

Climate Policy Update

March 27, 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 week and forthcoming climate-related events and hearings:

National

- [Treasury Inks New Offshore Wind Guidance to Calm Fretting Industry](#) (*E&E News*)

The Treasury Department issued guidance to assist “offshore wind projects secure a bonus tax credit inked in the Inflation Reduction Act [(P.L. 117-169; IRA)] for locating in fossil fuel communities.”

- [In a Boost for EVs, EPA Finalizes Strict New Limits on Tailpipe Emissions](#) (*NPR*)

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized “strict new rules on vehicle emissions that will push the auto industry to accelerate its transition to electric vehicles.”

- [Dems Join Republicans to Pass Anti-Carbon Tax Measure](#) (*E&E News*)

The House greenlit a “messaging measure”, H. Con. Res 86, which represents a “nonbinding resolution to disapprove of a carbon tax.” Such a tax has proven to be politically toxic, “both for Republicans who care about lowering greenhouse gas emissions and Democrats in swing districts and tough election fights.”

- [House Passes GOP Bill Repealing Biden Climate Programs](#) (*E&E News*)

On a party-line vote, the House approved a measure to repeal the IRA's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund which “distributes \$27 billion in grants to help fund clean energy projects in low-income areas and communities of color that often fact the worst effects of pollution and struggle to attract private sector financing.”

State and Local

- [A New York Bill Seeks to Reduce Natural Gas Use. Here's What to Know.](#) (*New York Times*)

The New York Home Energy Affordable Transition Act (NY HEAT Act)—which seeks to “break New Yorkers’ reliance on natural gas in hopes that they will seek out greener alternatives”—is picking up steam ahead of the state budget’s deadline on April 1.

- **[VA Session Ends with Bipartisan Support on Environmental Bills](#)** (*Bay Journal*)

The Virginia budget includes “language that requires Virginia to rejoin the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative [(RGGI)].” Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R-VA) has until April 8 to sign off on the budget.

- **[Shapiro’s Alternative to a Key Climate Program Comes with One Major Catch: It Needs GOP Support](#)** (*NPR*)

Gov. Josh Shapiro (D-PA) is “proposing a state-based alternative to a cap-and-trade program aimed at fighting climate change, and a boost to renewable energy standards.” While his program hinges on GOP support, “state Senate Majority Leader Jow Pittman [(R-PA)] has pushed back, saying that any form of cap-and-trade program would be ‘a very difficult piece to support.’”

- **[CARB Says it Will Implement Corporate Emissions Disclosure](#)** (*Politico*)

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) noted that the “state plans to implement its first-in-the-nation corporate emissions reporting law despite legal and funding obstacles.”

International

- **[Shipping Industry Edges Closer to First Global Charge on Greenhouse Emissions](#)** (*Bloomberg*)

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) moved closer to greenlighting a “global, mandatory charge on greenhouse gas emissions,” on the shipping industry. The United Nations (U.N.) “plans to finalize the details of the measure next year, and have it introduced in 2027.”

- **[UNFCCC and IEA Launch New Phase of Cooperation on Tackling Climate Change](#)** (*IEA*)

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the International Energy Agency (IEA) “announced a new phase of cooperation to drive progress on the energy commitments made at the recent COP28 climate summit in Dubai with the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 °C.”

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

“Now is the time to keep people coming together, to hear Democrat and Republican voices at the table, and to get stuff done for our fellow Pennsylvanians.” — Gov. Josh Shapiro (D-PA) on a potential cap-and-trade program (*NPR* – [March 26](#))

Congressional Hearings (March 25 - March 29, 2024)

Senate

House of Representatives

No relevant Senate hearings.

No relevant House hearings.

Federal Agency Climate News

Department of Energy

[DOE and DOL Announce New Effort to Support and Expand America's Battery Workforce](#) (March 26)

[Biden-Harris Administration Invests \\$22 Million to Improve Siting and Permitting for Large-Scale Renewable Energy and Energy Storage](#) (March 25)

[Biden-Harris Administration Announces \\$6 Billion to Transform America's Industrial Sector, Strengthen Domestic Manufacturing, and Slash Planet-warming Emissions](#) (March 25)

[DOE Announces \\$18 Million Towards Clean Energy and Economic Development in 30 Historically Disadvantaged Communities](#) (March 22)

Environmental Protection Agency

[EPA Partners With 10 Communities to Foster Equitable Development Strategies to Reach Environmental Goals](#) (March 22)

Department of Interior

[Biden-Harris Administration Approves Seventh Offshore Wind Project](#) (March 25)

Funding and Comment Opportunities

[Climate Pollution Reduction Grants](#)

Environmental Protection Agency

Close Date: April 1, 2024

[Transmission Siting and Economic Development Program](#)

Department of Energy

Close Date: April 5, 2024

D.C. Climate Events

[The Evolution of the Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage Industry](#)

United States Energy Association

Thursday, March 28, 2:00 PM ET

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