
- [BUSINESS](#)
- [SPORTS](#)
- [TECHNOLOGY](#)
- [SPACE](#)
- [HEALTH](#)
- [ENTERTAINMENT](#)
- [BOOKS](#)
- [TRAVEL](#)
- [FOOD](#)
- [ARTS & STYLE](#)
- [NATURE](#)**

- [IN-DEPTH](#)
- [ANALYSIS](#)
- [myCNN](#)

- [Headline News brief](#)
- [news quiz](#)
- [daily almanac](#)

- MULTIMEDIA:**
- [video](#)
- [video archive](#)
- [audio](#)
- [multimedia showcase](#)
- [more services](#)

- E-MAIL:**
- [Subscribe to one of our news e-mail lists](#)
- [Enter your address](#)
- [Or](#)
- [Get a free e-mail account](#)

E-MAIL:

- DISCUSSION:**
- [message boards](#)
- [chat](#)
- [feedback](#)

CNN WEB SITES:

- [myCNN.com](#)
- [allpolitics](#)
- [AsiaNow](#)
- [En Español](#)
- [Em Português](#)
- [Svenska](#)
- [Norge](#)
- [Danmark](#)

nature > story page

Nissan stakes claim to cleanest gasoline car

January 12, 2000

Web posted at: 11:39 AM EST (1639 GMT)

TOKYO (Reuters) -- Nissan Motor Co on Wednesday staked its claim to having the world's cleanest gasoline-engined car, saying its new Sentra sedan model had met emission standards previously held only by electric vehicles.

"The Sentra CA, driven 10 miles (16 km) to work and back, emits less harmful vapors than an ordinary car sitting in a driveway all day with its engine turned off," Jun Teranuma, general manager of Nissan's powertrain planning department, told a news conference.

Cars can still emit vapors after the engine is turned off and when left outside in the sun.

Nissan said the California Air Resources Board, which imposes many of the world's toughest emission rules, had awarded the 2000 Sentra CA "super ultra low emission vehicle" status.

Californian authorities, which have mandated that 10 percent of all vehicles sold in smog-ridden state have zero emission levels from 2003, had also given the Sentra CA partial zero emission credits -- a first for a gasoline-engined vehicle. This means that Sentra will be given one fifth of an emission credit normally given to an electric vehicle.

Nissan plans to start selling the Sentra CA, a five passenger four-door sedan with a 1.8 liter engine, in California from February, targeting sales of 500 vehicles in the first year.

Sales of the Sentra CA in the United States will first be limited to California which is the only U.S. state to offer low sulfur gasoline. The Sentra CA may be driven on higher sulfur content fuel without change in performance although emission levels may be higher.

Company officials said they have not yet decided the sticker price for the new car but its price would reflect the cost of the new engine, estimated at around 10 percent more than an engine for an ordinary Sentra. A 2.0 liter Sentra retails from \$15,200.

In the race for cleaner cars, recent attention has focused on fuel cells -- a cleaner form of power that eventually could replace combustion engines.

But expecting that it may take decades before a mass-marketable car using fuel cell technology is available, Japanese automakers have



Danmark
Italian

FASTER ACCESS:

europa
japan

TIME INC. SITES:

Go To... ▼

CNN NETWORKS:

CNN
CNN INTERNATIONAL
CNN Headline NEWS

more networks
transcripts

SITE INFO:

help
contents
search
ad info
jobs

WEB SERVICES:

bn.com
BARNES & NOBLE
go!

BELLSOUTH
The Real White Pages
Type a name Go!

Drug Emporium.com
Save \$10*
+ Free Delivery

using fuel cell technology is available, Japanese automakers have taken the lead in improving gasoline-engined vehicles.

Toyota Motor Corp and Honda Motor Co have launched hybrid cars that use both gasoline and electric motors. These cars slash emission levels but do not need outside recharging like an electric vehicle.

Copyright 2000 Reuters. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed.

RELATED STORIES:

- [Emissions test aims for cleaner air](#)
- [New York adopts same tough vehicle emission standards as California](#)
- [Environmentalists push hybrid vehicles](#)
- [Older cars make for dirty air](#)

RELATED SITE:

[Nissan Main Menu](#)

Note: Pages will open in a new browser window
External sites are not endorsed by CNN Interactive.

LATEST HEADLINES:

WORLD:

- [China blasts U.S. plan for human rights censure](#)
- [Prospect of freedom for Pinochet prompts elation -- and fury](#)
- [Supporters formally nominate Putin for president](#)
- [3 blacks killed in possible S. Africa race attack](#)

US:

- [Elian case appears headed to federal court](#)
- [States get so-so grades on standards for teacher quality](#)
- [Judge recesses trial after former Louisiana governor falls ill](#)
- [Court allows police to stop those who run from police](#)

SCI TECH:

- [MP3.com lets users store their music online](#)
- [Galileo findings boost possibility of Europa ocean](#)
- [Planescape: Torment takes you to the dark side](#)
- [High-tech homes of the future are here today](#)

ENTERTAINMENT:

- ['Millionaire,' 'Malcolm' rate high in Nielsens](#)
- [Fox to leave reality -- some of it -- behind](#)
- [Home video: Clever, not crude, story drives 'Mystery Men'](#)
- [Canine wins hearts in 'My Dog Skip'](#)

Launch CNN's **Desktop Ticker** and get the latest news, delivered right on your desktop!

Today on CNN

Resources for Learning

Utah Education Network

PIONEER
Utah's Online Library
Info You Need. Fast

GC

deseretnews.com

U

D

Tuesday, January 11, 2000



Format story
for printing



E-mail
of th

Incinerator under fire

Former worker blames Tooele plant for illnesses

By Lee Davidson

Deseret News Washington correspondent

WASHINGTON — Gary Harris says the Army and its contractors threatened his job if he wouldn't sign off on false data purporting that a chemical arms incinerator in Tooele is safe.

Now he says he suffers "cognitive and memory problems — big time," which are symptoms of long-term, low-level exposure to deadly nerve agents. His body also has had high concentrations of seven toxic heavy metals found in materials burned at Tooele.

He said he believes his illnesses were caused by the plant and that other Utahns may soon face similar problems because of Army "lies." So he said he decided to become the latest whistle-blower alleging major problems at the plant.

"The bottom line is that incineration is not safe," he told the Deseret News on Tuesday. "There are better ways to destroy the arms that would greatly diminish the danger to (plant) employees and the public in surrounding communities."

Harris was also scheduled to appear Tuesday afternoon at the National Press Club in a press conference sponsored by groups opposing more Army incinerators at other chemical arms storage sites. He also scheduled a press conference in Utah on Wednesday.

Harris is making several other serious allegations, including: nerve agent from the plant is finding its way into Utah's food chain while officials knew about and ignored that risk; the Army has lost track of large numbers of chemical arms in Utah; it is not adequately monitoring for escaped nerve agents at Tooele; the Army has not released data showing incineration does not work; and that contractors set up systems that may lead to double-billing for work while decreasing plant safety.

Meanwhile, Greg Mahall, spokesman for the Army's program manager for chemical demilitarization, said the Army is aware of

Harris' allegations.

"While this matter is under investigation, the Army cannot and will not comment on the matter." But, he added, "The Army is confident that these allegations will be proven to be untrue. In the meantime, the citizens of Utah and all citizens of the United States can rest assured that the Army will continue its mission to effectively and safely eliminate this country's stockpile of obsolete chemical weapons."

Harris said he worked at different jobs relating to chemical arms destruction at Tooele for 12 years and became the manager overseeing applications for environmental permits. He said he was pushed out of a job three years ago after fighting with superiors because he felt they were breaking environmental laws.

He said he found superiors had included false or misleading data on reports. "I was often required to submit these under the threat of losing my job. I was also directed to withhold information from the state regulators, again under duress."

Harris said such information included that the plant cannot totally destroy all chemical agent and that leftover wastes are contaminated with it. He said some such wastes — one-ton containers — were shipped to a Colorado metal recycler while the Army and Utah state inspectors knew it was illegal.

Also, he said some waste barrels stored outside have leaked mustard agent. They and other leaking containers could threaten local groundwater, he said.

Also, he said Tooele has found several problems with its monitoring process that could allow raw nerve agent to escape smokestacks without detection. He provided lengthy, technical descriptions of them. Also, he said same-time monitoring to allow quick alarms for leaks is not occurring in many key areas.

Harris also said fine ash from the plant has covered cars in parking lots at the facility, and that ash may contain small amounts of nerve agent. "Any amount is too much under EPA standards," he said.

Harris said that similarly, tiny amounts of nerve agent could be spread by the plant to nearby farms and ranches. He worries that nerve agent consumed by humans on food grown there could get them sick.

"And everyone out there has a garden and grows some of their own food," he said. "And there's a lot of dairy cows (that may graze on contaminated fields), and people who drink the milk locally."

He said he raised such concerns with the Army and state inspectors when they prepared health risk assessments, but it was not included in the final state studies. He said with that and other omissions, "the plant passed, but only barely."

