

DWR Climate News Digest

March 2017

Disclaimer: The information and links provided on this web page are not intended to state or imply any formal position of the California Department of Water Resources

The information provided in the DWR Climate News Digest is a selected compilation of recent popular news articles, publications, and other information relevant to climate change and water management, and is intended to provide educational and thought-provoking material for water managers and water users.

To subscribe to the DWR Climate News listserv and receive notifications when new editions are posted, send an email to: climatechange@water.ca.gov.

TOPICS [Find older items in the [Climate News Archive](#)]

Reports

[Climate Change, Water Security, and U.S. National Security](#) (pdf)

[Center for American Progress – March 22, 2017]

Agriculture/Food Production

[How you can mitigate climate change](#) [Agriculture.com – March 13, 2017]

[Climate change-driven famine poses global security threat](#) [CBS News – March 29, 2017]

(“The effects of climate change – and drought in particular – are already affecting 1.4 million children who face imminent risk of death from severe acute malnutrition as the famine spreads. In Ethiopia alone...we anticipate that more than 9 million people will be without safe drinking water in 2017.”)

General Water Management

[California water regulators expand focus on climate change](#) [The Desert Sun – March 9, 2017]

[Sierra snowpack: As world’s climate warms, California most important water source becomes less reliable](#) [Sierra Sun – March 15, 2017]

Extreme Weather Events

[February's unusual heat has climate change link, scientists find](#)

[Inside Climate News – March 8, 2017] (*"A new rapid analysis has concluded that climate change has made winter swelters like the one experienced this February in the United States at least three times more likely."*)

[How climate change may be driving extreme weather](#)

[Christian Science Monitor – March 27, 2017] (*"...climate change is changing the behavior of the jet stream in a way that favors more extreme persistent weather anomalies."*)

Sea-level Rise and other Ocean Impacts

[Rate of ocean warming has nearly doubled over two decades, study says](#)

[Inside Climate News – March 11, 2017]

[Climate change and sea level rise could deliver regular flooding to Europe](#)

[Clean Technica – March 29, 2017]

Water/Energy Nexus

[ASU study shows effect of climate change on food, energy and water across Southwest](#)

[Arizona State University – March 27, 2017] (*"One of the main things to take away from this is there's a connection between energy and water in agriculture, and that connection is vulnerable to climate change."*)

Human Health Impacts

[Depression, anxiety, PTSD: The mental impact of climate change](#) [CNN – March 14, 2017]

[Map shows how climate change will affect health across the US](#)

[Live Science – March 15, 2017]

[The climate change problem no one talks about: Anxiety and depression](#)

[Time – March 30, 2017]

Tribal Impacts & Traditional Ecological Knowledge

[Tapping traditional wisdom to cope with climate change](#) [Inside Science – March 28, 2017]

(“To understand what’s happening to our planet, researchers need data from instruments like thermometers and barometers. But sometimes, they also need human beings -- indigenous people whose history and experience grants them an intimate knowledge of the Earth.”)

Wildlife and Ecosystem Impacts

[Congress targets species act and its climate benefits](#) [Climate Central – March 6, 2017]

Greenhouse Gas Mitigation

[Diet and global climate change](#) [Science Daily – March 8, 2017] *(“In terms of climate policy, the healthier diets could contribute up to 23 percent of the U.S. Climate Action Plan goal to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions 17 percent below 2005 levels by 2020...the diets could generate up to 134 percent of California’s goal of reaching 1990 emission levels by 2020.”)*

[How federal fuel-efficiency rules help fight climate change](#) [Pacific Standard – March 16, 2017]

[Trump repeal of climate rules means U.S. Paris target now out of reach](#)

[Inside Climate News – March 20, 2017]

Climate Adaptation

[Insurance-related solutions in the adaptation to climate change](#)

[Huffington Post – March 15, 2017] *(“The possible role of insurance represents a positive and optimistic step forward through the adaptation of a conventional tool for risk management to serve those most vulnerable.”)*

[Climate change is happening now – here’s eight things we can do to adapt to it](#)

[The Guardian – March 21, 2017] *(“Regardless of where you stand on the political spectrum, it is essential that we all understand that the climate is changing and it is in our collective interest to immediately begin adapting and mitigating. The stakes are simply too high for inaction.”)*

