



FIRST LOOK

Signing Off for 2015: This will be the last edition of Hot News until January 4th, 2016, when we will send you a recap of everything that happened in the climate world over the holidays. Keep following us on Twitter [@ClimateNexus](#) for breaking and daily news updates, and [sign up](#) for our Clean Energy News Report for one last blast of news this afternoon. Happy holidays, safe travels, and we will see you in 2016 for another year of Hot News!

TOP STORIES

US Cities Join Defense of Clean Power Plan: More than a dozen US cities, along with the National League of Cities and the US Conference of Mayors, filed a motion Tuesday to defend the EPA's Clean Power Plan. The cities, including Salt Lake City, Baltimore, and Houston, join 18 states that have also filed as "friends of the court," as well as two former Republican EPA administrators. The motions represent the local and regional commitment to reducing emissions and reinforcing the US pledge to fight climate change. In statements, mayors said they are best equipped to defend CPP because they are "on the front line" of climate change. ([Reuters](#), [The Hill](#), [Politico Pro](#) \$, [Southwest Journal](#), [Baltimore Sun](#), [Deseret News](#), [AP](#))

Most US Republicans Support Paris Agreement, Poll Shows: The majority of US Republicans support global action on climate change after the Paris Agreement, a new poll from Reuters shows. Nearly 60 percent support US efforts to work with other nations to limit global warming, and almost 70 percent say they are willing to take individual action to fight climate change within the US. This support has still not been reflected on the campaign trail for GOP candidates, who have largely ignored the Paris Agreement. Ted Cruz, however, recently said that he would withdraw the US from the agreement if elected. Republicans remain less enthusiastic about climate action than Democrats, 91 percent of whom support the global climate deal. ([Reuters](#), [New Republic](#), [Washington Post](#) \$, [The Hill](#))

#EveryoneKnew, Not Just Exxon: The American Petroleum Institute and some of the biggest US oil companies ran a climate research task force in the late 1970s and early 1980s, according to internal documents obtained by InsideClimate News. This indicates that much of the oil industry, [not just Exxon](#), was aware of the negative impacts of fossil fuels on the global climate decades ago. The task force, made up of companies like Shell and Texaco, followed a similar strategy to Exxon's in that they understood the dangers of climate change and sowed doubt about the threat to protect their business models. ([InsideClimate News](#))

NEWS

US News

- Christmas in New York: Fire up the grill after cutting the lawn ([Bloomberg](#), [Mashable](#), [USA Today](#))
- ExxonMobil and Sierra Club agreed on climate policy—and kept it secret ([Bloomberg](#))
- Extreme weather poses increasing threat to US power grid ([AP](#))
- Weather not warming GOP lawmakers to climate change ([US News & World Report](#))
- Coal downturn hammers budgets in West Virginia and Wyoming ([Wall Street Journal](#) \$)
- 'It's going to be a very challenging budget year,' Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin says ([The Oklahoman](#))
- Montana faces the devastating economic costs of climate inaction ([Think Progress](#))
- Renewable energy efforts stymied by transmission roadblocks ([AP](#))
- Paul Ryan just made the case for why lifting the oil export ban is really bad ([Think Progress](#))
- Minnesota grad talks climate change in Paris ([Grand Forks Herald](#))
- Lawsuits key after Obama vetoes power plant resolutions ([Bloomberg](#))
- Carbon tax initiative sponsors consider not turning in signatures ([KPLU](#))
- A small New England college goes 100 percent solar ([Christian Science Monitor](#))
- Navajo Nation on track for first utility-scale solar plant ([AP](#))
- Judicial Watch sues government for records in global warming dispute ([Washington Post](#) \$)
- 'Climatarian' makes New York Times list of top new food words for 2015 ([EcoWatch](#))

World News

- In the dirtiest cities, air pollution forces life changes ([New York Times](#) \$)
- Macedonia launches project to adapt agriculture to climate change ([Xinhua](#))
- Nigeria budget signals shift away from oil dependence ([Climate Home](#))
- Extreme oil bears bet on \$25, \$20 and even \$15 a barrel in 2016 ([Bloomberg](#))
- China, Iraq sign memo to promote energy partnership ([Xinhua](#))
- Assam's border farmers fenced in by changing climate conditions ([Thomson Reuters](#))
- Baltic states open new grid connections to promote cleaner energy, broader European trading ([E&E News](#) \$)
- Shell to cut billions in spending, costs next year ([Fuel Fix](#), [Bloomberg](#), [Financial Times](#) \$)
- Palestine toasts full membership of UN climate body ([Climate Home](#))
- Japan to release new climate policy plan, ETS to be considered but seen unlikely ([Carbon Pulse](#), [The Hill](#))
- UK power sector emissions likely fell over 10% in 2015 ([Carbon Pulse](#))
- China seeks to make cities better places to live in ([Xinhua](#))
- Non-fossil fuels make up 12 percent of China's primary energy mix at end-2015: climate envoy ([Reuters](#))
- Scotland closes in on renewables milestone ([Financial Times](#) \$)
- China says Paris climate deal 'imperfect' in funding, technology ([Bloomberg](#))
- Desert tower raises Chile's solar power ambition to new heights ([The Guardian](#))

- Dirtier energy mix pushes up Australia's GHG emissions ([Carbon Pulse](#))
- Nature in state of confusion as Europe heat continues ([Al Jazeera](#))
- China's prospects for big nuclear fade post-Paris ([Climate Home](#))

ANALYSIS and OPINION

- As documents show wider oil industry knowledge of CO2 climate impacts, a "take it back" proposal ([New York Times, Andrew Revkin column](#) \$)
- A state-by-state look at renewable energy requirements ([AP analysis](#))
- Paris climate deal drives big opportunities in clean energy ([Huffington Post, Kevin Smith op-ed](#))
- A changing climate means a changing menu ([The Hill, Michael Hoffman op-ed](#))
- Carbon Brief's 15 numbers for 2015 ([Carbon Brief, Sophie Yeo and Simon Evans analysis](#))
- The grassroots of climate change ([Times of Oman, Kofi Annan op-ed](#))
- The solar industry's Christmas miracle ([Slate, Daniel Gross column](#))
- Don't fall for the 'truthiness' about an Obama 'war on coal' ([Lexington Herald Leader, Roger Guffey op-ed](#))
- The GOP vs. the reality of climate change ([Huffington Post, James Resnick op-ed](#))
- Obama has been more friend than foe to oil industry ([Wall Street Journal, Amy Harder column](#) \$)
- A GOP market-friendly alternative to Obama's Clean Power Plan ([St Louis Post Dispatch, Brian Ettling op-ed](#))
- Clean Power Plan means prosperity for Utahns ([Deseret News, Sarah Wright op-ed](#))
- Warning: your festive meal could be more damaging than a long-haul flight ([The Guardian, George Monbiot column](#))
- From Halliburton to Walmart, these big corporations will make money off of climate change ([Mother Jones, Jeremy Schulman column](#))
- Army on the front line of fight against climate change ([The Hill, Katherine Hammack op-ed](#))
- Climate change and the right to food ([Al Jazeera, Hilal Elver op-ed](#))
- Why Scotland must do more to help end climate change ([Herald Scotland, Lang Banks op-ed](#))
- Brushing back a lawless EPA ([Wall Street Journal editorial](#) \$)
- Climate change should prompt the Northwest to act on renewable energy ([Seattle Times editorial](#) \$)



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