Harris also said that counts of munitions stored in Utah have been "way off" — which raises the possibility of theft or loss. He said the Army has handled that by saying some arms were destroyed that were not actually processed.

(Of note, the Deseret News reported last September that the Army inspector general investigated when the numbers of arms delivered to the burn plant did not match the number it said were destroyed. Inspectors concluded that the problems came simply because of sloppy recordkeeping).

Harris said he decided to come forward as a whistle-blower "because I realized that the physical problems I was having and the environmental issues I had fought for were one and the same thing." He said he also had several friends from the plant who recently have been diagnosed with cancer, and worries about the safety of people in Utah. (Harris now lives in Oregon).

He said alternative technologies, such as chemical neutralization, could more safely handle the arms — and called for the Army to stop incineration and switch to them.

Harris is the fourth whistle-blower to have alleged major problems at the plant. Others have included former plant general manager Gary Millar, former safety chief Steve Jones and supervisor Trina Allen.

[World & Nation](#) + [Utah](#) + [Sports](#) + [Business](#) + [Opinion](#) + [Front page](#)

ETHICAL INVESTMENT MULTI-FAITH COALITION USES FINANCIAL MUSCLE IN BID TO PREVENT COMPANIES HARMING THE ENVIRONMENT

Religious groups work to 'save creation'

By Nancy Dunne in Washington

Call it "conservation theology" or simply "butting in", but increasingly US religious groups are flexing their consciences and financial muscle to push businesses to do the right thing for the environment.

Using their pension funds as leverage, religious shareholder activists are backing resolutions, funding public campaigns and meeting corporate representatives to demand protection for "God's green earth".

The Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, a group that says it holds more than \$100bn in pension funds, is now demanding action on global warming from 12 large US corporations.

Last week, the group added Exxon Mobil to its list of targeted companies, joining a coalition of 42 other

religious and environmental organisations in 17 states. The centre intends to press Exxon Mobil to reform corporate practices that "contribute to global warming".

The centre, composed mainly of religious investors, has been urging Exxon Mobil to invest heavily in "clean, efficient and reliable energy sources". It also wants the company to acknowledge that human activity is causing global warming and to "cease its campaign of misinformation to confuse the public and policymakers about the facts regarding this severe environmental threat".

"Exxon Mobil's position of denial and misinformation on global warming puts all of creation at risk, and we simply cannot stand by and let them do that," said Sister Pat Daly of the centre.

Exxon Mobil is a member of the Global Climate Coalition, a group of companies that has become a particular target for environmental activists. The GCC says it promotes voluntary reduction of greenhouse gases but it wants "unfettered debate" on the theory of climate change.

Exxon Mobil said the Interfaith Center had misinterpreted its policies. "Our position on global warming is that we think we need a dialogue on how good the science is. But we can never get to that discussion."

It said Exxon Mobile was a company that based its business on technology and science. "We will have the same rigour on global warming as we do when we are running a 3D seismic off West Africa."

The Interfaith Center also made Ford a target until the vehicle maker agreed to

withdraw from the GCC last month. Still on the centre's hit list are Allegheny Energy, Chevron, CSX, Duke Energy, Eastman Chemical, Mobil, Norfolk Southern, Texaco, Goodyear, Cinergy and General Motors.

The 29-year old group of Protestant, Catholic and Jewish institutional investors believes it can profitably merge social and environmental values with investment decisions. It is part of a growing "corporate social responsibility movement" that includes labour unions, public and private pension funds, mutual funds and foundations.

Social Investment Forum, an investors' association, last year said nearly one in every seven dollars under investment management in the US - more than \$2,000bn - was actively involved in the corporate social responsibility movement.

The Interfaith Center believes companies that take moral and ethical stands will prosper most. Its members are long-term investors that need solid returns to run parishes, synagogues and schools, pay pensions for employees and help the poor.

Most of its environmental actions are similar. In one shareholder resolution it asked Texaco to report to investors by next August on greenhouse gas emissions from the company's operations and products. It asked for information on the company's financial exposure resulting from the costs of reducing emissions and potential liability for damages associated with climate change.

"We believe that our company is using shareholder money for advertising and lobbying to suggest that the problem of global warming

is exaggerated," the resolution said.

Shareholder activists last year were defeated when they sought to pass a similar environmental resolution for Exxon Mobil. However, company officials met the group to explain the company's efforts on energy conservation. "We think they're misguided," the company said.

In statements filed with Goodyear and Cinergy, the centre applauded the companies' withdrawal from the GCC and asked for a commitment on reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Sister Pat said the centre had had successes in many areas. Last year it submitted 153 shareholder resolutions, challenging corporations on everything from sweatshops and "racist" advertising to the safety of healthcare products and withdrawal from Burma.

WTO must bend or break: supporters of trade status quo, you have been warned

From Ms Lori Wallach.

Sir, Either Martin Wolf does not understand the crux of the World Trade Organisation debate or, alternatively, he seeks to ensure that your readers do not. I refer to his article "In defence of global capitalism" (December 8).

In Seattle, 200 mainstream consumer groups from 50 countries demanded no new WTO Round, but rather a turnaround - not because we were

ill-informed or "front groups", but because we have studied the WTO's unfortunate five-year record on access to food and medicines for poor consumers, food and product safety, the environment, human rights and labour policies, and more.

The transformation of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade into the WTO (with its expansive 900 pages of rules in 18 underlying agreements) has meant an unacceptable

encroachment of a secretive, unaccountable institution into domestic social decisions. While the Gatt focused on such principles as non-discrimination (treating domestic and foreign goods the same), which we support for creating a climate of competition, the WTO has got into making subjective decisions, such as how much food safety protection is permissible even if the law treats domestic and foreign goods alike.

Obviously, these value decisions must be made by those who can be held accountable to those who must live with the results so that they can be adjusted to suit the public interest. That is why we support the "pruning back" of the WTO so that it does not meddle in these subjective areas, instead leaving them for national and local governments to decide (of course, within the objective principles of non-discrimination

based on where something is made).

Thus, when Mr Wolf derisively quotes me as noting that Seattle sent a warning against the "invasion of the WTO into domestic policy decisions", he ought to take it as a welcome warning of how the WTO must bend otherwise it will break altogether.

The issue is not how to counter the backlash against globalisation with better public relations, because it is not an ill-informed howl for Mr Wolf to dismiss but an informed call for change. Corporate supporters of the trade status quo should ignore it at their peril.

Lori Wallach,
Director,
Public Citizen's Global Trade
Watch,
215 Pennsylvania Avenue SE,
Washington, DC 20003,
US

Connecticut: East Hampton

— Initial tests failed to show what has been killing the fish in Lake Pocotopaug, the state Department of Environmental Protection said. Since last week, thousands of fish have died in the 510-acre lake, and in area streams it feeds. The DEP said it was continuing to provide fish samples from the lake to the University of Connecticut.

Hawaii: Honolulu — Cleanup has started at the former bio-waste recycling center in Waimanalo that had been operated by Unisyn. Meadow Gold Dairies took control of the facility in December, eight months after Unisyn stopped processing food and green waste because it no longer could afford to meet government regulations of the site.

Minnesota: St. Paul — The U.S. Forest Service has issued permits that allow St. Louis County officials and a private landowner to use a temporary logging road near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. The road will be used to remove trees downed in a July 4 storm. The county plans to log 333 acres of damaged wood. Bill Larson, a private landowner, also plans to log on his 75 acres.

Montana: Noxon — The Department of Environmental Quality proposed to more than triple the \$2.8 million reclamation bond that Sterling Mining Co. must post for the mine it recently purchased in northwestern Montana. The state now wants \$10 million. Former governor Tim Babcock, president of Sterling Mining Co., said his company would work with the state agency for a revised reclamation plan.

New Mexico: Santa Fe

— The state has hired bounty hunters to kill up to 34 mountain lions, largely in southern New Mexico, to protect bighorn sheep. Bill Dunn, a biologist with the state Game and Fish Department, said the agency documented 50 deaths of bighorns that had been radio-collared and that 37 were identified as cougar kills.

South Dakota: Pierre

— Gov. Janklow asked the Legislature to create an Agricultural Policy Office within the state Agriculture Department. The office would study farm-related topics and try to develop policies reflecting the unified positions of three state agencies: Agriculture, Environment and Game, Fish and Parks, he said.



Copyright 2000 The Idaho Statesman
The Idaho Statesman

January 9, 2000, Sunday

SECTION: Editorial ; Pg. 6b Chuck Malloy

LENGTH: 700 words

HEADLINE: For now, **Clinton** has edge on roadless areas

BYLINE: By Chuck Malloy

BODY:

President **Clinton's** plan to protect about 50 million acres of roadless areas in national forest lands has Republicans shaking their heads.

As they see it, he is trying to speed through his roadless-protection initiative before he leaves the White House - creating a political legacy for himself, while bypassing Congress in the process.

Republicans, of course, aren't going to stand still for that. Almost all Republicans in Congress voted last year either to impeach the president or remove him from office. If they had their way, Al Gore would be president today and **Clinton** would be somewhere in Arkansas, wallowing in self-pity.

