



## State Momentum Continues for America's Clean Energy Future & Climate Progress

U.S. governors and mayors are only strengthening their commitment to reduce carbon emissions, transition to clean energy, and address climate change in the face of the new administration's efforts to roll back vital public health and climate safeguards.

At least 18 governors—including four Republicans—have [spoken out](#) against President Trump's recent decision to withdraw the U.S. from the Paris Agreement, along with [dozens of mayors](#). In March 2017, Trump's executive order initiating rollbacks of the Clean Power Plan and other important federal clean air policies also [prompted dozens of governors and mayors to respond](#) in support of continued climate progress.

Meanwhile, state and local officials continue to take ever-stronger action towards a low-carbon future regardless of opposition or inaction from the Trump Administration. Governors, state legislators, and mayors from [Washington](#) to [Illinois](#) to [Virginia](#) — and across the political spectrum — have pledged to achieve deep reductions in carbon emissions from the power sector in order to meet or exceed targets laid out in federal frameworks such as the Clean Power Plan and U.S. contribution to the global Paris accords.

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### States Continue Climate Progress Post-2016 Election

After the 2016 election, state governors have continued to affirm — and in many cases strengthen — their commitment to reducing carbon emissions, addressing climate change, and moving to a clean energy future.

#### Arkansas

- Arkansas Public Service Commission chairman Ted Thomas [said](#) in Feb. 2017: “In the past three weeks, to me as a Republican appointed by a Republican governor, I'm not reassured by the progress the Congress and the administration are making. ... If they don't get it together, we're going to have a different administration in four years, and that's when folks might wish they had the Clean Power Plan.”

Thomas explained that most of the price risk of the federal climate rule would have come in the second half of the next decade anyway. “There are still scenarios with a cost of carbon presented,” Thomas said. “And to me, a utility commissioner isn't doing their job, given that they make a long-term projection, if they're not including resource diversity that includes non-carbon resources.”

## **California**

- Ten years after the passage of the Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32), California [extended and strengthened](#) the limit on greenhouse gas emissions with the passage of SB 32 in September 2016. SB 32 increased California's greenhouse gas emissions reduction goal to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030. Governor Jerry Brown has pledged to aggressively continue work to address climate and [partner with other states and nations](#), including China, Canada, and Mexico.
- As President Trump continues to roll back U.S. federal climate policy and debates withdrawing from the Paris Agreement, California Gov. Jerry Brown spoke out vigorously against Trump's actions and vowed that California would continue to move forward. "Here we are, in 2017, going backwards," Brown said in May 2017 [interview](#) with the *Los Angeles Times*. "It cannot stand, it's not right and California will do everything it can to not only stay the course, but to build more support — in other states, in other provinces, in other countries. ... Trump is going against science. He's going against reality. We can't stand by and give aid and comfort to that."
- After the 2016 election, Gov. Jerry Brown [mounted a vigorous defense](#) of California's climate leadership and the role they will continue to play in setting the stage for ongoing progress and defending the important progress of the last eight years. "We've got the scientists, we've got the lawyers and we're ready to fight. We're ready to defend," he maintained.

## **Colorado**

- In May 2017, Gov. Hickenlooper joined governors from 11 other states to call on the Trump Administration to keep the U.S. a party to the Paris Agreement. "Remaining in the Paris Agreement is crucial to Colorado's future," Gov. Hickenlooper said in a [press release](#). "Clean energy is a win for Colorado jobs, a win for Colorado consumers, and a win for cleaner air. We look forward to continuing our progress and working with this administration to create 21st century jobs for a 21st century workforce."
- In March 2017, the Colorado Public Utilities Commission [issued](#) a landmark order requiring utility Xcel Energy to consider a social cost of carbon in its integrated resource planning process. Xcel must consider scenarios with a cost of carbon pollution set at \$43/ton in 2022 and escalating to \$69/ton in 2050.
- Governor John Hickenlooper continues to display strong leadership and a keen understanding of the imperative to move to a low-carbon future. After the election, Hickenlooper said he [remains committed](#) to fulfilling the goals of the Clean Power Plan, no matter what happens to the rule.

## **Illinois**

- On Dec. 7, 2016, Illinois enacted a [comprehensive new energy bill](#) that will in part double the state's energy efficiency portfolio and allow for 4,300 MW of new solar and wind power, while providing for continued operation of zero-emission nuclear facilities, which will reduce the state's carbon emissions 56% by 2030.

## **Maryland**

- On Feb. 2, 2017, the Maryland legislature [voted to override](#) Gov. Larry Hogan's veto of a bill to increase the state's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS). The bill increases the RPS to 25% by 2020, up from 20% by 2022.

## **Massachusetts**

- Two carbon pricing bills in the Massachusetts statehouse have [picked up support](#) from 40 percent of the state's legislators. Carbon tax bills pending in Connecticut and Rhode Island are tied to successful passage in Massachusetts.

## **Michigan**

- On Dec. 15, 2016, Michigan [lawmakers approved a new bill](#) to increase the state's renewable portfolio standard to 15% by 2021, up from 10%. Republican Gov. Rick Snyder touted the bill in a statement: "What we're in is a huge transition in how we get our energy. We've got a lot of aging coal plants that are beyond their useful life, and it's not worth investing in them anymore. ... We can transition to both natural gas and renewables and let the markets sort of define the balance between those two, so we're moving away from an old energy source [where] we had to import all of this coal."

## **Minnesota**

- From [ClimateWire](#) (Jan. 24, 2017): "To be sure, not every state has abandoned the Clean Power Plan. Minnesota's air officials just scheduled a stakeholder meeting for next month to explain where challenges to the regulation stand. ... Even if Minnesota stops official Clean Power Plan work, [Frank] Kohlasch, [an air assessments section manager at the state's Pollution Control Agency,] said his agency may keep using the same stakeholder group to look at ways to cut carbon. He added that through the regulation, Minnesota has developed regional conversations among environment and energy officials. He acknowledged the rule's deadlines added some urgency to the talks and without it other states likely will not work as much on carbon reductions. But he said he believes trends toward natural gas, renewable power and energy savings will continue regardless."

## **Nevada**

- Nevada state Assemblyman Chris Brooks [introduced](#) legislation on Feb. 13, 2017, that would increase the state's renewable portfolio standard to 50% by 2030 and 80% by 2040. In an [interview](#), Brooks said, “When you see zero leadership coming from D.C. on issues of such importance, states feel the urgency. I believe that is why states have ratcheted up these [clean energy] initiatives. ... Renewable energy is a winning story here in Nevada and we want to double down on that.”

## **New York**

- In January 2017, Gov. Andrew Cuomo [announced](#) a new commitment for New York to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 30 percent below 2020 levels by 2030. Cuomo also called upon other Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) states to follow suit. “With this proposal, New York will lower the emissions cap even further and set the precedent for recognizing and taking action against climate change to support the future of communities across the globe,” Cuomo said in a press release.
- In his 2017 State of the State address, Gov. Andrew Cuomo [committed](#) to building 2.4 GW of offshore wind by 2030, adding, “and we are not going to stop until we reach 100% renewable because that’s what a sustainable New York is really all about.”

## **North Carolina**

- On March 9, 2017, North Carolina [withdrew](#) its legal challenge to the Clean Power Plan. North Carolina was one of 27 states suing the EPA over the CPP. Said Dept. of Environmental Quality secretary Michael Regan in a [press release](#): “We are pleased the court granted our motion to withdraw from this case. We did not feel this case was a good use of our agency’s or taxpayers’ resources, and it did not align with our mission. This will enable us to devote more of our time and energy toward protection of air, water and natural resources.”

## **Ohio**

- Late in 2016, Gov. John Kasich [vetoed](#) a bill that would have effectively extended the state’s freeze on renewable energy standards for two more years. With Gov. Kasich’s veto, the standards came back into effect in January 2017. From [Cleveland.com](#) (Dec. 27, 2016): “In vetoing Substitute House Bill 554, Kasich credited Ohio's ‘wide range of energy generation options’ with helping to grow jobs in the state over the past six years. ‘Sub. HB 554 risks undermining this progress by taking away some of those energy generation options, particularly the very options most prized by the companies poised to create many jobs in Ohio in the coming years, such as high technology firms,’ Kasich stated in a press release.”

## **Oregon**

- State lawmakers in Oregon [introduced](#) legislation in 2017 that would establish a statewide cap-and-trade program and reduce carbon emissions 75 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.
- Oregon regulators are evaluating options for a market-based mechanism that [could link](#) to the California-Quebec carbon market, releasing a [partial draft report](#) on Nov. 21, 2016.

