

Climate Policy Update

April 18, 2022

Happy Earth Week! This is Akin Gump's weekly policy newsletter on all things **climate change**. Below are the major federal climate policy headlines of the past week:

- **Interior Department Will Resume Oil and Gas Drilling on Public Lands**
On Friday, April 15th, the U.S. Department of the Interior announced that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will publish notices for reformed onshore oil and gas lease sales following an injunction from the Western District of Louisiana. Today, the BLM will issue its final environmental assessments and sale notices for the upcoming oil and gas lease sales. The BLM plans to auction off 145,000 acres of public lands in nine states for new drilling, marking the first fossil fuel leases on public lands of the Biden administration.
- **Biden Administration Announces New Climate Commitments at Our Ocean Conference**
On Wednesday, April 13th, Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry led a U.S. delegation to the Our Ocean Conference in Palau. At the conference, Special Envoy Kerry remarked that the United States intended to make 100 commitments worth \$2.7 billion at the two-day event. Further climate commitments are expected to be made this week as President Biden visits Seattle for an Earth Week event.

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

Quotes of the Week

"Reports that I have resigned from my position as President Biden's National Climate Advisor are simply inaccurate. We've made great progress these past 14 months, but we have much more work to do — and I remain excited about the opportunities ahead."

– **National Climate Advisor Gina McCarthy *dismissing reports that she intends to resign***

(Reuters – April 14, 2022)

"This conference has from the outset recognized the link between the ocean and the climate. You above all understand that you can't solve the problem of the ocean without dealing with the climate... and you can't solve the problem of the climate without dealing with the ocean because it is the great climate regulator."

– **Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry *remarks at the Our Ocean Conference***

(U.S. Department of State – April 13, 2022)

Upcoming Congressional Hearings (April 18-22, 2022)

Senate

State Work Period
No scheduled hearings.

House of Representatives

Pedal to the Metal: Electric Vehicle Batteries and the Critical Minerals Supply

House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
Thursday, April 21, 11:00 a.m. EST
Werch Board Room, Woodridge Village Hall, Illinois 60517

Federal Agency Climate News

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)

DOE Releases New Equity Action Plan, Unveils Investments to Strengthen HBCU Opportunities in Clean Energy (April 14)

U.S. Department of the Interior

[Biden-Harris Administration Releases Final Guidance on New Orphaned Well Program](#) (April 12)
[Interior Department Announces Significantly Reformed Onshore Oil and Gas Lease Sales](#) (April 15)

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

[EPA Announces Plan to Protect Endangered Species and Support Sustainable Agriculture](#) (April 12)
[EPA Publishes 29th Annual Greenhouse Gas Emissions](#) (April 14)
[State, Federal Agencies and Non-profit Entities Host Two Day Conference About Climate Resilience in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands](#) (April 14)
[EPA Announces \\$524 Million Investment to Improve Health of Waterways and Oceans as Biden-Harris Administration Celebrates Earth Week](#) (April 18)

Upcoming D.C. Climate Events (Registration)

[Spring Meetings 2022](#)

World Bank/International Monetary Fund
April 18-23, 2022

[What Comes After the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report?](#)

The Brookings Institution
Monday, April 18, 2022, 3:30 p.m. EDT

[Electrifying the Future Fleet](#)

Government Executive
Tuesday, April 19, 2022, 1:00 p.m. EDT

[Building Rural and Native Communities' Resilience to Disasters](#)

The Urban Institute
Tuesday, April 19, 2022, 2:30 p.m. EDT

[Financing Green Development: A Fireside Chat on U.S. Climate Finance with Secretary John Kerry](#)

[Pro Sustainable Business Forum](#)

The Wall Street Journal
Wednesday, April 20, 2022, 10:00 a.m. EDT

[Virtual Public Meeting](#)

National Environmental Justice Advisory Council
Wednesday, April 20, 2022, 1:00 p.m. EDT

[2022 IIF Sustainable Finance Roundtable](#)

Institute of International Finance
Thursday, April 21, 2022, 9:30 a.m. EDT

[Protecting Our Planet](#)

Washington Post Live
Thursday, April 21, 2022, 3:30 p.m. EDT

Center for Global Development

Wednesday, April 20, 2022, 9:30 a.m. EDT

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