There's no way they allow **Clinton** to compare himself with Teddy Roosevelt - at least, not without a fight.

Sen. Larry Craig, R-Idaho, who is no friend of **Clinton's** on almost every issue, objects to the administration's efforts to railroad a major policy initiative without going through Congress.

Although some public hearings have been held, Craig said, there has not been adequate public notification and no specific plan has been presented.

"They don't even have maps in place," Craig said.

In Craig's view, the president should have come forward with a bill for Congress to consider.

However, if **Clinton** went that route, he could forget about leaving behind an environmental legacy. In all likelihood, Craig said, it would take longer than a year to resolve the roadless issue and the end product would not look anything like the original proposal.

That's the way the process normally works - especially on controversial public-lands issues.

The issue strikes close to Craig, because more than 8 million acres in Idaho could be affected by the roadless initiative. Gov. Dirk Kempthorne has said the forest road development in designated areas "will have a devastating impact on timber communities in Idaho" and destroy efforts to develop "recreational economies" in various parts of the state.

But according to Craig Gehrke, regional director of the Idaho Wilderness Society, the issue has no business being in the hands of Congress.

"If this were a wilderness designation, then Congress should have a say," Gehrke said. "But this concerns management of the national forest, which is an administrative matter."

Considering Congress' track record for acting on national forest and wilderness issues, Gehrke said, he doesn't blame Clinton for trying for a faster course. The wilderness issue is a case in point.

"They have been sitting on their butts for 20 years," Gehrke said.

Gehrke also questions whether the purpose of the roadless area provides Clinton with much of a legacy.

"It would be a lachrymose legacy," Gehrke said. "It is not setting aside land for a national park or building some kind of national monument. But it reflects the sentiment of the nation. One way or another, people want to preserve some of our open spaces."

Also, Gehrke says, Clinton isn't the only one guilty of bypassing Congress. For years, Craig has made attempts to attach riders to appropriations bills - without going through the congressional hearing process.

One of Craig's riders called on Congress to exempt salvage logging from environmental laws - which has served as an effective organizing tool for the Wilderness Society and other environmental groups. They have used it as a kind of rallying point since James Watt was interior secretary.

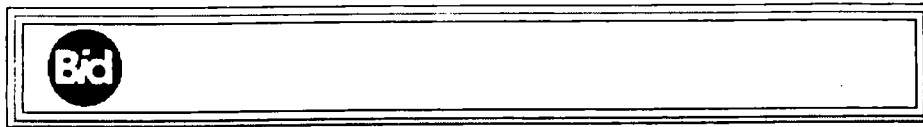
One of the problems Clinton's roadless initiative provides a tremendous rallying point for Craig and other Western Republican lawmakers who object to the federal government's undemocratic takeover. Most of the land impacted by the roadless initiative is in the West.

Right now, Clinton holds an advantage. It appears his administration will impose a roadless-protection policy that is somewhat Craig or other members of Congress think.

But the Republicans would have the last laugh if Texas Gov. George W. Bush wins the presidency. Anything Clinton does on his forest roadless policy can be rapidly undone if Bush listens to Craig and other Western Republicans.

Chalco is the editorial page editor of The Idaho Statesman. He can be reached at cmalloy@boisestatesman.com or at 377-6432.

LEAD-1A/1 January 12, 2000



Talk about this story now: Enter a chat name:

Post your opinions about this story in the [Watercooler Forum](#)

NewsFlash
WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW

REGIONAL
THE FULL STORY

Ex-worker alleges violations at chemical weapons incinerator

The Associated Press
01/12/00 5:16 AM Eastern

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Officials at the Army's chemical weapons incinerator in Utah rigged tests and misled state regulators to conceal the plant's inability to safely destroy nerve agents, charges the plant's former permit manager.

Gary Harris also said Tuesday that officials at Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility knew residue from sarin -- a nerve agent also known as GB that kills by constricting the lungs and halting breathing -- remained on weapons parts sent to Du-Wald Steel Corp., a Denver scrap metal business, between 1996 and 1998.

"The incineration process itself should not be going on," Harris said. "It is inherently dangerous. It does not destroy the (nerve) agent."

Harris said officials with the Army and the private contractor running the incinerator threatened to fire him if he told state regulators or the public about the safety problems, which he said could allow sarin to escape into the environment.

Officials with the Army and EG&G Defense Systems Inc., the contractor that runs the plant, say the incinerator is safe.

The Army is investigating and "is confident (Harris') allegations will be proven untrue," said Greg Mahall, a spokesman for the Army's chemical weapons destruction command in Aberdeen, Md.

"We take the allegations seriously, of course," Mahall said. "It doesn't do us any good to let those go unchallenged."

The federal government is planning a similar incinerator for Anniston, Ala.

EG&G declined to comment on the allegations. A manager at Du-Wald did not return a phone call seeking comment Tuesday.

Harris, who resigned from EG&G at the end of 1996, is the fifth former

official at the incinerator to allege environmental and safety problems. One of them, Steve Jones, regained his post as the incinerator's chief safety officer last year after federal courts ruled he had been illegally fired for criticizing safety at the plant in 1994, when it still was under construction.

Harris first made his allegations in a sworn statement to the Chemical Weapons Working Group, an organization asking Utah officials to overturn the incinerator's state permit. The group also is suing in federal court to have the incinerator shut down and opposes similar planned incinerators at military bases in Alabama, Arkansas and Oregon.

The \$600 million Tooele incinerator, about 50 miles west of Salt Lake City, has been operating since 1996. It is the only chemical weapons incinerator in the continental United States and was built to destroy nerve and blistering agents stockpiled at the Army's Deseret Chemical Depot since World War II.

Please send any questions or
comments to feedback@al.com.

Copyright 2000 Associated Press. All rights reserved.
This material may not be published, broadcast,
rewritten, or redistributed.


[Planet Ark Home page](#)
[National Recycling Week](#)

 Select a topic from this pull-down menu ▼


Your daily
guide to
helping
the planet



FOCUS - Dow, Cargill to produce "renewable" plastics

USA: January 12, 2000

NEW YORK, Jan 11 (Reuters) - Banking on new technology which uses kernels of corn to create plastics used in packaging and film, Dow Chemical Co. and Cargill Inc. unveiled plans yesterday to fund the first large-scale "renewable" plastics plant and stake their claim to a multi-billion dollar business.

Jim Stoppert, president and chief executive of Cargill Dow Polymers, a two year old joint venture between the two companies, said the plant in Blair, Nebraska would be completed in late 2001 and stand as the centrepiece of a \$300 million investment in the business.

The plant will allow Dow Chemical, the No. 2 U.S. chemical company, and Cargill, the agribusiness giant, to begin the first widespread marketing of polymers derived entirely from renewable resources rather than petroleum products.

At a presentation in New York, the companies said they have fine-tuned the technology to such a degree that for the first time it can compete in terms of costs and performance with more traditional materials.

What's more, to meet what they expect to be rising demand for renewable plastics Stoppert said a 140,000 metric ton plant in Nebraska would be followed two years later by a facility in Europe.

Stoppert added that Cargill Dow Polymers would build another plant every 18-24 months after that, with location to be decided on by demand for the product.

Dubbed NatureWorks, the technology allows the company to process natural plant sugars such as corn syrup, rather than traditional petroleum based materials, into polylactide polymer (PLA).

PLA can then be used for plastics and fibers in goods ranging from carpets to clothes to food containers.

"This product is renewable in every sense of the word," said William Stavropoulos, president and chief executive of Dow, adding that fibers in clothes or plastics used in packaging can now be made from "carbohydrates rather than hydrocarbons."

Down the road, the company said it could be using rice and wheat as well as corn in the process in what they said could turn into a multibillion business.

Written agreements are already in place with customers,

TODAY'S ENVIRONMENT NEWS

AUSTRALIA
[La Nina pattern set to weaken by April, met bureau](#)

EU
[EU parliament committee backs scrap car law](#)

FRANCE
[French wreck probe finds no big leaks in rear hull](#)

FRANCE
[French forest owners count cost of storm/seek aid](#)

INDIA
[Indian author arrested in dam protest](#)

NEW ZEALAND
[NZ interests at stake in GMO/GM debate](#)

USA
[Montreal GMO talks likely to be difficult - USDA](#)

USA
[U.S. appeals environmental ruling on trade panels](#)

USA
[FOCUS: Dow, Cargill to produce "renewable" plastics](#)

USA
[Clinton protects Grand Canyon and California lands](#)

USA
[Recycling: toothbrush, wrap, oven classics](#)

[previous day](#)

the company said, adding they have already seen enough demand to cover the first year's production from the Blair plant.

"What's exciting about this technology is the breadth of applications and the fact it comes from annually renewable resources," Dow's Stavropoulos said in a statement. He added the technology "offers the opportunity to truly develop sustainable products because we are using raw material that can be regenerated year after year."