## **Pennsylvania**

- On June 1, 2017, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf reiterated his call for the U.S. to remain in the Paris Agreement. “I urge President Trump not to abdicate the United States’ global leadership and seat at the table on climate change – a pressing issue for Pennsylvania’s economy, especially energy, agriculture and tourism, and our resident’s health,” Gov. Wolf said in a [press release](#). “Pennsylvania is an energy leader and addressing emissions presents opportunities for Pennsylvania’s natural gas, renewable energy and energy efficiency industries to grow and create new jobs.
- On Nov. 9, 2016, A spokesman for Gov. Tom Wolf’s Dept. of Environmental Protection [noted](#) that “Pennsylvania’s carbon footprint has been shrinking rapidly due to market based decisions being made in the state’s electric generating sector...It is likely that this trend will continue.” He added that the DEP “will continue to seek ways to continue addressing climate change.”

## **Virginia**

- In May 2017, Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe signed an executive order directing the state’s Dept. of Environmental Quality to begin the process of establishing regulations to reduce power plant carbon emissions, including ensuring a “trading-ready” framework. “Today, I am proud to take executive action to cut greenhouse gases and make Virginia a leader in the global clean energy economy,” said Governor McAuliffe in a [press release](#). “As the federal government abdicates its role on this important issue, it is critical for states to fill the void. Beginning today, Virginia will lead the way to cut carbon and lean in on the clean energy future.”

## **Washington**

- In December 2016, Washington Governor Jay Inslee [proposed](#) the state adopt a first-of-its-kind carbon tax of \$25 per metric ton of carbon pollution. The proposal supplements the state’s innovative [Clean Air Rule](#), adopted in September, which caps carbon emissions from individual polluters. Governor

Inslee has [also proposed](#) that Washington reduce greenhouse gas emissions 80 percent by 2050 from 1990 levels.

### **Multi-state: Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)**

- Meanwhile, the nine states comprising the **Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative** are engaged in a [stakeholder process](#) designed to establish new, more protective, standards for climate pollution.

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### **State & Local Officials Oppose Trump's Paris Withdrawal**

Quickly following President Trump's June 1, 2017 decision to initiate U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Agreement, governors and mayors across the country spoke out against this latest attack on global climate action, and vowed to continue moving towards a low-carbon future.

#### **California**

- [Gov. Jerry Brown](#) (*Los Angeles Times*): "Here we are, in 2017, going backwards," Gov. Jerry Brown said in an interview with the Los Angeles Times. "It cannot stand, it's not right and California will do everything it can to not only stay the course, but to build more support — in other states, in other provinces, in other countries.

"Trump is going against science. He's going against reality," Brown said. "We can't stand by and give aid and comfort to that.

"If we want to retain and enhance manufacturing, we have to do what California is doing, in clean energy and clean technology," Brown said. "That's the future of jobs, the future of sustainability. And we better get on board. And California will be right there with the best of them."

- [Gov. Jerry Brown](#) (*E&E News*): "America's gone AWOL under Trump," Brown told E&E News yesterday. "Ironically, Trump, by his actions, is giving climate denial a very bad name, making it utterly implausible. And that is actually building the energy and strength of the contrary movement, which is climate activism and efforts by countries, states and provinces to do the right thing to get our economy aligned with a decarbonized future."

"The complexity and scope of climate issues calls out for federal leadership and federal rules and laws," the governor said. "It can't make up for it, but California and other states and other countries can hold the line and advance the ball while we suffer this interregnum of climate denial."

- [Gov. Jerry Brown](#) ([joint statement](#) with governors of **New York** and **Washington** on formation of United States Climate Alliance): "The President

has already said climate change is a hoax, which is the exact opposite of virtually all scientific and worldwide opinion, I don't believe fighting reality is a good strategy - not for America, not for anybody. If the President is going to be AWOL in this profoundly important human endeavor, then California and other states will step up.”

## **Colorado**

- **Gov. John Hickenlooper** ([statement](#)): “It is a serious mistake to back out of the Paris Accord. This is a historic global agreement between almost every nation on earth to address the single most pressing issue facing humanity. Abandoning this climate deal is like ripping off your parachute when you should be pulling the ripcord.

“America’s greatness has always been demonstrated by our moral leadership. Today, we break ranks with 190 nations who are working together to stop the worst effects of climate change, which the scientific community agrees would devastate the global economy and our planet, and the defense community agrees would destabilize vulnerable nations that have served as breeding grounds for international terrorism.

“The U.S. is letting go the reins of world leadership, allowing other countries like Russia, India, and China to take our seat at the international table. Our economic and technological competitiveness will suffer. Isolationism is not leadership.

“Colorado’s commitment to clean air and clean energy will continue. Clean energy is abundant, home-grown, and creates 21st century jobs for our modern workforce across every part of our state. We renew our commitment to pursue cleaner energy at a lower cost. To do otherwise would be governmental malpractice.”

- **Gov. John Hickenlooper** ([E&E News](#)): Hickenlooper likened Trump to a child playing baseball who, finding a call has gone against him, picks up the bat and ball and goes home. Still, the president's ultimate decision on Paris does little to alter Colorado's course, he said.

“We are going to continue to move for cleaner air at the same or less cost. In other words, the world is evolving so we can genuinely imagine transitioning so we have less coal plants, more wind, more solar, more natural gas,” Hickenlooper said. “We have a number of utilities in Colorado, and they have to be part of this. I don't want to give an edict. We have talked to all of them about how do we get to cleaner air, less carbon emissions. The minimum is to be the same cost, but the goal is to get there and see if we can save money.”

“When you begin to bring governors together, you can do almost anything,” Hickenlooper said in a phone call. “I think we're going to see, mark my words, we're going to see an evolution to governors playing a stronger role in energy and governors working together at a level we have not seen before. When the federal

government abandons its leadership on a specific issue, I think states have an obligation to their citizens to step up.”

### **Connecticut**

- Gov. Dan Malloy ([via Twitter](#)): “Withdrawing the United States from the Paris Agreement is a grave mistake – and it is our future generations who will pay the price. Our nation has a proud history of leading by example and we do not cower from the hard work of making the world a safer place. History will judge this presidential administration harshly for its collective failure to address one of the most pressing global issues of our lifetime. For our part, in Connecticut we will continue building on our efforts to address climate change with common sense, practical initiatives that will help to build and grow our economy. Unfortunately, we lack a strong partner at the federal level as we go about this incredibly important work.”

### **Delaware**

- Gov. John Carney ([statement](#)): “I am deeply disappointed that President Trump has chosen to withdraw the United States from the Paris Agreement that united nations across the globe in a fight against climate change. Already the effects of climate change are taking a toll on Delawareans, as sea levels rise and extreme weather events increase driven by warming of the planet from carbon dioxide. As one of the country’s lowest-lying states and with 381 miles of coastline, Delaware also is vulnerable to climate change’s ominous meteorological impacts. Sea level rise exacerbates flooding that occurs during storms and warming ocean waters may cause stronger hurricanes and tropical storms. More than 17,000 homes and 500 miles of roadway in the state are at risk of permanent inundation. Rising average temperatures and prolonged heat waves pose critical health threats to Delaware’s agriculturalists, outdoor workers, children, and elderly in particular. These threats will only increase. The world is now on notice that without the United States’ leadership in reducing greenhouse gases that fuel rapid climate change, it’s an even greater uphill battle for future generations facing this ever-encroaching threat.”

### **District of Columbia**

- Mayor Muriel Bowser ([statement](#)): “Washington, DC will continue to work with cities and countries around the globe to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement. The effects of climate change are already here, and without proper planning and collaboration, they will continue to get worse. It is in the best interest of our country’s safety, economy, and future to take climate change seriously, and as the Mayor of a major city, I have a special obligation to protect our environment for generations to come and to create policies and programs that reflect the values of the residents I serve. Over the past two years, Washington, DC has launched



Climate Ready DC, entered into one of the largest municipal onsite solar projects in the U.S., and completed the largest wind power purchase agreement deal of its kind ever entered into by an American city. Going forward, our commitment to wind and solar will not yield, and we will move forward with building a more sustainable DC.

“At a time when our country should be leading the fight against climate change, it is disappointing to see us retreating into isolation. Fortunately, I am confident that leaders around the country will continue to think globally, act locally, and ensure that the U.S. remains a strong partner in the fight against climate change.”

