Global climate change progress

Countries are pushing ahead with laws to tackle climate change, despite “snail-paced” progress on a global deal to cut emissions, it has been revealed.

Almost all of the 33 developed and developing countries surveyed in a new study had introduced or progressed with significant climate-related legislation within their own borders in the past year.

In 2012, 18 countries made significant progress, according to the report by the Grantham Research Institute at LSE and Globe International, which brings together legislators from different countries.

Only Canada had gone backwards on climate change, by repealing the Act implementing its targets under the Kyoto Protocol treaty to cut global emissions.

Despite a tough economic year for many countries, such as those in the eurozone, some progress was made by developed nations.

The EU as a whole made progress through its new directive on energy efficiency, while the US pushed forward with regulating carbon dioxide through its Clean Air Act.

Action by developing countries was more significant, with Mexico leading the way with a new climate law to cut emissions by 30% compared to “business as usual” by 2020, and major progress by countries ranging from Kenya to Pakistan.