Shares of Dow dropped 1-13/16 to 134-5/8 Tuesday on the New York Stock Exchange.

REUTERS NEWS SERVICE

REUTERS 

The Business of Information

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS SEARCH

Enter your keywords to search our news archive by subject. Type "Greenpeace", for example, into the box below and you will be given a listing of all Planet Ark's news and images relating to Greenpeace.

Sort by relevance Sort by date

Alternatively, why not check out our news archive on an issue by issue basis? Select a topic from the list below to learn everything you need to know about the topics contained within this search engine.

© 2000 Reuters Limited. All rights reserved. Reproduction or redistribution of Reuters content, including by framing or similar means, is expressly prohibited without the prior written consent of Reuters.

TOP OF PAGE

This site developed by [Radiant Productions](#), and managed using RPM-NT.



Your daily guide to helping the planet



[Planet Ark Home page](#)
[National Recycling Week](#)

Select a topic from this pull-down menu

U.S. appeals environmental ruling on trade panels

USA: January 12, 2000

WASHINGTON - The Clinton administration said yesterday it appealed a federal judge's decision ordering U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky to name environmentalists to two panels advising her on wood and paper products.

But the administration said it would launch new initiatives aimed at increasing input from environmental and consumer activists in U.S. trade policy.

"Congress has carefully designed a structure for channelling important negotiating advice to the administration from the manufacturing and services sector of our economy," Commerce Secretary William Daley said in a statement. "The court's ruling, if permitted to stand, could undermine the framework that Congress established."

But he added: "At the same time, we need to take additional steps to ensure that we receive timely and comprehensive advice from other nongovernmental groups as well."

U.S. District Court Judge Barbara Rothstein ruled in November that the U.S. Trade Representative's office violated a federal law governing advisory panels by limiting membership on these committees to industry officials.

Currently, representatives on the two advisory panels include top officials from the biggest U.S. lumber and paper product companies and their industry associations.

Congress and the Clinton administration have set up a wide variety of other advisory committees which solicit advice from environmental, labour and other nongovernmental organisations, Barshefsky said.

Barshefsky said her office and the Commerce Department were carrying out the court's order, but the Justice Department had filed its appeal on January 7.

REUTERS NEWS SERVICE

REUTERS

The Business of Information

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS SEARCH

TODAY'S ENVIRONMENT NEWS

AUSTRALIA:
 La Nina pattern set to weaken by April, met. bureau

EU:
 EU parliament committee backs scrap car law

FRANCE:
 French wreck probe finds no big leaks in rear hull

FRANCE:
 French forest owners count cost of storm, seek aid

INDIA:
 Indian author arrested in dam protest

NEW ZEALAND:
 NZ interests at stake in GMO/GMF debate

USA:
 Montreal GMO talks likely to be difficult
 USDA

USA:
 U.S. appeals environmental ruling on trade panels

USA:
 FOCUS: Dow, Cargill to produce renewable plastics

USA:
 Clinton protects Grand Canyon and California lands

USA:
 Recycle toothbrush, wrap, oven classics

[previous day](#)

Subscribe to daily
environment news



year-
daily
planet
ark



AUSTRALIA

La Nina pattern set to weaken by Apr



[Planet Ark Home page](#)

[National Recycling Week](#)

Select a topic from this pull-down menu

U.S. appeals environmental ruling on trade panels

USA: January 12, 2000

WASHINGTON - The Clinton administration said yesterday it appealed a federal judge's decision ordering U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky to name environmentalists to two panels advising her on wood and paper products.

But the administration said it would launch new initiatives aimed at increasing input from environmental and consumer activists in U.S. trade policy.

"Congress has carefully designed a structure for channelling important negotiating advice to the administration from the manufacturing and services sector of our economy," Commerce Secretary William Daley said in a statement. "The court's ruling, if permitted to stand, could undermine the framework that Congress established."

But he added: "At the same time, we need to take additional steps to ensure that we receive timely and comprehensive advice from other nongovernmental groups as well."

U.S. District Court Judge Barbara Rothstein ruled in November that the U.S. Trade Representative's office violated a federal law governing advisory panels by limiting membership on these committees to industry officials.

Currently, representatives on the two advisory panels include top officials from the biggest U.S. lumber and paper product companies and their industry associations.

Congress and the Clinton administration have set up a wide variety of other advisory committees which solicit advice from environmental, labour and other nongovernmental organisations, Barshefsky said.

Barshefsky said her office and the Commerce Department were carrying out the court's order, but the Justice Department had filed its appeal on January 7.

REUTERS NEWS SERVICE

TODAY'S ENVIRONMENT NEWS

AUSTRALIA:

[La Nina pattern set to weaken by April - met bureau](#)

EU:

[EU parliament committee backs scrap car law](#)

FRANCE:

[French wreck probe finds no big leaks in rear hull](#)

FRANCE:

[French forest owners count cost of storm, seek aid](#)

INDIA:

[Indian author arrested in dam protest](#)

NEW ZEALAND:

[NZ interests at stake in GMO/GMF debate](#)

USA:

[Montreal GMO talks likely to be difficult - USDA](#)

USA:

[U.S. appeals environmental ruling on trade panels](#)

USA:

[FOCUS - Dow, Cargill to produce "renewable" plastics](#)

USA:

[Clinton protects Grand Canyon and California lands](#)

USA:

["Recycline" toothbrush wrap, oven classics](#)

[previous day](#)

The
Washington
Times
A12
1-12-00

MICHAEL FUMENTO

It was "a message to those who seek to benefit from the risky endeavor of genetically engineering the food supply," according to the group calling itself Seeds of Resistance. The "message?" They hacked down a half-acre plot of corn one dark August night with machetes.

The crop's offense? The University of Maine-owned Rogers Farm was determining whether a new strain of corn would be protected from herbicides that would kill surrounding weeds. This would reduce the need for herbicide use, saving farmers money and reducing chemical runoff into water supplies. To have these advantages, it had a specially chosen gene from another plant inserted into it.

For that, the corn had to die.

So far this year, vandals have struck 14 crop sites in the United States, spanning the country from Maine to Minnesota to California. And however one feels about biotech crops or biotech in general, the attacks tell us much about biotech opponents.

The American vandals directly acknowledge the inspiration from overseas, especially the U.K., where wrecking crop plots that offend one's sensibilities is commonplace. "Many thanks to our comrades in other countries for the inspiration to join them," declared a communique from Reclaim the Seeds, one of the more U.S. active crop-busting groups.

In Europe, anywhere between 150-200 experimental biotech fields and forests have been damaged or destroyed. On this side of the Atlantic, the crop-busters are just getting started but are making up for lost time in a spectacular fashion. "There was only one [attack] that I know of in the U.S. in 1998," according to Jeffrey Tufenkian, spokesman for an anti-biotech American group that tracks crop wrecking, Genetix Alert of San Diego.

And it isn't just fields and forests under attack.

On the last day of September, two groups wrecked various crops but also disabled an irrigation system and vandalized three greenhouses. Earlier in the month, the Bolt Weevils whacked a Minnesota biotech corn crop and further damaged company vehicles and sheds.

Biotech crop killers

Nor do the plans stop even there. "Crops, research facilities and corporate offices are all sources of this technological threat and should be targeted," say the Weevils. "If corporations, governments and universities have any relationship to biotechnology, they are targets."

Crime against property is serious. But the euphemisms and rationalizations these self-styled "garden guerrillas" employ are beyond ludicrous. Trespassing on public

property to rip up crops is "peaceful direct action." The field isn't destroyed, it's "decontaminated." The science of gene transfer is called "pollution."

Greenpeace's U.K. executive director, Lord Peter Melchett, who was arrested for personally "decontaminating" crops, even claims it "is not lawlessness." Really? Trespass and vandalism are legal in Britain?

In this instance yes, says Lord Melchett, because "we act within strong moral boundaries." Thus the criminality of an act can be negated by the actor's opinion. If you feel morally justified in "peacefully decontaminating" your spouse via "direct action" with a shotgun, your actions are "not lawlessness."

Crop-busters also make claims of heroic acts of sacrifice. "We are risking jail and injury, as well as sacrificing time, energy and sleep," declaim the Reclaimers. Time, energy and sleep?

Such statements reveal the mindset of bullies who strike by night and slip away, then convince themselves and others they are bold warriors who aren't just above the law; they make it.

The U.S. crop vandalization group Future Farmers has declared, "The people have the right and the responsibility to fight back." "The people," of course, is as defined by these Future Fascists.

After Reclaim the Seeds ripped up a sugar beet field at the University of California at Davis, it proclaimed "these acts as self-defensive measures on behalf of *all beings*." (Emphasis added). So now they even speak for birds, bees and bacteria.

But what's the real motive here?

After crunching a corn crop, the Reclaimers cried: "Modern agribusiness and genetic mutilation is a capitalist machine that must be dismantled," and its vandalism "is a direct action that destroys corporate power and authority."

Thus bioengineering of food and trees has become representative of every evil any corporation has perpetrated (or, shall we say, everything corporations have done that members of these groups don't like). Therefore attacking biotech is just another way of attacking capitalism and technology.

