

Climate actions Biden administration has taken so far:

Jan 20 –

- President Biden revoked an executive order that had instructed agencies to circumvent required environmental review during the pandemic.
- President Biden revoked an executive order that had sought to fast-track oil and gas pipelines. (This revokes the March 2019 permit for the Keystone XL Pipeline).
- President Biden revoked an executive order that had promoted offshore drilling, including in areas that President Obama had moved to permanently protect.
- President Biden revoked an executive order that had encouraged stripping protections from national monuments in order to allow for fossil fuel exploitation.
- President Biden revoked an executive order that had promoted the production and use of domestic fossil fuels.
- The Interior Department imposed a 60-day moratorium on fossil fuel leasing and permitting for federal land and water.
- President Biden recommitted the United States to the Paris Climate Agreement.
- President Biden signed an Executive Order on Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis.

The Executive Order also includes 48 actions for the EPA to review—more than in any other agency:

- This includes review of a highly consequential rollback of methane emission regulations for the oil and gas industry, instituted by the Trump administration in August. The regulations weakened Obama-era rules requiring oil and gas companies to monitor and fix methane leaks from new wells and other infrastructure.
- It also includes review of relaxed requirements for leak detection and repairs of refrigeration equipment that uses hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs).

Climate actions to watch out for:

- A suite of executive actions to combat climate change is expected to be announced today (Wednesday, Jan 27) –
 - President Biden will direct federal agencies to determine how expansive a ban on new oil and gas leasing on federal land should be.
 - The president will direct the government to conserve 30 percent of all federal land and water by 2030.
 - The president will create a task force to assemble a government-wide action plan for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
 - The president will issue a memorandum elevating climate change to a national security priority.
 - The president will also create several new commissions and positions within the government focused on environmental justice and environmentally friendly job creation, including one to help displaced coal communities.
- The Biden administration plans to undo the Trump administration's rollback of the Clean Power Plan. The rollback was overturned last Tuesday when the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit struck down the Trump administration's replacement regulation. The court's decision sends Trump's rule back to the EPA, giving the incoming Biden administration a chance to write new and potentially more ambitious regulations.
- Replacement of federal government vehicle fleet with American-made electric vehicles. (This is around 650,000 vehicles).
- Last Wednesday, the Biden administration announced that it was reforming the Interagency Working Group on the Social Cost of Greenhouse Gases, directing it to issue new factors that "ensure that agencies account for the full costs" of heat-trapping emissions, "including climate risk, environmental justice and intergenerational equity."

- The Biden administration is taking steps to possibly reverse the decision by former President Trump's U.S. Department of Labor to make it more difficult for fiduciaries of retirement plans to direct money to ESG-focused funds.
- Possible invocation of a National Emergency on Climate – controversial move – it would give the Biden administration sweeping authority to circumvent Congress to combat global warming – would unlock new powers including ability to redirect funding for clean energy projects, shut down crude oil exports, suspend offshore drilling, and curtail movement of fossil fuels on pipelines, trains, and ships. (President Trump used this tactic to divert money for construction of the southern border wall).