

# Climate Policy Update

September 21, 2021

**Happy Climate 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:

- **President Biden Pushes for International Climate Action at United Nations (*Politico*)**

On Tuesday, September 21, President Biden discussed the “code red for humanity” presented by climate change at a speech before the United Nations General Assembly in New York. He urged countries to make ambitious commitments to reduce emissions ahead of the UN Climate Change Conference COP26 in November and he pledged to double the United States’ contribution to the Green Climate Fund. His remarks followed his convening of the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate on Friday, September 17, as a follow-up to the Leaders Summit on Climate in April.

- **US and EU Pledge 30% Cut in Methane Emissions to Limit Global Heating (*The Guardian*)**

On Friday, September 17, the United States and the European Union announced their commitment to a collective goal of reducing global methane emissions by at least 30 percent from 2020 levels by 2030 and moving towards using best available inventory methodologies to quantify methane emissions. The methane pledge was followed by an announcement from President Xi Jinping of China on Tuesday that China will begin a phase down of coal use starting in 2026 and will end international financing of coal projects.

- **White House Mobilizes to Protect Workers and Communities from Extreme Heat**

On Monday, September 20, the White House announced a coordinated, interagency effort to respond to extreme heat caused by climate change. As part of the initiative, the Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) announced they will launch a proposed rule on heat illness prevention for outdoor and indoor work settings. It would be the first federal heat standard to protect workers.

Check out below for newly introduced climate legislation and regulations, more federal climate policy headlines, and a look at the week ahead in congressional hearings and think tank events...

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## Quotes of the Week

“We have to bring to Glasgow our highest possible ambitions. Those who have not yet done so, time is running out.”

– President Joe Biden *on country commitments leading up to the COP26*

([Bloomberg News](#) – September 17, 2021)

“This extreme heat challenge is the silent killer...one of the biggest challenges we face in climate...yet people don’t recognize it until it’s too late. So we need to start preparing.”

– White House National Climate Advisor Gina McCarthy *on the administration’s new heat-standard*

([PBS Newshour](#) – September 20, 2021)

“I think we’re going to get it done by COP. The U.S. will do its part. I’m not hoping. I’m telling you to stay tuned to the president’s speech.”

– U.S. Special Presidential Envoy John Kerry *on meeting a \$100 billion target in annual climate aid*

([Climate Aid Urgency is Tempered by New Optimism at UN Conference](#))

(Bloomberg – September 20, 2021)

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## Upcoming Congressional Hearings (September 20-24, 2021)

### Senate

[Hearing to examine the economic benefits of electrifying America’s homes and buildings](#)

Joint Economic Committee

Wednesday, September 22, 2:30 p.m. EST, 216 Hart

### House of Representatives

[Voluntary Carbon Markets in Agriculture and Forestry](#)

House Committee on Agriculture

Monday, September 23, 10:00 a.m. EST, Virtual

[Advancing Earth System Science and Stewardship at NOAA](#)

House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

Thursday, September 23, 10:00 a.m. EST, Virtual

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## Federal Climate Rules and Regulations (September 13-17, 2021)

### General Services Administration

**REQUEST FOR COMMENTS: CDP Supply Chain Climate Change**

**Information Request**

Published on: 09/17/2021

FR Document: [2021-20140](#)

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## Federal Agency Climate News

## The White House

[Readout of President Joseph R Biden Jr.'s Meeting with Secretary-General Antonio Guterres of the United Nations](#) (September 20)

[FACT SHEET: Biden Administration Mobilizes to Protect Workers and Communities from Extreme Heat](#) (September 20)

[Statement by President Joe Biden on Mobilizing the Administration to Address Extreme Heat](#) (September 20)

[Joint US-EU Press Release on Global Methane Pledge](#) (September 18)

[Meeting of the Major Economies on Energy and Climate September 17, 2021: Chair's Summary](#) (September 17)

[Readout of President Biden's Meeting of the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate](#) (September 17)

[Remarks by President Biden at Virtual Meeting of the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate](#) (September 17)

[Background Press Call on the Administration's Climate Policy](#) (September 16)

[Readout of the Sixth National Climate Task Force Meeting](#) (September 15)

[President Biden to Host Leader-Level Meeting of the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate](#) (September 15)

[Remarks by President Biden During a Tour of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory](#) (September 14)

[Remarks by President Biden on the Administration's Response to Recent Wildfires](#) (September 13)

[Remarks by President Biden in Briefing on the Impacts of the Recent Wildfire](#) (September 13)

[Remarks by President Biden in Briefing with Federal and State Fire Agency Officials](#) (September 13)

## Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

[EPA Rescinds Previous Administration's Guidance on Clean Water Act Permit Requirements](#) (September 16)

[Commission for Environmental Cooperation Launches EJ4Climate, \\$2 Million Environment Justice Grant Program](#)  
(September 14)

## US Department of the Interior

[Secretary Haaland Outlines Next Steps to Rebuild Bureau of Land Management](#) (September 17)

[Interior Department and Intertribal Timber Council Strengthen Wildland Fire Management Collaboration](#) (September 15)

## US Department of Energy (DOE)

[DOE Announces \\$16 Million to Support Community-Driven Pathways to Clean Energy](#) (September 15)

## US Department of State

[Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry's Visit to India](#) (September 7)

[High-Level Dialogue on Climate Action in the Americas](#) (September 10)

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## Upcoming D.C. Climate Events (Registration)

### [Climate Week NYC](#)

Monday, September 20, 2021, 10:00 a.m. EST

### [Raising Climate Ambition](#)

**The Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE)**

Monday, September 20, 2021, 4:00 p.m. EST

### [Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanisms and Climate-Tech Innovation: A Happy Coupling?](#)

**The Information Technology and Innovation Foundation**

Tuesday, September 21, 2021, 10:00 a.m. EST

### [2021 National Clean Energy Week Policy Makers Symposium](#)

**The Business Council for Sustainable Energy**

Tuesday, September 21, 2021, 10:30 a.m. EST

### [Leading by Example: Business at the Forefront of Energy Innovation and Sustainability](#)

**The U.S. Chamber of Commerce**

Tuesday, September 21, 2021, 2:00 p.m. EST

### [Climate Solutions: Wildlife Conservation](#)

**Washington Post Live**

Wednesday, September 22, 2021, 10:00 a.m. EST

### [Advancing Climate Action Through Public-Private Partnerships](#)

**U.S. Chamber of Commerce**

Thursday, September 23, 2021, 1:00 p.m. EST

### [Protecting Our Planet with Alok Sharma](#)

**Washington Post Live**

Thursday, September 23, 2021, 10:00 a.m. EST