



Climate change is real, and what governments do matters.

Global Spotlight Report #11

Theme: Significant 2018 Climate Change Events in Leading Greenhouse Gas Emitting Countries

Introduction:

For Global Spotlight Report #11, Climate Scorecard asked our Country Managers to submit posts that describe the most significant climate change event in their countries in 2018. The posts that were submitted suggest a number of significant trends in the global effort to combat climate change, including: (a) The impact (both positive and negative) of changes in political leadership – Brazil, Mexico, and Spain ushered in new governments that each signaled their intention to take different positions on climate change from their predecessors; (b) The growing impact of extreme weather events, in countries like Japan and India, increasingly demonstrate the impact of global warming and increase the importance of investments in climate change adaptation measures; and (c) More countries, such as China, Germany, South Korea, and Saudi Arabia, are taking steps toward a low carbon energy transition.

Australia: Voters Demonstrate That They Want Climate Action

Brazil: Election of Jair Bolsonaro as President

Canada: Canada Signals Intention to Increase Its Paris Agreement Pledge

China: China's Low Carbon Transition Starts to be Implemented

France: Carbon Tax Hike Delayed from January 2019 until July 2019

Germany: The Government Establishes a Coal Exit Commission

India: Kerala Floods 2018

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Italy: The New Rome Declaration on Health and Climate Change Created Implications for Italian Government Policy

Japan: 2018 Marked by Extreme Weather Events and Expansion of Coal-Fired Power Plants

Mexico: Mexico's New Development Agenda Creates Climate Opportunities and Risks

Saudi Arabia: Signals Increased Acceptance of Climate Change Risks and Willingness to Invest in Renewable Energy

South Korea: The New Moon Jae-in Administration's Energy Transition Policy and Saemangeun Renewable Energy Project

Spain: New Government Suggests Potential Era of Environmental Leadership on the Iberian Peninsula

Thailand: New Mass Transportation System Proposed As A Way To Reduce Emissions

United Kingdom: Calls for Further Actions to Implement the 2008 Climate Change Act

United States: US Midterm Elections Have Potential to Affect Climate Change Policy

Climate Scorecard's Global Reports address significant activities that affect greenhouse gas emissions in the countries that we cover. We use a 4-star rating system to rank each country's reported activities:

- **** Good Move that moves a country forward
- *** Right Direction but requires further effort
- ** Standing still, neither advancing or limiting emissions
- * Falling Behind

Country Reports

AUSTRALIA

Spotlight Activity: Voters Demonstrate That They Want Climate Action

In 2018, Australians went to the polls in a series of elections. With a general election looming in 2019, the unpopularity of the current federal government has heavily impacted results at a local and state level. In all those defeats, voters indicated they were furious that the governing Party refuses to put forward a coherent, proactive climate action policy.

In 2018 the Liberal-Nationals coalition lost:

- The rural state seat of Wagga Wagga, which they've held for nearly 70 years;
- Two special by-elections in Queensland and South Australia where their candidates repeatedly dodged questions on climate change;

- A special by-election to replace their Party leader, who was replaced by a pro-climate Independent, and;
- The state election in Victoria, where voters returned a government with a strong focus on renewable energy by landslide margins.

Furious MPs have openly questioned when the Party is going to get serious on climate change. On national TV some even spoke of having conversations with lifelong voters who told them they could no longer vote for them because their Party doesn't have a serious climate change policy.



Figure 1: 2018 election defeats for the Liberal-Nationals Party where climate change was a key issue for voters.

Activity Rating: *** Moving in the Right Direction

For the first time in nearly a decade, national surveys show that environment and climate are now among voter's top priorities. Election results in 2018 show that Australian voters are excited about local Independent candidates who prioritize climate action.

The governing Liberal-Nationals coalition is suffering the most from this as they take an increasingly denialist/hard-right stance on climate issues. Although the opposing Labor Party promises to kick-start Australia's zero-carbon transition, it will soon have to decide where it stands on future coal and gas exploration - voters across the country have indicated they do not want fossil fuels to play a big role in Australia's future. 2019 promises to be a crucial year for climate action in Australia, with voters poised to elect progressive governments prepared to take action on climate change.