## **Hawaii**

- Gov. David Ige (statement): “Hawai‘i and other Pacific Islands are already experiencing the impact of rising sea levels and natural disasters. That’s why my administration and the Legislature are already taking concrete steps to implement the Paris Accord. Hawai‘i will continue to fulfill its kuleana on reaching our energy, water, land and other sustainability goals to make island Earth a home for all. The innovation economy is driven by technology, clean energy, and green jobs. We will continue to lead on this transformation and work collaboratively with people around the world.”

## **Maryland**

- Spokeswoman for Gov. Larry Hogan (R) (Baltimore Sun): “This is not an action the governor would have taken,” Hogan spokeswoman Amelia Chasse said in a statement. “Governor Hogan remains committed to preserving Maryland's natural resources for future generations.”

## **Massachusetts**

- Gov. Charlie Baker (R) (via Twitter): “While the decision by the Trump-Pence Administration to withdraw from the Paris Climate Agreement is disappointing, the Commonwealth is committed to working with our partners around the nation and world to reduce carbon emissions. Despite today’s announcement, Massachusetts is aggressively working to exceed the goals of the Paris Agreement on the state level, while growing our economy through clean energy innovation and environmental stewardship. In Massachusetts and around the world, climate change is a shared reality and our ability to rise and respond to this challenge will shape future generations.”
- Gov. Charlie Baker (R) (E&E News): Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker, among the most outspoken Republicans on climate, said in a statement that “a decision by the Trump-Pence Administration to not maintain the United States’ commitment to the Paris Climate Agreement would be disappointing and

counterproductive to the efforts and progress Massachusetts and other states have made to reduce carbon emissions.”

### **Minnesota**

- Gov. Mark Dayton ([statement](#)): “President Trump’s decision to withdraw the United States from the Paris Climate Change Agreement is terrible for our state, nation, and world. It will cause irreparable damage to our environment and our economy. It will withdraw the United States, the largest energy consumer in the world, from the collective efforts to reduce severe environmental damage before it is too late.

“As damaging as this decision will be, it will not deter our efforts here in Minnesota. We will show the world what we can achieve by working together to conserve energy, to use cleaner and renewable energy, and to leave a livable planet to our children and grandchildren.”

### **Montana**

- Gov. Steve Bullock ([via Facebook](#)): “Ask any Montana farmer, rancher, hunter, angler, or skier – climate change is real and poses a threat to our economy and way of life. To not acknowledge that or deal with it in a responsible way is short-sighted and dangerous.

“In Montana, and in America, we face our challenges head on and work together to find solutions. We do not run away from them or pretend they don’t exist.”

### **New York**

- Gov. Andrew Cuomo ([via Facebook](#)): “Withdrawing from the Paris Accord is reckless. I’m signing an Executive Order affirming New York State’s role in fighting climate change. New York is committed to meeting the standards set forth in the Paris Accord regardless of Washington’s irresponsible actions.”
- Gov. Andrew Cuomo ([via Twitter](#)): “New York is committed to meeting the standards set forth in the Paris Accord regardless of Washington’s irresponsible actions.”
- Gov. Andrew Cuomo ([joint statement](#) with governors of **California** and **Washington** on formation of United States Climate Alliance): “The White House’s reckless decision to withdraw from the Paris Climate Agreement has devastating repercussions not only for the United States, but for our planet. This administration is abdicating its leadership and taking a backseat to other countries in the global fight against climate change, New York State is committed to meeting the standards set forth in the Paris Accord regardless of Washington’s irresponsible actions. We will not ignore the science and reality of climate change

which is why I am also signing an Executive Order confirming New York's leadership role in protecting our citizens, our environment, and our planet."

### **North Carolina**

- Gov. Roy Cooper ([AP](#)): "Pulling out of the Paris Accord is wrong for our country, our children, and the generations to come," Cooper said. "North Carolina's commitment to clean air and a healthy environment will remain a priority despite the lack of forward thinking leadership from the current Administration.

"North Carolina knows that clean air and energy innovation are good for our economy and health, and we're committed to continuing to lead in this area even if Washington isn't."

### **Ohio**

- Gov. John Kasich (R) ([via Twitter](#)): "I share concerns many have voiced about flaws in the Paris climate agreement. I'm convinced we can correct them and improve the agreement, however, by showing leadership and constructively engaging with like-minded nations, not by joining the ranks of holdouts like Syria and Nicaragua."

### **Oregon**

- Gov. Kate Brown ([statement](#)): "Climate change poses the greatest threat to Oregon's environment, economy, and way of life. Oregon has a strong tradition of fighting climate change, and we will not back down. The consequences of climate change are already impacting our communities and threaten the long-term sustainability of our natural resource-based economies. Leading U.S. companies recognize the need to address climate change risks and opportunities through the Paris Agreement, and are wisely investing in low-carbon fuels and clean energy technologies to stay on the cutting edge of the global economy.

"It is irresponsible for the president to deny these real-world implications. But I will continue to work with leaders on the West Coast, across the country, and around the world to address the challenge of climate change. While Oregon is a small state, we can play a huge role in finding innovative solutions to preserve our natural resources, reduce carbon, and create a cleaner, and greener energy mix of the future."

### **Pennsylvania**

- Gov. Tom Wolf ([statement](#)): Governor Tom Wolf today reiterated his call for President Trump to remain in the Paris Agreement on climate change, which was signed by every country in the world besides Syria and Nicaragua.

“I urge President Trump not to abdicate the United States’ global leadership and seat at the table on climate change – a pressing issue for Pennsylvania’s economy, especially energy, agriculture and tourism, and our resident’s health,” Governor Wolf said. “Pennsylvania is an energy leader and addressing emissions presents opportunities for Pennsylvania’s natural gas, renewable energy and energy efficiency industries to grow and create new jobs.

“Many of America’s largest corporations – from energy to technology – agree with environmental advocates, faith leaders and scientists that staying in the Paris agreement is the right choice for America. We cannot ignore the scientific evidence and economic significance of climate change and put our economy and population at risk.”

### **Rhode Island**

- **Gov. Gina Raimondo** ([via Twitter](#)): “I am deeply disappointed that the President has decided to withdraw the United States from the Paris Agreement. Republicans and Democrats alike recognize that the Paris Agreement is about so much more than climate change. It's about opportunity, stewardship and America's standing as a global leader. President Trump's action will not deter Rhode Island from taking necessary steps to address climate change. Our action at the state level will create new jobs and attract new investment in the green economy. We've set a goal to secure 1000 MW of clean energy resources and double the number of clean energy jobs by 2020. Ocean State families and businesses are on the front lines fighting climate change. I will continue to work with the General Assembly and partners in other states to protect our environment and advance clean energy alternatives, while creating new opportunities for our workforce in the process.”

### **Vermont**

- **Gov. Phil Scott (R)** ([statement](#)): “The President’s decision to withdraw from the Paris Climate Agreement is disappointing and concerning, particularly given the widespread and non-partisan support from business and political leaders for remaining in the Agreement.

“Vermont has taken a leadership role in addressing climate change, and the President’s decision today only strengthens our commitment. We have strong, regional multi-state partnerships through the Coalition of Northeast Governors (CONEG) and have made much progress in reducing the region’s carbon emissions, and we will maintain this work because it is the right and responsible thing to do.

“We will continue to do our share in a way that creates jobs, makes our state more affordable for families and businesses, and protects our environment for future generations.”

## **Virginia**

- Gov. Terry McAuliffe ([statement](#)): “The President's dangerous action today will have a devastating impact on our environment, our economy, and our health. The United States economy is dependent on leadership in the world, yet the President seems inclined to sit back and let other nations pass us by. Climate change is a threat to our way of life. If President Trump refuses to lead the response, Virginia will.

“Earlier this month I signed an order initiating the process of cutting carbon emissions in our Commonwealth and making Virginia a leader in the clean energy economy. That process will proceed despite this foolish decision by the Trump administration, and I hope states around the country join Virginia in showing Washington the way forward on this critical issue for our nation and our world.”

## **Washington**

- Gov. Jay Inslee ([statement](#)): “Washington state is leading the way on climate issues where Washington, D.C., is failing. The Paris Climate Agreement is a landmark international pact that represents our greatest opportunity to secure long-term U.S. and global economic security in the face of growing threats from climate change. One hundred and ninety-four nations have signed the agreement, 147 have ratified it, and more than 85 percent of the world's carbon pollution are now covered by its terms. Counted among the signatories are China and India, two of the world's largest contributors of greenhouse gas emissions, whose support for the agreement emerged through diligent U.S. leadership.

