

Climate Policy Update

November 15, 2023

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

- **[Biden: New Climate Report Shows Urgency of Threat](#)** (*E&E News*)

Upon the release of the fifth National Climate Assessment—which illustrates how climate change impacts Americans and the country's economy—President Biden stressed that “the report sounds a dire warning about inaction on combating the climate crisis.”

- **[Polluting Industries Say the Cost of Cleaner Air is Too High](#)** (*New York Times*)

With the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) slated to announce regulations regarding soot, industries are “warning of dire economic consequences” as “a coalition [...] including mining, oil and gas, manufacturing, and timber sent a letter to the White House Chief of Staff.”

- **[The Coming Senate Energy, Environment Committee Shuffle](#)** (*E&E News*)

With the retirements of Sens. Joe Manchin (D-WV) and Tom Carper (D-DE), chairs of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources and Environment and Public Works committees, respectively, lawmakers, staffers and lobbyists alike expect Sens. Martin Heinrich (D-NM) and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) to “be fresh Democratic faces at the top of the two Senate committees.”

- **[Wicker Withdraws Support for GOP Carbon Tariff Bill](#)** (*E&E News*)

Sen. Roger Wicker (R-MS)—“one of three Republican backers of new legislation tying trade policy to emissions reduction goals”—withdrew his support for Sen. Bill Cassidy's (R-LA) *Foreign Pollution Fee Act*.

State and Local

- **[Regional Greenhouse Gas Trading Program Faces Political Challenges](#)** (*Politico*)

With Virginia Democrats' freshly reclaimed majority, pushback to “Gov. Glenn Youngkin's [(R-VA)] effort to pull his state out of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative [(RGGI)]” is anticipated. Meanwhile, Gov. Josh Shapiro (D-PA) “must decide whether to continue his predecessor's efforts to

join the program Shapiro himself has been noticeable cool toward after a court barred the state's participation last week."

- **First U.S. Direct Air Capture Plant Opens in California** (*E&E News*)

Heirloom Carbon Technologies welcomed the first commercial direct air capture facility in the United States in Tracy, California. The facility "will be capable of removing 1,000 tons of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere per year."

- **Michigan Just Passed One of the Country's Most Ambitious Clean Energy Bills** (*Canary Media*)

Michigan's Democrat-controlled legislature greenlit several clean energy bills, including a measure that would "order the state's two biggest investor-owned utilities, Consumers Energy and DTE energy, to undertake a course to reach 80 percent carbon-free electricity sales by 2035 and 100 percent carbon-free energy by 2040."

International

- **China's Methane Pledge Signals Warming Diplomacy Ahead of COP28** (*E&E News*)

China issued its long-anticipated plan to slash its methane emissions, "a move that analysts said could lead to increase cooperation between the United States and China." The plan was agreed to at the Conference of Parties (COP) hosted in Glasgow, Scotland, but its release was delayed due to disagreements between the two nations.

- **After a Last-Minute Challenge to New Loss and Damage Deal, U.S. Joins Global Consensus Ahead of COP28** (*Inside Climate News*)

The U.S. State Department noted that the U.S. "now welcomes the United Nations guidelines to set up a loss and damage fund, a key issue going into the global COP28 climate talks in Dubai." This comes after the U.S. was hesitant about the agreement's language despite general consensus.

- **Global Carbon Emissions are Rising under the Paris Climate Agreement** (*Politico*)

A report out of the United Nations (U.N.) illustrates that "planet-warming pollution is expected to increase 9 percent by the end of the decade under the current climate plans of nearly 200 countries."

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

"This assessment shows us in clear scientific terms that climate change is impacting all regions, all sectors of the United States, not just some, all [...] It shows that communities across America are taking more action than ever to reduce climate risk."

— President Joe Biden ([E&E News](#) – November 2)

Congressional Hearings (November 13 - November 17, 2023)

Senate

No relevant hearings.

House of Representatives

No relevant hearings.

Federal Agency Climate News

Department of Energy

[Biden-Harris Administration Invests \\$444 Million to Strengthen America's Infrastructure for Permanent Safe Storage of Carbon Dioxide Pollution](#)
(November 14)

[Biden-Harris Administration Announces More than \\$31 Million in Clean Energy Funding to 19 States and Local Communities](#) (November 14)

Department of Interior

[President Biden's Investing in America Agenda Provides \\$50 Million for Water and Energy Efficiency Projects](#) (November 14)

Environmental Protection Agency

[Biden-Harris Administration Seeking Information to Improve Understanding of Domestic Supply Chains as President Biden's Investing in America Agenda Drives U.S. Manufacturing Growth](#)
(November 14)

White House

[Remarks by President Biden on Actions to Address the Climate Crisis](#) (November 14)

[Biden-Harris Administration Releases Fifth National Climate Assessment and Announces More Than \\$6 Billion to Strengthen Climate Resilience Across the Country](#) (November 14)

Funding and Comment Opportunities

[Climate Pollution Reduction Grants](#)

Environmental Protection Agency

Close Date: April 1, 2024

[Critical Mineral Innovation, Efficiency and Alternatives](#)

Department of Energy

Close Date: November 10, 2023

[Domestic Manufacturing Conversation Grants](#)

Department of Energy

Close Date: December 7, 2023

[Advanced Processing of Critical Minerals for Industrial and Manufacturing Applications](#)

Department of Energy

[Silicon Solar Manufacturing and Dual-Use Photovoltaics Incubator](#)

Department of Energy

Concept Paper: September 27, 2023

Close Date: November 14, 2023

[Additional Clean Hydrogen Programs – Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs](#)

Department of Energy

Close Date: TBD

[Transmission Siting and Economic Development Program](#)

Department of Energy

Close Date: April 5, 2024

Close Date: October 20, 2023

[Career Skills Training Program](#)

Department of Energy

Close Date: November 27, 2023

D.C. Climate Events

[Advanced Energy Technology Forum](#)

United States Energy Association

Tuesday, November 14, 10:00 AM ET

[Cross-Industry Collaboration on Methane Reductions](#)

Center for Strategic and International Studies

Wednesday, November 15, 8:30 ET

[Setting the U.S.-Caribbean Partnership to Address the Climate Crisis 2030 Agenda: Building Climate Resilient Caribbean Economies](#)

Atlantic Council

Wednesday, November 15, 1:00 PM ET

[The Sustainable Future: Driving Toward Clean Fuel](#)

Politico

Wednesday, November 15, 8:30 AM ET

[Working Toward Net-Zero: A Conversation on Advancing Clean Energy Transitions at COP28](#)

Atlantic Council

Wednesday, November 15, 10:00 AM ET

[Previewing COP28](#)

Center for Strategic and International Studies

Friday, November 17, 10:00 AM ET

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

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