

EEnergy Informer

The International Energy Newsletter

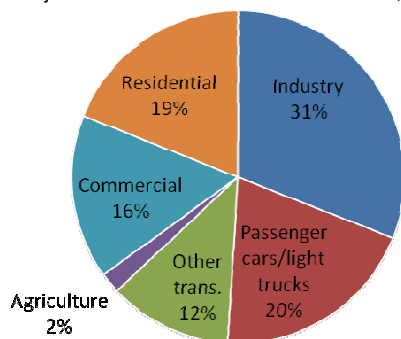
Australia's Back-flip Shows The Tough Road Ahead For Obama

Promises are easy to make, harder to keep

Kevin Rudd, who replaced **John Howard** as Australia's Prime Minister, promised that he would change the country's stand on climate change – which like those of the former US **President Bush** – was not to have a policy. One of his first symbolic acts in office was to ratify the **Kyoto Protocols** (*Where Does Australia Stand On Global Climate Policy*, Jan 08) in Bali at the UN-sponsored conference, for which Australia received much credit. But as all politicians learn once elected, delivering is much harder than promising (*Australia Approaches Climate Change With Apprehension*, Nov 08). And the lessons he has learned thus far shows just how difficult it will be for **President Obama** to deliver on *his* own climate change promises.

Where to cut back?

Major contributors to US CO2 emissions, %



Source: Environmental Protection Agency

In March 2009, Mr. Rudd announced a cap-and-trade scheme going into effect as early as 2010 with an

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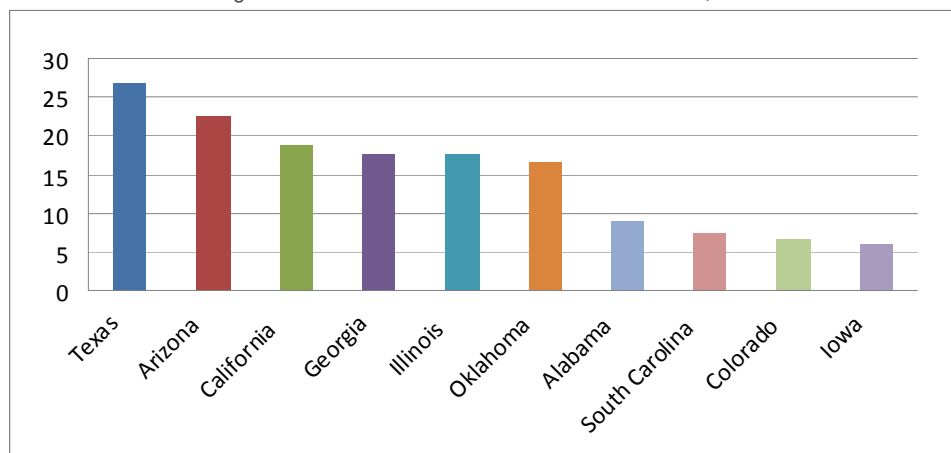
Pressure Builds Not To Go Empty Handed To Copenhagen

Expectations are high, as are the risks of failure

The Obama administration is using multiple tactics and pursuing parallel channels to build momentum towards a strong and credible position at the UN-sponsored conference in Copenhagen in December 2009. With or without a **cap-and-trade legislation**, the intent is to be able to exert sufficient pressure on other major greenhouse gas emitters to join a global effort to combat climate change.

Carbon heavy

States with largest CO2 emission increases between 1998-2008, in million tons



Source: National Energy Technology Laboratory

The administration's efforts – currently in a state of flux and most likely old news by the time this newsletter reaches its audience – are to use the December 09 deadline and the credibility of the US position in Copenhagen to pressure the Congress to act – at least to the point where the US delegation can

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