

25 years of climate change summits



1985:
Global
carbon dioxide
emissions
estimated at
19.6 billion
tonnes

■ **1985:** First major climate change summit warns that greenhouse gases will increase global temperature and could cause sea levels to rise by as much as one metre by 2050

■ **1988:** United Nations sets up **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)** to analyse and report on scientific findings

■ **1990:** **First IPCC report** says world has warmed by 0.5°C over past century – future warming seems likely



■ **1992:** **Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC)** sets target of reducing emissions from industrialised countries to 1990

levels by year 2000. So-called **Rio Agreement** is signed by 154 nations

■ **1995:** First FCCC conference, **COP 1** takes place in Berlin. **Second IPCC report** detects “signature” of man-made greenhouse warming. **IPCC predicts global temperatures could rise by up to 3.5°C by 2100**



■ **1997:** **Kyoto Protocol** sets out legally binding emissions cuts for industrialised nations of 5.2% by 2012. **U.S. President Bill Clinton signs Kyoto but Senate refuses to ratify it**

■ **1998:** Hottest year on record

■ **2000:** IPCC scientists warn that world could warm by 6°C by 2100

■ **2001:** **Third IPCC report** warns of unprecedented global warming. **U.S. President George W. Bush renounces Kyoto Protocol, claiming it will damage economy**

■ **2002:** European Union, Japan and others ratify Kyoto, but Australia joins U.S. in refusing. To become legally binding, treaty must be ratified by at least 55 countries – Russia is left to make or break treaty, but hesitates

■ **2003:** Deadly summer heatwave in Europe results in estimated 30,000 deaths. Scientists are uncertain if it is blip or new, more ominous trend

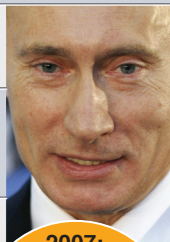
■ **2004:** Russia's President **Vladimir Putin** backs Kyoto

■ **2005:** After eight years, **Kyoto Protocol** comes into effect

■ **2007:** **Fourth IPCC report** published. Central claim that Himalayan glaciers will melt by 2035 is based on anecdotal evidence

■ **2009:** Hacked e-mails from **University of East Anglia** cast doubt over climate change science. **Copenhagen Climate Change Summit – COP 15** – fails to secure new deal required before Kyoto expires at end of 2012

■ **2010:** IPCC apologises for Himalayan glacier gaffe. Nov 29: 16th FCCC conference opens in Cancun, Mexico



2007:
Global
carbon dioxide
emissions
estimated at
29.32 billion
tonnes