

# verbatim



**“There is a sense of hope in this country that this United States Congress will rise to the occasion and present meaningful solutions to this crisis... This is our Thermopylae.”**

Al Gore, climate change campaigner and former vice-president of the United States of America

**“On the island where I live, it is possible to throw a stone from one side to the other. Our fears about sea level rise are very real. Our Cabinet has been exploring the possibility of buying land in a nearby country in case we become refugees of climate change.”**

Teleke Lauti, Minister for the Environment, Tuvalu

**“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, Nothing is going to get better. It's not.”**

The Lorax, Dr. Seuss

**“One person flying in an airplane for one hour is responsible for the same greenhouse gas emissions as a typical Bangladeshi in a whole year.”**

Beatrice Schell, European Federation for Transport and Environment

**“We cannot let bottomless human consumption shape nature's fate. It is our fate, after all.”**

Tsetsegee Munkhbayar, 2007 Goldman Environment Prize winner from Mongolia

**“I have climbed this mountain more than 3,500 times in the past 59 years. In that time I have seen the ice reduce by half.”**

Mzee Emmanuel, climbing guide, Kilimanjaro, Tanzania

**“The danger is that global warming may become self-sustaining, if it has not done so already. The melting of the Arctic and Antarctic ice caps reduces the fraction of solar energy reflected back into space, and so increases the temperature further. Climate change may kill off the Amazon and other rain forests, and so eliminate one of the main ways in which carbon dioxide is removed from the atmosphere. The rise in sea temperature may trigger the release of large quantities of methane, trapped as hydrates on the ocean floor. Both these phenomena would increase the greenhouse effect, and so further global warming. We have to reverse global warming urgently, if we still can.”**

Professor Stephen Hawking, British theoretical physicist and author of 'A Brief History of Time'

# numbers

**2005**

The warmest year on record. Eleven of the warmest years in the past 125 years have occurred since 1990

**33**

Percentage rise in global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions since 1987

**6**

The number of greenhouse gases covered by the Kyoto Protocol: carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, sulphur hexafluoride, Perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) – UNFCCC

**5**

Target total percentage cut in greenhouse-gas emissions by Kyoto Protocol Parties from 1990 levels in the commitment period 2008–2012

**7**

The number of metres that sea level would rise if the Greenland ice sheet were to melt. If all Antarctic ice were to melt, sea level would rise by more than 60 metres

**200,000,000,000,000**

US dollar estimated economic losses due to weather-linked disasters, such as tropical storms and forest fires in 2005

**50**

Percentage of European glacier mass lost since 1850

**50,000,000**

The number of extra people at risk of hunger by 2020 if climate change continues unabated – *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*

**59,000**

Amount of megawatts of electricity generated by wind power in 2005 — up from 4,800 megawatts in 1995

**35,000**

Additional number of deaths in Europe due to the 2003 heatwave

*Unless otherwise indicated, all facts are from the UNEP World Environment Day fact sheets on climate change and polar issues: [www.unep.org/wed/2007](http://www.unep.org/wed/2007)*