“Today the White House signaled that President Donald Trump will end the United States' participation in this agreement. This is a shameful course of action that will jeopardize the health and prosperity of our children and grandchildren. With this decision, Trump would leave America's destiny not as a nation that harnesses the clean, renewable energy above our shoulders, but that instead remains mired in the dirty, diminishing energy under our feet.

“But even before today, the Trump Administration has been taking steps to show it will refuse to confront the climate challenge. Trump's Environmental Protection Agency is already working to gut carbon pollution standards, to instead benefit fossil fuel industry profits; his Energy Department is proposing to slash research and development into new clean energy technologies; and his State Department has already checked out of our international climate partnerships.

“In Washington state we are taking action to reduce carbon pollution. We have implemented a cap on carbon pollution, and we will continue working with businesses and research institutions to develop and deploy 21st century clean energy solutions. We are also partnering with other states who are doing the same, and our states will not stop fighting for a clean energy future, regardless of who is in the White House. But we - and the global community - need a partner in the United States federal government.

“The U.S. cannot credibly remain a world leader while withdrawing from an agreement that reflects the overwhelming desire of the global community. President Trump has put our nation on the wrong path, and the wrong side of history.”

- [Gov. Jay Inslee](#) ([joint statement](#) with mayors of **California** and **New York** on formation of United States Climate Alliance): “I am proud to stand with other governors as we make sure that the inaction in D.C. is met by an equal force of action from the states. Today’s announcement by the president leaves the full responsibility of climate action on states and cities throughout our nation. While the president’s actions are a shameful rebuke to the work needed to protect our planet for our children and grandchildren, states have been and will continue to step up.”

### **Joint Statements**

- The governors of **California, Connecticut, Hawaii, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Virginia, and Washington**, along with the **mayors of 125 cities**, 902 businesses and investors, and 183 colleges and universities “[declared](#) their intent to continue to ensure the U.S. remains a global leader in reducing carbon emissions.

“Together, these leaders are sending a strong signal to the international community and the 194 other parties to the Paris Agreement about the continued commitment of the U.S. to ambitious action on climate change absent leadership at the federal level. In the aggregate, the signatories are delivering concrete emissions reductions that will help meet America’s emissions pledge under the Paris Agreement...

“The statement calls ‘The Trump administration’s announcement [one that] undermines a key pillar in the fight against climate change [and a move which is] out of step with what is happening in the United States.’ The signers all understand that the Paris Agreement is a blueprint for job creation, stability and global prosperity and that accelerating the United States’ clean energy transition is an opportunity - not a liability - to create jobs, spur innovation, promote trade and ensure American competitiveness. By declaring that ‘we are still in,’ the signatories are putting the best interests of their constituents, customers, students and communities first while assuring the rest of the world that American leadership on climate change extends well beyond the federal government.”

- **298 mayors** (US Climate Mayors [statement](#)): “The President’s denial of global warming is getting a cold reception from America’s cities.

“As 150 US Mayors representing 47 million Americans, we will adopt, honor, and uphold the commitments to the goals enshrined in the Paris Agreement. We will intensify efforts to meet each of our cities’ current climate goals, push for new action to meet the 1.5 degrees Celsius target, and work together to create a 21st century clean energy economy.

“We will continue to lead. We are increasing investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency. We will buy and create more demand for electric cars and trucks. We will increase our efforts to cut greenhouse gas emissions, create a clean energy economy, and stand for environmental justice. And if the President wants to break the promises made to our allies enshrined in the historic Paris Agreement, we’ll build and strengthen relationships around the world to protect the planet from devastating climate risks. The world cannot wait – and neither will we.”

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## **States, Cities Speak Out Against Trump Climate Order**

On March 28, 2017, President Trump signed an Executive Order that directs the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to weaken a range of important public health protections, including steps to revoke the Clean Power Plan, America’s first-ever standards to reduce dangerous carbon pollution from large power plants. Immediately after the President signed the Executive Order, a broad swath of governors, mayors, and other local officials publically spoke out against Trump’s attack on these vital public health safeguards.

### **Connecticut**

- **Gov. Dan Malloy** ([statement](#)): “The president’s latest executive order signifies a lack of leadership from Washington on climate change and is a dangerous detour from the progress our nation has made to protect the quality of the air we breathe and the health of the American public. I strongly believe that advancing clean energy is about advancing the success of our future. In Connecticut, we have coupled this forward-thinking vision with first-in-the-nation initiatives that are not only dramatically reducing carbon pollution, but also embrace new ideas and technologies that are expanding our economy. This is the approach our entire nation should be taking in order to be a leader in the global clean energy sector and produce American prosperity and jobs.”

### **Colorado**

- **Gov. John Hickenlooper** ([press release](#)): “Today’s Executive Order by the President pulling back on policies addressing climate change will not deter Colorado’s efforts. Natural gas has become more economical than coal, and Colorado is a national leader on wind and solar energy, which are a boon to our economy, jobs and the environment.

“Our efforts to clean our air and protect the natural environment are part of what draws young people, families, and businesses to Colorado. Our outdoor recreation industry, which helps create jobs all across the state, is dependent upon cleaner air and water. We have a history of solving complex problems and

taking action to move the state closer to meeting its clean air goals, and we have shown that we can have cleaner air and reduce harmful carbon emissions at essentially no additional cost—potentially even saving money for Colorado families.

“We will keep building a clean energy future that creates Colorado jobs, improves our health and addresses the harmful consequences of a changing climate.”

## **Delaware**

- Gov. Jay Carney (quote): “It’s a bad idea to abandon any tools that help us combat the real effects of climate change,” said Gov. John Carney, in an email Tuesday afternoon. “Delaware is already experiencing sea level rise twice as fast as the global average. More than 17,000 homes in Delaware are at risk of permanent inundation, and many more experience costly flooding. In addition to sea level rise, increased high heat days and changing precipitation patterns threaten Delaware’s essential \$8 billion agricultural industry, and pose critical health threats. The safety and health of Delawareans, our economy, and our natural resources are dependent not only on our actions as a state, but on a shared, urgent commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.”

## **Minnesota**

- Gov. Mark Dayton (statement): “Today’s action marks the latest in a series of destructive Executive Orders from President Trump. This new order will do irreparable damage to our environment and our economy. It will give a ‘license to pollute’ to industries across the United States, at the expense of clean air, clean water, and clean energy.

“As damaging as this executive order will be for the nation, and for the world, it will not deter our efforts here in Minnesota. We will continue to build on the progress of our nation-leading Next Generation Energy Act, and redouble our commitment to providing clean, affordable water for all Minnesotans.

“Even as the Trump Administration seeks to roll back a decade of hard-fought progress, Minnesota will not flinch. We will show the nation what can be achieved by working together to solve the challenges facing our people, our economy, and our environment. We will share best practices with other states, and work with them to mitigate the damaging impacts of the President’s dangerous and divisive policies.”

## **New York**

- New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio said it represents an “existential threat” to the city. “We’re already experiencing rising seas and hotter weather, with the last three years on record as the hottest yet. At the same time, the effects of climate



change will fall disproportionately on our most vulnerable communities, exacerbating inequality," he said.

## **Pennsylvania**

- **Gov. Tom Wolf** ([statement](#)): “The science of climate change is settled and the President’s actions today turn the federal government’s back on Pennsylvania’s environment and our economy. Today’s action by the President will do nothing to help coal communities but will exacerbate the negative impact climate change is having on our economy – from agriculture to tourism.

“Nevertheless, Pennsylvania, as a major energy provider, will continue to reduce pollution thanks to market decisions in the power sector, increased reliance on clean energy and improved energy efficiency, and improved oversight of emissions of potent greenhouse gasses such as methane.

“This is an issue that should not be driven by partisan politics and empty rhetoric, or a false choice between jobs and the environment. Rather, we should be focused on implementing balanced policies to protect our environment, create good paying jobs in the energy sector, and grow our economy.

“We can reduce Pennsylvania’s carbon emissions – while creating new, good-paying jobs – by promoting a cleaner energy mix including wind, nuclear, solar, energy efficiency, natural gas and clean coal. My administration will continue to actively seek ways to reduce the impact of climate change on our citizens and businesses.”

- **Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection Acting Secretary Patrick McDonnell** called Trump’s action “disappointing,” saying the state is already experiencing the effects of climate change. “The changing climate is the most significant environmental threat facing the world, and emissions from the United States are a significant cause,” McDonnell said in a [statement](#). “Pennsylvania has already experienced a long-term warming of nearly two degrees over the past century, and this trend is expected to accelerate. Ignoring the problem will only make conditions worse for our communities and economy and environment in the future.”

