

The Most Anti-Climate Administration in History

A composite image featuring Donald Trump sitting at a desk and writing, superimposed over a background of a forest fire and industrial smokestacks. The scene is dominated by a warm, orange-red color palette, suggesting fire and pollution. In the foreground, Donald Trump is shown from the chest up, wearing a dark blue suit, a white shirt, and a red tie. He is looking down at a document on his desk, holding a pen in his right hand. The background is a dramatic scene of a forest fire, with tall, dark smokestacks emitting thick plumes of black smoke against a bright, hazy sky. The trees in the foreground are silhouetted against the intense light of the fire.

*President Trump's assault on climate action,
public health, and the environment*



A NOTE FROM CHAIRS OF THE Senate Climate Change Task Force

Climate change is the greatest challenge humankind faces. Recent scientific reports underscore just how little time we have to take action to avoid the worst impacts. Climate change is not just a threat to our future. We are bearing the tremendous costs of super-charged storms, flooding, drought and wildfires today.

This report highlights the magnitude of the Trump administration's betrayal of the American people through its attacks on clean water, clean air, and the federal government's ability to take action to address climate change and mitigate impacts already being experienced. Key federal agencies are taking numerous and unprecedented actions to weaken regulations that raise the efficiency of the vehicles Americans drive, reduce harmful emissions from the power sector, and protect our public lands from being handed over to the fossil fuel industry. Taken together, bedrock environmental and public health protections that keep families healthy are under assault as the Trump administration continues to take its cues from the fossil fuel industry. Entire government agencies are being run by former oil and coal industry lobbyists and executives who spent their careers advancing the interests of dirty energy industries, while well-funded front groups backed by special interests spread misinformation and sow doubt about climate science.

As the first two years of the Trump administration come to a close, it will be up to Congress to push back against the roll-back of crucial protections for our environment and our climate and to fight for investments in research and development that lead to the technologies that will help realize a clean energy future.

Science shows us that time is running short, but we can and must fight against these unrelenting assaults on climate action. The list of Trump administration misdeeds in this report cannot be exhaustive, as the Administration takes steps every day to weaken rules and undermine scientific inquiry. The need for action has never been greater. As a Congress and as a country, we must work together, on both sides of the aisle, to find solutions to this generational challenge of climate change, before it is too late.



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

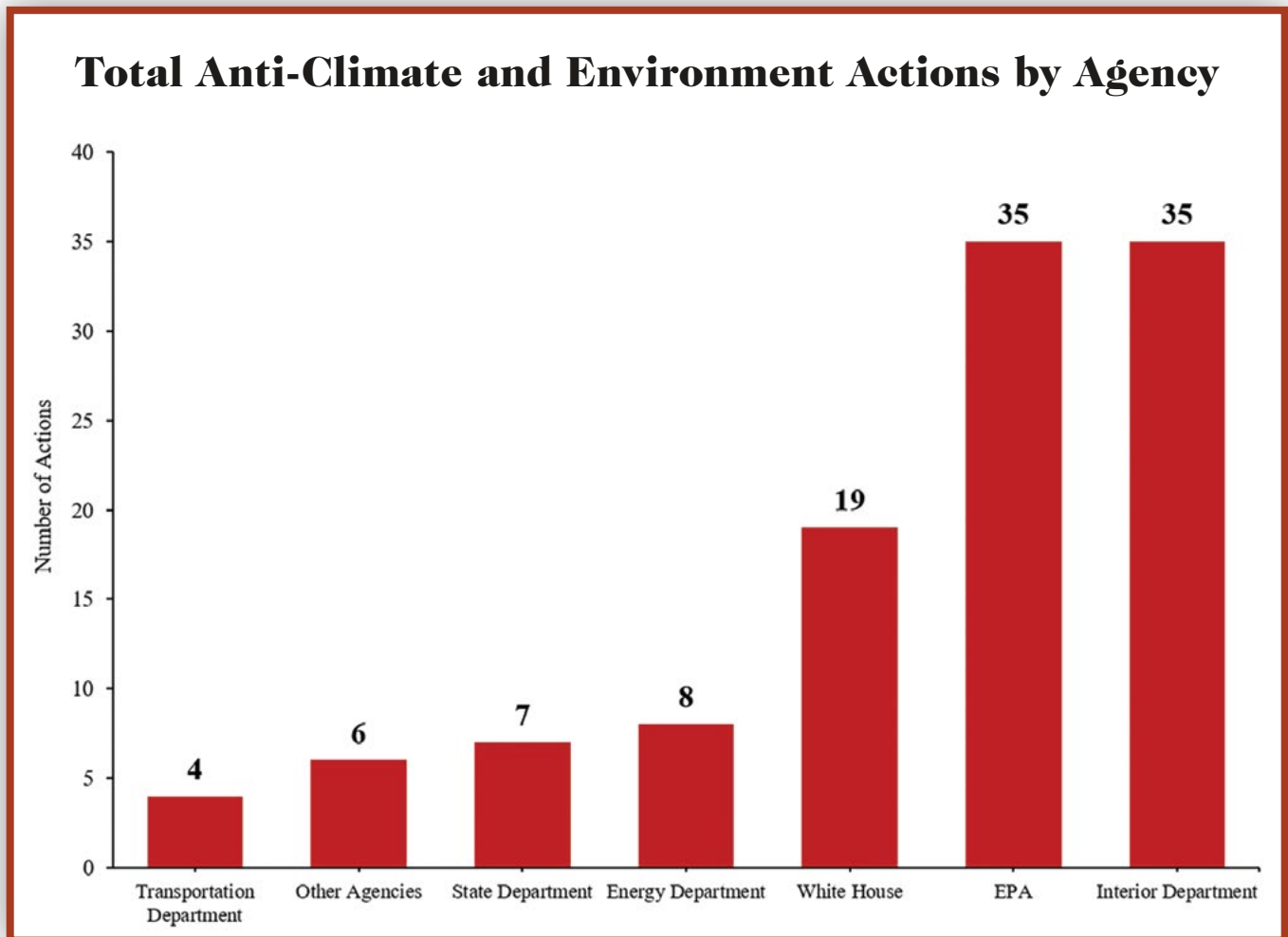


Sheldon Whitehouse
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Chairs of the Senate Climate Change Task Force

ANTI-CLIMATE ACTIONS ACROSS THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

The Trump administration is the most anti-climate and anti-environment in American history. In just 23 months, the Administration has taken at least 114 actions — more than one per week — to weaken environmental protections, undermine public health, and suppress science, all the while boosting profits for the oil and coal industries. Climate action has been a special target, accounting for more than 80 percent, or 92, of these damaging actions.



The Trump administration is waging war on virtually every type of environmental protection rule and climate regulation on the books. In fact, 48 of the actions taken against the climate and environment have been targeted at stopping or reversing implementation of rules or activities taken by the Obama administration.



