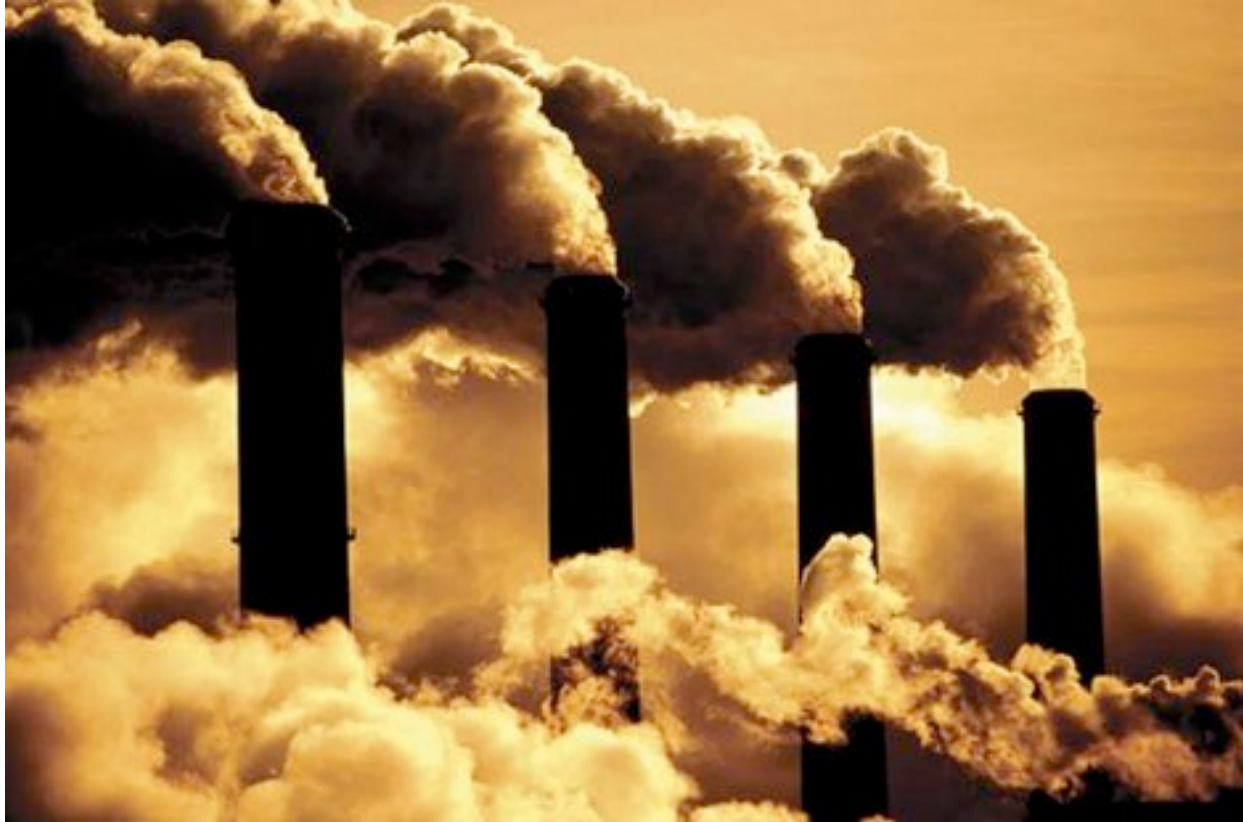


'Clean' Coal and the Climate Crisis...

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Last Thursday, the Christian Science Monitor reported that the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate has [pledged to tackle global warming head on](#). Comprised of 17 of the world's largest greenhouse gas emitters, the group is committed to having a new global climate treaty drafted by this December in time for the Summit on Global Climate at Copenhagen. Their target global emissions reduction of '50% below 1990 levels' could account for an 80% cut in CO₂ emissions for developed nations and could be significant. However industrialized countries have not yet put enough on the table to achieve this.

The United States and China are the [two biggest polluters in the world](#) when it comes to carbon emissions from coal, which generates half the electricity in the world and is the dirtiest fuel of all when it comes to greenhouse gasses. If you think that what is happening is not important, then take a look at Al Gore's update at TED earlier this year to [see the impact that these warming trends are having on the planet](#), where the Arctic icecaps [are dramatically thinning](#) and disappearing at an alarming rate. Under President Obama, the US is repositioning itself to be an aggressive player in the drive to cap rising global temperatures and to halt global warming. The Obama Administration has declared, for the first time, that CO₂ is a threat to human health and is planning to impose limits.

There is opposition here and in other developed countries [as threatened industries balk at the prospects of change](#). For example, last year in this country alone, the coal and oil industries spent over \$250 million on a campaign to promote the myth of '*clean coal*' while our Nation and others are attempting to rebuild our battered economies on solid foundations of clean and renewable energy. The past thirty years of global neglect in these areas are plainly visible today and there is no doubt where our priorities must be. As individuals and as citizens of the world, there is much we all can do. [So don't wait; please get personally involved now.](#)

Bob