

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:

“Climate deniers and opponents who send a ‘can’t do’ message only undermine America’s leadership on the international stage.”- [Senator Ed Markey](#)

A roundup of this week’s most important stories:

Despite Majority of Voters Opposing “Just Say No” Strategy, McConnell Continues Offensive Against Obama’s Climate Efforts

Reports surfaced this week of the emerging Republican leadership [strategy](#) to prevent President Obama from reaching an international climate change agreement. Majority Leader McConnell has stated he will challenge the legitimacy of any global climate agreement reached in Paris in December that has not been submitted as a treaty before the U.S. Senate.

Sen. Ed Markey was clear in his criticism of this approach. “Climate deniers and opponents who send a ‘can’t do’ message,” Markey said, “only undermine America’s leadership on the international stage.’”

Poll after poll shows Americans want action on climate. For example, the League of Conservation Voters recently released a [bipartisan poll](#) showing an overwhelming majority of Americans, including a majority of Republicans, want their governors to implement the Clean Power Plan – the biggest step we have ever taken to address climate change.

Poll Finds Millennials See Climate Change As A Real Threat - Overwhelmingly Support A Clean Energy Future

A NextGen climate poll [published](#) this week clearly shows millennials both accept the established science around climate change and see it as a serious problem and threat. 73 per cent of polled millennials are favourable to setting a goal “to power America with at least 50 per cent clean energy by the year 2030.”

The positive findings follow the recent League of Conservation Voters [bipartisan poll](#) on the Clean Power Plan – where support trumped opposition by nearly two to one.

Palin Says She’s Best Suited For Secretary of Energy in a GOP Presidency – Would Eliminate the Department Immediately

Sarah Palin this week stated that in a Donald Trump administration, the cabinet position that would best line up with her strengths would be Secretary of Energy. Palin [told](#) CNN's Jake Tapper that "If I were in charge of that, it would be a short-term job" as she would get rid of the department altogether.

The 2008 Republican Vice-Presidential nominee, who was critical of President Obama's recent trip to her home state of Alaska, continues to hold views on climate change that are out of step with the vast majority of scientists:

"I take it seriously," she said, "but I'm not going to blame these changes in the weather on man's footprint."

As Historic US Visit Draws Near, Pope Francis Expected to Deliver Hard Truths on Climate Change

Pope Francis arrives in the United States on September 22 for a trip that will see the Pontiff make public appearances in New York, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. On Thursday, September 24 he will address a joint session of Congress. The League of Conservation Voters joins several other groups in hosting a rally on the Mall to watch the address, where the Pope is expected to discuss the urgent need to address climate change.

The Pope will likely continue to [support](#) "the worldwide scientific consensus that global warming is largely human created," a main feature of his June environmental encyclical. This poses an awkward situation for some presidential candidates - including Jeb Bush and Rick Santorum, who have previously advised Pope Francis (a former chemist) that science "is best left to scientists."

Fossil Fuel Industry's 'Bottomless War Chest' Helps Gut California's Historic Climate Change Legislation

California legislators caved in the face of intense opposition from the fossil fuel industry, [agreeing](#) to drop the 'gasoline target' – a major provision requiring a 50 percent cut in petroleum use in cars and trucks by 2030 – from climate change bill SB 350. The legislation still includes measures to boost renewable energy production and building efficiency.

"Oil has won a skirmish, but they have lost the bigger battle," Governor Jerry Brown [said](#), citing his continued focus on cleaning the air and reducing petroleum use in the state. The Western State Petroleum Association was behind much of the opposition to the bill – a group that spent \$9 million on lobbying last year alone. "We could not cut through the million-dollar smokescreen created by a single special interest with a singular motive," said California Senate Leaders Kevin de León, author of the original bill.

A look ahead:

September 16 – CNN Republican Presidential Debate, Reagan Presidential Library, Simi Valley, CA

Climate issues were given short shrift in the first debate. Be on the lookout for the League of Conservation Voters to call on Republican candidates to state their plans for addressing climate change during the second Presidential debate next Wednesday.

September 18-20 – Mackinac Republican Leadership Conference, Mackinac Island, MI

Six Republican candidates (Bush, Cruz, Fiorina, Kasich, Paul and Walker) are confirmed to attend the biannual gathering of Michigan Republicans next week. Check out full information and the schedule [here](#).

September 19 – Faith and Freedom Coalition Dinner, Des Moines, IA

Cruz, Huckabee, Jindal, Santorum and Pataki are all confirmed to speak at the Annual Family Banquet and Presidential Forum next weekend. Full information can be found [here](#).