



**THE JOHANNESBURG CLIMATE LEGACY 2002**  
**OUR CLIMATE OUR LEGACY**

**PRESS BULLETIN**  
**01/09/2002**

**THE CO<sub>2</sub> EMISSIONS FROM ONE IN FIVE DELEGATES ALREADY  
OFFSET THROUGH THE JOHANNESBURG CLIMATE LEGACY**

- UK Environment Minister Michael Meacher & Norwegian State Secretary Elspeth Tronstad were present to accept climate legacy certificates on their governments behalf – two of seven to make delegates Carbon Neutral

(Johannesburg) – A number of delegates from the political, business and IGO communities were congratulated last night for their commitment to the Johannesburg Climate Legacy (JCL). However despite increasing support from the business community and a growing list of Government signatories there is still a long way to go to achieve lasting success.

As part of the WSSD's 'Greening of the Summit' initiative, the JCL links together partners who are directly addressing the issue of climate change. The aim, to make the Summit Carbon Neutral by offsetting the carbon dioxide emissions created by holding the World Summit, provides both a positive and pragmatic approach to the issue of climate change as well as acting as a model for offsetting global events in the future.

Over 150 delegates gathered at the IUCN Environment Centre last night for the JCL presentation ceremony opened by the Provincial Government of Gauteng on behalf of the WSSD's "Greening the Summit initiative. Funds raised from delegations and individuals will be divided amongst small scale energy efficiency and renewable energy projects around South Africa. The emissions 'saved' by these projects, by the non-use of fossil based fuels will be 'credited against', or will offset, those created by the Summit and its attendees. Each project has to meet a set of rigorous criteria that as well as their environmental aspects include human development potential.

Partners in and supporters of the JCL and the Greening the WSSD Initiative, John Ohiorhenuan, Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme South Africa, and Mohamed El-Ashry, CEO and Chairman of the Global Environment Facility reinforced international support for the project and highlighted the importance of the JCL as a signal to the Summit and the World that individuals and organizations are prepared to take action on climate change mitigation.

Achim Steiner, Director General of the IUCN, commented

“The JCL is a great way to demonstrate linkages between the Summit and the issues. This initiative does not replace the need for the Kyoto Protocol. Every delegate must be encouraged to offset their carbon footprint before leaving Johannesburg.”

Jonathan Shopley, CEO of Future Forests and member of the JCL Technical Working Group, said;

“We ask every participant and delegation at the WSSD to use the Johannesburg Climate Legacy to offset the climate change impacts associated with their travel to and from the Summit – and in doing so making their participation Carbon Neutral. To date, seven governments, more than 30 businesses and a number of delegates have demonstrated leadership and a commitment to directly addressing climate change, but it’s time for the remainder to put their money where their mouths are. We see strong participation in the JCL as a clear signal to governments that steps to address climate change are required now.”

Information about the JCL including how to offset emissions is available online at [www.climatelegacy.org](http://www.climatelegacy.org)

**-ENDS-**

**For more information, comment or to arrange interviews please contact:**

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**Notes to Editors:**

1. The JCL is supported by DACEL, GEF, DACEL and the IUCN.
2. The JCL will determine the carbon footprint of the WSSD event. It will then invest funds voluntarily committed by supporters of, and participants and delegations at the Summit in small scale energy efficiency and renewable energy projects -- selected against criteria which account for carbon, environmental, social, and economic benefits -- to compensate and offset the emissions.
3. The JCL is a not-for-profit entity under the governance of a multi-stakeholder group of individuals from South African NGOs, Government, business, and Trade Unions; advised by a Technical Working Group made up of local academics and NGOs, and audited by an independent third party. It is committed to transparency, openness, and learning (see [www.climatelegacy.org](http://www.climatelegacy.org)).
4. Achievements to date:-
  - 7 Government delegations, which have gone Carbon Neutral by committing a total of \$80,000 to the JCL. These are Austria, Canada, Monaco, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom
  - 5 IGO delegations have gone Carbon Neutral contributing a total of \$50,000 including World Bank, United Nations Development Programme, Global Environment Facility, the United Nations Environment Programme, and IUCN-The World Conservation Union
  - 31 Corporations and business organizations around the World including ICI, Shell, TEPCO and the Warehouse Group have contributed a total of \$185,000
  - NGO's have contributed \$5,000. This includes the support of the Heinrich Böhl Foundation

- 1,000 individuals from around the World who have collectively made personal contributions totaling \$7,605.