This report, prepared by the offices of Senators Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.) and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.), both Chairs of the Senate Climate Change Task Force, compiles and summarizes the actions taken by President Donald Trump and his administration. This report draws on numerous other reports and databases.^{1,2,3,4,5,6,7}

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7. Union of Concerned Scientists, *Science Under Siege at the Department of The Interior (2018)*, <https://www.ucsusa.org/our-work/center-science-and-democracy/science-under-siege-department-interior-2018#.XBKzYeJ7mUl> (last visited Dec. 13, 2018).

ANTI-CLIMATE ACTIONS BY THE

Trump White House

The White House, including the Council on Environmental Quality and the Office of Science and Technology Policy, is responsible for protecting the public interest and the environment by leading federal government action on every issue — climate change, ocean policy, and environmental permitting.

President Trump's *Executive Order on Reducing Regulation and Controlling Regulatory Costs*, signed during his second week in office, directed that for every new regulation issued, two would have to be identified for elimination — another effort to slash environmental regulations. He has sought to weaken the National Environmental Policy Act and has directed the rolling back of the Waters of the United States (WOTUS), an Obama-era Clean Water Act rule giving the federal government authority to protect American waters from pollution. The Administration has

The **Trump White House** has taken **19 actions** that gut environmental protections and impede climate change action while continuing to promote fossil fuel extraction and allow increased pollution.



The Republican tax bill, signed into law by President Trump on December 22, 2018, lifted the 40-year ban on oil and gas drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, which provides critical habitat for polar bears, wolves, and caribou.





dismantled climate change initiatives through elimination of climate research programs, disbanding of key advisory committees, censorship of climate change information, and the announcement of its intention to withdraw the United States from the Paris climate agreement. Even with the increasingly dire findings from the recent study completed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the National Climate Assessment, President Trump has adamantly refused to acknowledge the imminent threats of a warming planet. When asked about the federal government's National Climate Assessment report, which included the conclusion that climate change will result in a ten percent loss in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 2100 if no action is taken, President Trump simply responded, "I don't believe it."



President Trump's August 2017 Executive Order revoked the Obama-era requirement that federally-funded infrastructure projects adhere to a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard that incorporates sea-level rise projections and other climate impacts.

ANTI-CLIMATE ACTIONS AT THE Environmental Protection Agency

Founded in 1976, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has a mission to protect human health and the environment. Over many years, the EPA has played a role in cleaning up our air, water, and environment, as well as taking critical actions to address climate change.

Although human activity is the dominant cause of the climate change observed over the past century, President Trump's EPA did not mention climate change once in its 2018-2022 strategic plan. President Trump's initial pick to lead the EPA, Scott Pruitt, never disclosed during the Senate confirmation process that he raised more than a million dollars from the energy and associated industries during political campaigns in Oklahoma, where his actions were in lockstep with those groups' interests. Under Pruitt's leadership, the EPA proposed to roll back vehicle greenhouse gas emissions standards and to delay a rule setting methane emissions standards for sources like fracking wells. The EPA also eliminated the Obama-era requirement for oil and gas companies to report information on methane emissions.

The Environmental Protection Agency has taken 35 actions that threaten the environment, scientific integrity, and human health.

Additionally, the EPA has refused to take action on a number of chemicals used in pesticides and a variety of consumer products that raise a multitude of health concerns. For example, in March 2017, the EPA rejected a petition calling for the ban of chlorpyrifos,



The EPA's proposed Clean Power Plan replacement, released on August 21, 2018, would lead to at least 12 times more carbon pollution over the next decade, not to mention increased emissions of harmful pollutants.

which has been linked to neurological damage in children. In April 2018, the EPA proposed a rule that would prevent the agency from considering key public health studies during its rulemaking.

Although Scott Pruitt has resigned, Acting EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler's record of lobbying for the coal industry — and his July 2018 signing of a regulation weakening coal ash storage regulations as one of his first actions — suggest that the EPA's assault on environmental protections will continue unabated under the Trump administration. The EPA continues to weaken climate action in the power and transportation sectors, the latter accounting for approximately two-thirds of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.

Dismantling the Clean Power Plan, rolling back national clean car standards, and taking away rules for reducing hydrofluorocarbons all undermine the agency's decades-long mission to protect Americans and the environment. First under Pruitt, and now under Wheeler, the EPA has been completely captured by the fossil fuel industry, whose deep pockets have funded an army of front groups to fight any regulation that threatens the future of oil, gas, and coal.



Under Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler, the EPA published a final rule in July 2018 weakening 2015 regulations to address the environmental and human health threats caused by toxic coal ash emitted from power plants.



Although more than 300 Superfund sites are vulnerable to sea level rise and other flooding, the EPA's Superfund Task Force report released in July 2017 didn't mention climate change even once.

ANTI-CLIMATE ACTIONS BY THE

Department of the Interior

The mission of the Department of the Interior (DOI) is to safeguard public lands and national monuments, and to ensure that future generations of Americans inherit a healthy, protected Earth.

The **Department of the Interior**, under the direction of Secretary Ryan Zinke, has taken **35 actions** that harm wildlife, boost coal and oil production, and threaten health.

But on his first day on the job in March 2017, Secretary Ryan Zinke issued an order reversing the ban on the use of lead ammunition and fishing tackle — a regulation meant to protect wildlife from lead poisoning — on more than 150,000 acres of National Wildlife Refuges. Under Secretary Zinke's watch, DOI halted a study being conducted by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine investigating the potential health risks for Americans living near surface coal mine sites, which have been associated with cancer and birth defects.



In October 2017, Interior Secretary Zinke announced the review of habitat protections put in place for the greater sage-grouse. The review could lead to a loss of protections for more than 50 million acres of Western lands to allow for future oil and gas development.



President Trump and Secretary Zinke have repeatedly called for a shrinking of national monuments established under the Antiquities Act, such as Bears Ears National Monument in Utah shown here. Lands no longer protected could be opened to drilling and mining activities.

In July 2017, Secretary Zinke signed a secretarial order to accelerate reviews of federal land parcels in order to enable quicker and more frequent oil and gas lease sales, allowing companies to stockpile public lands while impeding thorough examination of environmental and human health impacts. And six months later, Secretary Zinke announced a proposal to open up more than 90 percent of the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf to offshore drilling for oil and natural gas.



Following the 2010 Deepwater Horizon explosion, which killed 11 workers and led to the largest-ever oil spill, offshore drilling safety regulations were put in place to prevent future such disasters. In September 2018, the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement rolled back those regulations.

ANTI-CLIMATE ACTIONS BY THE

Department of State

Since the start of global climate negotiations in the 1990s, the State Department has been at the forefront of the effort to enact a strong, effective international climate agreement.

