

Climate Policy Update

November 1, 2021

Good morning! This is Akin Gump's weekly policy newsletter on all things **climate change**. This week begins the first of two weeks of the COP26. Below are the major federal climate policy headlines of the past week:

- **U.N. Climate Change Conference "COP26" Begins in Glasgow**

On Sunday, October 31, the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference, also known as the "COP26," began in Glasgow, UK. The opening two days of the conference will feature a World Leaders Summit and the conference is expected to last until at least November 12. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson officially opened the conference with remarks at 8:30 AM EST today stating that the world is "one minute to midnight and we need to act now."

A full schedule of program events can be accessed [here](#) and conference side events [here](#).

- **G20 Leaders Pledge Climate Action But Make Few Commitments** (*BBC News*)

On Saturday, October 30, world leaders representing the Group of Twenty (G20) met in Rome, Italy. In a joint communiqué released by the leaders, they pledged to stop financing new, unabated coal plants internationally by the end of 2021. The leaders did not reach an agreement to end coal power in their nations which represent 80% of all global carbon emissions. President Biden faulted a lack of commitment from Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin who did not attend the summit in-person.

- **Climate Change Forms Largest Part of Build Back Better Framework** (*New York Times*)

On Thursday, October 28, the White House announced that it had secured a Build Back Better Framework in talks with congressional leadership and Democrat lawmakers. The \$555 billion framework includes tax incentives for wind, solar, and other clean energy, and other funding for climate mitigation and adaptation. President Biden called the framework the "most significant investment" to address climate change "beyond any other advanced nation."

Check out below for a look at the week ahead in congressional hearings, COP26 news, and think tank events...

Quotes of the Week

"The idea we're going to be able to move to renewable energy overnight and ... from this moment on not use oil or not use gas or not use hydrogen, it's just not rational."

– President Joe Biden *at the G20 Summit in Rome*

([Reuters](#) – October 31, 2021)

“Glasgow has already summoned more climate ambition than the world has ever seen.”

– U.S. Special Envoy for Climate John Kerry *on action before the COP26*

([LSE](#) – October 28, 2021)

“We will be there to accelerate action. We will be there to talk about the urgency of now. We think they will want to be there to ensure that their countries are counted in this effort.”

– National Climate Advisor Gina McCarthy *on goals for the U.S. Delegation at the COP26*

([Yahoo Finance](#) – October 27, 2021)

Upcoming Congressional Hearings (November 1-5, 2021)

Senate

House of Representatives

Hearing on Potential Non-Electric Applications of Civilian Nuclear Energy

Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Thursday, November 4, 10:00 a.m. EST

No Relevant Hearings

U.S. Delegation – COP26 Events

The [U.S. Center](#) is the location of the U.S. Delegation at the COP26 in Glasgow, UK. The U.S. Center will feature in-person and virtual events throughout the two weeks and will showcase the diversity of actors and actions that are working together to combat the climate crisis. All U.S. Center events will be live-streamed here and on the [U.S. Center YouTube channel](#), and videos will be recorded and uploaded at the end of each day.

November 1 - WORLD LEADERS SUMMIT

1:00-1:30 PM GMT **Launching the Decisive Decade of Climate Action**

2:30-4:00 PM GMT **America is All In: Mobilization to Meet U.S. Climate Goals**

4:00-5:00 PM GMT **The Economic Case for Investing in Climate Action**

6:00-7:00 PM GMT **Climate Science Leading the Way**

November 2 - WORLD LEADERS SUMMIT

11:00-11:15 AM GMT **NASA Hyperwall Presentation**

11:30-12:30 PM GMT **Roundtable Discussing Justice 40 Initiative**

3:00-4:00 PM GMT **Advancing Adaptation at Home and in Vulnerable Countries**

4:00-4:15 PM GMT **NASA Hyperwall Presentation**

November 4 - ENERGY

10:00-11:00 AM GMT **The Next Wave of Climate Solutions**

11:00-11:15 AM GMT **NASA Hyperwall Presentation**

11:30-12:30 PM GMT **Unlocking Grids to Decarbonize Power Systems Global with the G=PST Consortium**

