

verbatim



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“Courage and confidence is needed to seize the moment and opt for renewables and tough efficiency measures. New voices are needed to speak up and convince our leaders on the basis of solid arguments combined with number crunching.”

Lalita Ramdas, Board Chair of Greenpeace International

“A rising carbon price is essential to ‘decarbonise’ the economy, i.e., to move the nation toward the era beyond fossil fuels. The most effective way to achieve this is a carbon tax (on oil, gas and coal) at the well-head or port of entry. The tax will then appropriately affect all products and activities that use fossil fuels. The public’s near-term, mid-term, and long-term lifestyle choices will be affected by knowledge that the carbon tax rate will be rising.”

James Hansen, the head of NASA’s Goddard Institute for Space Studies, in an open letter to US President-Elect Barack Obama and his wife Michelle

“When I am President, any Governor who’s willing to promote clean energy will have a partner in the White House. Any company that’s willing to invest in clean energy will have an ally in Washington. And any nation that’s willing to join the cause of combating climate change will have an ally in the United States of America.”

US President-elect Barack Obama

“The question about green growth is not whether we should go down that path. We have no choice but to go that way.”

Lee Myung-bak President of the Republic of Korea

“We are now in the middle of a financial crisis and at the beginning of an economic downturn. But that doesn’t mean that climate change will slow down.”

Yvo de Boer, UNFCCC Executive Secretary

“I am very worried, but what can we do? We are not contributing to global warming but we feel its effects. I am scared there will be no snow and ice in these mountains within the next 15 years.”

Himalayan villager, Rinjin Dorje Lama on watching the ice and snow retreat from around his home.

“If you compare wind and solar technologies versus coal, it’s much more labour intensive by a factor of two or three. So if you’re interested in creating jobs, you have to look at efficiency and renewables.”

Andrew Simms, policy director at the London-based New Economics Foundation

“The use of renewables earns revenue, reduces carbon footprints, diminishes dependency on fossil fuels, saves foreign exchange on petroleum products and ultimately enables sustainable development.”

Liz Thompson, former Barbados Minister of Energy and Environment

numbers

60 million

number of indigenous people who depend upon the forest lands that REDD considers most threatened. — *California Indymedia*

50

Percentage by which Mexico hopes to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. — *AP*

30

Percentage by which China aims to increase its coal production by 2015 to meet its energy needs. — *AFP*

20

Percentage by which the EU aims to lower its carbon dioxide emissions below 1990 levels by 2020 – the EU also aims to source 20 per cent of its energy from renewables by the same date. — *Reuters*

150

Projected sea level rise in centimetres by the end of the century, according to the US Geological Survey — *The Guardian*

44.9

Percentage increase in sales of hydrated ethanol in Brazil from 2007 to 2008. — *AFP*

150 million

Investment in dollars planned by two Chinese companies to build the largest solar power plant in the world in China. — *Reuters*

70

Percentage increase in greenhouse gas emissions worldwide since 1970. — *Christian Science Monitor*

17.4

Percentage of global carbon dioxide emissions emanating from deforestation and forest degradation. — *FAO*

500,000

Number of people employed in Brazil in the recycling and waste management sector. — *UNEP*

1,370 billion

Annual U.S. dollar value of the global market for environmental products and services. This is projected to rise to \$2,740 billion by 2020. — *UNEP*