How many environmentalist groups have decried this vandalism? Only three I've been able to find, and then just mildly. The vast majority have kept mum.

Still, there's a silver lining to this dark cloud hanging over North American science and consumers. To use the groups' own analogy, history shows that terrorism is a desperation tactic of guerrillas who have abandoned hope of winning the "hearts and minds" of the people.

The eco-terrorists know that just around the corner is the second wave of biotech foods, in which not just farmers and the environment will benefit but consumers as well. They know pressure could build in the Third World for crops to relieve terrible malnutrition problems that lead to crippling, blindness and early death. When that happens (or in biotech-bashers' thinking, if it's allowed to), they know that in the ensuing war of ideas and choice they cannot win.

Michael Fumento is a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute who specializes in science and health issues.



Bioenergy/Bioproducts Initiative

FY 2001 Budget

January 13, 2000

President Clinton's FY 2001 Budget includes a new initiative to accelerate the development and use of bio-based technologies, which convert crops, trees, and other "biomass" into a vast array of fuels and products. This initiative supports the President's August 1999 Executive Order 13134 and Memorandum on Promoting Biobased Products and Bioenergy, aimed at tripling U.S. use of biobased products and bioenergy by 2010. The initiative provides an increase of more than \$240 million over the amounts available for FY 2000, with \$49 million directed towards the Department of Energy (DOE) and \$194 million for stepped-up efforts at the Department of Agriculture (USDA). This initiative will increase the viability of alternative energy sources, help meet environmental challenges like global warming, support farm incomes, and diversify and strengthen the rural economy.

The DOE goal for this initiative is making biomass a viable competitor to fossil fuels as an energy source and chemical feedstock. Its efforts will be concentrated on developing "biorefineries" -- integrated systems for processing feedstocks simultaneously into a variety of products such as fuels, chemicals, and electricity. This will require increased collaboration among DOE, USDA, NSF, and other agencies, and will support research partnerships linking industry, university, and government research facilities selected on a competitive basis. The work will build on fermentation, gasification, and other biomass-related activities currently funded by the Energy Department.

Key areas of increased DOE activity will include:

- Development of inexpensive cellulase systems to break down cellulose into low-cost sugars for the production of bio-based chemicals and bioenergy. This will allow woody and grassy crops and agricultural waste such as corn stalks to take the place of high-value grain and food crops as biofuel feedstocks.
- Renewable Bioproducts, using multi-disciplinary and university/industry partnerships to develop and accelerate adoption of possible "leap-frog" technologies for converting crops, trees and residues into chemical feedstocks and consumer products.
- Biopower, promoting both the integration of biomass gasification systems with modern gas-turbine/steam-turbine generation systems, and the co-firing of biomass with coal at levels ranging from 5-15% biomass by heat value.

USDA's goals for the initiative are increasing the economic viability for farmers and foresters to grow biomass products, developing new uses for biobased materials, and providing incentives to use bioenergy. Key areas of increased USDA activity will include:

- The Commodity Credit Corporation providing up to \$100 million in FY 2000 and up to \$150 million in FY 2001 and 2002 in incentive payments to ethanol and other bioenergy producers to expand production of biobased fuels. Payments would be made on a portion of the increase in agricultural commodities purchased for expanded bioenergy production, with smaller and cooperatively-owned facilities receiving higher payment rates.
- Expanded Forest Service research on faster-growing trees and the use of small-diameter trees for commercial, biobased products.
- The Natural Resources Conservation Service funding methane gas recovery pilots to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from livestock operations, providing a clean energy source to the producer, and providing assistance to farmers that want to produce or market biobased products.
- Expanded Agricultural Research Service research (in association with DOE) to develop biobased materials from commodities and bioproducts, and convert biomass to energy.
- The Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service providing additional competitive resources for research partnerships involving universities. This will complement the new Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems announced by the Secretary of Agriculture on January 10th.
- Rural Development grants to rural electric cooperatives to develop pilot projects to demonstrate the commercial viability of small-scale biomass fuel generation, grants for technical assistance to cooperatives for processing and marketing biobased products, and loans for facilities and operating capital for organizations engaged in biobased production activities.

The Washington Post

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Warming to Reality

BIT BY bit, industry is facing up to global warming. Last month Ford Motor Co. withdrew from the Global Climate Coalition, a lobbying group opposed to the Kyoto climate treaty. On Thursday DaimlerChrysler Corp. quit too; British Petroleum, Shell Oil and Dow Chemical left a while back. But as corporations move on, some politicians are lingering behind. On the campaign trail, Sen. Orrin Hatch routinely denounces the Kyoto accord, and Gov. George Bush has said that he opposes it. In Congress an ostrich caucus still insists that the scientific evidence for global warming is inconclusive.

For most of the world, 1997, 1998 and 1999 were the three warmest years on record. That is no mere blip: Since the mid 1970s, the world seems to have been warming at a rate of 3.5 degrees per century. Given that the world warmed by less than 10 degrees in the 20,000 previous years, the current rate is alarming. The unpleasant consequences may well include more extreme weather, a disruption to agriculture and rising sea levels that cause coastal flooding.

This warming is at least partly the consequence of human behavior: Cars, factories and coal fires produce carbon dioxide and other gases that accumulate in the atmosphere and

alter climate patterns. A serious effort to reduce such emissions is therefore needed. Last year the administration promised to cut the federal government's fossil fuel emissions by 30 percent by 2010, and to triple national production of non-greenhouse "biomass" fuels derived from farm products.

But there is a limit to what the administration can do without the cooperation of Congress. For the past four years, Republican budget riders have prevented the administration from raising fuel-efficiency levels for vehicles. Congress has killed tax credits for fuel-efficient vehicles and air conditioners. The Senate has made it clear that it will not ratify the Kyoto climate accord. It will not even pass modest versions of the Kyoto idea, which would give industry an incentive to reduce greenhouse emissions.

The oil industry claims that compliance with the Kyoto accord would cost the average American family \$1,500 to \$3,000 a year. The Clinton administration declares that the extra cost of fuel-efficient machines is largely offset by the savings from reduced fuel purchases, rendering compliance all but free. The truth may lie somewhere in between. But reckless inaction in the face of global warming is the costliest of all options.

The Washington Post

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Warming to Reality

BIT BY bit, industry is facing up to global warming. Last month Ford Motor Co. withdrew from the Global Climate Coalition, a lobbying group opposed to the Kyoto climate treaty. On Thursday DaimlerChrysler Corp. quit too; British Petroleum, Shell Oil and Dow Chemical left a while back. But as corporations move on, some politicians are lingering behind. On the campaign trail, Sen. Orrin Hatch routinely denounces the Kyoto accord, and Gov. George Bush has said that he opposes it. In Congress an ostrich caucus still insists that the scientific evidence for global warming is inconclusive.

For most of the world, 1997, 1998 and 1999 were the three warmest years on record. That is no mere blip: Since the mid 1970s, the world seems to have been warming at a rate of 3.5 degrees per century. Given that the world warmed by less than 10 degrees in the 20,000 previous years, the current rate is alarming. The unpleasant consequences may well include more extreme weather, a disruption to agriculture and rising sea levels that cause coastal flooding.

This warming is at least partly the consequence of human behavior: Cars, factories and coal fires produce carbon dioxide and other gases that accumulate in the atmosphere and

alter climate patterns. A serious effort to reduce such emissions is therefore needed. Last year the administration promised to cut the federal government's fossil fuel emissions by 30 percent by 2010, and to triple national production of non-greenhouse "biomass" fuels derived from farm products.

But there is a limit to what the administration can do without the cooperation of Congress. For the past four years, Republican budget riders have prevented the administration from raising fuel-efficiency levels for vehicles. Congress has killed tax credits for fuel-efficient vehicles and air conditioners. The Senate has made it clear that it will not ratify the Kyoto climate accord. It will not even pass modest versions of the Kyoto idea, which would give industry an incentive to reduce greenhouse emissions.

The oil industry claims that compliance with the Kyoto accord would cost the average American family \$1,500 to \$3,000 a year. The Clinton administration declares that the extra cost of fuel-efficient machines is largely offset by the savings from reduced fuel purchases, rendering compliance all but free. The truth may lie somewhere in between. But reckless inaction in the face of global warming is the costliest of all options.

The Washington Post

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Warming to Reality

BIT BY bit, industry is facing up to global warming. Last month Ford Motor Co. withdrew from the Global Climate Coalition, a lobbying group opposed to the Kyoto climate treaty. On Thursday DaimlerChrysler Corp. quit too; British Petroleum, Shell Oil and Dow Chemical left a while back. But as corporations move on, some politicians are lingering behind. On the campaign trail, Sen. Orrin Hatch routinely denounces the Kyoto accord, and Gov. George Bush has said that he opposes it. In Congress an ostrich caucus still insists that the scientific evidence for global warming is inconclusive.