But in August 2017, then-Secretary of State Rex Tillerson announced that the United States would eliminate the position of U.S. Special Envoy for Climate Change. The position, established by President Obama and occupied until 2016, represented the United States in international climate negotiations that culminated with the Paris climate agreement.

And rather than focus on efforts to stop climate change, at international climate conferences held during the past two years, the Trump administration has hosted events that promote coal and other fossil fuels.

Trump's **State Department** has taken **seven actions** to hamstring the U.S.'s role in international climate action.



President Trump's 2017 announced withdrawal of the United States from the 2015 Paris climate agreement undermines global and national efforts to reduce warming impacts.

ANTI-CLIMATE ACTIONS BY THE

Department of Energy

Since its founding in 1977, the Department of Energy (DOE) has funded the research and development of alternative energy technologies, key solutions to solving the problem of climate change.

But during a closed meeting in March 2017, coal mine executive Bob Murray — who donated \$300,000 to Trump's inauguration and \$1 million to his leading super PAC — gave Secretary Rick Perry an “action plan” on how to rescue the coal industry at the expense of ratepayers and public health, which Secretary Perry subsequently moved to enact.

In September 2017, Secretary Perry then tried to force the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to take unprecedented action to prop up failing coal and nuclear plants through a massive subsidy. The Commission ultimately rejected this effort, but the Administration's intentions were clear and efforts continued. In June 2018, a draft memorandum leaked that illustrated a plan for the Department of Energy to use the Federal Power Act and the Defense Production Act to direct power purchases to failing coal and nuclear plants, an extraordinary attempt to enrich the coal industry at the expense of American ratepayers.

With Secretary Rick Perry at the helm, the **Department of Energy** has taken **eight actions** focused on damaging the environment and artificially propping up the coal industry.



Department of Energy Secretary Rick Perry is bent on reviving the lagging coal industry through subsidies and directed sales, despite clear economic indicators that the future of the dirty energy source is nonexistent.

Department of Transportation

Transportation now represents the largest greenhouse gas emitting sector of the U.S. economy, and the Department of Transportation (DOT) is responsible for making sure that laws to reduce those emissions are safely implemented.

In July 2017, the DOT tried to indefinitely delay a required increase in penalties for automakers who violated fuel economy standards, an attempt that was rejected by the courts. A few days later, Secretary Elaine Chao joined President Trump in announcing a plan to sidestep and weaken the environmental review process for infrastructure projects. In May 2018, DOT repealed an Obama-era rule that would have required reporting on how much greenhouse gas pollution was emitted by cars driving on federally-funded roadways. Most recently in August 2018, the DOT, in conjunction with the EPA, proposed freezing Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFÉ) standards at 2020 levels (37 miles per gallon) through model year 2026 for cars and light trucks. If adopted, this would roll back Obama-era rulemaking that would have gradually raised standards to 48 miles per gallon by 2025.

The **Department of Transportation**, under Secretary Elaine Chao, has taken **four actions** to weaken environmental review and to undermine efforts to monitor and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



In August 2018, the Department of Transportation and Environmental Protection Agency proposed to freeze vehicle fuel economy and emissions standards at 2020 levels through 2026, undermining significant efforts to reduce climate impacts from the transportation sector over the past decade.



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Appendix

*An agency-by-agency list of anti-climate,
anti-public health, and anti-environment
actions*



Trump: The Most Anti-Climate President in History

Date	Action	Notes
2/2/2017	Executive Order to Eliminate Regulations	President Trump signed an executive order directing that for every new regulation issued, at least two prior regulations should be identified for elimination. The order has been criticized as a transparent attempt to roll back environmental regulations, despite the fact that those regulations provide significant benefits to both the environment and the American people.
2/28/2017	Executive Order to Repeal the Waters of the United States Rule	President Trump signed an executive order directing the Environmental Protection Agency to review—and roll back—the Obama-era clean water rule known as the Waters of the United States, or WOTUS. The rule, established in 2015, gave the federal government authority to protect major water bodies, as well as the wetlands and streams that flow into them, from pollution.
3/28/2017	Executive Order to Dismantle the Clean Power Plan and Other Climate Policies	President Trump signed an executive order dismantling the climate change policies made during the Obama administration and lowering barriers for the fossil fuel industry. This order expedited the process for permitting domestic oil, natural gas, and coal production—potentially with environmental and human health impacts—and rescinded several actions and reports related to climate change preparedness and mitigation, including the Clean Power Plan and the method for calculating the “social cost of carbon.”
4/26/2017	Executive Order to Review National Monuments	President Trump signed an executive order instructing Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke to review as many as 40 national monuments designated under the Antiquities Act. No president has ever attempted to revoke a national monument established by a predecessor. The move could potentially open up these lands to oil and gas exploration, mining, and timber harvest.
4/28/2017	Executive Order to Expand Offshore Drilling	President Trump signed an executive order encouraging expanded offshore drilling for oil and gas, including in the Arctic, as well as a review of all national marine sanctuaries and marine monuments established under the Antiquities Act, in order to potentially open up those areas to drilling. The executive order moves to rescind or revise guidance on how manmade sound affects marine mammals and requests speedier reviews for Incidental Harassment Authorizations associated with drilling and seismic activities, which could have devastating effects for marine mammals like whales.

		The executive order also revoked an Obama-era executive order creating a Northern Bering Sea Climate Resilience Area in which oil and development were prohibited in order to conserve biodiversity, support Alaska Native tribes, and build a sustainable Arctic economy.
5/23/2017	Proposed FY18 Budget Includes Major Cuts to Climate Programs	President Trump’s proposed FY18 budget included cuts to numerous scientific programs, especially those that involve climate science and monitoring – a 61% cut to the Department of Energy’s earth and environmental systems sciences program, a 22% cut in the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration’s budget, and a 31% cut in the Environmental Protection Agency’s budget.
6/1/2017	Statement of Withdrawal from the Paris Agreement	In a statement , President Trump announced that the United States will withdraw from the Paris Climate Accord, an international agreement to combat climate change established in 2015. The U.S. is the only nation that will not be party to this agreement after November 2020.
8/15/2017	Executive Order to Rescind Updated Flood Standard	Trump signed an executive order revoking the requirement that federally funded infrastructure projects to adhere to a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard, which incorporates projected sea-level rise and other impacts due to climate change. Trump’s order, which allows for streamlining permitting of building practices, could result in wasted taxpayer money if projects are not built with the best possible data and projections in mind.
8/20/2017	Article Detailing the Disbanding of the National Climate Assessment	According to the Washington Post , The Trump Administration disbanded the 15-person Advisory Committee for the Sustained National Climate Assessment, which had been established in 2015 to improve policymakers and citizens use the National Climate Assessment for long-term planning.
9/18/2017	Memo Debating How to Address Climate Science	President Trump’s special assistant for domestic energy and environmental policy prepared a memo considering whether the Trump Administration should simply “ignore” climate-based research conducted by federal government scientists, or try to more actively undermine climate research through formal review or a “red team/blue team” exercise.” The administration has largely adopted the former strategy.
12/18/2017	U.S. National Security Strategy Removes Climate Change as a	Trump’s first update to the U.S. National Security Strategy removed climate change from its list of major security threats. The previous update of the National Security Strategy stated that “climate change is an urgent and growing threat to our national security, contributing to increased

