

Europe must lead the world with low carbon economy

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EU president urges countries to cut CO₂ by 30%

According to a BBC report, European countries are being urged to cut greenhouse gas emissions by more than 20%, by 2020, to help reduce climate change.

The President of the European Commission, **Jose Manuel Barroso**, says that Europe is taking the lead, releasing a new strategy and calling for a "post-industrial revolution." The commission wants European Union countries to embrace renewable energy sources as a first step towards cutting global greenhouse emissions by 30%, and limiting global warming to two degrees.

David Mark of the BBC reported that the commission's chief has called on developed countries, in particular the United States, to lead efforts to reduce global warming. He says, "Environmentalists, scientists and economists have been increasing their warnings in recent years about the dangers of greenhouse gas emissions which are causing global warming."

"Now the European Union has taken up the call, releasing an energy strategy which aims to limit global climate change to two degrees above pre-industrial levels."

Barroso, explains: "The EU needs to act now. This is why we propose a European Union commitment now to reduce European Union greenhouse emissions by at least 20% by 2020, as compared to 1990 levels."

"This will send a clear signal on how seriously we take the future of our planet."

"We need new policies to face a new reality, policies which maintain Europe's competitiveness, protect our environment, and make our energy supplies more secure."

"Europe must lead the world into a new, or maybe one should say post-industrial revolution, the development of a low-carbon economy."

Barroso points out: "We need the United States with us. They are, after all, the biggest polluter in the world. And I personally believe the United States will change and they will be much more ambitious in the future when it comes to fighting climate change."

More information: www.ec.europa.eu

