



PRESS RELEASE

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Legions of regions rally to set world on clean-tech pathway ahead of global climate deal

Climate Group leaders show world leaders how to cut emissions

15 December 2009 (Copenhagen, Denmark) – Administrator to the United Nations Development Program Helen Clark and business leaders joined the largest meeting of sub-national leaders ever at a COP this morning. Together they voiced a joint commitment to implement a global deal on climate change.

The Climate Leaders Summit 2009, convened by international non-profit The Climate Group, gave platform to HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco, Shai Agassi, Founder & CEO of Better Place, First Minister of Scotland Alex Salmond, Premier Rann of South Australia and Premier Charest of Quebec, among others. Each made an individual announcement on new low carbon initiatives in front of 60 leaders and ministers from around the world.

“Integrating what we do on the environment and the climate with what we do on development is essential,” said UNDP Administrator Helen Clark. “There is no simple choice to be made between fostering growth and development or protecting our climate and ecosystems. Both objectives are essential, and fully compatible.”

The Climate Group chose this moment to announce a series of cross-sector working groups that will drive the uptake of key low carbon technologies by breaking down barriers and reducing cost.

HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco announced a working group with The Climate Group that will put more electric vehicles on our roads. Leaders – from auto manufacturers and electric vehicle value chain to financiers and regional governments – met yesterday to discuss the ‘EV20’, a global initiative to accelerate the uptake of electric vehicles by focusing on policy, finance and deployment.

Prince Albert II said, “The EV20, convened by The Climate Group with the support and collaboration of my Foundation will work to turn electric vehicles into a mass market solution to climate change by mobilizing leading public and private players to adopt bold new EV projects, policies and commitments, identify and address barriers, and share emerging understandings around best practices and we'd like all the leaders in this field to join us.”

“IEA figures show that transportation accounts for 23% of the world’s CO2 emissions,” said Shai Agassi, Founder and CEO, Better Place. “Increasingly, government and industry recognize the shift to electric transportation as an environmental solution as well as an economic opportunity. We’re making it happen here in Denmark to show the world that CO2 reduction is possible with today’s technology.”

The Planetary Skin Institute (PSI) was launched at the event. This unique cross-sectoral collaboration aims to research and develop near to real-time monitoring of global environmental conditions and changes. The PSI will provide trusted information to support decisions, rationalize investment and build global consensus on the actions required to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Steve Howard, commented on his membership of the PSI Global Advisory Council, "As CEO of The Climate Group I have seen the power of partnerships. The PSI offers a collaborative approach to tackle the most complex and pressing problems of the 21st century."

Howard went on to formally launch LightSavers – an international program led by The Climate Group, that is transforming how we light the world by bringing LED lighting and smart controls to scale globally. LightSavers has launched a global trial to test the efficacy and cost savings of outdoor LEDs in cities beginning with Adelaide, Hong Kong, Kolkata, London, Mumbai, New York, Tianjin and Toronto.

Speaking in support of this announcement from the C40 Mayors event in Copenhagen today, The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, said, "London is pleased to be working with The Climate Group to progress trials of energy busting street lighting to speed up their uptake. The potential to cut the city's carbon emissions and energy bills with new technologies is huge. By working in partnership, cities have the clout to catalyse the market for greener technologies and drive down procurement costs. We are already taking a series of ambitious yet practical steps to cut carbon in London by 60 per cent by 2025 which includes the installation of 3000 LED traffic lights from 2010."

First Minister of Scotland Alex Salmond stepped up to formally announce signing a joint statement on co-operation with President Nasheed of the Maldives.

The First Minister said, "The world's nations can meet the global climate change challenge by working together to find the solutions to protect and safeguard our planet. Scotland, which already has the most ambitious legislation in the world, will now be working in partnership with The Maldives to share knowledge and technology on how we can mitigate and respond to the huge challenges posed by climate change. The signing of this partnership agreement will see Scotland support President Nasheed and The Maldives to become the world's first carbon neutral country and in turn provide the inspiration to create a greener, more sustainable future for us all."

Premier Rann of South Australia, who Chairs The Climate Group's States & Regions Alliance, said, "50-80% of emissions cuts agreed under a global deal will be achieved through the actions of sub-national governments according to the UNDP."