	National Security Threat	natural disasters, refugee flows, and conflicts over basic resources like food and water.”
12/22/2017	Tax Bill Includes Provision Allowing Drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge	President Trump signed the Republican tax bill into law, which included a provision lifting the 40-year ban on drilling for oil and gas in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, home to gray wolves, caribou, polar bears, and other species.
1/10/2018	Report Details Censorship of Climate Web Resources	According to a report released by the Environmental and Governance Initiative , websites across federal government agencies removed or substantially reduced climate change content and replaced terms such as “climate change” and “greenhouse gases” with terms like “sustainability” and “emissions.” These changes made it harder for state, local, and tribal governments, policymakers, academics, and the general public to access valuable and accurate climate change information.
2/12/2018	Proposed FY19 Budget Includes More Major Cuts to Climate Programs	President Trump’s FY19 Budget Proposal and addendum included sweeping cuts to numerous programs dedicated to monitoring, adapting to, and mitigating climate change impacts—while increasing funding for fossil fuel programs. The proposed cuts included elimination of the U.S. State Department’s Global Climate Change Initiative, the elimination of several climate-related programs at the Environmental Protection Agency (part of a 40% overall reduction in the EPA Science and Technology budget), and a 40% cut to the Department of Energy’s Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.
5/9/2018	Article Reveals Cessation of Emissions Monitoring Program	The Trump administration, Science reports, ended NASA’s Carbon Monitoring System , which provided \$10 million annually in order to fund programs dedicated to improving the monitoring of global greenhouse gas emissions.
5/17/2018	Executive Order Revokes Obama-Era Guidance on Federal Emissions	President Trump signed an executive order revoking President Obama’s 2015 executive order , which had set a goal of reducing the federal government’s greenhouse gas emissions by 40 percent over the following ten years and which required federal agencies to develop plans for cutting emissions.
6/20/2018	ANPRM Solicits Comments on Revisions to the National	The Council on Environmental Quality published an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking soliciting comments on potential revisions to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), threatening to weaken environmental protections and

	Environmental Policy Act	to eliminate the transparency it provides to environmental decisions.
7/18/2018	White House Statement of Administration Policy Expresses Concern over Increased Funding for Science, EPA	In a Statement of Administration Policy regarding H.R. 6147, a “minibus” appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2019, the White House said that it was “concerned” that the Senate wanted to provide \$8.3 billion for the Environmental Protection Agency—\$2.2 billion higher than President Trump’s request. Among the White House’s specific concerns was the \$644 million request for the EPA’s Science and Technology Account, \$220 million above the President’s request.
November 2018	10-Year Vision for America’s Oceans Excludes Climate Change	A document produced by the National Science and Technology Council, entitled <i>Science and Technology for America’s Oceans: A Decadal Vision</i> , does not include a section on climate change. Climate change had featured prominently in the previous 10-year vision, released in 2007, and in an Obama administration update released in 2013.

Environmental Protection Agency

Date	Action	Notes
3/2/2017	Final Rule Eliminating Methane Reporting Requirements	Directly following a letter sent by 11 state attorneys general, EPA Administrator Pruitt eliminated the Obama-era requirement for oil and gas companies to report information on methane emissions.
3/29/17	Order Rejecting Chlorpyrifos Petition	Against the recommendation of its own scientists, the EPA rejected a petition asking it to ban the pesticide chlorpyrifos, which has been linked to health damage in farm workers and children.
6/28/17	Extension of Deadline for Ozone Designations	EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt tried to delay Obama-era rules to strengthen the national ozone standard and protect public health, although this move was later reversed.
7/25/17	Superfund Task Force Recommendations Exclude Climate Impacts	More than 300 Superfund sites are in flood-prone areas or areas at risk from sea-level rise, but the 34-page Superfund Task Force recommendations report did not mention climate change once.
9/4/2017	Protocol Requiring Political Review of Grant Solicitations and Awards	The EPA issued a new protocol requiring that all grant solicitations and awards be reviewed by John Konkus, Deputy Associate Administrator for Public Affairs in EPA’s Office of Public Affairs and a political appointee with little environmental policy experience. According to the Washington Post , Konkus told employees that he would be on the lookout for “the double C-word”—climate change.
10/31/17	Directive on Science Advisory Panels	EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt issued a directive that would keep scientists who work on issues for which they receive EPA grants from serving on science advisory boards, allowing him to stack these boards with his industry cronies instead.
11/08/17	Proposed Rule Delaying Methane Standards	The EPA proposed a rule that would delay the Methane Emissions Rule, which would have set emissions standards for sources like fracking wells.
11/16/17	Proposed Rule on Glider Vehicle Emissions	The Environmental Protection Agency proposed to repeal a rule applying emission standards to trailers and glider vehicles. Administrator Scott Pruitt is trying to undo this Obama-era rule that would have closed a loophole that allows

		gliders (new trucks with old engines) to emit as much as 40 times more dangerous pollution than new trucks.
12/1/17	Final Rule on Financial Responsibility for Mining Companies	The EPA reversed a rule that would have required companies mining non-coal minerals to be able to demonstrate that they could afford cleanup costs after the mine is closed.
12/7/17	Memo Weakening New Source Review Permitting Requirements	EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt issued a memo that limits the way the EPA will handle enforcement of hazardous air pollution from new stationary sources.
12/14/17	Agenda on Deregulatory Actions Includes Delay of Chemical Bans	In its Regulatory Agenda and Plan, the EPA indefinitely postponed Obama-era bans on three deadly chemicals used in paint strippers, dry-cleaning spot cleaners, and degreasing.
1/18/18	Approval of Permit Reducing Standards for Disposal of Coal Ash in Oklahoma	The EPA approved an application from the state of Oklahoma—Scott Pruitt’s home state--to dispose of coal ash into landfills and ponds according to state regulations instead of a stricter federal standards. Many expressed concern that the move will expose residents and the environment to toxic chemicals.
1/25/18	Memo Rescinding the “Once In Always In” Guidance	In a legal memo – not even through a new rule – the EPA threw out a policy that required major sources of toxic air pollution to implement the best available control technology, which will mean more arsenic, mercury, lead, and other dangerous chemicals in the air.
1/31/2018	Suspension of Obama Administration’s Waters of the United States Rule	According to the New York Times , EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt suspended the 2015 Waters of the United States rule, which had extended Clean Water Act protections beyond large waterways and held farmers and developers responsible for runoff pollution that they caused.
2/12/18	Proposed FY19 Budget Cuts Funding for Climate Change Programs	The requested budget for Fiscal Year 2019 would have cut the climate-change research program, voluntary emissions-reductions programs, and other key environmental services.
2/12/18	FY2018-2022 EPA Strategic	Despite the fact that human activity is the dominant cause of the climate change observed of the past century, the EPA did

