

US Must Take Lead In Emissions Reductions, Says Lord Oxburgh

A former chairman of Shell, Lord Oxburgh, says the energy industries of China and India will need to be subsidised to ensure both countries commit to the next phase of global emissions reductions. He told the Environment Business Australia's Business and sustainability Summit in Sydney that it was unrealistic to expect them to slow their economic growth to temper emissions, despite the fact their burgeoning economic growth will swamp the emissions reductions achieved in Western countries. "China's economy is taking off so fast they are putting in a gigawatt of coal power every five days," he said. "You can't tell them not to. We've got to recognise both of those economies (China and India) are going to need more energy and we in the developed countries are going to have to fundamentally produce less carbon dioxide but not necessarily consume less energy." He said any post Kyoto treaty would need to include the US. "First of all we have to make sure the Americans are in. Not because they produce so much carbon dioxide, but because they are seen as the technology leaders of the world by many emerging economies," Lord Oxburgh said. "They (China and India) will say, 'if America doesn't see this as important why should we?'"

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