Take Action: Please send the following message to the policymaker below:

Dear Mr. Morrison,

In 2019 you face a general election. If the results of by- and state elections this year indicate anything, it is that voters across the country are worried your Liberal Party does not have a coherent vision for Australia's future. Voters are clearly worried about your government's stance - or lack thereof - on key issues like climate change. MPs and Senators from your own Party have publicly expressed frustration on multiple occasions that your approach is alienating you from an entire generation of young voters.

If you won't heed the lessons of Longman, Mayo, Wagga Wagga, Wentworth and Victoria, then it is likely your government faces a wipeout in May 2019. On each of these occasions voters preferred sensible candidates who support strong climate action. If your Party's candidates cannot offer a credible explanation of how they plan to combat climate change, or a commitment to helping Australia transition to a zero carbon future, then they face being voted out en masse.

Please listen to the Australian public and consider embracing a commitment to climate action as part of your election platform for 2019 - we promise you'll win back many, many more disaffected voters than you ever thought possible.

Send Action Alert Message to:

The Hon. Scott Morrison MP

Prime Minister
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Telephone: (02) 6277 7700

scott.morrison.mp@aph.gov.au

[@ScottMorrisonMP](https://twitter.com/ScottMorrisonMP)

This Post was submitted by Climate Scorecard Australia Country Manager Julian Atchison: Contact Julian@climatescorecard.org

BRAZIL

Spotlight Activity: Election of Jair Bolsonaro as Brazil's New President

Perhaps the most significant event related to climate change in Brazil in 2018 was the election of the new President Jair Bolsonaro. Last November, the President elect said that he endorsed Brazil's decision not to host the United Nations Climate Conference in 2019. "To our future minister, I recommended that this event should be avoided here in Brazil. Even because I ask you to help us, there is 'Triple A' at stake in this agreement." According to him, Triple A would be a strip that surrounds the Andes, the Amazon and the Atlantic Ocean. For Bolsonaro, the Paris Accord would jeopardize national sovereignty within that territory. However, there is no mention of the so-called Triple A in the agreement.

Officially, the Brazilian government said that the budget for the event was set by the Ministry of the Environment in October of 2018, and it had been concluded that there was money to do so. However, later, they also stated that there was a mistake, because the budget did not consider the transition of government in

January of 2019, which generates a change in the fiscal budget. Brazil confirmed its candidacy in 2017, during COP 23, and was approved by the UN leaving a good impression. The country is seen as a reference in the fight against greenhouse gases, especially for combating deforestation in the Amazon.

The announcement of Brazil came just a week before the COP 24, which happened in the city of Katowice, Poland. In the report published on its website before the conference, the UN said it would ask for more commitment from the G20 countries that had pledged themselves to the Paris Accord to triple their efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. As is the tradition of the Conference of the Climate to happen in different regions alternately, Chile has applied to host the 2019 event.

Rating and Analysis: * Falling Behind

The decision not to host COP 25 in Brazil is a representation of new president Jair Bolsonaro's position on the climate agenda. It is evident that the threats of Brazil to leave the Paris Climate Agreement are increasing, and it can put the effectiveness of the agreement in check.

Take Action: Please send the following message to the policymaker below:

Mr. Mauro Vieira, Chief of Brazilian Mission to the United Nations.

Brazil has always played a leading role in the climate agenda, but now the new President Jair Bolsonaro signals an abandonment of this historic role of the country. The decision not to host COP 25 symbolizes the lack of commitment of the new government to the climate agenda, and the country's possible abandonment of the Paris Agreement. It must be emphasized that environmental issues are crucial for human development, and a country of such importance as Brazil cannot turn its back on the climate challenges we face today, which should increase in the coming years. It is also important to emphasize that ESG sustainability criteria are increasingly being used to determine the portfolios of the main investment funds worldwide, and the country will lose attractiveness as a destination of these resources, which, in addition to the climate issue by itself, could limit the country's economic and social development.