## **Virginia**

- **Gov. Terry McAuliffe** ([statement](#)): “The actions President Trump took today threaten our environment, our security and our ability to compete in the global economy. It is impossible and downright reckless to deny the science of global warming or the impact it is already having on states like Virginia. Sea level rise and extreme weather are already impacting Virginia families, businesses and key military assets like the world’s largest naval base in Norfolk. The Clean Power Plan not only provides a necessary response to the threat of climate change; it also provides a stable regulatory environment that is essential for businesses to make long-term investments and create new jobs.

“We have a choice: we can lead this fight and capitalize on the unprecedented economic potential of clean energy, or we can bury our heads in the sand and waste an opportunity to create the next generation of energy jobs. Here in the Commonwealth, we will continue to confront the impacts of climate change and support clean energy investments that will grow our economy and shape our future.”

## **Washington**

- **Governor Jay Inslee** ([statement](#)): “Climate change remains one of the most urgent issues facing leaders at all levels of government in all corners of the world. Washington state remains wholly committed to doing our part,” Inslee said. “Action is needed now to grow our economy, protect our health and secure our quality of life. President Trump’s decision to ax the Clean Power Plan cedes U.S. global leadership and increases the risk that climate change will continue to damage our state. We can’t afford to slow our efforts, and we won’t.”

## **Joint Statements**

- Joint [Statement](#) of **California Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr.** and **New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo**: “Dismantling the Clean Power Plan and other critical climate programs is profoundly misguided and shockingly ignores basic science. With this move, the Administration will endanger public health, our environment and our economic prosperity.  
  
“Climate change is real and will not be wished away by rhetoric or denial. We stand together with a majority of the American people in supporting bold actions to protect our communities from the dire consequences of climate change.”
- Joint [statement](#) with governors of **California, Oregon, & Washington**, and mayors of **Los Angeles (CA), Oakland (CA), Portland (OR), San Francisco (CA), & Seattle (WA)**: “As the governors of Washington, Oregon and California and the mayors of Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, Oakland and Los Angeles, we speak today in support of the Clean Power Plan. We speak in unified opposition to the idea of any decision by the President to limit our region’s economic opportunities or our commitment to doing what’s right to make our cities and states cleaner and healthier for future generations. ...”
- [Under2 Coalition joint statement](#) with governors of **California, Connecticut, Minnesota, New York, Oregon, & Washington**, and mayors of **New York City (NY), Oakland, Portland, Sacramento (CA), & Seattle**: “As United States governors and mayors, we speak with one voice against the decision to review the Clean Power Plan. As members of the Under2 Coalition, we know that the climate crisis demands global action at every level. As Washington, D.C. delays, the work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in our cities and states continues. Our commitment to limiting global average temperature increase to well below 2°C remains. We will not waver. And we will continue to enlist

likeminded cities, states, regions and countries around the world to join this fight.”

- **41 mayors**, including of **Atlanta (GA), Boston (MA), Chicago (IL), Columbia (SC), Durham (NC), Fayetteville (AR), Houston (TX), Knoxville (TN), Los Angeles, New Orleans (LA), New York City, Philadelphia (PA), Pittsburgh (PA), San Francisco, Seattle, & Washington, D.C.:** “As members of the Mayors National Climate Action Agenda (MNCAA), we represent more than 41 million Americans in 75 cities across our nation—in red and blue states alike. We write to strongly object to your actions to roll back critically important U.S. climate policies including the Clean Power Plan and vehicle fuel efficiency standards, as well as proposed budget cuts to the EPA and critical federal programs like Energy Star.

“Climate change is both the greatest single threat we face, and our greatest economic opportunity for our nation. That is why we [affirm our cities’ commitments](#) to taking every action possible to achieve the principles and goals of the Paris Climate Agreement, and to engage states, businesses and other sectors to join us.”

- A **coalition** of 23 top legal officials, including 17 Attorneys General of **New York, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Iowa, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Mexico, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, & the District of Columbia**, as well as the chief legal officers of 6 cities: **Boulder (CO), Chicago (IL), New York (NY), Philadelphia (PA), South Miami (FL), & Broward County (FL):**

“We strongly oppose President Trump’s executive order that seeks to dismantle the Clean Power Plan. Addressing our country’s largest source of carbon pollution—existing fossil fuel-burning power plants—is both required under the Clean Air Act and essential to mitigating climate change’s growing harm to our public health, environments, and economies. We won’t hesitate to protect those we serve—including by aggressively opposing in court President Trump’s actions that ignore both the law and the critical importance of confronting the very real threat of climate change.”

\* \* \*

## **Key State Planning and Progress towards CPP Compliance**

Across the country, many states continue to remain on track to meet or exceed goals for reducing carbon emissions from the power sector laid out in the Clean Power Plan.

## Arizona

- Arizona is “well positioned” to comply and already on track to meet interim goals under business as usual, according to analysis by [Pace Global](#); modeling from [Arizona State University](#) similarly found that compliance was eminently feasible. The state is continuing to [convene](#) meetings to assess compliance options even though the Arizona Corporation Commission is challenging the rule in court.
- From [ClimateWire](#) (June 3, 2016): “Arizona may be able to meet U.S. EPA’s Clean Power Plan standards solely with existing plans to retire coal plants and shift to cleaner sources of energy, according to two models reviewed by state officials in recent meetings.” The article quoted Advanced Energy Economy’s Amanda Ormond: “Ormond said although the numbers aren’t firm, they show Arizona is ‘going to have a pretty easy time meeting the Clean Power Plan...There’s a really big difference between the rhetoric of how difficult the Clean Power Plan’s going to be to meet versus the technical discussions.”
- From [ClimateWire](#) (June 3, 2016): “Timothy Franquist, who recently became DEQ’s air quality division director after Eric Massey stepped down for a job at the Arizona Public Service Co., said political leaders and lawmakers in the state have been candid about the uncertainty of the stay. ‘We don’t want to overextend resources and find that the program goes away,’ Franquist said of the Clean Power Plan. ‘At the same time ... we don’t want to fall so far behind that we have to play a lot of catch-up should the stay be lifted.’”
- From [ClimateWire](#) (May 31, 2016): “In Arizona, the Department of Environmental Quality, which has had a robust public process, has simultaneously held private meetings with a [technical work group](#) of utilities and a few clean energy groups and consumer and environmental advocates. Those meetings date back to August 2014.” Arizona DEQ’s meeting schedule can be found [here](#).
- Arizona [continues to make progress](#) deploying emission reduction strategies. Apple, Inc. and major Arizona public power provider Salt River Project (SRP) finalized an agreement for SRP to purchase power from a 50 MW solar plant built by the major tech company. From AZBigMedia: “SRP is committed to working with our customers like Apple to meet their energy needs with the accelerated development of renewable resources, such as solar and geothermal, without increasing costs to our other customers,” said SRP General Manager and CEO Mark Bonsall. “This opportunity is not only economical, but a powerful demonstration of how SRP can be a catalyst for economic development in the Valley.” By purchasing the output of the Bonnybrooke plant, SRP will reduce the carbon footprint of the fossil fuel resources that serve its more than 1 million customers in the greater Phoenix metropolitan area.

## Arkansas

- The state of Arkansas – which is litigating against the Clean Power Plan – [already reached](#) its 2030 CPP compliance target last year, thanks to declining coal use in

favor of more renewables and natural gas. An in-depth [Arkansas Democrat-Gazette](#) article found that “low natural-gas prices” was the most common reason cited by utility leaders for the decline in coal use.

## **California**

- California released a [draft](#) of its Clean Power Plan compliance plan in early August, the first state to do so. The accompanying statement (August 3, 2016):  
“The Golden State is the first in the country to publish a draft blueprint for fulfilling the federal agency’s mandate, aimed at cutting existing power plant emissions,” said [Stanley Young](#), spokesman for the California Air Resources Board. It’s “a proof of concept for other states, to demonstrate that this is a program that can be adapted to each state and that can be set up in a way that we can form a regional association.”

