

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: “To say you’re going to ignore that there’s a huge risk here, the way we’re filling the atmosphere with heat-trapping gases, is folly, ignorance and totally irresponsible.” – California Gov. Jerry Brown on the GOP candidates’ reactions to the California drought

A roundup of the week’s most important stories:

Climate Change Worsening California Drought; Republicans Scoff

Manmade climate change has most likely [intensified the drought](#) in California by 15 to 20 percent, according to the nation’s top climate scientists.

The research, said David B. Lobell, a Stanford University climate scientist, is “probably the best I’ve seen on this question.”

Several of the GOP candidates, however, dismissed the concerns and [responded](#) that California should be building more dams to store water for future droughts. Senator Ted Cruz of Texas said that “alarmists” about global warming were trying to gain “more power over the economy and our lives.”

Governor Jerry Brown was unequivocal: “To say you’re going to ignore that there’s a huge risk here, the way we’re filling the atmosphere with heat-trapping gases, is folly, ignorance and totally irresponsible. And virtually the entire Republican Party in Congress is saying exactly that. It’s inexplicable.”

“The Arctic is a Unique Treasure” – Hillary Clinton Says No To Drilling

Clinton voiced her opposition Tuesday to Royal Dutch Shell’s request to drill for oil in the waters of the Chukchi Sea off Alaska’s northwest coast, one day after the White House granted exploration approval.

“The Arctic is a unique treasure,” Clinton wrote in a signed Twitter post. “Given what we know now, it’s not worth the risk of drilling.”

The League of Conservation Voters welcomed Clinton’s decision. “We’re absolutely very excited by the opposition from major political figures to offshore drilling,” said Deputy Legislative Director Alex Taurel. “I definitely think that we could put a halt—and should put a halt—to Arctic drilling.”

GOP Candidates Take to the Soapbox; Most Ignore Climate Change

While the majority of the Republican presidential candidates took to the Iowa State Fair Soapbox this week to speak to voters and engage the issues, few chose to address climate change.

The only candidates to explicitly address the issue were Scott Walker, who stressed the need to [eliminate federal environmental standards](#), and Carly Fiorina, who said that a single nation can make [“no difference at all”](#) when it comes to fighting climate change.

E.P.A. Announces New Rules to Cut Methane Emissions

The Obama administration on Tuesday proposed the [first federal regulations](#) requiring the nation’s oil and gas industry to cut methane emissions as part of its overall effort to combat climate change.

Though it persists in the atmosphere for far less time than carbon dioxide, methane is 25 times more powerful than carbon dioxide in trapping heat—and the recent proposals would require drillers to stop leaks and capture lost gas even in wells intended to extract only oil.

The administration has set a goal of reducing methane emissions by 40 to 45 percent from 2012 levels by 2025.

Many Congressional Republicans blasted the announcement and said the rules are unnecessary.

Madeleine Foote, the League of Conservation Voters legislative representative, praised the announcement, saying, “Solutions to methane pollution are available now, cost-effective, and will protect public health.”

A look ahead:

Tomorrow: “Defending the American Dream” Summit, Columbus, OH

Americans for Prosperity’s “Defending the American Dream” summit continues tomorrow in Columbus, Ohio, with Jeb Bush, Bobby Jindal, Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio all confirmed as keynote speakers.

August 24: National Clean Energy Summit, Las Vegas, NV

The National Clean Energy Summit returns for its eighth year Monday in Las Vegas. The summit gathers the nation’s most visible and influential leaders and policymakers to discuss the future of clean energy policy, and President Obama will deliver the keynote address. Check out the [full agenda](#).