

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:

“America is not a planet.”

– **Marco Rubio**

A roundup of this week's most important stories:

GOP Debate: Three Hours, One Climate Change Question, Zero Meaningful Answers

After [failing](#) to even mention the issue of climate change in the first primetime Republican primary [debate](#) last month, the GOP presidential candidates were finally asked about the issue during Wednesday's CNN debate at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in California.

The question came after nearly 27,000 Americans signed LCV's [petition](#) urging CNN to ask the candidates how they plan to address the climate change.

Unfortunately, the Republican candidates' [answers](#) to Tapper's question were just the latest example of their willingness to side with polluters on crucial environmental issues.

“We're not going to destroy our economy the way the left-wing government that we are under now wants to do,” said Marco Rubio. “America,” he added, “is not a planet.”

Chris Christie, long recognized as one of the GOP's more moderate voices on climate change, was quick to agree with Rubio and boasted of his efforts to remove New Jersey from regional cap and trade agreements designed to reduce harmful carbon pollution. And Scott Walker emphasized that he would never listen to the EPA—unsurprising from a governor who's led the charge against EPA protections intended to safeguard the environment and help shift our economy to clean energy.

Not one candidate spoke of the pressing need to act on climate change to protect our environment, health, and economy.

The League of Conservation Voters was quick to respond. “We are disappointed that the candidates perpetuated their ignorance of the importance of action on climate change,” [said](#) Senior Vice President of Campaigns Daniel J. Weiss, “amidst the worst California drought in 500 years.”

And LCV wasn't the only one to voice disappointment for the candidates' shift [from knowing nothing, to doing nothing](#). As [The Washington Post](#) Editorial Board put it, "the message of the evening was: Climate change may be happening, but shame on those trying to address it."

Trump Dismisses Global Warming; Bullies LCV Volunteer

After being asked by an LCV volunteer to state his plan to reduce pollution at an event Thursday in New Hampshire, Donald Trump [polled the audience](#), asking, "How many people here believe in global warming? Wow not much huh?" before dismissing the question and moving on.

Aside from the well-established reality of man-made climate change, [polls in New Hampshire](#) show that a majority of Republican voters in the Granite State support action on climate.

Trump's remarks also came on the heels of his appearance on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#), in which he said, "I consider climate change to be not one our big problems. I consider it to be not a big problem at all."

Fiorina Speaks Out Against Regulation; Believes Paris Climate Change Conference is "Baloney"

Carly Fiorina criticized the Obama administration's climate change policy this week, dismissing the idea of December's United Nations climate change conference in Paris and coming out against the administration's Clean Power Plan to curb carbon emissions.

Environmental protections are not the right way to address climate change, Fiorina [believes](#). "The answer is innovation, and the only way to innovate is for this nation to have industry strong enough that they can innovate."

Gov. Jerry Brown Sends Ben Carson Some Evidence on Climate Change

On a recent trip to California, Ben Carson claimed that there is no convincing research proving man's role in climate change. His comments did not go unnoticed in the Governor's mansion, where Gov. Jerry Brown decided to send Dr. Carson a flash drive containing a UN report on the subject.

In the [letter](#) accompanying the report, Brown cites California's lengthy drought as one example of climate change's devastating consequences. "Climate change," writes Gov. Brown, "is much bigger than partisan politics."

A look at next week:

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

Confirmed speakers include Jeb Bush, Ted Cruz, Carly Fiorina, John Kasich, Rand Paul and Scott Walker. The full schedule of events can be viewed [here](#).

September 19: New Hampshire Democratic Party Convention, Manchester, NH

Hillary Clinton, Martin O'Malley and Bernie Sanders will each address the New Hampshire Democratic Party Convention on Saturday in the Verizon Wireless Arena, Manchester, NH. Full information available [here](#).

September 19: Iowa Faith and Freedom Coalition Dinner and Candidate Forum, Des Moines, IA

Ted Cruz, Mike Huckabee, Bobby Jindal, George Pataki, Donald Trump, Rick Santorum and Scott Walker are all confirmed to speak. For more on this event, look [here](#).

September 22-27: Pope Francis' Visit to the United States

Pope Francis arrives in the US next week with a packed calendar of events in DC, New York and Philadelphia. The Pope will visit the White House on Wednesday, address a joint session of Congress on Thursday and meet with the United Nations General Assembly on Friday. The League of Conservation Voters joins a range of other groups in hosting an event on the Mall to view the Pope's congressional address. For a full rundown of his schedule, look [here](#).