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| Climate Policy Update | | |  | | |
| March 13, 2024  Good afternoon!  This is Akin’s newsletter on climate change policy and regulatory developments, providing information on major climate policy headlines from the past week and forthcoming climate-related events and hearings: | | | | | |
| National | | | | | |
| * [SEC Climate Disclosure Rule Faces Legal Gauntlet](https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/eenews/2024/03/11/sec-climate-disclosure-rule-faces-legal-gantlet-00146050)*(E&E News)*   Despite efforts to dilute the regulation, the Securities and Exchange Commission’s (SEC) climate risk disclosure rule “drew immediate legal challenges from Republican-led states and energy companies.”   * [Dems Push Treasury to Finish Offshore Wind Guidance](https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/eenews/2024/03/12/dems-push-treasury-to-finish-offshore-wind-guidance-00146274)*(E&E News)*   Democratic lawmakers—led by Sen. Ed Markey (D-MA)—penned a letter to the Treasury Department to encourage officials to “release guidance on Inflation Reduction Act[([P.L. 117-169](https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/5376/text); IRA)] offshore wind credits.”   * [DOE Offers $425M for Clean Energy Supply Chains in Coal Communities](https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/eenews/2024/03/11/doe-opens-up-425m-for-clean-energy-supply-chains-in-coal-communities-ee-00145664)*(E&E News)*   The Department of Energy (DOE) is slated to direct $425 million in funds from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act([P.L. 117-58](https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/3684); IIJA) to “coal communities across the country to help strengthen clean energy manufacturing and reduce industrial emissions.”   * [Biden Seeks $1.8B Budget Boost for EPA](https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/eenews/2024/03/11/biden-seeks-1-8b-budget-boost-for-epa-00146266)*(E&E News)*   President Biden issued his Fiscal Year 2025 budget request and included a hike in funding to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to “cement his legacy of fighting climate change and aiding marginalized communities struggling with pollution.”   * [Budget Plan a Mixed Bag for Department of Energy](https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/eenews/2024/03/11/budget-plan-a-mixed-bag-for-department-of-energy-spending-00146239) *(E&E News)*   President Biden’s requested funding for the Department of Energy (DOE) “would continue investments in clean energy development, but some of its numbers are more modest than last year’s request or would implement cuts.”   * [Interior Budget Would Target Climate Change](https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/eenews/2024/03/11/interior-budget-would-target-climate-change-00146228)*(E&E News)*   The Biden administration proposed a $17.8 billion allocation to the Department of Interior (DOI) to, in part, “address climate change through a wide array of Interior programs, including allocating $189 million toward deploying renewable energy on public lands and waters.” | | | | | |
| State and Local | | | | | |
| * [New York’s Cap-and-Trade Proposal Threatens State’s Climate Goals](https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/2024/03/cap-and-trade-new-york-00146033) *(PoliticoPro)*   Gov. Kathy Hochul (D-NY) “is shying away from higher potential consumer costs for a planned cap-and-trade style program to accomplish New York’s emissions reduction targets.”   * [Washington Holds First Carbon Auction of 2024, with Program’s Future in Doubt](https://www.kuow.org/stories/washington-holds-first-carbon-auction-of-2024-with-program-s-future-in-doubt)*(NPR)*   Washington state held its first carbon auction of 2024 where “uncertainty around the future of the state’s system for capping and making polluters pay for climate-harming pollution has already lowered what polluters and speculators are willing to pay for ‘carbon allowances.’”   * [Texas Sues EPA Over Methane Rule](https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/eenews/2024/03/08/texas-sues-epa-over-methane-rule-00146105) *(PoliticoPro)*   Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton (R-TX) filed a lawsuit in the U.S. Court of Appeals in the D.C. Circuit to take aim “at EPA’s rule to clamp down on methane emissions from the oil and gas industry.” | | | | | |
| International | | | | | |
