



Mexico Senate approves historic climate change bill

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Mexican president Felipe Calderon is poised to approve the world's latest comprehensive climate change bill, after the country's Senate yesterday rubberstamped the wide-ranging legislation.

The Senate, which had last year approved an earlier version of the bill, voted through the legislative package after the country's [lower house approved the bill](#) last week.

It will now pass to the president, who is expected to sign the bill into law in the coming days.

The bill is broadly similar to the UK's Climate Change Act and will require future governments to meet regular emissions reduction targets with the goal of ultimately cutting carbon emissions 50 per cent by 2050.

It includes additional targets requiring the government to cut emissions 30 per cent by 2020, and ensures that 24 per cent of electricity is generated from renewable sources by 2024.

Significantly, the bill also provides the government with a raft of new powers that will allow it to introduce policies designed to ensure that emission reduction targets are met.

For example, ministers will be able to introduce new incentives to drive investment in renewable energy

and will be given powers to phase out fossil fuel subsidies.

The bill also paves the way for a voluntary emissions trading scheme that carbon intensive businesses will be invited to take part in, and which could integrate with other international carbon markets.

The bill is the the third major climate change act after legislation adopted in recent years by the UK, Australia and New Zealand. It will also further entrench Mexico's position as one of the world's leading emerging low-carbon economies.

In related news, the Brazilian government this week announced new rules designed to accelerate the adoption of solar technologies.

According to *Bloomberg* reports, the country's energy regulator, Agencia Nacional de Energia Eletrica, introduced "net metering" rules that will allow households and businesses to sell the solar power they generate during the day in return for power from the grid that they can then consume in the evening.

Industry estimates suggested the change could result in the development of a new \$3bn market over the next 20 years.

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