International Planning

[Pakistan’s unheralded fight against climate change](#) [The Wire – March 12, 2017]

[Philippines joins the Paris Agreement on Climate Change](#) [NRDC – March 17, 2017]

DWR Climate News Digest – March 2017

[China poised for leadership on climate change after U.S. reversal](#)

[National Geographic – March 28, 2017]

[The curious disappearance of climate change, from Brexit to Berlin](#)

[The Guardian – March 30, 2017]

Communicating Climate Change

[How to talk climate change across the aisle: Focus on adaptive solutions rather than causes](#)

[The Conversation – March 1, 2017]

[How we know that climate change is happening – and that humans are causing it](#)

[Popular Science – March 9, 2017]

[Communicating climate change: Focus on the framing, not just the facts](#)

[Salon – March 12, 2017]

[Bringing values, not just facts, to the climate fight](#) [Harvard – March 30, 2017] (*“In a talk Wednesday at the Science Center, [Naomi] Oreskes offered historical examples, from Albert Einstein’s advocacy for nuclear arms control to Sherwood Rowland’s clamoring for action to stop the ozone hole, of scientists who called attention to a threat poorly understood by the public without sacrificing their scientific integrity.”*)

BLOGS/Commentary

Oren Cass on [“Trump is wrong on climate change”](#) [Fox News – March 29, 2017]

Additional Items of Interest

[In Portland, one plan tackles climate change and racial discrimination](#)

[Governing – March 2017] (*“Studies have repeatedly shown that communities of color are exposed to more air pollution than their white, non-Hispanic counterparts; that landfills, hazardous waste sites and other industrial facilities are most often located in minority communities; and that climate change and water contamination disproportionately affect such neighborhoods.”*)

[EPA head Scott Pruitt doubts basic consensus on climate change](#) [NPR – March 9, 2017]

[Meteorologists refute EPA head on climate change](#) [The Hill – March 13, 2017]

[Pictures show climate change’s dramatic Arctic impact](#)

[National Geographic – March 13, 2017]

DWR Climate News Digest – March 2017

[Climate change puts California's snowpack in jeopardy in future droughts](#)

[Yubanet – March 13, 2017] (*"...the Sierra Nevada snowpack during the 2011 to 2015 drought was 25 percent below what it would have been without human-induced warming. The effect was even worse at elevations below 8,000 feet, where snow decreased by up to 43 percent."*)

[These photos force you to look the victims of climate change in the eye](#)

[Popular Science – March 13, 2017]

[Atmospheric carbon dioxide hits record levels](#) [Scientific American – March 14, 2017]

[Republicans break ranks with pledge to fight climate change](#) [Bloomberg – March 15, 2017]

("Called the "Republican Climate Resolution" by supporters, the statement by House members takes about 450 words to mention conservative thought on environmentalism, support for climate science, feared impacts, and a call for economically viable policy. They pledge in general terms to support study and mitigation measures, "using our tradition of American ingenuity, innovation, and exceptionalism.")

[Trump's defense secretary cites climate change as national security challenge](#)

[Scientific American – March 16, 2017]

[These climate programs would be axed under Trump's budget](#)

[Inside Climate News – March 16, 2017]

[Fighting climate change isn't a 'waste of money' – it's a good investment](#)

[The Verge – March 16, 2017]

['Come west, California is hiring': State recruits EPA climate scientists](#) [KQED – March 16, 2017]

[Record-breaking climate change pushes world into 'uncharted territory'](#)

[The Guardian – March 20, 2017] (*"2016 saw the hottest global average among thermometer measurements stretching back to 1880. But scientific research indicates the world was last this warm about [115,000 years ago](#) and that the planet has not experienced such high levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere for [4m years](#)."*)

[How Americans think about climate change, in six maps](#) [New York Times – March 21, 2017]

[The State Dept. rewrote its climate change page](#) [Climate Central – March 23, 2017]

[What Californians believe about climate change](#) [The Sacramento Bee – March 24, 2017]

(“...many Californians falsely believe climate scientists are in broad disagreement over whether global warming is real. In 2007, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the leading international network of climate scientists, released an assessment report that concluded that the existence of global warming is “unequivocal.” Even so, 45 percent of Californians said they do not believe there is a consensus among climate scientists that global warming is occurring.”)

