

Breaking the Climate Deadlock

Breaking the Climate Deadlock: Update/April 2009

Intro

We are now less than eight months away from the 2009 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, the meeting at which the world's nations have committed to forge a new international climate treaty. The challenge is huge but achievable: to have a reasonable chance of avoiding dangerous climate change, global emissions will need to peak within the next few years and return to 1990 levels by 2020 or soon thereafter. Therefore, strong action is urgently needed to accelerate low carbon technologies at scale and ensure that appropriate policy support is in place. Key elements of the global deal to be agreed in Copenhagen include: strengthened commitments to make significant cuts in emissions by industrialised countries; efforts by developing countries to shift to a low carbon development path; and the creation of mechanisms to leverage substantial new and predictable funding in support of adaptation, technology development and diffusion, and emissions reductions in the developing world.

The Breaking the Climate Deadlock initiative seeks to catalyse the agreement and this briefing outlines The Climate Group's work to make it happen.

Key priorities and actions over the coming months include high-level meetings between the Rt Hon Tony Blair and heads of state and ministers in key countries and the publication of a 2nd Breaking the Climate Deadlock report; mobilisation of the business community in support of ambitious action that we believe will support increased investment and job growth; targeted interventions in the Midwestern United States; involvement in the World Business Summit on Climate Change; and the launch of new reports focussing on low carbon business opportunities in India and China.

Please do not hesitate to contact Thurstan Wright at +44 (0) 20 7960 2715 or twright@theclimategroup.org should you have any questions.

High-level engagement by Tony Blair



Tony Blair speaking at 'The Gathering of One Hundred' event in Washington DC

A central part of the Breaking the Climate Deadlock initiative is the unique political knowledge, understanding and access to world leaders brought by former UK Prime Minister Tony Blair. Mr Blair will continue to meet global leaders and participate in high-profile climate change events in the run up to Copenhagen with the aim of raising awareness and commitment to an ambitious and workable global deal. Already this year his interventions include:

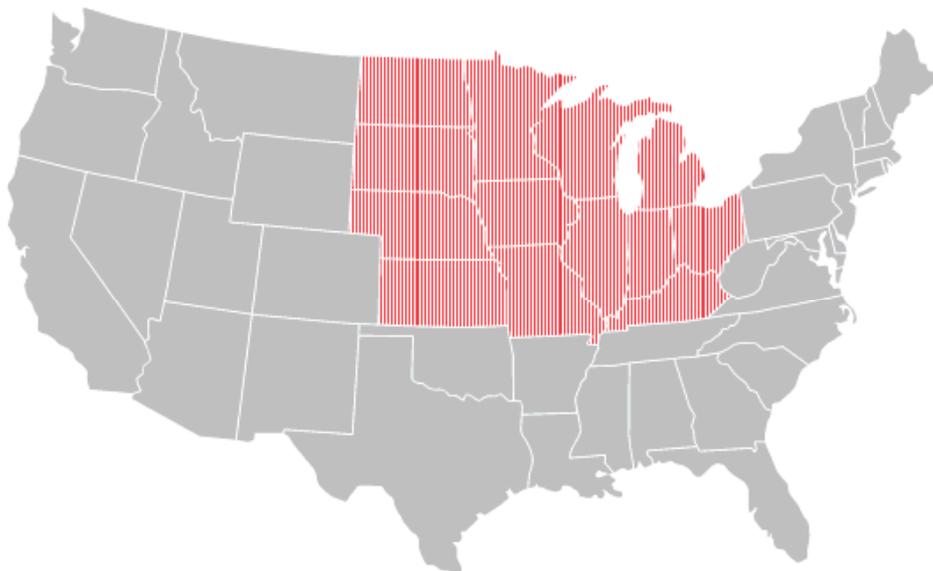
- Speaking on climate change at a number of events at the World Economic Forum in Davos;
- Chairing a high-level meeting in Washington DC with senior US senators, representatives, governors and corporate leaders to discuss the economic opportunities arising from policies to promote low carbon growth, followed by the keynote speech at the closing dinner hosted by The Climate Group;

- A meeting with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and a roundtable discussion with influential business leaders on "Driving China's low carbon revolution"; and
- A keynote speech alongside the Swedish Prime Minister and Scandinavian business leaders at the "Visions of a Low-Carbon World - Moving Forward in the Face of Financial Crisis" event in Stockholm.

