

Hello -

As the presidential campaign begins to heat up, the League of Conservation Voters is introducing a new, weekly tipsheet to keep you up to date on climate change politics. Each Friday, our tipsheet will recap the week's developments, link to helpful articles, and let you know what to look out for next week.

Check out LCV's regularly updated [2016 primer](#) throughout the week to keep track of what the presidential candidates are saying about climate change, the single greatest challenge of our time.

We welcome your feedback at seth_stein@lcv.org, and invite you to follow LCV on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Thanks,

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This Week in Climate (In)Action

Quote of the week:

Trump's Climate Plan? "We're gonna' address it, we'll be in good shape"

At a rally for Donald Trump in Laconia, New Hampshire this week, a LCV volunteer asked the candidate, "Mr. Trump, what are your plans for addressing climate change in the state of New Hampshire?"

Trump's [reply](#)? "We're gonna' address it, we'll be in good shape."

Trump has previously tweeted, "The concept of global warming was created by and for the Chinese in order to make U.S. manufacturing non-competitive."

A roundup of this week's most important stories:

Clinton: "The time has come to make America the clean energy superpower"

In a major economic [speech](#) Monday, Hillary Clinton declared there was "no excuse" not to make greater investments in cleaner, renewable sources of energy that will help us meet the threat of a changing climate.

Clinton, who previously called climate change the "most consequential, urgent, sweeping collection of challenges we face as a nation and a world," has been outspoken in her support of the EPA's proposed Clean Power Plan to regulate carbon emissions—unlike several GOP governors and presidential candidates who have [openly vowed](#) to defy its standards.

Is Scott Walker the Single Most Dangerous Candidate on Climate?

While Gov. Scott Walker, who officially announced his candidacy Monday, has yet to say whether or not he believes in man-made climate change, he hasn't been shy about expressing his profound distaste for environmental regulation.

As The New Republic [reported](#) after his announcement, Walker led the charge against environmental protections in Wisconsin and proposed huge cuts to environmental oversight and clean energy. Since taking office in 2010, Walker has "dismantled several longstanding policies protecting wetlands and waterways, fast-tracked mining projects, fought climate action, slashed funding for dozens of state scientists and environmental education positions, and impeded development of wind energy." ([InsideClimate News](#))

While he's been vocal about his opposition to federal carbon emissions standards, Walker has failed to outline any sort of plan to limit pollution or address climate change whatsoever—and he's quickly emerged as a favorite of the [Koch Brothers](#), whose network of fossil fuel industry mega donors plans to spend close to \$900 million this cycle to elect a candidate who shares their opposition to any regulations that could infringe upon corporate profits.

Cruz and Rubio Meet with Koch-Supported, Pro-Fracking Lobby Group

Sens. Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio became two of latest Republican presidential candidates to hold [private meetings](#) with the Western Energy Alliance—whose members include fracking corporations Devon Energy, Encana, and Koch Exploration Company. According to [POLITICO Energy](#), Florida Gov. Jeb Bush was the first White House hopeful to pay his respects, followed by Sen. Lindsey Graham two weeks ago.

"They're not fundraisers," insisted WEA President Tim Wigley.

Sen. Graham Tells GOP to Listen to Science as SC Legislators Call for Climate Discussion

Appearing Tuesday on [Late Night with Seth Meyers](#), South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham called on his fellow Republicans to listen to the overwhelming scientific consensus on man-made climate change.

"When you ask the scientists what's going on, why don't you believe them?" Graham asked. "If I went to 10 doctors and nine said, 'Hey, you're gonna die,' and one says, 'You're fine,' why would I believe the one guy?"

Meanwhile, a dozen state senators in South Carolina—including six Republicans—are asking presidential hopefuls to discuss climate change and clean energy when the candidates visit South Carolina.

In an open letter to candidates, the legislators [urged discussions](#) of a comprehensive energy policy and expressed concern about how rising sea levels and a changing climate could affect the coast.

The Conservation Voters of South Carolina released the following statement:

“South Carolina’s first in the South primary gives us a unique opportunity to ask candidates to share their proposals to promote prosperity by investing in clean energy jobs,” said Conservation Voters of South Carolina Executive Director Ann Timberlake. “For our state in particular, climate change not only endangers the tourist and outdoor economies of coastal towns, but also puts our national security at risk.”

A look at next week:

July 21: Kasich Announces

Ohio Gov. John Kasich will officially announce his candidacy for President Tuesday in Columbus.

Don’t expect to hear much of a plan on climate—while Kasich is one of the few GOP contenders to explicitly acknowledge climate change’s existence, he’s said that he doesn’t want to ["overreact to it"](#) and last year signed a bill as Governor to [freeze](#) Ohio’s renewable energy standards and make it more difficult for the state to comply with federal emissions standards.

July 22 - 24: Annual ALEC Meeting

The American Legislative Exchange Council will host its [annual meeting](#) in San Diego this week, bringing together thousands of conservative legislators, free market leaders, and business executives from across the country.

ALEC, which is known throughout the environmental community for pushing “model legislation” that aims to gut environmental regulation and protect corporate polluters, will host presidential candidates Scott Walker, Ted Cruz, and Mike Huckabee as marquee speakers. All three have failed to explicitly acknowledge the reality of man-made climate change.

Read the League of Conservation Voters’ [2016 climate primer](#) to see where all of the presidential candidates stand on combating the greatest issue of our time.