	Plan Excludes Climate Change	not mention climate change once in its 2018-2022 strategic plan .
2/15/18	Enforcement Data for 2017 Shows Decline	The number of cases resolved and penalties levied on polluters by the EPA fell precipitously under Scott Pruitt’s leadership, with 44 percent fewer civil enforcement cases resolved than during the three previous administrations.
4/30/18	Proposed Rule Limiting Use of Scientific Studies	The Environmental Protection Agency proposed a rule that would prevent the agency from considering key public health studies during its rulemaking, because those studies include private health data not shared with the agency.
5/14/18	Released Emails Show EPA Concern over Study	According to internal EPA emails , senior leadership at the agency and at the White House worked to block the publication of a study done by another agency on the health risks of PFOA and PFAS, calling it a “public relations nightmare.”
5/30/18	Proposed Rule Weakening the Risk Management Program	The EPA issued a proposed rule to repeal changes made to the Risk Management Program that would have worked to prevent catastrophic incidents and improve emergency preparedness in communities near facilities that handle hazardous materials.
6/1/18	Problem Formulation Documents Exclude Exposure Sources	The EPA issued its formulations for chemical risk evaluations and announced it will exclude several avenues of exposure to dangerous chemicals from its evaluations, a move likely to cause it to severely underestimate the risks that these chemicals pose to the public.
6/7/18	Proposed Rule Changing Cost-Benefit Analyses of Environmental Policies	The Environmental Protection Agency issued a proposed rule seeking public comment regarding whether it should change the way it calculates the costs and benefits associated with its regulations. The proposed rule signaled a possible transition away from accounting for costs and benefits that are difficult to quantify—such as lives saved and environmental quality—and threatened to undervalue climate change-related policies, public health, and environmental protection.
7/6/2018	News Report that EPA Will Lift the Cap on Glider Sales	The EPA told manufacturers of “gliders”—trucks with old engines but new bodies—that it will not enforce the annual production cap of 300 gliders per manufacturer, according to the <i>New York Times</i> . This means that far more of these higher-polluting trucks can be created and sold, threatening air quality around the country.

7/17/2018	Final Rule Rolling Back Restrictions on Coal Ash Waste Storage	The EPA, under acting administrator Andrew Wheeler, issued a final rule weakening 2015 regulations to address toxic waste from burning coal. known as coal ash, which can harm wildlife and threaten human health. In order to provide “flexibility” for the coal industry, the rule loosened groundwater monitoring requirements to check for coal ash contamination, extended the lifespan of coal ash sites at risk for leaks, and gave states the authority to regulate levels of certain harmful contaminants.
8/2/18	Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Rolling Back Vehicle Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standards	The EPA and the Department of Transportation jointly announced a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that would freeze vehicle greenhouse gas emissions standards at 2020 levels through model year 2026 for cars and light trucks, rolling back Obama-era rulemaking that would have gradually lowered targets to 163 grams of carbon dioxide emitted per mile by 2025. In addition, the notice proposed revoking the waiver issued by the EPA to California that allows the state to set its own greenhouse gas emission standards, which have been adopted by twelve other states and the District of Columbia under the Clean Air Act.
8/21/2018	Proposal to Replace the Clean Power Plan and Boost the Coal Industry	The EPA proposed the Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) Rule , which would replace President Obama’s Clean Power Plan, delegate additional authority to states to regulate emissions, and provide coal plants with a means to avoid upgrading pollution controls. Compared the Clean Power Plan, which would have reduced energy sector carbon emissions by 32 percent by 2030, the ACE rule would result in a release of at least 12 times more carbon pollution over the next decade, in addition to increased emissions of harmful pollutants. The ACE rule would, compared to the Clean Power Plan, lead to up to 1,400 additional premature deaths, 120,000 cases of exacerbated asthma, and 140,000 school absences annually by 2030.
8/31/2018	Guidance Memorandum Weakening Cross-State Air Pollution Standards	The EPA released a guidance memorandum , not announced to the public, giving states the option to adopt looser air pollution standards than allowed under the Obama administration. Specifically, the new guidance allows for a state to emit 43 percent more pollution across state lines. Air pollution, commonly called smog, can have significant health impacts, especially among children. However, The EPA did

		not conduct any analyses concerning the health impacts of the guidance memorandum.
9/11/2018	Proposal to Roll Back Methane Leak Inspections and Repairs	The EPA released a proposal to weaken a 2016 rule requiring energy companies to regularly monitor their drilling equipment for leaks of the potent greenhouse gas methane, and to promptly repair any leaks that are discovered. The current rule requires inspections every six months and for identified leaks to be repaired within 30 days, but the proposed rule would only require inspections once per year and would allow 60 days for leaks to be repaired.
9/18/2018	Proposal to Roll Back Rules Regulating HFCs	The EPA issued a proposed rule to roll back a 2016 regulation that extended leak repair requirements to include appliances that use hydrofluorocarbons, or HFCs, which are commonly used as refrigerants and are potent greenhouse gases. The EPA estimated that the rollback would result in increased emissions equivalent to 3 million metrics tons of carbon dioxide annually—about the same as 650,000 passenger vehicles.
9/26/2018	Reorganization Announced that Will Weaken the Voices of Scientists	According to The Hill , the EPA’s Office of Research Development announced to staff that it would merge the Office of Science Policy and Office of the Science Advisor into a new Office of Science Integration and Policy. The merging of science and policy functions has been decried by the Union of Concerned Scientists as a means for science to become politicized and as a demotion of the EPA’s chief scientist.
10/4/2018	Proposed Rule to Roll Back Mercury Pollution Limits	The New York Times reported that EPA will soon issue a draft rule to revise the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS) rule finalized in 2012. The MATS rule for the first time placed national limits on the amount of toxic pollution, including mercury that can be emitted by power plants. The rollback would be considered a major victory for EPA Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler’s former boss Robert Murray of Murray Energy Corporation, one of the U.S.’s largest coal companies.
10/10/2018	Announcement to Disband Key Air	The New York Times reported that in 2019 the EPA will dissolve the Particulate Matter Review Panel consisting of 20

	Pollution Review Panel	experts that advise the agency on safe levels of airborne pollutants, which can cause respiratory problems. The EPA announced that the task of reviewing federal air pollution standards would instead fall to the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee, five of whose seven members are new, raising concerns that the Committee may lack the capacity and experience needed to appropriately review standards.
12/6/2018	Proposal to Boost Coal Production	The EPA released a proposal to revise 2015 emissions standards for coal-fired power plants, which would allow these plants to release 36 percent more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere for each megawatt-hour of output.
12/10/2018	News Article Detailing EPA Clean Air Chair's Close Ties to the Fossil Fuel Industry	According to E&E News , Tony Cox, who was appointed as chair of the EPA's Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee by then-Administrator Pruitt, was funded by the American Petroleum Institute, a fossil fuel lobbying group, for air pollution research and allowed the group to review and edit his work prior to its publication. Cox has been a critic of EPA air pollution regulations and has contended that claims of air pollution's negative impact on human health are overblown.
12/11/2018	Proposed Rule to Redefine Waters of the United States	The EPA announced a proposed rule to redefine the waters covered under the Clean Water Act to exclude wetlands not physically connected to larger waterways as well as streams that only flow after rainfall. The proposal would replace President Obama's 2015 Waters of the United States rule, which had expanded Clean Water Act protections for 2 million miles of streams and 20 million acres of wetlands, while also ensuring safe drinking water for millions of Americans.

