

# EPA's Oge urges industry to face emission challenge

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DETROIT — By developing green technologies, automakers can be the spark that ignites the next industrial revolution, says EPA official Margo Oge.

Oge, director of the EPA's Office of Transportation and Air Quality, told the Automotive News World Congress last week that the political, economic and regulatory landscape facing the industry has changed dramatically over the past year, and "the pace of change will not be letting up any time soon."

Just as the auto industry changed the automotive landscape by developing the catalytic converter in the 1970s, it can help now to address climate change, she said.

"I believe history will judge all of us on how we choose to confront this great challenge," she said. "Will we choose to do the minimum to get by, taking small, timid, incremental steps to comply and make it even harder for those who will follow? Or is now the time for this industry to once again save the world, just as you did in World War II, and pursue a grand vision?"

Oge (pronounced Oh-gay) said transportation accounts for two-thirds of oil consumption and about a third of greenhouse gas emissions. Global oil demand is expected to surge in the next two decades, pushed by growth in China and India.

"The world's best scientists are saying that by 2050, we globally must reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50 to 80 percent from the 2000 levels to avoid the worst effects of climate change," Oge said.

She said President Bush gave the agency a mandate to examine ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from automobiles and transportation fuels. The EPA found that by using current automotive technologies and plants, automakers could achieve a fleet fuel economy average of 35 mpg by 2018.

Oge said no turf war exists between the EPA and the National Highway



JOE WILSENS

**Margo Oge: "The pace of change will not be letting up any time soon."**

## Margo Oge

**Title:** Director, Office of Transportation and Air Quality

**Organization:** EPA

**Main point:** By taking on the challenge of reducing greenhouse gases, the auto industry can ignite the next industrial revolution.

**Quote:** "I believe history will judge all of us on how we choose to confront this great challenge."

Traffic Safety Administration over fuel economy. She said the U.S. Supreme Court had given the EPA authority to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles but not fuel economy, which is still NHTSA's responsibility.

Oge said the EPA and NHTSA have been working together.

The EPA is impressed by the work that automakers have done with clean diesels. Oge said diesels will be competitive with other powertrains in the United States.

Because of concerns about the food supply and land use, Oge said, the EPA sees corn-based ethanol as only a "bridge" solution for environmental concerns. The agency sees more promise in ethanol developed from cellulosic or nonfood sources. **AN**