Over the next few months, Mr Blair will continue to hold private meetings and make public speeches. High-level events are already confirmed in London and the Netherlands.

In late June, Tony Blair and The Climate Group will publish the 2nd Breaking the Climate Deadlock report ahead of the important G8 summit and Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate to be held in Sardinia in July. Building on last year's "A Global Deal for Our Low Carbon Future", the report will outline the key decisions that need to be taken in Copenhagen and the main choices facing world leaders as they seek to kick start the transition to a low carbon economy.

The road to Copenhagen runs through the Midwest



The Midwestern United States

Midwest understands the full extent to which it can economically gain from federal climate policy the US will lead the international process.

In response, The Climate Group has recently delivered a series of impactful events in Chicago, Washington DC and Michigan in a first wave of targeted interventions in this area:

Forward Chicago - an alliance between the city and Midwest businesses

On February 24th, The Climate Group launched Forward Chicago with Mayor Richard Daley to help break the US climate deadlock. Forward Chicago is a public-private partnership between the city of Chicago, Midwest businesses and the Chicago 2016 Olympic bid. "As Chicago goes, so goes the Midwest," said Michael Allegretti, Director of Government Relations North America, for The Climate Group. "And as the Midwest goes, so goes the United States."

The Gathering of One Hundred - high level dialogue in Washington DC

On March 3rd, The Climate Group hosted an event with representatives from Capitol Hill, the Obama Administration, international government, climate change experts and business leaders at "The Gathering of One Hundred". Tony Blair and Steve Howard, CEO of The Climate Group, articulated the historic opportunity to frame federal policy on climate change. Policy makers in attendance included Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm, Virginia Governor Tim Kaine, US Senators Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and Olympia Snowe (R-ME), Representative John Dingell (D-MI15), EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson, and Chair of the President's Council on Environment Quality, Nancy Sutley.



Minnesota, a Midwestern state with one of the nation's most progressive renewable portfolio standards.

On the back of his promise to move global warming to the top of the political agenda, President Obama is moving the debate forward at a rapid pace. The President and his climate and energy team are to be applauded for advancing this dialogue, especially during this time of economic uncertainty.

However, the US Congress holds the balance of power in the domestic climate discussion and, as a result, has significant leverage over the fate of the international negotiations.

Given the pivotal role of the Midwest in the national economy and the critical role of its elected representatives in national politics, senators and congressmen from this region will play a key role in determining whether real change can be achieved. Once the

Switching Gears - bringing low carbon manufacturing and jobs to the Midwest

On March 5th, The Climate Group, in collaboration with Governor Jennifer Granholm and the Royal Danish Embassy, convened government and business leaders at Switching Gears: a summit on bringing low carbon manufacturing jobs and industry to the Midwest region. *“Building a low carbon economy that reduces our nation’s dependence on foreign oil can be a source of increased innovation and can mean thousands and thousands of new energy jobs for Michigan and the Midwest,”* Governor Granholm said. Corporate leaders with experience in low carbon industries and technologies shared the platform with policy makers in a working session on how the Midwest will transition to a new energy economy. Governor Granholm and Danish Minister for Climate and Energy Connie Hedegaard signed a Memorandum of Understanding, agreeing to high-level dialogue, fact-finding missions and the sharing of information and technology in collaboration with Michigan and other Midwestern states in their transition to a new energy economy.

Future activities

Exchange trips, which will bring Midwestern state and federal lawmakers to Germany and China, are being planned for summer 2009. And throughout the run-up to Copenhagen, The Climate Group will be providing briefings to federal lawmakers and officials in Washington DC, each aimed at helping to demonstrate the economic opportunities from meaningful federal climate action.