[Climate change pushes world into ‘uncharted territory’](#) [Climate Central – March 26, 2017]

(“The record-breaking heat that made 2016 the hottest year ever recorded has continued into 2017, pushing the world into ‘truly uncharted territory’, according to the World Meteorological Organization.”)

[When is it time to retreat from climate change?](#) [The New Yorker – March 27, 2017] (“Well

more than a hundred million people are expected to face displacement by rising seas before the end of the century.”)

[The cost of curbing climate change](#) [US News and World Report – March 28, 2017] (“The

federal government has used benefit-cost analysis to calculate society bottom line from regulations for decades. So far, the Trump administration appears to be focused solely on costs – an approach that maximizes the corporate bottom line, but leaves the public out of the equation.”)

[Can intergenerational cooperation defeat climate change?](#) [Science Daily – March 28, 2017]

(“Importantly, however, the authors do not see older adults solely as victims of climate change but also as leaders of climate action,” Smyer said. “The time is now for that action -- those 60 and above have time, talent, and a desire for a sense of purpose as they reap the benefits of their longevity bonus.”)

[‘Climate change is real’: Companies challenge Trump’s reversal of policy](#)

[The Guardian – March 29, 2017] (“Mars Inc., Staples, The Gap and others speak out against Trump’s sweeping executive order that begins to dismantle Obama’s Clean Power Plan”)

[US Energy Department tells staff to stop using the phrases ‘climate change’ and ‘Paris Agreement’](#) [Independent – March 30, 2017]

[Climate change incited wars among the Classic Maya](#) [March 31, 2017]

Images to Ponder

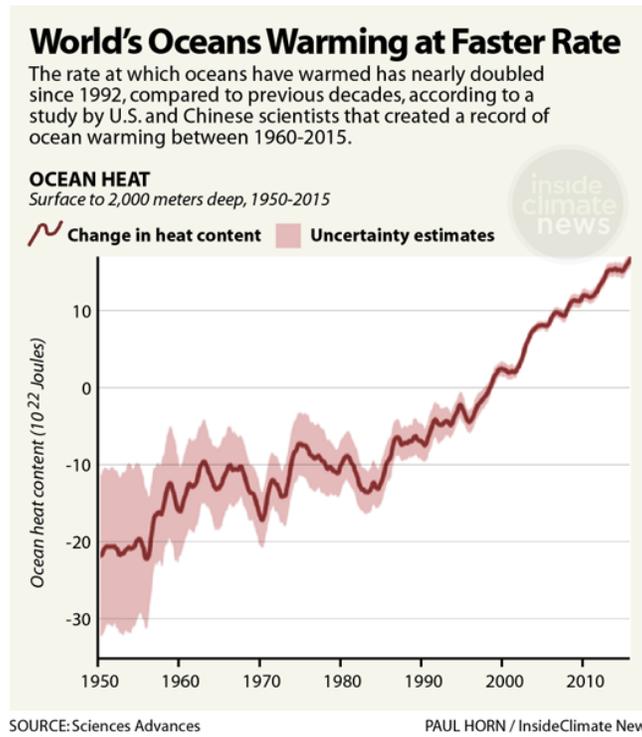


Image source: <https://insideclimatenews.org/news/10032017/global-warming-oceans-climate-change-noaa>

