

Climate Policy Update

September 12, 2022

Good evening! This is Akin Gump's weekly policy newsletter on **climate change** policy and regulatory developments, providing information on major climate policy headlines from this past week and forthcoming climate-related events and hearings:

National

- **New Fed Banking Chief Targeting Crypto and Climate Change as Top Priorities** (CNBC)
During a speech on Wednesday, the Federal Reserve's Gov. Michael Barr delivered a speech outlining his priorities, including a goal for the Federal Reserve "to better assess the long term, climate-related financial risks facing the largest institutions."
- **Biden-Harris Administration Launches Portal to Help Communities Assess Exposure to Climate Hazards** (NOAA)
In partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Biden-Harris administration launched a "new website to help communities across the nation understand the real-time climate-related hazards in their area, analyze projected long-term exposure to those hazards, and identify federal funds to support climate resilience projects for their communities."
- **Clean Energy Projects Surge After Climate Bill Passage** (The New York Times)
After the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, multiple corporations have launched large-scale clean energy projects. Toyota announced a \$2.5 billion investment in a North Carolina factory "to produce batteries for electric cars and hybrids." Similarly, Honda and LG Energy Solution launched a joint effort "to build a \$4.4 billion battery factory." A mining company, Piedmont Lithium, asserted it would build a plant to process lithium for batteries while First Solar, a solar panel manufacturer, committed to investing \$1.2 billion to building a new factory in the United States.
- **Manufacturers Push Regulators for More Natural Gas Pipelines** (E&E News)
Manufacturers penned a letter to lawmakers calling for a correction at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to become "active proponents of new infrastructure." The letter highlights concern "over natural gas priced heading into the winter, when increased demand from utilities and export facilities for heating and power generation may strain existing pipeline capacity even further and skyrocket what they see as already untenable prices."

- [To Decarbonize Industry, DOE Road Map Focuses on Efficiency, Electrification and Low-Carbon Fuels](#) *(Utility Drive)*
Department of Energy (DOE) Secretary Jennifer Granholm announced the Industrial Decarbonization Roadmap, identifying key pathways to effectively reduce emissions in the country's most energy-intensive sectors—chemical manufacturing, petroleum refining, iron and steel, food and beverage, and cement and lime.
- [Renewable Energy Contributed 24 Percent of Generation in H1 2022](#) *(North American Windpower)*
Within the first six months of the year, renewable sources accounted for 24 percent of the U.S. electricity generation. Over the same time period last year, renewable accounted for 21 percent of U.S. electric generation.

State

- [Sixty-One Dems Say Virginia's Participation in RGGI Is Up to Legislature](#) *(Richmond Times-Dispatch)*
In the wake of the Youngkin administration's plan to remove Virginia from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), 61 Virginia Democrats drafted a letter to the Air Pollution Control Board opposing the regulatory proposal. Further, the letter argues that the Governor's plan is "improper and illegal," as Virginia's participation in RGGI is a decision for the General Assembly to make.
- [Future of Virginia Air Board Committee in Question](#) *(Virginia Mercury)*
The Virginia Air Pollution Control Board's Committee on Public Engagement may be in danger after "a new law went into effect transferring permitting powers from the air board to the [Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)]." Before the aforementioned law went into effect, controversial permitting decisions could have moved from DEQ to the air board. Now, DEQ can "convene additional public hearings on a permit if it is requested by 25 people or if a permit is deemed controversial under a new definition."
- [California's Electricity Demand Breaks All-Time Record During Severe Heat Wave](#) *(PBS)*
As California experienced "record-breaking" temperatures, the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) reported that the state's electrical demand set an "all-time record." The state implored consumers to limit energy use during peak hours in an effort to prevent sustained power outages.

International

- [Climate Change Could Worsen Supply Chain Turmoil](#) *(The New York Times)*
A drought in southwestern China has hindered various international supply chains that are reeling from COVID-19 disruptions. Economists and trade experts have warned that such natural disasters "could soon become more frequent for companies that source parts and products from around the world as climate change, and the extreme weather events that accompany it, continue to disrupt the global delivery system for goods in highly unpredictable ways."