## **Colorado**

- Colorado Gov. Hickenlooper is drafting an executive order to cut state power sector emissions by at least 35 percent by 2030. From the [Denver Post](#):  
“Hickenlooper’s been mulling this order for a while and told The Denver Post he’s convinced a 35 percent cut, or better, below 2012 carbon dioxide pollution levels can be made by working with utilities, listening to them, prodding a bit, yet without increasing energy costs. ... ‘We think we can go beyond what that Clean Power Plan said. We think we can be more ambitious. But cost matters,’ Hickenlooper said. ‘...And yet we want to see how much cleaner air we can get. Can we get to 35 percent? Can we get to 36 percent? To 37? That’s where we are now, working through that process.’”
- Xcel Energy continues to make progress on the decarbonization of their Colorado system, working to gain approval from the Colorado PUC for a proposal to integrate an additional 600 MWs of wind energy on their system. Xcel [announced](#) it reached a settlement with 11 other stakeholders in the PUC proceeding to support the Rush Creek wind farm. David Eves, President of the Colorado division of Xcel Energy, said the Rush Creek wind farm “will provide low-cost energy to our customers, and it adds a clean, renewable generation resource to the state that will help us meet potential federal and state air quality mandates.”
- Colorado electric cooperative Tri-state Generation will shut down two coal plants with 527 megawatts of generating capacity by 2022 and 2025, respectively, and install pollution controls on two others in order to meet their existing regional haze obligations under the Clean Air Act. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment estimates the agreement will “cut carbon dioxide emissions by up to 4 million tons per year, and eliminate thousands of tons of other pollutants. Those reductions are needed to achieve compliance with state

and federal clean air plans and to improve air quality in once pristine parts of the state now suffering [big reductions in visibility.](#)”

## **Georgia**

- Sheree Kernizan, Electric Unit Director for the [Georgia PSC](#) (April 26, 2016): “We were already on track under the proposed rules to kind of meet the [Clean Power Plan] goals anyway -- without doing anything -- and this was prior to the 2016 [integrated resource plan] that was filed this year,” Kernizan said. “And [Georgia Power Company’s] talking about adding more renewables, continuing the energy efficiency programs that have been in place.”

## **Illinois**

- Illinois Attorney General [Lisa Madigan](#) (March 29, 2016): “Taking additional steps to reduce carbon pollution will keep us moving toward cleaner air, a healthier environment, and more affordable energy. I look forward to continuing to work with other states to advance the Clean Power Plan, as well as to advocate for a comprehensive portfolio of renewable energy sources and enhancements to energy efficiency programs.”
- The Clean Power Plan listening sessions remain “in the works,” said Ann McCabe of the Illinois Commerce Commission (February 12, 2016 [news article](#)).

## **Iowa**

- Iowa’s utility regulator [recently approved](#) a massive \$3.6 billion, 2000 megawatt wind project proposed by power company MidAmerican energy.  
From a MidAmerican [press release](#): “We have a bold vision for our energy future,’ said Bill Fehrman, CEO and president of MidAmerican Energy. ‘We don’t know of another U.S. energy provider that has staked out this 100 percent position. Our customers want more renewable energy, and we couldn’t agree more. Once the project is complete, we will generate wind energy equal to 85 percent of our annual customer sales in Iowa, bringing us within striking distance of our 100 percent renewable vision.”

## **Louisiana**

- April 13, 2016 [news article](#) on Louisiana Clean Power Plan efforts: Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality’s Secretary Chuck Carr Brown: “Some of the coal states are saying, ‘Put your pencils down’... I took this as an opportunity to sharpen the pencil -- to create something that is going to work for the state of Louisiana.

“Regardless what happens, I feel that EPA has already been successful in that now everybody is talking about carbon emissions and addressing them,” Brown said, adding later, “I don’t think there’s anybody out there that doesn’t believe climate change is real -- if they do, I don’t know where they’ve been.” Any plan Louisiana develops “is going to be right for the state of Louisiana,” Brown argued, saying that plan aims to include an “advantageous [carbon] trading component... A lot of folks are looking at what we do in Louisiana. We have a red state and a moderate Democratic governor [and] a new director. If we can get it right, so can everybody else, whatever that plan is.”

### **Massachusetts**

- Gov. Charlie Baker recently signed an [executive order](#) to ensure the state follows through on its ambitious climate change commitments. The Order establishes an “integrated climate change strategy” to help Massachusetts meet its goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 25% by 2020, and 80% by 2050 over 1990 levels. Among other provisions, the Order calls for setting of interim goals for 2030 and 2040, prioritizes energy efficiency, and focuses attention on transportation sector emissions. ([UtilityDive](#))

### **Michigan**

- Even in 2015, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality stated that the [state can comply](#) with the federal Clean Power Plan to reduce carbon emissions without changing anything until at least 2025.
- While Michigan’s Attorney General is fighting the Clean Power Plan in court, the state “would be largely in compliance” with the rule under expected “business as usual” conditions, according to a recent [report](#) by the Electric Power Research Institute.
- Michigan is among the states challenging EPA in court, but Republican Gov. Rick Snyder has taken some steps to plan for compliance in the event the rule survives. In September 2016, Michigan energy officials [released](#) two reports ([here](#) and [here](#)) concluding that several low-cost compliance pathways are available to the state. “Putting these two modeling efforts together provide Michigan useful information regarding the choices we will have to make over the next two decades whether or not the federal carbon rule for clean air is put into place,” Michigan Public Service Commission Chairman Sally Talberg, a Snyder appointee, said in a [statement](#).

### **Minnesota**

- Minnesota is continuing to develop its CPP implementation plan, even though the rule has been stayed. A [letter to the Minnesota state legislature](#) from the

agency responsible for implementing the CPP in Minnesota explains why: “The health and longevity of our citizens is by far the most important reason for continuing our work. ... Continued implementation of a state Clear Power Plan will reduce fossil fuel emissions – helping to keep Minnesotans healthier and reduce medical costs. ... Minnesota is doing what Governor Mark Dayton has declared to be the best action: Stay the course. Regardless of the court ruling, one thing is certain: the movement toward lower carbon emissions in Minnesota’s energy sector will continue. It is consistent and driven by goals set forth in state law and is growing jobs in Minnesota – more than 15,000 to date. ... Slowing our work now, while litigators argue, goes against our commitment to work for a better, healthier Minnesota.”

- **Minnesota Releases Policy Blueprint:** Minnesota’s Environmental Quality Board (EQB) also released the Climate Solutions and Economic Opportunities (CSEO) report in partnership with The Center for Climate Strategies to serve as a foundation for state climate action planning to achieve the state’s greenhouse gas emission reduction goals. With almost a dozen state agencies, the Dayton Administration committed to leaning in to meet the 2025 reduction targets. The report is available [here](#).
- From [EnergyWire](#): Minneapolis-based utility Xcel Energy recently announced plans to build 1,500 MW of wind energy across the Upper Midwest, including in Minnesota—a \$2 billion project. The project would advance Xcel’s goal of doubling its renewable portfolio by 2030. “Clearly, wind is on sale right now,” an Xcel executive said. “This is one big step in a very big plan through 2030.”

## **Nevada**

- Governor Sandoval remains “[focused](#) on finding a uniquely Nevada policy solution for clean and renewable energy through the work of the recently reconvened New Energy Industry Task Force that centers around the tenets laid out in the bipartisan Clean Energy Accord that he signed with 16 other governors...” The Task Force is set to make final recommendations to the Governor at the end of September.
- Clean energy investments continue to move forward in Nevada. The Interior Department formally [approved](#) a utility-scale solar project in southern Nevada. The 100 MW Aiya Solar Project, which has the capacity to produce enough electricity to power 25,000 homes, will help Nevada power company NV Energy offset the power generated by the Reid Gardner coal plant and will limit plant operation water use up to 1.6 million gallons per year. NV Energy also recently [announced plans](#) to transition the final unit at Reid Gardner ( 250 megawatts) 10 months earlier than expected. NV Energy plans to replace the lost capacity with a 100 megawatt solar project and new natural gas generation.

“NV Energy’s Senior Vice President of Energy Supply Kevin Geraghty said of the new solar project, ‘At an average cost of energy for the life of the project at



approximately four cents per kilowatt-hour, this is one of the lowest-cost solar projects in the nation.”

### **North Dakota**

- Electric cooperative Great River Energy [closed](#) a 189 MW coal-fired power plant in July 2016 after concluding the plant was no longer economic. Great River [said they plan to](#) “meet future demand for energy with conservation, energy efficiency, renewable energy, natural gas and market purchases.”

### **Ohio**

- Ohio utility FirstEnergy [will close five coal-fired generating units](#) by 2020, totaling 856 megawatts of generating capacity. Said FirstEnergy Generation president Jim Lash: "Continued challenging market conditions have made it increasingly difficult for smaller units like Bay Shore and Sammis Units 1-4 to be competitive. It's no longer economically viable to operate these facilities."