Department of the Interior

Date	Action	Notes
3/2/2017	Secretarial Order Allowing Lead on Public Lands	During his first day on the job, Secretary Zinke issued a secretarial order reversing the ban on the use of lead ammunition and fishing tackle—meant to protect wildlife from lead poisoning—on more than 150,000 acres of National Wildlife Refuges.
3/29/2017	Secretarial Order Lifting the Ban on Federal Coal Leases	In a secretarial order , Secretary Zinke lifted the ban on new coal leasing on federal lands and suspended the review of royalty rates that ensure that those rates properly account for the climate impact of burning the mined coal.
4/19/2017	Report Details Removal of Climate Change from the DOI Website	According to Vice , the Department of Interior removed nearly every mention of climate change from its website .
5/22/2017	DOI Press Release Fails to Mention Climate Change’s Role in Coastal Flooding	According to the Washington Post , a Department of the Interior press release announcing research conducted by U.S. Geological Survey scientists and their collaborators failed to mention that climate change was the driver of the increased coastal flooding that the research predicted. According to the scientists involved in the study, the sentence, “Global climate change drives sea-level rise, increasing the frequency of coastal flooding,” had been in the draft press release but was then deleted.
5/31/2017	Secretarial Order Opening Up Alaska’s Wilderness to Drilling	Secretary Zinke signed a secretarial order to “jump-start” oil and natural gas production in Alaska, including within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, which is home to polar and grizzly bears, gray wolves, and caribou.
6/17/2017	News Report Revealing Expiry of Climate Advisory Committee	Secretary Zinke allowed the charter of the Department of Interior’s USGS Advisory Committee on Climate Change and Natural Resource Science to expire, according to E&E News . The 25-member Committee had been established in 2013 to provide the Secretary of the Interior with advice regarding natural resource management in the face of climate change.
7/6/2017	Secretarial Order Making it Easier to Drill on Public Lands	Secretary Zinke signed a secretarial order to accelerate reviews of federal land parcels in order to enable quicker and more frequent oil and gas lease sales. Specifically, the order directed officials to conduct reviews within 30 days (the average in 2016

		was 257 days), allowing oil and gas companies to stockpile public lands and resources.
8/16/2017	Article Detailing Rescission of Obama-Era Order to Manage Climate Change in National Parks	According to E&E News , National Park Service acting Director Michael Reynolds rescinded an Obama-era order to focus on climate change in managing America’s national parks.
8/16/2017	Press Release Announcing Repeal of Bottled Water Policy	In a news release , The National Park Service discontinued a 2011 policy that encouraged national parks to eliminate the sale of disposable water bottles. The decision came three weeks after the Senate confirmed David Bernhardt, a former lobbyist for a firm that represented Nestle Waters—one of the largest water bottling companies in the United States—as the Deputy Secretary of the Interior.
8/18/2017	Announcement that Surface Mining Study is Halted	According to an announcement on the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) website, the U.S. Department of the Interior’s Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement halted a \$1 million NASEM study being conducted to investigate the potential health risks for Americans living near surface coal mine sites in Central Appalachia. Such mining activities have previously been associated with serious public health problems in surrounding communities, including heart disease, cancer, and birth defects.
8/31/2017	DOI Memo Imposes Length Restrictions on Environmental Impact Assessments	A memo written by Deputy Secretary Bernhardt arbitrarily places a 150-page limit on Environmental Impact Statements required under the National Environmental Policy Act in order to “streamline the NEPA process.” Environmental groups criticized the new policy, highlighting its potential to allow for the approval of projects that threaten the environment and human health.
9/27/2017	Strategic Plan Does Not Mention Climate Change	A leaked draft of the Department of the Interior’s Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2018-2022 fails to mention climate change even once. The department’s Fiscal Year 2014-2018 Strategic Plan, by contrast, mentioned climate change 47 times.
10/23/2017	Press Release Announcing Record-Large Oil and Gas Lease Sale	In a press release , Secretary Zinke announced that the Department of the Interior is proposing an oil and gas lease sale of almost 80 million acres in the Gulf of Mexico—roughly the size of New Mexico.

11/16/2017	Secretarial Order Repealing Climate Policies	The Department of the Interior issues a Secretarial Order rescinding the Department's climate and mitigation policies.
12/5/2017	Report Recommending Shrinkage of Four National Monuments	Secretary Zinke released a report recommending that President Trump shrink the area of four national monuments established under the Antiquities Act, while also expanding allowable activities—such as hunting, fishing, and grazing—within monuments. The recommendation came a day after Trump slashed the size of two national monuments in Utah , Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante , by 85 percent and 46 percent, respectively. Lands no longer designated under the Antiquities Act could be opened up to mining and drilling.
12/21/2017	Announcement that Study of Offshore Drilling Inspections Program is Halted	The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) issued a statement indicating that the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) ordered NASEM to halt its study to review and update BSEE's offshore oil and gas operations program in order to enhance worker safety and environmental protection. BSEE did not provide a reason for suspending the study.
12/22/2017	Memorandum Removing Protections for Migratory Birds	The Department of the Interior issued a memorandum stating that it will no longer consider the accidental killing of birds to be a violation of the 100-year-old Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which protects over 1,000 species.
12/22/2017	New Policy Restricting the Number of USGS Scientists at Conference	According to the Washington Post , a new policy issued by the Department of the Interior capped the number of U.S. Geological Survey scientists who could attend the annual meeting of the American Geophysical Union at 199. The limit resulted in a 60% decrease in the number of U.S. Geological Survey scientists attending the conference, the largest such meeting in their field.
12/22/2017	Memorandum To Revisit Denied Mining Lease Renewal in Superior National Forest	The Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management issued a memorandum withdrawing the Bureau's December 2016 denial of Twin Metals Minnesota's application to renew of two leases to mine copper and nickel in Superior National Forest, near the Boundary Waters Canoe Wilderness Area. The Obama administration had decided not to renew the leases while a federal review of the mining's environmental impact was ongoing. The Washington Post reported that the owner of Twin Metals Minnesota's Chilean parent company also rents a