Send Action Alert Message to:

Mauro Vieira

Chief of Brazilian Mission to the United Nations

Tel: +1-212-372-2600

E-mail: distri.delbrasonu@itamaraty.gov.br

Address: 747 3rd Avenue, 9th floor, 10017, New York, NY

This Post was submitted by Climate Scorecard Brazil Country Manager Rafael Nogueira. Contact: Rafael@climatescorecard.org

CANADA

Spotlight Activity: Canada Signals Intention to Increase Its Paris Agreement Pledge

The science is clear: Canada must cut its carbon emissions in half by 2030 and get to net-zero emissions by 2050, or risk a dramatic increase in deadly health impacts, sea level rise, extreme weather, and biodiversity loss, states Devon Page of the non-profit Ecojustice Canada. This requires collective action with shared responsibility between all provinces. The impacts of climate change will not respect provincial boundaries so strong collaboration is needed.

The recent October UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IMPP) report shows if current NDC commitments from countries around the world in the Paris Agreement are met, global emissions in 2030 will not limit temperatures to 1.5°C, even if ambitions increase after 2030. Reports state warming is likely to reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052 if it continues to increase at the current rate. Thus, it is reassuring that Environment Minister Catherine McKenna has confirmed this month prior to COP24 meetings in Katowice, Poland that 'Canada will be ready to set tougher emissions-cutting plans when the Paris climate-change agreement begins the end of 2020.' Discussion by countries to commit to more ambitious targets to reach the Paris Agreement results from three years of finalizing the rules needed to put the Agreement into action. Canada has worked diligently at the global negotiating table to keep the increase in average global temperature goal as close to 1.5°C as possible.

Limiting 1.5°C requires rapid transitions in energy, land, urban environment and infrastructure such as transportation, buildings, and industrial systems. As part of Canada's more ambitious action, a new climate-change institute is proposed in 2019 to assess gaps to reach our targets announced at <https://www.nationalobserver.com/2018/12/05/news/mckenna-concerned-global-politics-may-keep-paris-agreement-rules-bay>.

This comes atop the UN IPCC report, which stated reducing emissions over the next 12 years is critical to keep warming below 1.5°C to avert accelerated risks of acute heat waves, wildfires, drought, sea level rise, and large-scale poverty expected at 2°C. Emissions need to fall by 45 percent between 2010 and 2030 and hit net zero in 2050. Canada's existing target is 30 percent below 2005 levels by 2030.

Canada's existing commitment to the Paris Agreement – http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2017/eccc/En4-294-2016-eng.pdf

COP24 has seen the emergence of a new “High Ambition Coalition,” that includes the EU, Canada, Costa Rica, Argentina, New Zealand, Mexico, Norway, Fiji and the Marshall Islands. These countries are determined to increase their targets and actions by 2020. They call upon other governments and non-party stakeholders to do the same.

Activity Ranking: **** Moving Forward

Take Action:

To request action supporting Environment Minister Catherine McKenna's announcement to raise Canada's ambition for the Paris Agreement, please contact her, with the following message:

Thank you for your recent commitment to raise Canada's targets for the Paris Agreement. Let's put Canada on the map. The Climate Change Performance Index 2019, published this month compares climate performance of 56 countries and the EU, together responsible for more than 90 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions. It states no country has performed well enough to keep temperatures within 1.5°C of pre-industrial levels. COP24 calls for more ambition to keep temperatures within 1.5°C of pre-industrial levels. The IPCC report asks for stronger targets, outputs and tracking processes to ensure good progress is made. Canada is listening!

Contact –

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change

Email: EC.MINISTRE-MINISTER.EC@CANADA.CA

Mail: 200 Sacré-Coeur Boulevard, Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0H3

Tel: 819-938-3860 or toll-free: 1-800-668-6767

For more information, please email Climate Scorecard Canadian Country Manager: Diane Szoller at Canada@climatescorecard.org

CHINA

Spotlight Activity: China's Low Carbon Transition Starts to Be Implemented

Energy consumption in China has drastically increased in the past few decades due to economic booms. During the year 2018, China has made and implemented action plans to reduce the energy consumption, including reducing the use of fossil fuels in industrial sector, improving the energy efficiency of the power plants, and replacing coal with natural gas, electricity and other types of renewable energy in rural households.

