



ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES
Embassy of the United States Madrid • Research Unit

November-December 2014 • Number 54



[Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry at U.S.-EU Energy Council](#)

U.S. Department of State
December 3, 2014

We support major U.S.-EU energy sector reform There's much to be done on energy efficiency. There's also an enormous amount to be done in the transformation to a clean energy economy.

[Statement of the U.S. - EU Energy Council](#)

U.S. Department of State
December 3, 2014

Coordinated action by the EU, the United States and all major and emerging economies will be essential to tackling the threat of global climate change, which remains the defining challenge of our generation. The Council reaffirmed the strong determination of the United States and the EU to work towards the adoption at the United Nations Climate Conference in Paris in 2015 of an ambitious protocol, legal instrument or agreed outcome with legal force, under the Convention and applicable to all parties, which would strengthen the multilateral, rules-based regime. This agreement must be sufficiently ambitious, robust and dynamic in light of the goal to limit global temperature increase to below 2 degrees Celsius . The latest findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change serve to emphasize the importance of urgent and effective action.

Remarks on Climate Change at COP-20

Secretary of State John Kerry

Lima, Peru

December 11, 2014

I'm also delighted to say that because of all that hard work, I understand we now have enough pledges from the international community to meet and exceed the initial Climate Green Fund target of 10 billion. And the United States is very proud to be contributing 3 billion, and we are grateful for the announcement of countries like Australia, Belgium, Colombia, and Peru that they have made in recent days to help get us over the hurdle. All of this will help to ensure that this fund can succeed in helping the most overburdened nations of the world to do more to be able to respond to climate change. And finally, I want to thank Peru for hosting the COP-20, a critical stepping stone to the agreement that we must reach in Paris next year.

Fact Sheet: U.S.-China Joint Announcement on Climate Change and Clean Energy Cooperation

The White House

November 11, 2014

Together, the U.S. and China account for over one third of global greenhouse gas emissions. Today's joint announcement, the culmination of months of bilateral dialogue, highlights the critical role the two countries must play in addressing climate change. The actions they announced are part of the longer range effort to achieve the deep decarbonization of the global economy over time. These actions will also inject momentum into the global climate negotiations on the road to reaching a successful new climate agreement next year in Paris.

EPA Announces First National Regulations to Safeguard Disposal of Coal Ash

United States Environmental Protection Agency

December 19, 2014

"EPA is taking action to protect our communities from the risk of mismanaged coal ash disposal units, and putting in place safeguards to help prevent the next catastrophic coal ash impoundment failure, which can cost millions for local businesses, communities and states," said EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy. "These strong safeguards will protect drinking water from contamination, air from coal ash dust, and our communities from structural failures, while providing facilities a practical approach for implementation."

[En español](#)

EPA Announces 2014 Annual Environmental Enforcement Results

United States Environmental Protection Agency
December 18, 2014

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today released its annual enforcement and compliance results reflecting a focus on large cases driving industry compliance and that have a high impact on protecting public health and the environment.

Fact Sheet: 16 U.S. Communities Recognized as Climate Action Champions for Leadership on Climate Change

The White House
December 03, 2014

The Obama Administration is committed to taking decisive action to combat climate change. Just last month, to drive international discussions leading up to the 2015 climate negotiations in Paris, President Obama made an historic joint announcement with Chinese President Xi Jinping of each country's respective targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the post-2020 period. Building on the United States' bipartisan history of supporting financing for clean energy and climate adaptation in developing countries, the President also announced the United States' \$3 billion commitment to the Green Climate Fund.

EPA Adaptation Implementation Plans

United States Environmental Protection Agency

On October 31, 2014, EPA released the final versions of its Agency-wide Climate Change Adaptation Plan (PDF, 64pp, 1.7mb) and the 17 Climate Change Adaptation Implementation Plans produced by the Program and Regional Offices. These final versions were revised from earlier drafts following public comment periods. They respond to directives in Executive Order 13653 - Preparing the United States for the Impacts of Climate Change (PDF, 8pp, 325kb). The final EPA Plan and the 17 Implementation Plans are living documents that will be periodically revised in subsequent years to account for new knowledge, data, scientific evidence, and lessons learned from the Agency's ongoing efforts to integrate climate adaptation planning into its programs, policies, rules and operations.

FACT SHEET: APEC Leaders Commit to Protect the Environment

The White House
November 11, 2014

With U.S. leadership, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum plays an important role in pursuing green and sustainable growth in the region. APEC has elevated initiatives and partnerships aimed at promoting environmental protection in a diverse set of areas including: addressing wildlife trafficking and illegal logging; sustainable management of ocean and coastal resources; energy efficiency and infrastructure for electric vehicles; responsible mining practices;

chemical health and safety cooperation; and trade in environmental goods, and aviation emissions.

[EPA Announces New Energy Star Tool for Homeowners to Save Money, Energy This Winter](#)

United States Environmental Protection Agency

December 8, 2014

Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is launching its Energy Star Home Advisor, an online tool designed to help Americans save money and energy by improving the energy efficiency of their homes through recommended, customized and prioritized home-improvement projects.

ARTICLES

[China, America, and Our Warming Planet](#)

by John Kerry

The New York Times

Today, President Obama and Chinese President Xi Jinping are jointly announcing targets to reduce carbon emissions in the post-2020 period. By doing this — together and well before the deadline established by the international community — we are encouraging other countries to put forward their own ambitious emissions reduction targets soon and to overcome traditional divisions so we can conclude a strong global climate agreement in 2015.