1:30-2:30 PM GMT **Expanding Global Wind Ambition**

3:00-4:00 PM GMT **Climate and Health Equity**

4:00-4:15 PM GMT **U.S.-Romania Small Modular Nuclear Reactor Signing Ceremony**

4:30-5:30 PM GMT **The Clean Energy Demand Initiative**

5:30-5:45 PM GMT **NASA Hyperwall**

6:00-7:00 PM GMT **Clean Energy Ministerial**

4:30-5:30 PM GMT **Tech for Net-Zero**
6:00-7:00 PM GMT **Ambition Beyond COP26**

November 3 - FINANCE

9:00-9:30 AM GMT **Our Ocean, Our People, Our Prosperity**
10:00-11:00 AM GMT **LEAF Coalition: Tropical Forest Conservation**
11:00-11:15 AM GMT **NASA Hyperwall Presentation**
11:30-12:30 PM GMT **Mobilizing Capital for Climate Finance in Developing Countries**
1:30-2:30 PM GMT **U.S. Efforts to Conserve Global Forests**
3:00-4:00 PM GMT **Clean Technology Fund 2.0**
4:00-4:15 PM GMT **NASA Hyperwall**
4:30-5:30 PM GMT **Growing Economies by Reducing Emissions**
6:00-7:00 PM GMT **Net Zero World Initiative Launch: Accelerating Global Energy System Decarbonization**

November 5 – YOUTH AND PUBLIC EMPOWERMENT

10:00-11:00 AM GMT **LIFE-AR Compact**
11:00-11:15 PM GMT **NASA Hyperwall Presentation**
11:30-12:30 PM GMT **Elevating Indigenous Youth**
1:30-2:30 PM GMT **Going Negative on Carbon**
3:00-4:00 PM GMT **Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry**
4:00-4:15 PM GMT **NASA Hyperwall Presentation**
4:30-5:30 PM GMT **America’s Electric Companies: Aiming for Zero**
6:00-7:00 PM GMT **Our Share Future: Life on a Sustainable Planet**

November 6 - NATURE

10:00-11:00 AM GMT **Saving Nature to Save Ourselves**
11:00-11:30 AM GMT **NASA Hyperwall**
11:30-12:30 PM GMT **Ocean & Climate Ambition: International Partnerships on MPAs**
1:30-2:30 PM GMT **Investing in Our Future: Agricultural Innovation Mission for Climate**
3:00-4:00 PM GMT **Congress’ Role in Enhancing U.S. Climate Leadership and Ambition**
4:00-4:30 PM GMT **SilvaCarbon Film Screening**
4:30-5:30 PM GMT **Women and Girls Leading Climate Action**
5:30-6:00 PM GMT **NASA Hyperwall Presentation**
6:00-7:00 PM GMT **A Natural Response to Climate Change**

Upcoming D.C. Climate Events (Registration)

The Future of Sustainable Air Travel

POLITICO

Tuesday, November 2, 2021, 11:00 a.m. EST

The Political, Climate, and Economic Arguments for a Border Carbon Adjustment

The Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC)

November 2, 2021, 11:30 a.m. EST

Advanced Battery Technologies and the Energy Transition

The United States Energy Association

Tuesday, November 2, 2021, 11:30 a.m. EST

Mayors for Heat Action

The Atlantic Council

Tuesday, November 2, 2021, 11:30 a.m. EST

Carbon Border Measures: What Happens with Ambitious Climate Policies?

Resources for the Future

Wednesday, November 3, 2021, 9:00 a.m. EST

2021 Grid Forum

The American Council on Renewable Energy (ACORE)

Wednesday, November 3-4, 2021, 10:00 a.m. EST

Protecting Our Planet: A Global Test with Andrea Meza Murillo & Frans Timmermans

Washington Post Live

Thursday, November 4, 2021, 10:30 p.m. EST

