

Climate Policy Update

July 25, 2023

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

- **[Mountain Valley Pipeline Turns to Supreme Court](#)** (*E&E News*)
The lead developer of Mountain Valley Pipeline sent an emergency application to the Supreme Court requesting to “undo orders from a lower court that froze construction of the project designed to bring natural gas 303 miles from West Virginia to southern Virginia.”
- **[Small-Town GOP Officials Are Torn Over Biden's Clean Energy Clash](#)** (*Washington Post*)
The Inflation Reduction Act's emphasis on rural investment “puts local GOP officials in the position of overseeing massive amounts of development funded by Biden's law.” While some Republicans, such as Gov. Brian Kemp (R-GA) and Sen. Linsey Graham (R-SC), are “throwing their weight” behind the clean energy investments, other red states are rolling back green subsidies.
- **[Biden Wants Oil Companies to Pay Much More to Drill on Federal Lands](#)** (*Washington Post*)
Within the Bureau of Land Management's updated proposal, the Biden administration is tasking oil and gas drillers with committing “more than 10 times as much money to guarantee their wells will not pollute.”

State & Local

- **[Here's How California's Electric Cars Can Feed the Grid and Help Avoid Brownouts](#)** (*CalMatters*)
In light of the San Diego County school district's success with capturing “excess power from its electric school buses” to bolster the state's grid, the California legislature is considering a bill to “require all new electric cars sold in California to be equipped with bidirectional technology by 2030.”
- **[How Wyoming's Carbon County Came to Embrace Renewable Energy](#)** (*E&E News*)
Last week, TransWest Express Chief Executive Officer Bill Miller, Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm, Interior Secretary Deb Haaland and Gov. Mark Gordon (R-WY) attended the groundbreaking of TransWest Express, which “will carry electricity from a massive wind farm being built nearby.”
- **[Biden's Tough Sell in Pennsylvania: Green Energy to Union Workers](#)** (*Reuters*)
President Biden visited Philadelphia to “pitch the promise of a green economy to union workers skeptical that the solar, wind, and electric vehicle industries can deliver the same economic punch for organized labor as fossil fuel-powered refineries and power plants.”

International

- **Japan Says It Can Make Coal Cleaner. Critics Say Its Plan Is ‘Almost Impossible.’** (*New York Times*)
Jera—a company that owns Japan’s largest coal-fired power plant—“wants to demonstrate that it can blend ammonia—which does not emit carbon dioxide when burned—with coal in its boilers.”
- **Venezuela’s Oil Industry Is Broken. Now It’s Breaking the Environment.** (*New York Times*)
Venezuela’s oil industry “has been decimated by mismanagement and several years of U.S. sanctions imposed on the country’s authoritarian government, leaving behind a ravaged economy and a devastated environment.”
- **EU Braces for Possible Loss of Two Climate Change Leaders** (*Reuters*)
With the anticipated leaving of the European Union’s (EU) green policy chief and Spain’s climate minister, the EU “could stand to lose two of its most effective climate changes negotiators ahead of this year’s [Conference of Parties 28 (COP 28) United Nations] summit.”
- **Canada Releases Framework to Phase Out Inefficient Fossil Fuel Subsidies** (*Reuters*)
Canada recently released a “framework for eliminating inefficient fossil fuel subsidies.” This proposal will “apply to existing tax measures and 129 non-tax measures, but Ottawa will not cancel ongoing multi-year subsidy agreements that are already in place.”

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

“When I think climate, I think jobs, union jobs.”
– **President Joe Biden** (*Reuters* – July 20)

Congressional Hearings (July 24 - July 28, 2023)

Senate

[Beyond the Breaking Point: The Fiscal Consequences of Climate Change on Infrastructure](#)

Senate Budget

Wednesday, July 26, 9:30 A.M. EDT

[Committee Business Meeting and Improving Capacity for Critical Mineral Recovery through Electronic Waste Recycling and Reuse](#)

Senate Environment and Public Works

Wednesday, July 26, 10:00 A.M. EDT

[Cleaner Trains: Opportunities for Reducing Emissions from America's Rail Network](#)

Senate Environment and Public Works Clean Air, Climate, and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee

Wednesday, July 26, 2:30 P.M. EDT

[Solutions for Single-Use Waste: Expanding Refill and Reuse Infrastructure](#)

Senate Environment and Public Works Chemical Safety, Waste Management, Environmental Justice, and Regulatory Oversight Subcommittee

Thursday, July 27, 9:45 A.M. EDT

House of Representatives

No relevant House hearings.

Federal Agency Climate News

Department of Energy

[Biden-Harris Administration Invests \\$20 Million to Optimize Lifecycle of Solar Energy Systems and Minimize Technology Waste](#) (July 21)

Department of Interior

[Biden-Harris Administration Announces First Ever Offshore Wind Lease Sale in the Gulf of Mexico](#) (July 20)

Environmental Protection Agency

[U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Energy Announce Intent to Fund Efforts to Reduce Methane Emissions from Oil and Gas Sector](#) (July 24)

Funding and Comment Opportunities

[Powering Affordable Clean Energy](#)

Department of Agriculture

[Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program](#)

Close Date: September 29, 2023

Empowering Rural America

Department of Agriculture

Close Date: August 31, 2023

Clean Energy Demonstration Program on Current and Former Mine Land

Department of Energy

Concept Papers: May 11, 2023

Close Date: August 31, 2023

Additional Clean Hydrogen Programs – Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs

Department of Energy

Close Date: TBD

Department of Energy

Pre-Award Information: April 28, 2023

Close Date: July 31, 2023

Silicon Solar Manufacturing and Dual-Use Photovoltaics Incubator

Department of Energy

Concept Paper: September 27, 2023

Close Date: November 14, 2023

Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund

Environmental Protection Agency

Close Date: August 28, 2023

D.C. Climate Events

Climate Change Virtual Discussion

U.S. Agency for International Development

Tuesday, July 25, 10:00 AM EDT

Clean Energy Permitting Reform: The Path Ahead

The Hill

Wednesday, July 26, 8:00 AM EDT

The New Energy Economy

Politico

Wednesday, July 26, 5:15 PM EDT

Tax Credit Monetization Under the Inflation Reduction Act

United States Energy Association

Thursday, July 27, 2:30 PM EDT

A Realist Climate Policy: Driving Clean Tech to Price/Performance Parity

Information Technology and Innovation Foundation

Tuesday, July 25, 10:30 AM EDT

Investing in Climate Resilience

Washington Post

Wednesday, July 26, 3:00 PM EDT

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