### **Pennsylvania**

- From *NPR's StateImpact* (Nov. 9, 2016): “The state Department of Environmental Protection [had previously said it would continue work on the Clean Power Plan](#) despite the ongoing court battle. ... ‘Regardless of the ultimate outcome,’ [said DEP spokesman Neil Shader,] ‘Pennsylvania’s carbon footprint has been shrinking rapidly due to market based decisions being made in the state’s electric generating sector, particularly rapid switching toward natural gas. It is likely that this trend will continue. DEP will continue to seek ways to continue addressing climate change.’”
- From *NPR's StateImpact*: Pennsylvania is continuing to work on the Clean Power Plan. “It just makes good business sense to continue to plan for what we know is going to happen. This is inevitable,” says [Dept. of Env. Protection (DEP) head John] Quigley. “It’s smart for Pennsylvania if we’re going to maintain our role as an energy exporter and maintain the role of our energy economy.”
- From *EnergyWire*: Even with the Clean Power Plan stayed, Pennsylvania’s PUC is still working with the DEP and regional grid operator PJM to plan for compliance. “I know things appear to have slowed down because of the court challenge,’ said Gladys Brown, chairwoman of the Public Utility Commission. But that’s just appearances, she said in an interview.” The PUC has dedicated four staff members to work with the DEP towards a compliance plan.
- [Analysis](#) by Georgia Institute of Technology shows that Pennsylvania households will *save* money on electricity bills---by 6.7%---under the least-cost CPP compliance pathway.

- From [Law360](#): PJM, which operates the grid for Pennsylvania and 12 other states, analyzed Clean Power Plan compliance options at the requests of its member states, including Pennsylvania. The operator found “The CO2 emissions reduction goals of the Clean Power Plan can be achieved within the PJM footprint under each of the seven compliance pathways studied. ... Regardless of the compliance pathway, resource adequacy is maintained in the PJM footprint.”

### **South Carolina**

- From a February 11 [news article](#): “But some states, more aggressive in their carbon reduction work, say they will continue with their efforts regardless of the case’s outcome. South Carolina has indicated it expects to continue work to decarbonize the state’s power industry, an effort which began two years ago.”
- From [The New York Times](#), July 19, 2016: “But South Carolina regulators are moving forward with meetings on a new state energy plan — which, Mr. Scott conceded, will probably include discussion of how to reduce emissions from electric power plants. It will just not be called the Clean Power Plan.  
‘We’re still working on clean air, just not pursuant to the Clean Power Plan,’ Mr. Scott said. He added that if the Clean Power Plan was upheld by the courts, South Carolina’s work on an energy plan that includes lower emissions from power plants could be repurposed in its work to comply with the climate plan.”

### **Washington**

- Washington has [continued to move ahead](#) with its multi-sector carbon reduction strategy, releasing a new Clean Air Rule that sets individual caps for the state’s largest sources of carbon emissions. The Rule requires the state’s largest sources to decrease their emissions by an average of 1.7 percent annually. Over time, the rule will expand to cover a greater number of sources and require deeper emission reductions.
- The [Clean Air Rule](#) moves Washington closer to achieving its state greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets, and aims to help the state achieve greater reductions than the Clean Power Plan would require. In addition, Washington officials indicate the rule is designed to allow power plants that are also subject to the Clean Power Plan to readily navigate both regulatory frameworks.

### **Wyoming:**

- From a February 13, 2016 [news article](#): “[Governor] Mead, in an interview Friday, said Wyoming would continue to oppose the rules in court...The Cowboy State nevertheless will continue compliance planning, albeit at a slower pace, he said.

- “State Sen. Michael Von Flatern, a Gillette Republican who chairs the powerful Senate Minerals, Business and Economic Development Committee, voiced support Friday for continued planning. ‘Whatever the court decides and our neighboring states and our receiving states choose, Wyoming should be prepared,’ he said.”
- *The New York Times* (July 19, 2016) [reported](#) Wyoming is moving forward with efforts to comply with the Clean Power Plan. The *Times* quoted Governor Mead: “Obviously we’re suing and going to fight,’ Mr. Mead, a former United States attorney for Wyoming, said in an interview in his office here. ‘But from my court experience, I know you have to prepare not to win.’”

### **Multi-state: Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative**

- The nine Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) states (Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont) are already on track to hit CPP compliance goals [a decade early](#) [Figure 5, p. 8], if 2020 RGGI targets simply flatline through 2030. RGGI states are [considering](#) going far beyond CPP requirements by implementing more stringent targets. Regulators are weighing proposals to lower targets an additional 2.5% or 5% per year from 2020 through 2030.

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### **States Respond to Clean Power Plan Supreme Court Stay**

In response to the U.S. Supreme Court’s stay of the Clean Power Plan in February 2016, many state officials committed to continue working towards compliance and meeting the carbon reduction targets laid out in the CPP.

#### **Arizona**

- Eric Massey of [Arizona Department of Environmental Quality](#) quote (February 11, 2016): “...the state will continue gathering information while the court considers the Clean Power Plan. By March the division is expecting to complete a baseline outlook for 15 years of carbon emissions given impending changes including APS fuel conversions, growth in renewable energy and energy efficiency.”

#### **California**

- [Governor Brown](#) statement on the Supreme Court’s stay order (February 9, 2016): “As the world gets hotter and closer to irreversible climate change, these justices appear tone-deaf as they fiddle with procedural niceties. This arbitrary roadblock does incalculable damage and undermines America’s climate

leadership. But make no mistake, this won't stop California from continuing to do its part under the Clean Power Plan.”

- [Attorney General Kamala Harris](#) statement on the Supreme Court's stay order (February 9, 2016): “I am extremely disappointed by the Supreme Court's decision today to block President Obama's Clean Power Plan,” said Attorney General Harris. “The Court's decision, and the special interests working to undermine this plan, threatens our environment, public health and economy.”

## **Colorado**

- [Governor Hickenlooper](#) quote (April 7, 2016): “Our full intention is to get to, and in many cases exceed, what the goals are in the Clean Power Plan... The focus of [Colorado Public Health and Environment Department] and this state is to get to cleaner air in real time.”

“Our goal is to get to much cleaner standards and probably achieve or exceed what's in the Clean Power Plan... our goal here is to get cleaner air without really any negative impact to the ratepayer's pocketbooks.”

- [Governor Hickenlooper](#) statement (February 10, 2016): “While we're still reviewing the implications of the Supreme Court's decision, we remain committed to having the cleanest air in the nation. We'll continue to build upon the great strides we've made as a state — with the Clean Air Clean Jobs Act and our Renewable Energy Standard — to protect our public health and environment.”
- [CO Department of Public Health & Environment](#) statement (February 11, 2016): “It is prudent for Colorado to move forward during the litigation to ensure that the state is not left at a disadvantage if the courts uphold all or part of the Clean Power Plan. Because the Supreme Court did not say whether the stay would change the rule's compliance deadlines, Colorado could lose valuable time if it delays its work on the state plan and the rule is ultimately upheld.”

## **Connecticut**

- [Governor Dannel Malloy](#) statement (February 10, 2016): “I believe in science - the data is real. Global warming is happening. Urgent action is needed on a national and an international basis to combat it. That's why the Supreme Court's ruling to pause implementation of the Clean Power Plan is disappointing and shortsighted. However, it is not a final decision on the legal merits of the Clean Power Plan, so it is important that we continue with preparations for compliance with the plan while these issues are being worked out in the courts.

“Connecticut is already a national leader on global warming - and that will not change. We're going to continue to cut carbon in a cost-effective, reliable manner while growing a clean energy economy. Through programs like the Regional

Greenhouse Gas Initiative, we already have achieved significant reductions in carbon pollution from the electric sector, while growing our economies and maintaining reliable power. We have an obligation to combat greenhouse gases, and Connecticut is going to continue to do just that.”

- The ruling “changes but does not end the need for conversation [among states],” [said](#) Jack Betkoski, Vice-Chair of the Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority and second vice president of NARUC (February 12, 2016).

## **Delaware**

- Governor Jack Markell ([via Facebook](#) February 11, 2016): “I am disappointed in yesterday’s Supreme Court action on the EPA Clean Power Plan, but optimistic that it will be upheld when the courts review the merits of the case. We remain determined to move forward in responding to the issue of climate change. As a RGGI state, Delaware has led the country in working to curtail greenhouse gas emissions from the power sector, and we will continue to do so regardless of the decision to stay the Clean Power Plan rule. As a coastal state, we are acutely aware of the serious threats of climate change and sea level rise, and the Clean Power Plan represents a sensible and flexible approach for states to make the changes required to protect our economy and quality of life.”

