

Bush Lines Up New Climate Goal Ahead Of G8 Summit

United States President George W Bush has announced a new national goal his Administration says will stop the growth in US greenhouse gas emissions by 2025. In a speech at the White House, Bush called for the US to “more rapidly slow the growth of power sector greenhouse gas emissions so that they peak within 10 to 15 years, and decline thereafter”. “The growth in emissions will slow over the next decade, stop by 2025, and begin to reverse thereafter, so long as technology continues to advance. Taken together, these landmark actions will prevent billions of metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions from entering the atmosphere,” says a Whitehouse press statement. Alongside Bush’s announcement, comes the Major Economies Meeting in Paris to lay the groundwork for the world leaders’ climate meeting to be held in conjunction with the G-8 summit in July. The Whitehouse says this will inform the debate the US Congress will soon be having on legislation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Bush is “urging decisions on regulating greenhouse gases to be debated openly and made by the elected representatives of the people they affect, rather than unelected regulators and judges”, says the Whitehouse. “The Administration is urging each country to develop its own national goals and plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Like many other countries, America’s national plan will be a comprehensive blend of market incentives and regulations to reduce emissions by encouraging clean and efficient energy technologies,” the statement says. “The Administration is willing to include this plan in an international agreement, so long as all major economies are prepared to include their plans in such an agreement. We recognise that different nations will design different strategies, with goals and policies that reflect their unique energy resources and economic circumstances,” it adds. At the Major Economies leaders’ meeting in July 2008, the US Administration says it will seek agreement on a long term global goal for emissions reductions, as well as agreement on how national plans will be part of the post-2012 approach. The next step in the Major Economies Process is a meeting in Paris, where representatives of all participating nations will lay the groundwork for a leaders’ meeting in conjunction with the G-8 summit in July. “This approach must be environmentally effective and economically sustainable. To be effective, this approach will require commitments by all major economies to slow, stop, and eventually reverse the growth of greenhouse gas emissions,” says the Whitehouse. “To be economically sustainable, this approach must foster the economic growth necessary to pay for investments in new technology and to raise living standards. The US must help countries in the developing world gain access to the technologies and financing that will enable them to take a lower carbon path economic growth,” the Whitehouse statement says.

[Source: essa news]