

World leaders in climate showdown

The new leaders of Europe and Japan are fighting to rescue a proposed climate agreement ahead of the G8 summit in June. They back a proposal limiting world temperature rise to two degrees and the establishment of a global carbon trading market, both of which the U.S. rejects



France

Nicolas Sarkozy

Elected: May 2007



Japan

Shinzo Abe

Elected: Sep 2006



Italy

Romano Prodi

Elected: May 2006



Germany

Angela Merkel

Elected: Nov 2005

All 27 European Union members have agreed to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 20% by 2020, building on the ***Kyoto Protocol*** which runs out in 2012. Japan and Canada also back a global target of cutting emissions in half by 2050



Canada

Stephen Harper

Elected: Jan 2006



U.S.

George W. Bush

Elected: Nov 2000



Russia

Vladimir Putin

Elected: Mar 2000



Britain

Tony Blair

Elected: May 1997

Merkel and outgoing British leader Blair have pressed U.S. President Bush to back G8 targets, but the White House is "fundamentally opposed" to European objectives. Russia, which signed Kyoto in 2004, also rejects the proposals

Sources: Greenpeace, wire agencies

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