For most of the world, 1997, 1998 and 1999 were the three warmest years on record. That is no mere blip: Since the mid 1970s, the world seems to have been warming at a rate of 3.5 degrees per century. Given that the world warmed by less than 10 degrees in the 20,000 previous years, the current rate is alarming. The unpleasant consequences may well include more extreme weather, a disruption to agriculture and rising sea levels that cause coastal flooding.

This warming is at least partly the consequence of human behavior: Cars, factories and coal fires produce carbon dioxide and other gases that accumulate in the atmosphere and

alter climate patterns. A serious effort to reduce such emissions is therefore needed. Last year the administration promised to cut the federal government's fossil fuel emissions by 30 percent by 2010, and to triple national production of non-greenhouse "biomass" fuels derived from farm products.

But there is a limit to what the administration can do without the cooperation of Congress. For the past four years, Republican budget riders have prevented the administration from raising fuel-efficiency levels for vehicles. Congress has killed tax credits for fuel-efficient vehicles and air conditioners. The Senate has made it clear that it will not ratify the Kyoto climate accord. It will not even pass modest versions of the Kyoto idea, which would give industry an incentive to reduce greenhouse emissions.

The oil industry claims that compliance with the Kyoto accord would cost the average American family \$1,500 to \$3,000 a year. The Clinton administration declares that the extra cost of fuel-efficient machines is largely offset by the savings from reduced fuel purchases, rendering compliance all but free. The truth may lie somewhere in between. But reckless inaction in the face of global warming is the costliest of all options.

President Clinton's FY 2000 Climate Change Budget

The President's climate change package for FY 2000 totals over \$4.1 billion -- an increase of more than \$1 billion (34 percent) from the amount enacted for FY 1999. It is comprised of a new Clean Air Partnership Fund to boost state and local efforts to reduce both greenhouse gases and ground-level air pollutants; the Climate Change Technology Initiative, which mixes tax incentives and direct spending to spur the research, development, and deployment of energy efficient technology and renewable energy; other climate-related investments, such as R&D of highly efficient technologies for the combustion and use of coal and natural gas, weatherization, and state energy grants; and the United States Global Change Research Program, to enhance our understanding of the human and natural forces that influence the Earth's climate system.

Table 1. Climate-Change-Related Domestic Programs (\$ in Millions)

	FY 1999 Enacted	FY 2000 Request	Change
Clean Air Partnership Fund	0	200	+200
Climate Change Technology Initiative--tax incentives	--	383*	+383
Climate Change Technology Initiative--spending	1,021	1,368	+347
Other Climate-Related Investments (cleaner coal & natural gas; weatherization; state energy grants)	387	400	+13
Global Change Research Program	1,681	1,786	+105
TOTAL	3,090	4,137	+1,048

*First year of a proposed five year, \$3.6 billion package.

Clean Air Partnership Fund

To help protect public health and ease the threat of global warming, President Clinton is proposing \$200 million for the creation of a new Clean Air Partnership Fund. The Fund will provide grants to states, localities, and tribes to support state, local, tribal, and private efforts that achieve reductions in both greenhouse gas emissions and ground-level air pollutants. The Fund will be administered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under existing authority.

- ***Integrated Pollution Control.*** The Fund will stimulate integrated, cost-effective pollution control strategies. It directs new resources to state, local, and tribal governments to finance projects and programs that achieve accelerated reductions in both air pollutants, such as soot, smog, and air toxics, and in greenhouse gases.
- ***A Quicker Path to Cleaner Air.*** By providing new resources for projects that accelerate pollution reductions, the Fund will enable communities to achieve multi-pollutant clean air goals sooner and reduce greenhouse gas emissions at the same time.
- ***Technological Innovation.*** The Fund will help spur both public and private sector innovations in next-generation pollution control technology.
- ***A Magnet for Local Investment & Innovation.*** The Fund will encourage public-private partnerships to demonstrate ways to create a cleaner environment at the local level. The Fund can be used to support local revolving funds, low-interest loan programs, matching grants, and other mechanisms that will leverage the original Federal investment, greatly increasing its impact.
- ***“Win-Win” Clean Air Projects.*** The Fund will support a wide range of practical projects that will mean cleaner air, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and real savings for taxpayers and consumers. These could include projects such as building combined heat and power facilities that put waste heat to work, reducing emissions of both sulfur dioxide and carbon dioxide; retrofitting municipal buildings to make them more energy efficient, reducing pollution resulting from electricity generation; and upgrading municipal vehicle fleets to make them more fuel efficient.

Climate Change Technology Initiative: \$3.6 Billion in Tax Incentives

The President is proposing a new \$3.6 billion package in tax incentives over five years to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions by spurring the purchase of energy efficient products and the use of renewable energy (see Table 2).

Table 2. CCTI Tax Incentives (\$ in Billions) **Revenue Effect**

	FY 2000	Total FY00-04
Homes and Buildings		
Provide tax credit for energy efficient building equipment	-0.2	-1.5
Provide tax credit for new energy efficient homes	-0.1	-0.4
Provide tax credit for rooftop solar systems	--*	-0.1
Vehicles		
Extend tax credit for electric or fuel cell vehicles and provide tax credits for highly fuel efficient hybrid vehicles	0	-0.9
Renewable Energy		
Extend tax credit for electricity produced from wind and biomass; expand eligible biomass sources; and include coal-biomass cofiring	--*	-0.3
Industry		
Provide tax credit for combined heat and power systems	-0.1	-0.3
TOTAL**	-0.4	-3.6

*Less than \$50 million.

**Total may not add due to rounding.

HOMES AND BUILDINGS

- ***Tax credit to consumers who purchase new energy efficient homes.*** To encourage the purchase of new energy efficient homes, consumers would receive a tax credit of \$1,000 for homes purchased from 2000-2001 that are at least 30 percent more energy efficient than the standard under the 1998 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC); a credit of \$1,500 for homes purchased from 2000-2002 that are at least 40 percent more efficient than the IECC standard; and a credit of \$2,000 for homes purchased from 2000-2004 that are at least 50 percent more efficient than the IECC standard.
- ***Tax credit for energy efficient equipment in new and existing homes or buildings.*** This credit will encourage the purchase of electric heat pump and natural gas water heaters, electric and natural gas heat pumps, advanced central air conditioners, and fuel cells. The credit would apply to both residential and commercial equipment. For electric heat pump water heaters, natural gas heat pumps, and fuel cells, the credit would be 20 percent of the cost of the investment, subject to a cap, for equipment purchased from 2000-2003. For all other equipment, the credit would be 10 percent of the cost of the investment, subject to a cap, at one level of efficiency (2000-2001) and 20 percent, subject to a cap, at a higher level of efficiency (2000-2003).
- ***Tax credit for rooftop solar systems.*** A 15 percent tax credit will encourage the purchase by consumers and businesses of rooftop solar systems. The maximum credit would be \$2,000 for rooftop photovoltaic systems placed in service from 2000-2006 and \$1,000 for solar water heating systems placed in service from 2000-2004.

VEHICLES

- ***Tax credits for highly efficient cars and light trucks.*** Cars and light trucks (including minivans, sport utilities, and pickups) currently account for 20 percent of greenhouse gas emissions. Tax credits for electric, fuel cell, and hybrid vehicles will help to move these highly efficient technologies from the laboratory to the highway. These technologies can significantly reduce emissions of carbon dioxide, the most prevalent greenhouse gas.
 - ***Extend the current tax credit for electric vehicles and fuel cell vehicles.*** Under current law, a 10 percent credit, up to \$4,000, is provided for the cost of qualified electric vehicles and fuel cell vehicles. The credit begins to phase down in 2002 and phases out in 2005. The President's proposal would extend the tax credit at its \$4,000 maximum level through 2006.

- **Tax credits for hybrid vehicles.** The credit -- available for all qualifying vehicles, including cars, minivans, sport utility vehicles, and pickup trucks -- would be:
 - \$1,000 for each vehicle that is one-third more fuel efficient than a comparable vehicle in its class -- available from 2003-2004;
 - \$2,000 for each vehicle that is two-thirds more fuel efficient than a comparable vehicle in its class -- available from 2003-2006;
 - \$3,000 for each vehicle that is twice as fuel efficient as a comparable vehicle in its class -- available from 2004-2006; and,
 - \$4,000 for each vehicle that is three times as fuel efficient as a comparable vehicle in its class -- available from 2004-2006.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

- **Tax credit for electricity produced from wind.** Current law encourages the production of electricity from wind, which emits no greenhouse gases, through a tax credit of 1.5 cents per kilowatt hour (adjusted for inflation after 1992). The current tax credit covers facilities placed in service before July 1, 1999. The President proposes a 5-year extension of this tax credit.
- **Tax credits for electricity produced from biomass.** Biomass refers to trees, crops and agricultural wastes used to produce power, fuels or chemicals. This package of credits would:
 - **Extend current biomass credit.** This proposal extends for five years the current 1.5 cent per kilowatt hour tax credit (adjusted for inflation after 1992), which covers facilities placed in service before July 1, 1999.
 - **Expand definition of eligible biomass.** This proposal expands the definition of biomass eligible for the 1.5 cent tax credit to include certain forest-related resources and agricultural and other sources.
 - **Include cofiring biomass and coal.** This proposal adds a 1.0 cent per kilowatt hour tax credit for electricity produced by cofiring biomass in coal plants.