- [Egypt Is Hosting COP27. Can It Become Africa's Climate Champion?](#) (Council on Foreign Relations)

As this year's Conference of the Parties (COP27) draws closer, the host country, Egypt, "appears to have organized COP27 around the goal of increasing climate finance, or investment in efforts to adapt to the consequences of climate change and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions."

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

"For decades, the current system has worked well. When pipeline capacity was needed, pipeline companies filed permits to the FERC and for the most part, the pipelines were approved and built without much delay."

-Paul Cicio, CEO of Industrial Energy Consumers of America, in the organization's letter to lawmakers

([E&E News](#) – September 9, 2022)

"You've got to speed up solar and wind and geothermal [projects], and I can tell you there are a lot of folks in the renewable energy space who are saying, 'You've bet, we have to get that done.'"

-Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) discussing permitting reform

([E&E News](#) – September 12, 2022)

Upcoming Congressional Hearings (September 12-16, 2022)

Senate

[Hearing to Examine the Federal Government's Role in Supporting the Commercialization of Fusion Energy](#)

Senate Energy and Natural Resources
Thursday, September 15, 10:00 AM EST
366 Dirksen Senate Office Building

House of Representatives

[The Role of Public Relations Firms in Preventing Action on Climate Change](#)

House Natural Resources
Wednesday, September 14, 10:00 AM EST
1324 Longworth House Office Building

[Fueling the Climate Crisis: Examining Big Oil's Prices, Profits and Pledges](#)

House Oversight and Reform
Thursday, September 15, 9:00 AM EST
2154 Rayburn House Office Building

Preparing America's Health Care Infrastructure for the Climate Crisis

House Ways and Means

Thursday, September 15, 11:00 AM EST

1102 Longworth House Office Building

Federal Agency Climate News

The White House

[Communities Welcome New Climate Resilience Portal to Help Navigate Extreme Weather](#) (September 9)

[Biden-Harris Administration Launches New Climate Portal to Help Communities Navigate Climate Change Impacts](#) (September 8)

U.S. Department of the Interior

[Secretary Haaland Meets with Tribal, Local Leaders Regarding Conservation Efforts in Southern Nevada](#) (September 7)

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

[EPA Selects Recipients of Nearly \\$12 Million in Pollution Prevention Grants Funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#) (September 8)

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)

[September H2IQ Hour: Addressing NOx Emissions from Gas Turbines Fueled with Hydrogen](#) (September 7)

[September H2IQ Hour – Part II: HydroGEN Advanced Water Splitting Materials Capabilities Overview](#) (September 9)

Funding Opportunities

[Industrial Efficiency and Decarbonization](#)

Department of Energy

Close Date: December 20, 2022

[BIL Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships](#)

Department of Energy

Close Date: October 14, 2022

[FY 2023 Guidelines for Brownfields Cleanup Grants](#)

Environmental Protection Agency

Close Date: November 22, 2022

Upcoming D.C. Climate Events (Registration)

[The U.S. Carbon Advantage in Chemicals Manufacturing](#)

The Climate Leadership Council's Center for Climate and Trade

Tuesday, September 13, 2022, 9:00 AM EST

[Clean Air Act Advisory Committee](#)

Environmental Protection Agency

Tuesday, September 13, 2022, 1:00 PM EST

[Alternative Battery Chemistries and Diversifying Clean Energy](#)

[Supply Chains](#)

The Atlantic Council

Tuesday, September 13, 2022, 4:00 PM EST

[Corporate Climate Responsibility Report Card](#)

Axios

Wednesday, September 14, 2022, 12:30 PM EST

[When America Leads: Competing for the Future of Clean Energy](#)

Third Way

Thursday, September 15, 2022, 10:00 AM EST

[How to Put the Investments from the Inflation](#)

[Reduction Law into Action](#)

Climate Power

Tuesday, September 13, 2022, 9:30 AM EST

[Pathways Toward Grid Decarbonization](#)

Resources for the Future

Tuesday, September 13, 2022, 2:00 PM EST

[Clean Air Act Advisory Committee](#)

Environmental Protection Agency

Wednesday, September 14, 2022, 9:00 AM EST

[Toward a G7 Climate Club?](#)

Center for Strategic & International Studies

Wednesday, September 14, 2022, 9:00 AM EST

For more information, please contact your regular Akin Gump lawyer or advisor, or:

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