

This Week in Climate (In)Action

Check out the League of Conservation Voters' 2016 primers to stay up to date on what all of the presidential candidates are saying about [climate change](#), the [Clean Power Plan](#), and [renewable energy](#) – and be sure to follow LCV on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Quote of the week: “The bottom line is that the world is warming” – Jessica Blunden, NOAA climate scientist

Speed-read: [2015 Likely to Be Hottest Year Ever Recorded](#) (NY Times)

A roundup of this week's most important stories:

2015 Set to Be World's Hottest Year on Record

Global temperatures are running far above last year's record-setting level, all but guaranteeing that 2015 will be the [hottest year in the historical record](#)—and demonstrating once again the need to act on climate change.

“The warning is out,” said Richard Seager, a climate scientist at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University, in New York. “The world has had time to plan for this.”

The findings, released Wednesday by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, put added pressure on the international community to deliver a strong agreement at the upcoming global climate conference in Paris in December.

The Clean Power Plan, a “Historical Safeguard,” Is Published In The Federal Register

The Clean Power Plan, which put in place the first national limits on carbon pollution from our nation's power plants, was officially published in the Federal Register on October 23. President Obama's landmark clean air protections have been embraced by a broad and diverse set of stakeholders and represent the single biggest step the U.S. has ever taken to tackle climate change. The Clean Power Plan is a central component of the President's Climate Action Plan and shows the U.S. is helping lead the global movement to act on climate change.

Publication in the Federal Register also marks the beginning of the 60-day period to sue over the rule, a period that “undoubtedly,” [said](#) LCV Vice President of Government Affairs Sara Chieffo, “will lead to a mad rush by polluters and their allies in Congress to use both legislative and legal maneuvers to block the Clean Power Plan.”

As challenges inevitably arise, it's important to remember the significance of the Clean Power Plan. As Chieffo noted, it “protects the health of our families, combats climate change, and grows the economy.”

White House Announced Commitments to the American Business Act on Climate Pledge

Major companies are showing their support for action on climate change and a strong outcome in Paris. Eighty-one companies have now signed on to the [American Business Act on Climate Pledge](#), representing operations in 50 states and collectively employing over 9 million people. These companies are pledging to build more sustainable businesses, invest in clean energy and their reduce carbon emissions.

Donald Trump Wants to Cut the EPA: “Environmental Protection, What They Do Is A Disgrace”

Donald Trump, the frontrunner for the GOP nomination, [told](#) Chris Wallace this week that if elected President he would cut the EPA. Citing environmental protections that he believes destroy business, Trump said that without the EPA “we’ll be fine with the environment.”

LCV Senior Vice President of Campaigns Daniel J. Weiss described Trump’s statements as “an attack on public health,” [noting](#) that, “like most of the GOP field, Trump’s agenda would be a win for the Koch brothers and big oil, while burdening middle class Americans with more cancer causing and toxic pollution.”

Jeb Bush’s Public Lands Plan Would Weaken Protections, Put Drinking Water at Risk

In a self-described “move against Washington,” Jeb Bush unveiled his Public Lands Plan this week in Nevada. Central to the pitch is a complete reform of the federal land management system—including rehousing the Department of the Interior out West, expanding state power over federal lands and rolling back what he [described](#) as “onerous and overreaching rule-making.”

LCV National Press Secretary Seth Stein was quick to respond by [laying out](#) the risks in Bush’s plan: “His plan puts the drinking water of one-in-three Americans at risk... [and] will weaken the protections for the public lands that belong to everyone.”

A look at next week:

Oct 24: Iowa Democratic Party Jefferson-Jackson Dinner, Des Moines, IA

Democratic Presidential campaigns will descend on Des Moines this weekend for the party’s annual Jefferson-Jackson dinner, the signature event held exactly 100 days before the Iowa Caucuses. Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders, and Martin O’Malley will all speak at the dinner, with live coverage commencing at 7:00 PM Eastern on Saturday.

Oct 28: CNBC GOP Presidential Primary Debate, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO

The third GOP Debate will take place this coming Wednesday in Boulder, moderated by CNBC’s Carl Quintanilla, Becky Quick and John Harwood. Republican candidates are again under pressure to address environmental concerns after Democratic candidates made climate change a central issue of their first debate. As with the two previous outings, there will be two debates, with the undercard at 6:00 PM preceding the main event at 8:00 PM Eastern.

Oct 28-30: Moving Forward: 2015 SEEA & AESP Southeast Conference, Atlanta, GA

Hosted by the Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance and the Association of Energy Sources Professionals, the 2015 Southeast Conference will take a look at the multi-faceted role energy efficiency plays in advancing economic development, energy security and public well-being across the south-eastern United States. Full information can be viewed [here](#).