		Washington, DC home to President Trump’s daughter and son-in-law Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner.
12/28/2017	Memorandum Requiring Political Review of Grants	A memorandum directed that a political appointee at the Department of the Interior’s public affairs office approve all grants and cooperative agreements exceeding \$50,000 to institutions of higher education and non-profit institutions that engage in advocacy. The memorandum was widely criticized for politicizing the scientific grantmaking process and ensuring that approved projects align with the administration’s philosophy and priorities—Secretary Zinke’s “Top Ten Priorities” were included as an attachment to the memorandum.
12/29/2017	Final Rule Rescinding Fracking Regulations	The Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Land Management published a final rule rescinding a 2015 rule that would have set new well construction requirements, chemical disclosure standards, and other regulations for fracking on federal and tribal lands, including the requirement to obtain BLM approval.
1/4/2018	Draft Proposed Program on Offshore Drilling	Secretary Zinke announced a proposal to open up over 90% of the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf to offshore drilling for oil and natural gas. The announcement was followed by a series of sham public hearings by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, as well as Secretary Zinke’s arbitrary exclusion of Florida from the offshore drilling proposal under pressure from Florida Governor Rick Scott.
1/15/2018	Letter of Resignation from NPS Advisory Board	In a letter to Secretary Zinke, 10 of the 12 members of the National Park System’s Advisory Board, citizen advisors who help the National Park Service care for America’s special places, resigned due to Secretary Zinke’s refusal to meet with them.
2/21/2018	News Article Reporting Scientists’ Resignation Following Unreasonable Data Request	According to the Washington Post , two senior scientists at the U.S. Geological Survey resigned after being asked by Secretary Zinke to provide confidential data regarding the National Petroleum Reserve—Alaska before it was released to the public. The scientists claimed that such a request for advance sharing of commercially valuable information violated the U.S. Geological Survey’s scientific integrity policy.
3/2/2018	Emails Indicate that Oil Was a Motive for Shrinking National Monument	A series of emails and other documents obtained by the New York Times shows that oil and natural gas deposits played a central role in President Trump’s decision to shrink the Bears Ears National Monument in southeastern Utah.

6/22/2018	News Article on Censoring Scientists of the U.S. Geological Survey	According to The Hill , the Trump administration directed federal scientists in the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to get approval from the Department of the Interior, its parent agency, before speaking to reporters.
7/19/2018	Proposed Revisions to Weaken the Endangered Species Act	The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration announced proposed reforms that would remove key provisions of the Endangered Species Act. The proposal includes eliminating the practice of giving the nearly 300 threatened species the same protections as species listed under the Endangered Species Act, and striking language to ignore economic considerations when determining how to protect wildlife.
7/24/2018	Instruction Memo Eliminating Requirement for Companies to Account for Damaging Public Lands	An instruction memo issued by the Bureau of Land Management eliminated the requirement for companies who have damaged wildlife and habitat on public lands to pay into environmental restoration and protection funds to offset the damage. The policy, known as compensatory mitigation, had been expanded during the Obama administration.
7/28/2018	Deletion of Climate Change Webpage from Website	According to the Union of Concerned Scientists , the Department of the Interior's central clearinghouse webpage for climate change information disappeared from the department's website.
7/30/2018	Federal Register Notice Withdrawing Policy to Protect Natural Resources	The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published a notice in the Federal Register withdrawing the environmental mitigation policy of net conservation gain, which had been established during the Obama administration. Under the net conservation gain standard, the goal of the Service was to improve or at least maintain the status of affected natural resources when considering projects and permits.
9/18/2018	Final Rule Rolling Back Methane Regulations	The Bureau of Land Management announced a final rule rolling back regulations requiring oil and gas companies to minimize waste and to capture methane—a main component of natural gas that is 25 times more potent of a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide—released from oil and gas wells on public lands. In 2016, the Bureau of Land Management estimated that this regulations would prevent the release of 180,000 tons of methane emissions per year—equivalent to taking 950,000 cars off the road.
9/27/2018	Article Reports Final Rule	According to the New York Times , the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement has finalized proposed changes to

	Removing Protections for Oil Rig Workers and the Marine Environment	the Production Systems Safety Rule that would weaken the offshore drilling safety regulations by removing the requirement that offshore operators must have an independent third party certify that critical safety and pollution prevention equipment is operational and functioning under the most extreme conditions. The additional assurance provided by a third-party verifier was put into effect after the BP oil spill, in order to prevent future catastrophes.
9/28/2018	Secretarial Order Limiting the Research to be Used in Decision-making	A Secretarial Order entitled “Promoting Open Science” issued by Deputy Secretary Bernhardt directed staff at the Department of the Interior to rely on scientific studies based on publicly available raw data and analysis to inform decision-making. Critics argued that the rule could prevent the department from using studies based on sensitive information that is not made public in order to protect endangered species.
12/6/2018	Proposals to Cut Greater Sage-Grouse Protections to on Western Lands	According to the New York Times , The Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Land Management released proposals to open nine million acres of western lands to oil and gas drilling and mining activities by removing protections for the iconic greater sage-grouse. The move would open more lands to drilling than any other single action that the administration has taken. In 2015, drilling was banned or limited across 10.7 million acres to protect the bird, which under the new proposal would be slashed to 1.8 million acres.
12/10/2018	Article Detailing How Administration Downplayed Wildlife Impacts of Border Wall	According to the Washington Post , in 2017 federal scientists expressed concern about the potential harm that a border wall between the U.S. and Mexico in southern Texas could have on wildlife such as rare cats. However, officials at the Department of the Interior’s U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service omitted these concerns in a letter sent to U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

Department of State

Date	Action	Notes
3/23/2017	News Article Detailing Censoring Climate Change Online	According to Climate Central , The State Department's climate change page removed references to the United States' leadership in combating climate change on a global scale.
3/24/2017	Presidential Statement Approving the Keystone XL Pipeline	Trump's State Department gave final approval for the 1,200-mile pipeline connecting Canadian oil sands to Texan refineries and carrying up to 830,000 barrels of oil per day. President Obama rejected the pipeline proposal in 2015, arguing that the project would undercut efforts to combat climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
3/28/2017	FY18 Omnibus Excluding the Green Climate Fund	The FY18 omnibus spending bill eliminated funding for the Green Climate Fund, with explicit language barring funding going to the international institution in all of the budgets passed since Trump has been in office.
8/29/2017	Letter Detailing Elimination of Climate Negotiator Position	In a letter to Senator Bob Corker, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, Secretary of State Tillerson announced that the United States would eliminate the position of U.S. Special Envoy for Climate Change. The position, established by President Obama and occupied by Todd Stern until 2016, represented the United States in international climate negotiations. The letter also announced the elimination of the position of U.S. Special Representative for the Arctic Region, which represented U.S. interests in the Arctic.
11/13/2017	U.S. Panel at United Nations Conference Promotes Fossil Fuel Energy	At the 2017 Climate Change Conference (COP23) in Bonn, Germany, the only official appearance by the U.S. delegation was to lead a panel defending and promoting the use of fossil fuels
12/10/2018	U.S. Blocks Endorsement of Report on Global Warming	At the 2018 Climate Change Conference (COP24) in Katowice, Poland, the United States joined Russia, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait in blocking endorsement of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Special Report on 1.5°C, which concluded that net human-caused carbon dioxide emissions would need to be reduced to zero by 2050 in order to limit warming to 1.5°C (2.7°F).