INDUSTRY

- **Tax credit for combined heat and power (CHP) systems.** CHP systems make effective use of thermal energy that is otherwise wasted in producing electricity by more conventional methods. To encourage and accelerate investment in CHP equipment, this proposal provides an 8 percent tax credit for investments in large CHP systems that have a total energy efficiency exceeding 70 percent and in smaller systems that have a total energy efficiency exceeding 60 percent. The credit would apply to property placed in service from 2000-2002.

Climate Change Technology Initiative: \$1.4 Billion for Energy Efficiency & Renewables

The President's FY 2000 budget proposes nearly \$1.4 billion for the research, development, and deployment of renewable energy technologies and energy efficient products that will help reduce U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. This represents a \$347 million increase (34 percent) over FY 1999 spending (see Table 3). The President's proposed investment package covers the four major carbon-emitting sectors of the economy -- buildings, transportation, industry, and electricity -- as well as carbon sequestration (see Table 4). The following sections highlight selected programs in each of these areas of effort. The full agency programs extend well beyond what is described here.

Table 3. CCTI Funding by Agency (\$ in Millions)

	FY 1998 Enacted	FY 1999 Enacted	FY 2000 Request	Change from 1999
Energy	729	902	1,124	+222
EPA	90	109	216	+107
Housing & Urban Development	0	10	10	0
Agriculture	0	0	16	+16
Commerce	0	0	2	+2
TOTAL*	819	1,021	1,368	+347

*Totals may not add due to rounding

Table 4. CCTI Funding by Area of Activity (\$ in Millions)

	FY 1998 Enacted	FY 1999 Enacted	FY 2000 Request	Change from 1999
Buildings	140	172	273	+101
Transportation	245	291	377	+86
Industry	157	188	239	+51
Electricity	239	310	379	+69
Carbon Sequestration	0	14	39	+25
Management, Planning & Analysis	37	46	60	+14
TOTAL*	819	1,021	1,368	+347

* Totals may not add due to rounding.

BUILDINGS

- **Partnership for Advancing Technology in Housing (PATH).** PATH is a partnership between the Federal government and building industry to develop and deploy housing technologies to make new homes 50 percent more energy efficient and to make at least 15 million existing homes 30 percent more energy efficient within a decade.
- **Energy Efficient Appliances and Products.** Various DOE and EPA programs aim to promote the dissemination of energy efficient appliances and products:
 - DOE will accelerate its program to establish **energy efficiency standards for lighting and appliances.**
 - EPA and DOE's **Energy Star Products** program saves consumers money and reduces greenhouse gas emissions at the same time by promoting the use of energy efficient products -- everything from computers to refrigerators to central air-conditioning units. New funding will support the launch of new Energy Star product lines.
- **Energy Efficient Commercial Buildings.** DOE and EPA work in partnership with industry to research, develop, and deploy new technologies and practices to improve the energy performance of commercial buildings. Buildings in the top 25 percent in energy efficiency qualify for EPA's "**Energy Star Buildings**" label. Participants include the Empire State Building, the World Trade Center, and Chicago's Sears Tower.
- **Energy Smart Schools.** Announced in October 1998, this initiative cuts across several DOE programs and brings together public and private sector resources to cut schools' energy bills so that the savings can be reinvested in students and their education.

TRANSPORTATION

- **Partnership for a New Generation of Vehicles (PNGV).** PNGV is a government-industry effort that aims to develop attractive, affordable cars that meet all applicable safety and environmental standards and get up to three times the fuel efficiency of today's cars. Since 1993, great strides have been made in producing lower-cost, light-weight materials, inexpensive fuel cells, and advanced internal combustion engines for use in hybrid vehicles. The program aims to produce a prototype mid-sized family car capable of 80 miles per gallon (mpg) with a two-thirds reduction in carbon emissions by 2004. The FY 2000 budget includes \$264 million for PNGV-related work, an increase of \$24 million over the amount appropriated for FY 1999.

- **Light and Heavy Trucks.** Similar government-industry efforts are aimed at developing cleaner, more efficient diesel engines for both light and heavy trucks.
 - By 2002, DOE aims to develop **advanced diesel cycle engine technologies** for pickup trucks, vans, and sport utility vehicles which achieve at least a 35 percent fuel efficiency improvement relative to current gasoline-fueled trucks while meeting strict emission standards.
 - By 2004, DOE, in coordination with EPA and the Department of Defense, aims to develop **engine and vehicle technologies for heavy trucks** that will increase the fuel economy to 12 mpg from the current average of 5.3 mpg.
- **Biofuels.** Working with the Department of Agriculture (USDA), DOE will continue its work in the biochemistry of converting wood chips, grasses, agricultural wastes, and other products into ethanol and other potentially useful fuels.

INDUSTRY

- **Industries of the Future.** This DOE program works cooperatively with the nation's most energy-intensive industries -- such as aluminum, glass, chemicals, forest products, mining, petroleum refining, and steel -- on developing technologies that increase energy and resource efficiency. Promising collaborative efforts include improvements in the process of making steel, pulp and paper, and other energy-intensive products that could dramatically increase efficiency, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and improve competitiveness.
- **Industrial Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Systems.** DOE is developing new industrial CHP systems to capture thermal heat would otherwise be wasted. These systems are expected to be 15 percent more energy efficient and 80 percent cleaner than conventional power systems and cut electricity costs by 10 percent. In addition, EPA and DOE are also working to eliminate barriers to the rapid dissemination of combined heat and power technology.
- **Voluntary Industrial Partnerships.** EPA will expand its industry partnership programs, such as **Climate Wise** and the **Voluntary Aluminum Industrial Partnership**, to encourage businesses to take advantage of cost-effective emissions reductions opportunities -- including emissions of the most potent greenhouse gases, such as methane, perfluorocarbons (PFCs), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), and sulfur hexafluoride (SF6).

- **Agriculture and Forestry.** USDA will undertake R&D and support demonstration projects aimed at both lowering greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture and forestry and reducing their vulnerability to climate change.

--The **Natural Resources Conservation Service** will invest \$3 million in projects to demonstrate and test various means of reducing greenhouse gas emissions in agriculture, such as compost-based waste-handling facilities, rotational grazing systems, and improved feed and forage systems.

--The **Agricultural Research Service** will devote \$7 million towards climate change related activities, including the development of new technology and expertise for reducing agriculture's vulnerability to a changing climate. Field experiments will seek to measure various potential effects of climate change, such as varying amounts and patterns of rainfall on forage production.

The FY 2000 budget also includes important USDA funding for developing advanced biomass energy technologies; R&D and demonstration projects for carbon sequestration; research to study the role of farms, forests, and other natural or managed lands in capturing and storing carbon; and a comprehensive U.S. soil carbon inventory (see pp. 10-12 below).

ELECTRICITY

- **Photovoltaic Energy Systems.** Over the past 20 years, Federal R&D has resulted in a 90 percent cost reduction in solar photovoltaics. DOE will accelerate R&D of the next generation photovoltaic cells; increase manufacturing R&D; increase research in buildings-integrated applications; and fund efforts to develop new, unconventional technologies.

-- **Million Solar Roofs.** In June, 1997, the President announced an initiative to encourage the installation of one million solar systems by 2010, which would reduce carbon emissions equivalent to the annual emissions from 850,000 cars. DOE has received commitments for over half a million solar rooftop installations.

- **Biomass.** Biomass represents a tremendous renewable resource whose use can help strengthen our energy security, protect the environment, and enhance our rural economy.

-- **Biomass Power.** DOE is testing and demonstrating biomass co-firing with coal; developing advanced technologies for biomass gasification using paper industry by-products; and developing and testing high-yield, low-cost biomass feedstocks.

-- **Advanced Biomass Technologies.** This year DOE, USDA, and other Federal agencies and private partners will launch a national partnership to develop advanced integrated biomass technologies. These technologies will enable the production of power, transport fuels, and high-value chemicals from biomass feedstocks.

- **Wind Power.** DOE will continue developing a next-generation wind turbine able to produce power at 2.5 cents per kilowatt-hour in good wind regions, accelerate R&D on critical components, and accelerate testing and field validation.
- **Hydrogen.** DOE will accelerate research on low-cost hydrogen production and storage, prerequisites to the widespread use of hydrogen as a fuel.
- **High Temperature Superconductivity.** DOE supports industry-led projects to capitalize on recent breakthroughs in superconducting wire technology, aimed at developing devices such as advanced motors, power cables, and transformers. These technologies would allow more electricity to reach the consumer without an increase in fossil fuel input.

