



Position Statement
Climate Change and Energy

We accept the view of most scientists that enough is known about the science and environmental impacts of climate change for us to take actions to address it. We believe that one of the most serious worldwide challenges is to address global climate change and, at the same time, work to sustain a growing global economy. We recognize that the risks and complexities of climate change are so important that we must work together to meet this challenge. We support efforts to bring together the ingenuity and experience of all sectors of our society-private, public, and non-governmental organizations-to address this issue in a constructive way. We can make significant progress in addressing climate change and sustaining economic growth by having governments adopt reasonable policies, programs and transition strategies.

Climate change is a global problem. The response to climate change must be global, but also cost-effective and equitable, and allow for economic growth based on free-market principles. The Kyoto agreement represents a first step in the international process, but more must be done, both to implement the market-based mechanisms that were adopted in principle in Kyoto and to more fully involve all countries in the solution. We acknowledge more aggressive and creative approaches may be needed to adequately address this issue over the long term.

Businesses can and should take concrete steps now to assess opportunities for emission reductions, establish and meet emission-reduction objectives, and invest in new, more efficient products, practices and technologies. Baxter has committed that by 2005 it will reduce energy consumption (and associated greenhouse gases) by 30 percent per unit of production value from 1996 levels.

Countries must address energy needs of the future with thoughtful planning, considering the need for new energy facilities along with aggressive energy conservation measures stimulated by financial incentives. Any new energy facilities should be located, constructed and operated in a manner that is protective of the environment. Governments should invest in and use new energy technologies, especially those fueled with renewable resources, and should provide financial incentives for others to do so.

While countries need to work to become self-sufficient in meeting their own energy needs in an environmentally sensitive way, it is recognized this will require time. To address short-term and emergency needs, power transmission infrastructure and legal authorization should be created within countries and across borders so as to allow for the free flow of electricity and fuel.