Danish Minister Hedegaard and Michigan Governor Granholm at “Switching Gears”, a summit on bringing low carbon manufacturing jobs and industry to the Midwest region.

World Business Summit on Climate Change

The Climate Group is actively involved in the World Business Summit on Climate Change, which will take place in Copenhagen on 24-26th May and is being convened by the Copenhagen Climate Council (in collaboration with the Danish government, The Climate Group, the World Economic Forum, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, the UN Global Compact and the 3C Initiative). Approximately 800 global business leaders will meet with politicians, climate negotiators, distinguished scientists, economists and other thought leaders to discuss the climate crisis in what is widely regarded as the most important business gathering on climate change in 2009.

As a co-organizer and member of the Steering Committee, The Climate Group is involved in developing the agenda and the business statement that will emerge from the Summit. CEO Steve Howard is responsible for chairing a plenary session, and The Climate Group in conjunction with the International Emissions Trading Association (IETA) and Carbon Markets & Investors Association (CMIA) is developing and facilitating the work stream on carbon markets.



The Climate Group is actively involved in the World Business Summit on Climate Change

Confirmed participants include:

- UN Secretary General, His Excellency Ban Ki-moon
- José Manuel Barroso, President, European Commission
- Nobel peace laureate, Al Gore
- Her Majesty the Queen of Denmark
- Danish Prime Minister, Anders Fogh Rasmussen
- Yvo de Boer, Executive Secretary, UNFCCC
- Dr. R. K. Pachauri, Chairman, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- James Rogers, CEO, Duke Energy
- Samuel DiPiazza, CEO, PricewaterhouseCoopers International
- Tony Hayward, CEO, BP Group
- Indra Nooyi, Chairperson and CEO, PepsiCo
- Fu Chengyu, CEO, China National Offshore Oil Corporation
- Li Xiaolin, CEO, China Power
- Lars Josefsson, President and CEO, Vattenfall
- Shai Agassi, CEO, Better Place

The summit is expected to send out a strong message from the business community to the world in favour of an ambitious agreement and the final outcome - The Copenhagen Call - will feed directly into the negotiation process via the host of COP-15, the Danish Government.

To find out more about the event, please visit <http://www.copenhagenclimatecouncil.com/world-business-summit.html>

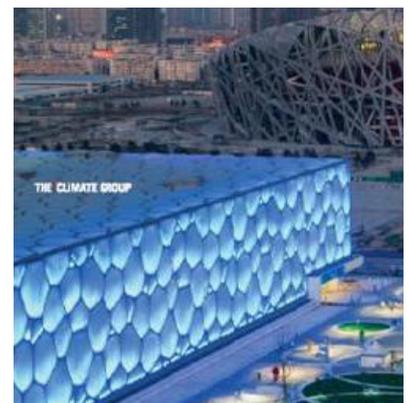
[New Report: China's Business Opportunity](#)

China is uniquely placed to gain from the transition to the low carbon economy and is already well positioned for dramatic growth across a range of low carbon technologies - including electric vehicles, solar and highly efficient consumer goods.

China's success in making the transition is crucial to global efforts to tackle climate change.

In light of this The Climate Group will be releasing a follow up to last year's 'China's Clean Revolution' report, outlining the potential opportunities for Chinese businesses in the low carbon economy. This report will evaluate the current state of low carbon technology, policy and finance in China. It will forecast the trend of development of these technologies and identify the opportunities for China's businesses to exploit opportunities in the domestic market and around the world. And under the circumstances of the global financial crisis, this report will explore the potential of how China's green industries could take off.

The Climate Group will also release a report focussing on India's transition towards a low carbon economy.



The Climate Group will shortly be releasing a follow up to our 'China's Clean Revolution' report



China is well placed to gain from the transition to a low carbon economy

The Climate Group is grateful for the generous support of the following organisations towards this project:

DOEN Foundation
Dutch Postcode Lottery
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Swedish Postcode Lottery

THE CLIMATE GROUP