## **Idaho**

- “The [Idaho DEQ](#) will continue to work with the Office of Energy Resources and the Idaho Public Utilities Commission to determine the best options for the state if the rule is reinstated. Meanwhile, technical analysis of the rule and its impacts will continue and, ‘as time allows, we will continue discussions with affected utilities and surrounding states,’ the Idaho DEQ said.”

## **Iowa**

- From a February 12, 2016 [news article](#): The Iowa DNR plans to move forward with a previously scheduled Clean Power Plan stakeholder meeting on February 22. In the [meeting announcement](#), the Iowa Department of Natural Resources stated “...DNR would like to work collaboratively with stakeholders to analyze our next steps. To that end, we will still have the February 22<sup>nd</sup> stakeholder meeting as scheduled. The agenda for the meeting is attached and includes time to hear your thoughts on next steps and focus on EM&V. Given the judicial uncertainty of the rule, hearing from stakeholders on the way forward is very important.”

## **Maine**

- Attorney General [Janet Mills](#) statement on tackling climate change (March 29, 2016): “Our natural resources are the lifeblood of our state’s economy and our quality of life. Global climate change demands immediate action and I am committed to using the authority of my office to address the problem in a meaningful way by defending important EPA regulations against attacks led by the coal industry and exploring litigation options that will hold the worst polluters accountable for their actions.”

## **Massachusetts**

- [Attorney General Maura Healey](#) (February 10, 2016): “Although we are disappointed with the Supreme Court’s decision to delay implementation of the EPA’s Clean Power Plan, we believe the courts will uphold this program after full consideration of the merits of the case. Massachusetts has made important progress on addressing the threat of climate change, and as this case proceeds we will work with our coalition of states and local governments to continue to defend the Clean Power Plan’s reasonable, flexible and cost effective approach to lowering the greenhouse gas emissions of our country’s power plants.”
- “Based on our review, the Commonwealth, as part of the nine-state Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), is well positioned to meet the goals of the federal Clean Power Plan,” a spokeswoman for the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs told Bloomberg BNA in an e-mail.
  - From Bloomberg BNA: *States Respond to Clean Power Plan Stay* (Childers)

## **Minnesota**

- [Governor Mark Dayton](#) statement (February 10, 2016): “While the Court’s temporary stay is disappointing, it does nothing to diminish our resolve in Minnesota to keep moving forward on clean energy initiatives, including the development of our state’s Clean Power Plan. President Obama’s strong leadership, the nation-leading initiatives of some of our state’s utilities, and my administration’s commitment will assure our state’s continued progress.  
“We shouldn’t need a federal edict to understand how vital it is that we keep doing everything in our collective powers to reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions, improve energy efficiency, and advance Minnesota’s clean energy economy.”
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency ([via Twitter](#), February 10, 2016): “CleanPowerPlanMN is moving forward – attend our listening session in Bemidji next week.”

- [News article](#), February 12, 2016, [Court stay may slow, not stop, state carbon-cutting talks](#): “Some state officials proclaimed they would nonetheless plow ahead with planning until a final court decision. ‘We will go full speed ahead,’ said David Thornton, assistant commissioner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.”

### **Nevada:**

- [Governor Brian Sandoval](#) statement on reconvening the New Energy Industry Task Force (February 23, 2016): “Nevada was already well on the road to compliance with proposed federal regulations concerning carbon emission rate reductions,” said Sandoval. “That rule is now under scrutiny by the U.S. Supreme Court. This task force will work with the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection and other stakeholders to determine the best path forward for our state, a uniquely Nevadan solution that balances energy efficiency, economic development, and environmental stewardship. The Task Force will be making recommendations for the state to consider with regard to future EPA compliance issues, but more importantly to do the right thing for the people of Nevada.”
- [Governor Sandoval](#)’s office on the Clean Power Plan litigation (February 25, 2016): “The Governor did not request the filing of an amicus brief in the Clean Power Plan case. In taking this action, the Attorney General is simply offering his legal opinion. The Governor is focused on finding a uniquely Nevada policy solution for clean and renewable energy through the work of the recently reconvened New Energy Industry Task Force that centers around the tenets laid out in the bipartisan Clean Energy Accord that he signed with 16 other governors last week.”

### **New Hampshire**

- [Governor Maggie Hassan](#) (February 10, 2016): “New Hampshire has long led efforts to cut carbon emissions and combat climate change so that we can have the cleaner and safer environment that our people need to live healthy, productive lives – and it’s crucial that other states follow our lead and take responsibility for the pollution that they cause. Through programs such as the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, our region is showing that it is possible to protect public health, spur energy innovation, and promote affordable, reliable energy sources for our economy. That’s why I have been a strong supporter of the Clean Power Plan, and the Supreme Court’s decision to delay this important step forward is very disappointing.”

## **New Mexico**

- [NM Environment Secretary Ryan Flynn](#) said in a statement that “despite capricious political winds, the New Mexico Environment Department remains committed to taking meaningful action to reduce greenhouse gases by a projected 5.7 million tons by the end of 2017.”

## **New York**

- [AG Eric Schneiderman + Joint Statement of States and Counties\\*](#) (February 10, 2016): “We are confident that once the courts have fully reviewed the merits of the Clean Power Plan, it will be upheld as lawful under the Clean Air Act. Our coalition of states and local governments will continue to vigorously defend the Clean Power Plan – which is critical to ensuring that necessary progress is made in confronting climate change.”

\*Additional states and cities: California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, the District of Columbia, the cities of New York, Boulder, Chicago, Philadelphia, South Miami and Broward County, Florida.

- Governor Andrew Cuomo [quote](#) (February 10, 2016): “New York State remains committed to moving forward with our own actions to protect the environment and the public health. But this issue requires a global response – and the Clean Power Plan is crucial to ensuring a cleaner, greener, and safer future for all.”

## **Oregon**

- Governor Kate Brown ([via Facebook](#), February 10, 2016): “Even though the Clean Power Plan is going through a battle in the courts, Oregon has been and continues to be committed to national efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the power sector. Oregon is well-positioned to comply with the EPA targets because there have already been early actions in Oregon through investments in energy efficiency, renewable energy development, and moving away from coal.”

## **Pennsylvania**

- [DEP Secretary John Quigley](#) quote (February 11, 2016): “The rule’s in effect, the rule hasn’t gone away. We, at least currently, see a path to submitting [a state plan] on Sept. 6... It’s clear that renewables are the future. What the Clean Power Plan is calling for is really good business.”
- [Governor Wolf’s](#) spokesman Jeff Sheridan quote (February 10, 2016): “Pennsylvania will continue planning and engagement with stakeholders on the Clean Power Plan, pending final decision of this issue by the Supreme Court. We will continue to closely monitor the ongoing legal process.”



## **Vermont**

- [Governor Peter Shumlin](#) statement (February 10, 2016): “This is incredibly disappointing news. The forces fighting President Obama’s common sense plan are those with a stake in the dirty energy status quo that is of polluting our air, water, and forests and contributing to global climate change. Their desperate attempt to make a profit at the expense of our health and the future of the planet is standing in the way of serious action to combat climate change and preserve a livable planet for future generations.

“It is no surprise that the suit over the Clean Power Plan was brought by proponents of the coal industry. That industry, and those who support it, will do everything they can to boost their profits, even if it means imperiling our planet’s future. This is just one more example why Vermont should not be in the business of supporting the coal industry and should divest from coal stocks.”

## **Virginia**

- [Governor McAuliffe](#) statement (February 10, 2016): “Over the last several months my administration has been working with a diverse group of Virginia stakeholders that includes members of the environmental, business, and energy communities to develop a strong, viable path forward to comply with the Clean Power Plan. As this court case moves forward, we will stay on course and continue to develop the elements for a Virginia plan to reduce carbon emissions and stimulate our clean energy economy.”

## **Washington**

- [Governor Inslee](#) statement (February 10, 2016): “Yesterday’s Supreme Court ruling on the Clean Power Plan is very troubling, surprising, and disappointing. And it inexplicably breaks with past rulings in which the high court has called for federal rules to limit the carbon pollution that is driving climate change.

“We cannot afford to wait any longer for federal action to address carbon pollution and transition to clean energy. Here in Washington state we are unfortunately already seeing the harmful impacts of climate change, and we will continue to take steps that reduce carbon and to lead the nation in clean energy. The EPA’s Clean Power Plan remains a crucial tool to ensure that every state must do its part, and to empower them to do so.”