| * [How](https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/eenews/2024/03/01/global-energy-co2-emissions-hit-all-time-high-report-1-00144113) to Hold Shipping Financially Accountable for its Climate Impacts *(Climate Home News)*   The United Nations (UN) International Maritime Organization (IMO) is convening to “negotiate on policies to achieve its climate commitments and cut [greenhouse gas (GHG)] emissions from ships.”   * [5 Things We Learned from the EU’s Big (and First) Climate Risk Report](https://www.politico.eu/article/5-things-we-learned-eu-first-climate-change-risk-report-eea/)*(Politico)*   The European Environment Agency (EEA) “warned that the bloc is unprepared for the effects of climate change even if the world manages to keep global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius, as set down in the Paris Agreement.” | | | | | |
| Check out below for key quotes, federal agency news and a look at the week ahead in congressional hearings and think tank events: | | | | | |
| Quote of the Week | | | | | |
| “Without a clear understanding of whether — and to what extent — offshore wind projects would qualify for the domestic content and energy community bonus tax credits, developers may be forced to bid at unnecessarily high prices or may be unable to secure needed project financing due to an inflationary market and congested supply chain.” *ꟷ Senate Democrats Letter to the Treasury Department on IRA Tax Credits* ***(E&E News –*** [*March 12*](https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/eenews/2024/03/12/dems-push-treasury-to-finish-offshore-wind-guidance-00146274)***)*** | | | | | |
| Congressional Hearings (March 11 – March 15, 2024) | | | | | |
| **Senate**  *No relevant Senate hearings.* | | | **House of Representatives**  *No relevant House hearings.* | | |
| Federal Agency Climate News | | | | | |
| **Department of Energy**  [Biden-Harris Administration Releases First-Ever National Strategy to Accelerate Deployment of Zero-Emission Infrastructure for Freight Trucks](https://www.energy.gov/articles/biden-harris-administration-releases-first-ever-national-strategy-accelerate-deployment) (March 12)  [Biden-Harris Administration Announces $425 Million to Decarbonize and Manufacture Clean Energy Products in Former Coal Communities as Part of Investing in America Agenda](https://www.energy.gov/articles/biden-harris-administration-announces-425-million-decarbonize-and-manufacture-clean-energy) (March 8)  [Biden-Harris Administration Announces $90 Million to Improve Building Efficiency, Increase Resilience, and Lower Costs for American Families and Businesses](https://www.energy.gov/articles/biden-harris-administration-announces-90-million-improve-building-efficiency-increase) (March 4) | | | **Environmental Protection Agency**  [45 States, Large Metro Areas Submit Climate Action Plans Under President Biden’s Inflation Reduction Act](https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/45-states-large-metro-areas-submit-climate-action-plans-under-president-bidens) (March 11) | | |
| Funding and Comment Opportunities | | | | | |
| [Climate Pollution Reduction Grants](https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/climate-pollution-reduction-grants)  **Environmental Protection Agency**  Close Date: April 1, 2024  [Transmission Siting and Economic Development Program](https://www.energy.gov/articles/biden-harris-administration-announces-300-million-speed-transmission-permitting-across)  **Department of Energy**  Close Date: April 5, 2024 | | | [Battery Materials and Battery Manufacturing Grants](https://infrastructure-exchange.energy.gov/Default.aspx#FoaIda8b13027-1ca4-42f3-a18e-8072624b2acb)  **Department of Energy**  Close Date: March 19, 2024 | | |
| **D.C. Climate Events** | | | | |
| [Investing in Critical Minerals](https://www.csis.org/events/investing-critical-minerals-conversation-brian-menell)  **Center for Strategic and International Studies**  Tuesday, March 12, 10:30 AM ET  [The Race to Decarbonize the American Economy](https://www.washingtonpost.com/washington-post-live/2024/03/13/race-decarbonize-american-economy/)  **Washington Post**  Wednesday, March 13, 12:00 PM ET | | [Building Clean Energy in Africa](https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/event/energysource-innovation-stream-with-asoba/)  **Atlantic Council**  Wednesday, March 13, 10:00 AM ET | | |
| **For more information, please contact your regular Akin lawyer or advisor, or:** | | | | | |
| [Kenneth J. Markowitz](https://www.akingump.com/en/lawyers-advisors/kenneth-j-markowitz.html)  [Stacey H. Mitchell](https://www.akingump.com/en/lawyers-advisors/stacey-h-mitchell.html) | [Dario J. Frommer](https://www.akingump.com/en/lawyers-advisors/dario-joseph-frommer.html)  [Christopher A. Treanor](https://www.akingump.com/en/lawyers-advisors/christopher-a-treanor.html) | | |  | |
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