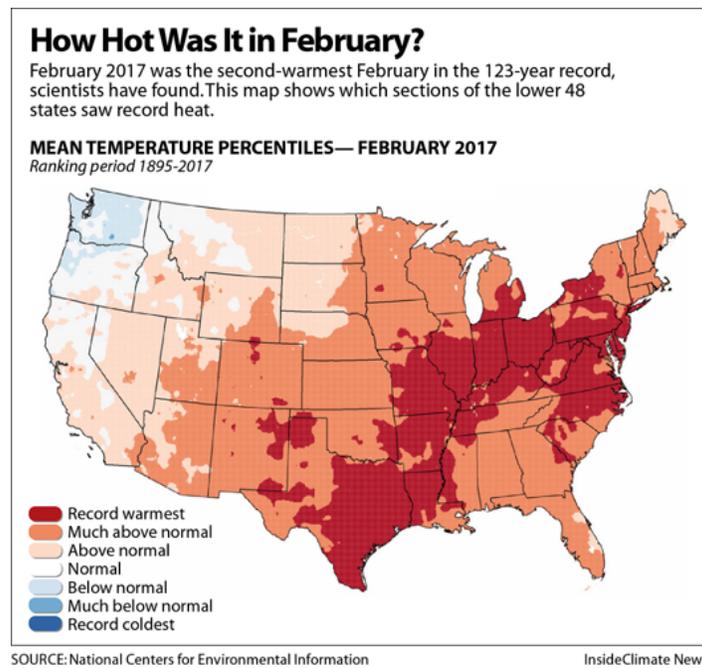


Image source: <https://insideclimatenews.org/news/08032017/climate-change-scientists-heat-wave-february-global-warming>

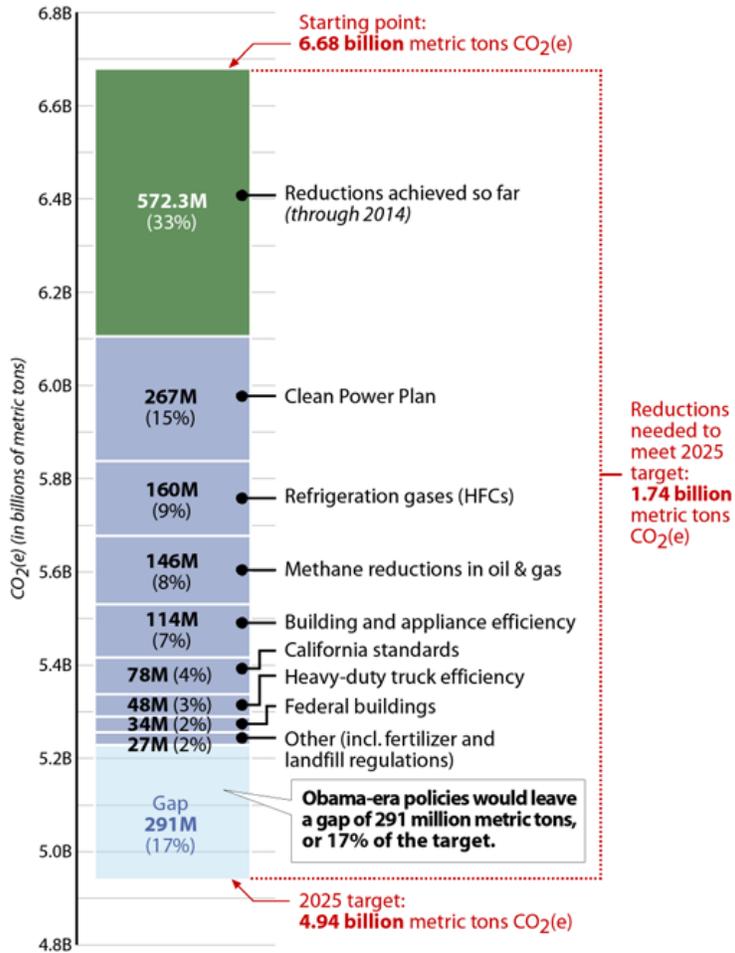
Under Trump, Chances Fade for Paris Target

If the Trump administration fulfills its promise to weaken and undo President Obama's climate policies, then the United States would have virtually no chance of meeting its Paris pledge of a 26-28 percent cut in emissions by 2025. That's because even if fully implemented, Obama's climate regulations—combined with reductions already achieved—would only get the nation about 80 percent of the way to the target.



ESTIMATED EMISSIONS CUTS FROM OBAMA-ERA POLICIES

Millions/billions of metric tons CO₂(e)



SOURCES: EPA; Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

PAUL HORN / InsideClimate News

Image source: <https://insideclimatenews.org/news/20032017/paris-climate-agreement-donald-trump-global-warming-clean-power-plan>

Current and past editions of the DWR Climate News Digest can be viewed and downloaded at: <http://www.water.ca.gov/climatechange/news.cfm>. Please email questions, comments, or listserv subscription requests to: climatechange@water.ca.gov.