

Climate Policy Update

July 11, 2022

Good evening! This is Akin Gump's weekly policy newsletter on all things **climate change**. Below are the major federal and California climate policy headlines of the past week:

- [Biden Administration Proposes Rule Requiring States, Cities to Set Transportation Climate Targets](#) (*The Hill*)
The Biden administration proposed a rule that would require states and cities to track greenhouse gas emissions and develop climate goals for transportation on the National Highway System.
- [StEPing Up to the Plate: Justice Department Restores Favored Enforcement Resolution Tool](#) (*Speaking Sustainability*)
Through an interim final rule and an Attorney General memo, the Department of Justice (DOJ) restored supplemental environmental projects (SEPs) as a means of settling federal environmental law violations.
- [Feds Consider Phasing Out Single-Use Plastics](#) (*E&E*)
The General Services Administration published a notice that it may restrict single-use plastics from being purchased by the federal government.
- [Crunch Time: US Food Sector Needs to Implement Climate Action Plans to Feed Demand from Hungry Investors](#) (*Speaking Sustainability*)
In an effort to prevent greenwashing, Ceres published a report outlining guidance for the food industry as it establishes climate targets. The criteria include: disclosing emissions and emission reduction goals, incorporating growth and innovation strategy in its emission reduction plans, monitoring its supply chain emissions and establishing operation, transportation and waste emission protocols.
- [California Cities Ban New Gas Stations in Battle to Combat Climate Change](#) (*Los Angeles Times*)
Following Petaluma's decision to ban new gas stations, the Los Angeles City Council is slated to consider a similar ban this summer. Five neighborhood councils in Los Angeles, Westside, Silver Lake, Los Feliz, Echo Park and North Westwood have expressed support for the proposal.
- [PA Judge Temporarily Delays RGGI Entrance](#) (*Energy News*)
Last week, a state judge blocked Pennsylvania's entrance into the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).

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

Quotes of the Week

“I am generally optimistic. I believe there is positive momentum, I believe there have been constructive conversations. But the specifics, the details, I think it’s best to let that work itself out.”

-Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE) discussing Build Back Better talks

(Politico – July 7, 2022)

“Our approach gives the states the flexibility they need to set their own emission reduction targets, while providing them with resources from President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to meet those targets.”

-Sec. Pete Buttigieg discussing the Department of Transportation’s proposed requirement

(Politico – July 7, 2022)

Upcoming Congressional Hearings (July 11-15, 2022)

Senate

House of Representatives

[Hearings to Examine Proposed Budget Estimates and Justification for Fiscal Year 2023 For the Department of the Interior](#)

Senate Appropriations

Wednesday, July 13, 2022, 10:00 AM EST

124 Dirksen Senate Office Building

[Nuclear Waste Cleanup: Research and Development Opportunities for the Department of Energy’s Office of Environmental Management](#)

House Science, Space, and Technology Hearing

Wednesday, July 13, 2022, 10:00 AM EST

22318 Rayburn House Office Building

[Hearings to Examine S. 1345, To Establish a National Mercury Monitoring Program, S. 2476 To Require the Administration of the Environmental Protection Agency to Establish a Pilot Program for Hyperlocal Air Quality Monitoring Projects in Environmental Justice Communities, and an Original Bill Entitled, “Public Health Air Quality Act”](#)

Senate Environment and Public Works

Wednesday, July 13, 2022, 10:00 AM EST

406 Dirksen Senate Office Building

[Hearings to Examine Pathways to Lower Energy Prices
in the United States](#)

Senate Energy and Natural Resources
Wednesday, July 13, 2022, 2:30 PM EST
366 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Federal Agency Climate News

The White House

[Biden-Harris Administration Works with Global Partners to Drive Ocean Action to Combat the Climate Crisis and Boost Ocean Economy at UN Ocean Conference \(July 1\)](#)

U.S. Department of the Interior

[Biden-Harris Administration Announces Members to Wildfire Commission \(July 7\)](#)

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

[EPA Fines Oxnard Manufacturer Over \\$1 Million for Selling 'Defeat Devices,' Harming Air Quality \(July 7\)](#)

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)

[DOE Awards \\$14 Million to Improve Climate Change Predictions \(July 7\)](#)

[Biden Administration Announced \\$2.3 Billion for States and Tribes to Strengthen and Modernize America's Power Grid \(July 6\)](#)

Upcoming D.C. Climate Events (Registration)

[2022 Tribal Energy Webinar: Organizing for the Transition to a
Cleaner and More Sustainable Energy Future](#)

United States Department of Energy
Wednesday, July 13, 2022, 11:00 AM EST

[Scaling Up Innovation to Drive Down Emissions](#)

Environmental and Energy Study Institute
Tuesday, July 12, 2022, 12:00 PM EST