12/10/2018	U.S. Touts “Clean Coal” at United Nations Conference	According to the <i>Washington Post</i> , at the 2018 Climate Change Conference (COP24) in Katowice, Poland, the United States hosted an event called “U.S. Innovative Technologies Spur Economic Dynamism,” which promoted the notion of “clean” fossil fuels rather than shifting to renewable energy.
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Department of Energy

Date	Action	Notes
3/27/17	Article Reveals New Policy for Use of “Climate Change”	The Department of Energy Office of International Climate and Clean Energy told agency employees not to use “climate change,” “emissions reduction,” or “Paris Agreement” in written memos, according to Politico .
3/29/17	News Report Covers Murray “Action Plan” on Coal	During a closed meeting , coal mine executive Bob Murray gave Energy Secretary Rick Perry an “action plan” on how to rescue the coal industry at the expense of ratepayers and public health; Perry subsequently moved to enact components of this plan.
4/6/17	News Report Details Removal of Climate Change from DOE Website	The Department of Energy webpage on climate change no longer linked to climate resources or mentions the historic Paris Climate Agreement.
9/29/17	Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Directs FERC to Subsidize Coal and Nuclear Power	Secretary Perry tried to force the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to take an unprecedented action and prop up failing coal and nuclear plants through a massive subsidy. The Commission unanimously rejected this effort.
2/12/18	Proposed FY19 Budget Cuts Clean Energy Funding	The Department of Energy budget request for Fiscal Year 2019 sought to zero out ARPA-E and cut the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy by two-thirds.
4/5/18	Complaint Filed by Murray Meeting Whistleblower	A Department of Energy staffer alleged that he was fired after sharing photos of a chummy March 2017 meeting between coal magnate Bob Murray – who donated thousands of dollars to both Rick Perry and Donald Trump’s campaigns – and Energy Secretary Rick Perry.
5/29/18	Memo on Additional Coal/Nuclear Bailout Strategies	A draft memo illustrated a plan for the Department of Energy to use the Federal Power Act and the Defense Production Act to direct power purchases to failing coal and nuclear plants, an extraordinary attempt to enrich Big Coal at the expense of American ratepayers.
8/8/18	Accidentally Posted Document	The Washington Post reported that the Department of Energy is proposing to roll back an Obama-era rule expanding the types of

	Proposing Repeal of Expanded Lightbulb Efficiency Standard	lightbulbs subject to energy efficiency requirements, which would reduce greenhouse gas emissions while saving consumers money.
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Department of Transportation

Date	Action	Notes
7/12/17	Final Rule Delaying Update of Fuel Economy Penalties	The Department of Transportation tried to indefinitely delay a required increase in penalties for automakers who violated the fuel economy standards – an attempt that was rejected by the courts.
7/15/17	Press Conference Announcing Executive Order Repealing Environmental Protections	Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao joined President Trump in announcing their plan to sidestep and steamroll the environmental review process for infrastructure projects.
5/31/18	Final Rule Repealing the Highway Climate Metric	The Department of Transportation repealed an Obama-era rule that would have required reporting on how much greenhouse gas pollution was emitted by cars driving on federally-funded roadways.
8/2/18	Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Rolling Back Fuel Economy Standards	The Department of Transportation and the Environmental Protection Agency jointly announced a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that would freeze Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards at 2020 levels (37 miles per gallon) through model year 2026 for cars and light trucks. If adopted, this action would roll back Obama-era rulemaking that would have gradually raised standards to 54.5 miles per gallon by 2025.

Other Federal Agencies

Date	Action	Notes
2/27/2017	Army Announces Approval of Dakota Access Pipeline	The Army approved the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline, whose proposed route ran within a mile of the Standard Rock Sioux Tribe reservation, threatening the poison the tribe’s drinking water while also running through sacred ancestral lands. The 1,200 mile pipeline would have carried 470,000 barrels of oil per day.
6/2017	USAID Strips Any Mention of Climate Change From Its Annual Report	The 2017 U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan Summary , obtained by E&E News in July 2018, did not include a single mention of “climate” or “climate change.” The 2016 version of the report, meanwhile, included climate change adaptation as a priority, and mentioned that USAID had been taking action to increase resilience to climate change while also integrating climate initiatives into USAID programming and operations.
6/5/2017	Memo Prohibiting Settlement Payments to Third Parties	Attorney General Jeff Sessions wrote a memorandum prohibiting settlements paid by companies that committed wrongdoing from being used to fund third-party projects, including environmental projects. After the BP oil spill, for example, money from the company’s settlement was used to fund coastal restoration projects, not all of which were directly related to the spill. With such activities no longer permitted, settlement money would instead go directly to the U.S. Treasury or the company’s victims.
7/2/2017	Treasury Department Sustainability Report Ignores Climate Change	The U.S. Department of Treasury’s July 2017 draft sustainability report, obtained by E&E News in July 2018, removed “climate change resilience” as one of its goals. It had been included in the 2016 report. Climate change was not mentioned once in the 2017 draft report’s 34 pages, nor were previously included mentions of programs to safeguard vulnerable populations from the effects of climate change, protect Treasury Department buildings from flooding, and incentivize climate change preparedness outside the department.
1/26/2018	News Article Reporting that an Environmental Review of Mining’s Impact on	According to the Washington Post , the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s U.S. Forest Service announced that it would conduct only an abbreviated version of a study investigating the potential environmental impact of copper and nickel mining in 234,000 acres of federal land near Minnesota’s Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. The initial study had been launched in the final days of the Obama administration, which at the same

	Minnesota's Wilderness is Scaled Down	time had imposed a two-year mining ban in the area and announced that it would review whether to ban mining in the area for the next 20 years.
9/6/2018	News Article Reporting Cancellation of Environmental Review of Mining's Impact on Minnesota's Wilderness	According to E&E News , the U.S. Department of Agriculture's U.S. Forest Service, at the behest of the Department of the Interior, cancelled the previously downsized environmental assessment of the potential impacts of copper and nickel mining in 234,000 acres of federal land in Minnesota. The move paved the way for mining in the area, which is near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, without a scientific understanding of what detrimental impacts could result.