

# Climate Policy Update

April 22, 2024

Good afternoon!

This is Akin's newsletter on climate change policy and regulatory developments, providing information on major climate policy headlines from the past two weeks and forthcoming climate-related events and hearings:

## National

- **[Biden Earth Day Event Will Try to Reach Young Voters, a Crucial Bloc](#)** (*New York Times*)

On Earth Day, President Joe Biden is slated to visit a national park in Virginia to “spotlight his clean energy investments, with an eye on bolstering support among young voters disillusioned with their choices for the 2024 election.”

- **[Lawmakers Cinch Verbal Deal on Advanced Nuclear Package](#)** (*E&E Daily*)

The House Energy and Commerce Committee and Senate Environment and Public Works Committee struck a deal on nuclear energy legislation after “closed-door negotiations to develop a compromise between two pieces of legislation designed to speed up the Nuclear Regulatory Commission licensing process and generally streamline regulations to promote next-generation reactors.” While a verbal agreement has been reached among the four corners, there are no concrete plans to draft and release a package yet.

- **[Oversight Republicans Set Hearing on LNG Export Pause](#)** (*E&E News*)

The House Oversight and Accountability Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Energy Policy and Regulatory Affairs is holding a hearing as part of “their barrage against President Joe Biden’s liquefied natural gas export permitting pause.”

- **[House Republicans Examine Biden’s Offshore Oil Estimates](#)** (*E&E News*)

The House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources will hold a hearing to “probe the accuracy of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management’s recent update on how much pool and natural gas could be drilled offshore.”

- **[Resolutions Targeting Bank Climate Rules Up for Markup](#)** (*E&E News*)

The House Financial Services Committee is slated to approve “four Congressional Review Act resolutions targeting new federal rules and guidance on climate change.” Specifically, the measures will

target the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the Office of the Comptroller of Currency, the Federal Reserve and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

## State and Local

- **Environmental Groups Sue Maine, Claiming State Has Failed to Comply with Climate Law** (*Portland Press Herald*)

The Conservation Law Foundation, Sierra Club and Maine Youth Action sued Maine's Department of Environmental Protection and Board of Environmental Protection for "failing to comply with targets for reduced greenhouse gas emissions."

- **States Seek Stay of Methane Rule** (*E&E News*)

Twenty-four attorneys general filed a motion with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit "to stay implementation of [the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA)] recently issued methane emission regulations for oil and gas operations."

- **Avoiding Full Veto, Youngkin Sends Lawmakers 233 Budget Amendments** (*Virginia Mercury*)

Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R-VA) released a package of 233 budget amendments, including language to "block the state from re-entering the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, a carbon market aimed at incentivizing reducing carbon emissions."

- **Vital Climate Tool or License to Pollute? The Battle Over California's First Carbon Capture Project** (*CalMatters*)

California Resources Corporation is seeking approval from EPA and the Kern County Board of Supervisors for a project that would "inject 1.46 million metric tons of carbon dioxide a year over a 26-year period into an underground reservoir."

## International

- **Europe's Demand for LNG Set to Peak in 2024 as Crisis Fades** (*E&E News*)

The European Union's (EU) "demand for liquefied natural gas, which provided a key lifeline during the energy crisis, will likely peak this year as the region accelerates its renewable energy transition."

- **COP29 Needs to Focus on Aiding Poorer Nations, Says Incoming President** (*E&E News*)

Mukhtar Babayev—Azerbaijan's environmental minister—underscored that the Conference of Parties 29 (COP29) "must help pave the way for countries to come together in 2025 on beefed-up plans to clamp down on heat-trapping gases."

- **European Climate Report Warns of Growing Health Risks** (*E&E News*)

The World Meteorological Organization released a report warning "that European nations must do more to address the rapidly rising human health impacts posed by climate change."

- **Carbon Markets Proliferate Worldwide – Report** (*E&E News*)

International Climate Action Partnership (ICAP) issued a report detailing that “three dozen emissions trading systems are now operating worldwide, raising \$74 billion in revenue last year.”

- **Geopolitical Squabbles Stymie World Bank Climate Action** (*Politico*)

During the World Bank’s spring meeting, it is anticipated that discussions will center on “how much money the bank can rally from the United States and other rich countries” to determine “how quickly governments can move to slash planet-warming gases.”

- **Verdict Saying Switzerland Violated Rights By Failing On Climate Action Could Ripple Across Europe** (*Associated Press*)

The European Court of Human Rights ruled that “countries must better protect their people from the consequences of climate change, siding with a group of older Swiss women against their government in a landmark ruling that could have implications across the continent.”

Check out below for key quotes, federal agency news, and a look at the week ahead in congressional hearings and think tank events:

## Quote of the Week

“We have to change the laws and policies. We must stop subsidizing. We have to put a tax on carbon, as we have already put a tax on methane. So-called carbon border adjustment mechanisms rising up elsewhere in the world offer a pathway to do that.” – *Former Vice President Al Gore (New York Times – April 15)*

## Congressional Hearings (April 23 - 26, 2024)

### Senate

*No relevant Senate hearings.*

### House of Representatives

*No relevant House hearings.*

## Federal Agency Climate News

### Department of Energy

**Biden-Harris Administration Announces First Projects Receiving Clean Energy Manufacturing Investments in America’s Industrial and Energy Communities** (April 19)

**DOE Releases First-Ever Roadmap to Accelerate Connecting More Clean Energy Projects to the Nation’s Electric Grid** (April 17)

**DOE Releases New Report on Accelerating Deployment of Grid Solutions to Lower Costs and Improve Reliability** (April 16)

### Environmental Protection Agency

**EPA Publishes Annual US Greenhouse Gas Inventory** (April 11)

### Department of Interior

**Biden-Harris Administration Announces More Than \$140 Million to Address Legacy Pollution, Revitalize Coal Communities in West Virginia** (April 22)

**Interior Department Takes Action to Protect Taxpayers from Offshore Oil and Gas Decommissioning Costs** (April 15)

## White House

[President Biden Marks Earth Day 2024 with Historic Climate Action](#) (April 22)

## Funding and Comment Opportunities

[Solar and Wind Interconnection for Future Transmission](#)

Department of Energy

Close Date: June 28, 2024

[Advanced Manufacturing and Recycling Program](#)

Department of Energy

Close Date: June 24, 2024

## D.C. Climate Events

[Innovations in Climate Resilience Conference](#)

Wilson Center

Monday, April 22, 8:00 AM ET

[Energy Security and Geopolitics](#)

Center for Strategic and International Studies

Tuesday, April 23 10:45 AM ET

For more information, please contact your regular Akin lawyer or advisor, or:

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