

Kyoto protocol

What Is the Kyoto Protocol?

The Kyoto Protocol was an international agreement that aimed to reduce [carbon dioxide](#) (CO₂) emissions and the presence of greenhouse gases (GHG) in the atmosphere. The essential tenet of the Kyoto Protocol was that industrialized nations needed to lessen the amount of their CO₂ emissions.

The protocol was adopted in Kyoto, Japan in 1997, when greenhouse gases were rapidly threatening our climate, life on the earth, and the planet.¹ Today, the Kyoto Protocol lives on in other forms, and its issues are still being discussion.

What Is the Primary Purpose of the Kyoto Protocol?

The Kyoto Protocol was an agreement among developed nations to reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions and greenhouse gases (GHG) in an effort to minimize the impacts of climate change.

Kyoto mechanisms:

The Kyoto Protocol established three different mechanisms to enable countries additional ways to meet their emission-limitation target. The three mechanisms are:

- **The International Emissions Trading mechanism:** Countries that have excess emission units permitted to them but not used can engage in [carbon trading](#) and sell these units to countries over their target.
- **The Clean Development mechanism:** Countries with emission reducing or limiting commitments may implement emission-reducing projects in developing countries to earn certified emission reduction credits.
- **The Joint Implementation mechanism:** Countries with emission reducing or limiting commitments to earn emission reducing units from a project in another party.

①
**International
Emissions
Trading**



②
**Clean
Development
Mechanism**



③
**Joint
Implementation**



Kyoto Protocol Timeline

Below are some relevant dates relating to the development, implementation, and revisions to the Kyoto Protocol:

Dec. 11, 1997: The Kyoto Protocol is adopted at the Conference of the Parties (COP 3) in Kyoto, Japan. [14](#)

Nov. 14, 1998: As a result of a two week meeting that concluded on the 14th, 170 governments adopt a two-year plan titled the Buenos Aires Plan of Action to reduce the risk of global climate change. [15](#)

March 16, 1998: The Kyoto Protocol becomes open for signatures. [14](#)

March 15, 1999: One year after being open for signatures, the Kyoto Protocol had received 84 signatures. [14](#)

Feb. 16, 2005: The Kyoto Protocol is entered into force. [14](#)

Dec. 8, 2012: The Doha Amendment is adopted for a second commitment period

timeline:

March 25, 2013: Afghanistan becomes the 192nd signatory of the Kyoto Protocol.¹⁷ As of August 2022, there remains 192 signatories.

Dec. 12, 2015: The Paris Agreement is adopted by 196 parties at COP21 in Paris, largely superseding the Kyoto Protocol.¹⁸

Nov. 4, 2016: The Paris Agreement is entered into force.

Kyoto Protocol participation map



Green = Countries that have signed and ratified the treaty

Grey = Countries that have not yet decided

Red = No intention to ratify at this stage.