

# THE



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## The Kyoto Protocol

*From Mr Dan Lewis*

Sir, We have to get away from the idea that our environmental problems can be solved only through the complicated emissions trading schemes of the Kyoto Protocol (letters, December 13). It is time to acknowledge the treaty's greatest success — a massive public relations boost for the renew-

able energy and nuclear industries lobbies — and write it off. Otherwise Europe will be lumbered with a very expensive way of achieving very little, while three enormous countries — India, China and the US — get off scot-free.

Multinational non-governmental organisations, such as Greenpeace, have set a cost-blind agenda for far too long. Concerted unilateral action on the environment has been far more

effective. Denmark didn't increase its windpower because of the Kyoto treaty. France didn't adopt nuclear power for more than 80 per cent of its electricity because President de Gaulle was sensitive to world opinion. If the Americans choose to invest in technology that can deliver clean coal from a 230-year supply — perhaps three times greater than global oil reserves — and pour billions into developing a hydrogen car, then all is

not doom and gloom without the Kyoto treaty.

Yours faithfully,  
**DAN LEWIS**  
(Director, Environmental Affairs),  
Stockholm Network,  
35 Britannia Row, N1 8QH.  
December 13.

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or e-mail, but not by telephone.**