He introduced regional leaders from around the world – including Governor José Serra, Sao Paulo, President José Montilla, Catalonia, President Jean-Paul Huchon, Ile de France, First Minister Carwyn Jones, Wales, Governor Jim Doyle, Wisconsin, Governor Chris Gregoire, Washington, Premier Gordon Campbell, British Columbia, Premier Greg Selinger, Manitoba – who committed to a range of new initiatives putting them at the forefront of action to address climate change. These included ambitious targets for renewable energy, rolling out smart meters, closing coal-fired power stations and investing in solar manufacturing.

Quebec Premier, Jean Charest summarized, "Sub-national governments are already getting on with implementing initiatives to transform their economies and make the real changes required. Today we signed a statement that commits us to leading on policies and programs to expand low carbon technologies and to build further partnerships and networks between developed and developing country regions to tackle climate change together."

The Climate Leaders Summit 2009 will feature further high-level roundtable discussions on 'Radical Efficiency', clean power and developed and developing country collaboration on climate change mitigation and adaptation, where 8 agreements will be signed.

Steve Howard, CEO of The Climate Group, said: "Although we urgently need to see a strong signal from global leaders at the end of the week, sub-national government and business have the power make a rapid transformation to a low carbon economy. Today we have seen commitments that match the challenge. But we need others to step up. Ultimately, those who do will be leading the world into the next decade and beyond."

In Copenhagen, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger added, "Just as the California tailpipe emissions standard created a model for a national vehicle standard in the US, sub-national governments have set out to prove that if they can do it, nations can do it too."

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For more information please contact:

Tom Howard-Vyse: +44 (0)7800 933 831, thoward-vyse@theclimategroup.org
Lauren Bird: +44 (0)7792 656 093, lbird@theclimategorup.org

For images contact:

Gabriel Chapman: +44 (0)207 960 2982, gchapman@theclimategroup.org

Notes to Editors:**About The Climate Group**

The Climate Group (www.theclimategroup.org) is an independent, not-for-profit organisation working internationally with government and business leaders to advance smart policies and technologies to cut global emissions and accelerate a low carbon economy. Its global coalition of companies, states, regions and cities around the world recognise the economic and environmental imperatives of taking decisive action now. The Climate Group was founded in 2004 and has operations in Australia, China, Europe, India and North America.

EV20 Working Group

The goal of the Working Group is to launch the "EV20", a global initiative to accelerate the uptake of electric vehicles with a focus on policy, finance and deployment. Leaders from cities, states and nations together with auto manufacturers, fleet owners, financiers and the electric vehicle value chain are working together to define the objectives and work streams of the initiative. Governments and corporations represented in the Working Group include: France, California, Quebec, South Australia, Queensland, Monaco, North Rhine-Westphalia, Ile-de-France, Amsterdam, London, Renault, Better Place, Johnson Controls Inc., Ener1, ZEM, Venturi and The Postcode Lotteries. EV20 will be launched in early 2010.

About LightSavers

LightSavers is the first international program to test how LEDs and smart controls perform in real world applications while working with its members to plan for scale up and to encourage LED friendly policies and financing products. Light-emitting diode (LED) lamps, combined with smart controls, can cut CO2 emissions 50 to 70%. LED lighting also reduces costs, enhances public safety, minimizes light pollution and makes public spaces friendlier at night. LightSavers is a trademark of the Toronto Atmospheric Fund, a City of Toronto agency that started the program. The Climate Group licenses LightSavers for use globally. The international LightSavers program is funded generously by the HSBC Climate Partnership.

Planetary Skin Institute

The Planetary Skin Institute (PSI) is a not-for-profit research & development institution established to research, develop and prototype a near-to-real-time global monitoring of environmental conditions and changes to develop the required decision support capabilities to manage global resources, risks and enable the necessary environmental markets. It will provide a research and development platform for open collaboration between public, private, academic and NGO sectors. It will collect data from space, airborne, maritime, terrestrial and people-based sensor networks and other sources of structured and unstructured data. It will model, predict, analyze and report in standardized usable format over an open and adaptable cloud platform that is governed as a global public-good. For more information please visit www.planetaryskin.org

States & Regions Alliance

The Climate Group is working with a growing number of sub-national governments who are leading on climate change. The exchange of knowledge and technology across states and regions seeks to advance practical policy development on climate change and act as a compelling model for their national counterparts.