

This Week in Climate (In)Action

Check out the League of Conservation Voters' [2016 primer](#) to stay up to date on what all of the presidential candidates are saying about climate change—and be sure to follow LCV on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Quote of the Week:

"I think most scientists, regardless of what their belief is in the larger question, would say that there **hasn't** been a noticeable change in recent times." – [Gov. Scott Walker](#) on whether he believes in man-made climate change.

A roundup of this week's most important stories:

Scott Walker Doesn't Think the Climate is Changing

Earth's 10 warmest years on record have all occurred since 1997, and 2014 was our hottest yet. This week, climate scientists from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said that [2015 is already on track to break last year's record](#).

Off-the-charts heat is "getting to be a monthly thing", said NOAA scientist Jessica Blunden, noting that June was the fourth month of 2015 to break a record.

Yet, in an interview with New Hampshire's [WMUR](#), Scott Walker insisted that "most scientists, regardless of what their belief is in the larger question, would say that there **hasn't** been a noticeable change in recent times."

Gov. Walker has a well-established history of [gutting environmental protections](#) and his [longstanding ties](#) to the anti-environment American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC).

Kasich Enters Race; Believes in Climate Change (Maybe?) But Doesn't Want to Do Too Much About It

Ohio Gov. John Kasich jumped into the GOP field Tuesday as one of the few Republican candidates to [previously acknowledge](#) climate change's existence. But Kasich made clear that he doesn't want to "overreact to it,"—and as Dan Weiss of the League of Conservation Voters [points out](#), Kasich's position only seems less extreme compared to the other Republican candidates "because he couches his views on climate change with uncertainty, rather than disagreement."

In New Hampshire on Wednesday, Kasich reiterated his uncertainty, saying he is "not sure who's right," and assuring LCV volunteer Annie Meaney (with plenty of mansplaining) that while he respects the environment, he will never "worship" it. [Watch the exchange](#).

South Carolina Legislators Demand Climate Discussion

A bipartisan group of South Carolina state senators—including six Democrats and six Republicans—released a [letter](#) calling on the major presidential contenders to address the challenges of climate change and develop comprehensive clean energy strategies.

Even some of the state's conservative leaders agree that America needs to invest in alternative energy sources. **"I'm a pretty conservative guy,"** said S.C. Sen. Larry Martin, an Upstate Republican who chairs the Senate Judiciary committee and signed the letter. **"But there's a lot to be said about clean energy."**

World's Mayors Call for "Bold Climate Agreement" at Vatican

Weeks after Pope Francis called for climate action in a sweeping encyclical, over 60 mayors from around the world gathered at the Vatican Tuesday to pledge their support for combatting global warming and helping the poor deal with its effects.

The [conference](#), which was intended to mobilize grassroots action and maintain pressure on world leaders ahead of a December climate change summit in Paris, hosted mayors from New York City, Portland, Minneapolis, San Francisco, San José, Seattle, Boston, Boulder, Birmingham, and New Orleans.

"The Paris summit is just months away," said New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio. "We need to see it as the finish line of a sprint, and take every local action we can in the coming months to maximize the chance that our national governments will act boldly."

Huckabee shoots down the Clean Power Plan in Iowa

In response to an LCV volunteer's question on climate change, GOP Presidential candidate Mike Huckabee [slammed the EPA's Clean Power Plan](#)—which seeks to limit the carbon pollution driving global warming—as "an arbitrary goal that some politicians decided."

Huckabee previously said he believes the science on climate change is not settled, and joked to conservative activists in January that "a beheading is a far greater threat to an American than a sunburn."

The Washington Post: Outrage over EPA emissions regulations fades as states find fixes

While six governors—including GOP presidential candidates Scott Walker and Bobby Jindal—have taken up Sen. Mitch McConnell's call to "just say no" to the EPA's proposal to limit carbon pollution, most states are finding ways to comply with the flexible plan.

"Despite dire warnings and harsh political rhetoric," reports [The Washington Post](#), "many states are already on track to meet their targets, even before the EPA formally announces them, interviews and independent studies show."

“We’ve yet to find a state that is going to have a real technical challenge meeting this,” said Malcolm Woolf, a former Maryland state energy official and senior vice president for Advanced Energy Economy, an industry association that includes electricity providers and major manufacturers.

A look at next week:

July 29 - August 1: National Urban League Conference

Business leaders, community members, and politicians will gather next week for the National Urban League Annual Conference in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The theme of the conference is “Save Our Cities,” and will feature a 2016 presidential plenary with candidates Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders, Martin O’Malley, Ben Carson, and Jeb Bush. The panel is one of the first events in which Clinton and Bush, the current frontrunners, will appear on stage together.

July 31 - August 2: National Caucus of Environmental Legislators (NCEL) National Legislative Summit

The NCEL National Legislative Summit will begin next Friday in Seattle. Caucus members from the United States and Canada will gather to discuss climate change, pollution, clean water, chemical policy, and other pressing environmental issues.