CARBON SEQUESTRATION

- **R&D for Sequestration.** Research initiatives are being funded to find ways to sequester (store) carbon. Examples include:
 - **Enhancing Forest and Farmland Sinks.** The **Forest Service**, in conjunction with other USDA agencies, will spend \$6 million for R&D and demonstration projects for optimizing forest, farmland, and rangeland carbon sinks. The focus of such projects will include storage of carbon in forest soils and increased durability and use of wood products to sequester carbon.
 - **Enhancing natural geological and oceanic processes.** DOE will support research into the feasibility of capturing and storing carbon dioxide in underground geological structures and in the deep ocean.

Other Climate-Related Investments

There are a number of additional programs for which funding is proposed in the FY 2000 budget that -- while not part of the Climate Change Technology Initiative per se -- contribute to improving energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. These programs include:

- ***Cleaner Coal and Natural Gas.*** The FY 2000 budget includes \$209 million to support the Department of Energy's (DOE) aggressive R&D effort to develop next-generation technologies for the combustion and use of coal and natural gas. For example, research and development of two new coal combustion technologies -- integrated gasification combined cycle and pressurized fluidized bed combustion -- could lead to ultra-high efficiency coal plants with dramatically lower greenhouse gas emissions.
- ***Low Income Weatherization and State Energy Grants.*** These DOE programs facilitate energy efficiency investments at the State and local level. The **Weatherization Assistance Program**, for example, delivers energy conservation services, such as insulation, to low-income Americans, reducing energy costs for consumers, improving health and safety, and reducing carbon emissions. The total FY 2000 budget request for these two programs is \$191 million -- a \$25 million increase over FY 1999 appropriations.
- ***Agricultural & Forestry Conservation Programs.*** Many Department of Agriculture conservation programs have the co-benefit of reducing carbon emissions resulting from agriculture and forestry and enhancing the ability of "sinks," such as forests and farmlands, to sequester or store carbon. This includes programs such as the **Conservation Reserve Program**, the **Environmental Quality Incentives Program**, and the **Farmland Protection Program**. In general, these programs assist farmers, ranchers, and other landowners in conserving and improving soil, water, and other natural resources associated with rural land.

U.S. Global Change Research Program

The United States Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) seeks to provide a sound scientific understanding of both the human and natural forces that influence the Earth's climate system. The information produced by USGCRP's scientists is used by national and international policy makers to make informed decisions on global change issues. This multi-agency scientific research program coordinated through the National Science and Technology Council.

For FY 2000, the President is requesting nearly \$1.8 billion for the USGCRP, an increase of \$105 million, or 6 percent, above the amount enacted for FY 1999. Of the FY 2000 budget request, \$828 million is for scientific research (up \$84 million) and \$958 million is for NASA's development of climate monitoring satellites and ground based observation systems. Other important USGCRP budget highlights include:

- ***Carbon Cycle Initiative.*** The FY 2000 budget request establishes a new multi-agency initiative to improve our understanding of how carbon cycles between the atmosphere, the oceans, and land. Included in this request are funds to study the role of farms, forests, and other natural or managed lands in capturing carbon. Such carbon "sinks" may provide the U.S. and other nations with new tools for offsetting greenhouse gas emissions. The initiative includes \$10 million in new funding for the Department of Agriculture (USDA) and \$5 million for the Department of Energy.
- ***Soil Carbon Inventory.*** The FY 2000 budget request includes \$14 million (an increase of \$12 million from FY 1999 appropriations) to significantly expand efforts to conduct a comprehensive scientific inventory of carbon stored in U.S. soils and to develop methods to predict how soil carbon levels would be affected by different practices and policies. The inventory will be conducted by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service.
- ***3-Dimensional Mapping of Forests.*** The FY 2000 budget provides funding to launch NASA's Vegetation Canopy Lidar, which, for the first time, will give scientists a three dimensional view of the Earth's forests to help determine the contribution of forests in sequestering atmospheric carbon.
- ***Consequences of Climate Change.*** The FY 2000 budget provides funding to complete a report on the first national assessment of the potential consequences of climate change on the United States. The report will identify potential impacts on key economic sectors and geographic regions, mitigation and adaptation strategies, and provide technical information for policy makers.
- ***Regional Variability.*** The FY 2000 budget request includes funding to help scientists examine climate change and variability on a regional scale. Supported in part by the Administration's new Information Technology Initiative, the funding will help improve U.S. computer capabilities to run the complex models required to understand the effects of climate change and variability at the regional level.

Agriculture and The President's FY 2000 Climate Change Budget

Farmland, rangeland, and forests can play a critical role in meeting the challenge of global warming through carbon sequestration and renewable bioenergy. In his FY 2000 budget, the President is proposing \$251 million in funding for sequestration and bioenergy research, development, and deployment. This includes \$105 million for the Department of Agriculture (USDA), a \$50 million increase over the amount appropriated for FY 1999, and \$146 million for the Department of Energy (DOE), a \$59 million increase over FY 1999 appropriated funds. Highlights include:

SEQUESTRATION

Carbon sequestration refers to the storage of carbon from the atmosphere by soils, trees, crops, and other plants.

- **Demonstration Projects and New R&D.** The Forest Service, the Agriculture Research Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service will launch new R&D and demonstration projects to optimize farmland, rangeland, and forest carbon sinks.
- **Carbon Cycle Initiative.** The FY 2000 budget request establishes a new multi-agency initiative to improve our understanding of how carbon cycles between the atmosphere, the oceans, and land. Included in this request are funds to study the role of farms, forests, and other natural or managed lands in capturing carbon. Such carbon "sinks" may provide the U.S. and other nations with new tools for offsetting greenhouse gas emissions. The initiative includes \$10 million in new funding for USDA and \$5 million for DOE.
- **Soil Carbon Inventory.** The FY 2000 budget request includes \$14 million to significantly expand efforts to conduct a comprehensive scientific inventory of carbon stored in U.S. soils and to develop methods to predict how soil carbon levels would be affected by different practices and policies.

BIOENERGY

Biomass refers to trees, crops and agricultural wastes used to produce power, fuels or chemicals. It represents a tremendous renewable resource whose use can help strengthen our energy security, protect the environment, and enhance our rural economy.

- **Biomass Power and Fuels.** DOE and USDA will continue developing, testing, and demonstrating high-yield, low-cost biomass feedstocks; testing and demonstrating biomass cofiring with coal; and seeking to produce alternative fuels, such as ethanol, from biomass.
- **Advanced Biomass Technologies.** This year, DOE, USDA and other Federal agencies and private partners will launch a national partnership to develop advanced integrated biomass technologies.
- **Biomass Tax Credit.** The President's tax package proposes to extend for 5 years the current 1.5 cent per kilowatt hour tax credit for electricity produced from biomass. The proposal also expands the types of biomass eligible for the credit to include certain forest-related, agricultural and other resources. Finally, the package includes a 1.0 cent per kilowatt hour tax credit for electricity produced by cofiring biomass in coal plants.

MEMORANDUM

To: Roger Ballentine

From: John Gibson
Paul Bledsoe

Date: January 13, 1999

Re: Talking Points for John Roberts Interview (CBS)

- Scientists now tell us that the case for global warming is stronger than ever. Just today the National Research Council released a report confirming that the earth has been warming by about 1/3 of degree per decade since 1976. Scientists also believe that the 1990s were the warmest decade in the last 1000 years. And there's strong evidence that human activity – greenhouse gas emissions from burning fossil fuels – are at least partly to blame.
- In the face of this mounting evidence, we have a do-nothing Congress, seemingly beholden to special interests. Oblivious to the growing scientific consensus on climate, Congress has consistently sought to cut the President's climate change budget. What they have done is not only in defiance of science, but also common sense. For example, they have cut back and tried to strangle energy efficiency programs that save money for businesses and consumers – just because they have the added benefit of addressing climate change.
- Despite this resistance, the President has secured a record \$1 billion each of the past two years for clean energy technologies. And he has issued two new Executive Orders this past year – one that directs the Federal government to cut its own energy use and another aimed at spurring the development of bio-based technologies; that means using crops, trees and agricultural waste to make fuels and products.
- To follow through on his Executive Order, the President's budget will include an increase of more than \$240 million for bio-based technologies. This field is really taking off. Just this week Cargill, Inc. and Dow Chemical announced a new \$300 million plan to produce natural plastic made from biomass. Meeting the President's goal of tripling U.S. use of bioenergy and bioproducts by 2010 would be the equivalent of taking over 70 million cars off the road – and it would also enhance our energy security and create new income and high-wage jobs for rural America.

International Clean Energy

- The President's bioenergy initiative is part of the President's larger plan to spur the development of clean energy technologies – both at home and abroad. The President is also going to propose a new [\$100] million initiative to accelerate the development and deployment of clean energy technologies around the world. The energy market in developing countries is growing at an explosive rate. It is estimated to total as much as \$25 trillion over the next 50 years and soon developing country greenhouse gas emissions will surpass those of the industrialized countries. We want to help them avoid the polluting mistakes we made as they grow their economies. The President's initiative will help remove market barriers in developing countries to clean energy technologies and at the same time it will create billions in new U.S. clean energy export revenues and tens of thousands of high-value U.S. jobs.