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## Candidates Focus on Global Warming

By [MICHAEL FALCONE](#)

MANCHESTER, N.H. — As they campaigned around the Granite State today, a few of the presidential candidates stopped by a meeting of environmentalists here to tout their green credentials.

Arizona Senator John McCain, [who made news earlier in the day with some biting criticism of his rival](#), Mitt Romney, switched gears to talk about combating global warming. Mr. McCain reiterated his support for a cap-and-trade policy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well as the expansion of nuclear power as an alternative source of energy.

At the gathering, which was organized by the New Hampshire-based nonprofit group, [Clean Air-Cool Planet](#), Mr. McCain also defended [his lukewarm congratulations](#) yesterday of former Vice President Al Gore for winning the Nobel Peace Prize for his work on climate change. Again, he suggested that the Buddhist monks who are opposing the government in Myanmar would have been more deserving of the honor.

Another Republican hopeful, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, spoke here and touched on a familiar campaign theme — reducing America's dependence on foreign oil. He sought to make a direct connection between global warming and national security.

“If we do not take some serious and urgent steps to stop the poison — both the poison that Islamic extremists are spewing with our oil money — but also the poison that we're spewing into the atmosphere — then we're not really serious about national security.”

Mr. Huckabee also said the United States was “pathetically behind the curve” when it comes to federal research and spending for the development of alternative fuels. If elected, he said he would work with Congress on a comprehensive plan to achieve full energy independence by the end of his second term. Mr. Huckabee also expressed his support for a cap-and-trade policy.

Two Democratic candidates – New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson and Ohio Representative Dennis Kucinich – also addressed the conference.

Though Mr. McCain and Mr. Romney were at the center of most of the day's serious infighting among the Republicans, Mr. Huckabee took a brief opportunity today to poke fun at rival candidate Rudolph W. Giuliani.

Borrowing [a page from Mr. Giuliani's own playbook](#), Mr. Huckabee (whose [humor is well-known on the campaign trail](#)) interrupted his speech for a moment to take a cell phone call.

“Hello. No, I'm sorry the mayor is not here today, Judith. You have the wrong number.”