

ENERGY REVIEW UK Cabinet Office (2002)

A “leading” approach to climate change implies three separate policy timelines:

- measures to comply with agreed targets;
- measures to prepare for future targets not yet agreed but probably involving not all countries and operating for limited time periods; and
- measures to prepare for a world of long-term emission limits agreed between all countries, possibly based on the principles of contraction and convergence.

“Contraction and convergence” is a possible basis for long-term international agreement on carbon abatement. It would entail developed countries reducing their per capita emissions (contraction) whilst developing countries’ emissions expanded until all countries’ per capita emissions converged at a level considered to be sustainable.