The changes are significant for China in achieving the climate goal because of the direct reduction of carbon emissions. Data has shown that approximately 80 percent of China's CO₂ emissions are from coal and fossil fuels, replacing coal and fossil fuels with natural gas and other clean energy would reduce more than 50 percent of carbon emissions.

However, despite being committed to carbon reduction policies, not many policies have been implemented to reduce the non-carbon greenhouse gas emissions.

More policies are needed to reduce these non-carbon emissions as they account for more than 20 percent of China's greenhouse gas emissions. This would be crucial for China to achieve its Paris Agreement Pledges.

Activity Ranking: ***Right Direction

A wide range of policies have been issued to reduce the carbon emission in China. However, more actions are needed in addressing the non-carbon greenhouse gas emissions.

Take Action: You can accelerate policy-making by sending the following message: "We are happy that China is implementing policies towards the low carbon transition, but we hope to see policies in addressing all types of greenhouse gases to reach the climate goal."

Send Action Alert Message to:

Lifeng He, the director of National Development and Reform Commission, through the following website: <http://xf.ndrc.gov.cn/xf/addmail.jsp>

YTis Postyb was submitted by Climate Scorecard China Country Manager Sichen Wan; Contact Sichen@climatescorecard.org

FRANCE

Spotlight Activity: Carbon Tax Hike Delayed from January 2019 until July 2019

In its National Low-Carbon Strategy, [Stratégie Nationale Bas Carbone](#), France had set a clear trajectory on increasing a carbon tax. However, the new government elected in 2017 decided last year to increase it even more than anticipated. As the increase is slowly cumulating with fossil fuel price hikes, the Government backed down and pushed back the new increase for at least 6 months, maybe more: This will result in excessive CO2 emissions in France this year, to be added to a 6% gap between the facts and targets during the past 10 years.

At this point, Climate Scorecard and partner organizations (Saving Our Planet) recommend to French government to adopt a practical, progressive and revenue neutral strategy to switch from the current carbon tax scheme towards a Carbon Fee & Dividend policy, similar to that recently adopted by Canada. The carbon price required to reach the objectives of the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change is about 100 € by 2025 and 200 € by 2030.

Context

European countries have been trying to fix the European Trading System (ETS) for over five years now and just started getting some positive results: the [price](#) of one tonne of CO2 increased from 10 to 25 euros in one year. However, this price is not effective because too many sectors have been exempted and this price is still much too low to have an impact on prices.

Conversely, we propose to apply a price on carbon uniformly to all domestic and imported goods and services, as proposed by the CCL ([Citizens Climate Lobby](#)) in its CF&D ([Carbon Fee & Dividend](#)) package (for more details, read our [Post #10](#)).

Conclusion

For France to successfully implement a carbon tax, and later merge with the various carbon tax plans at the international level, the carbon tax must be partly redistributive and substitutive:

- A sizeable part of the tax (over 50%) should be directly redistributed to all people as a Climate Dividend.
- A small part of the tax (10-20%) should be used for climate education and information about deep decarbonation and low-carbon solutions.
- The remainder of the tax should help reduce other taxes (for instance: revenue tax).

Activity Ranking - * Moving backward

France should no longer delay increasing the price of carbon and reducing exemptions; France and the European Union can and should adopt a progressive, redistributive and substitutive "[Carbon Fee & Dividend](#)" system (CF&D), in order to decrease significantly CO2 emissions every year.

Take Action

Write to French Republic President, Mr. Emmanuel Macron :

Example of contribution text:

“Mister President, Dear Sir,

France has trouble setting up a framework for a carbon tax. However, simple provisions would reduce resistance and mobilize supports for a price of carbon in France and in Europe. For instance, a [Carbon fee & dividend](#) scheme, replacing the current CCE/TICPE and ETS schemes, which have failed in reaching their targets and are not understandable by the general public. European countries have been trying to fix the European Trading System (ETS) for over five years now and are just starting to get some positive results: the [price](#) of one tonne of CO2 increased from 10 to 25 euros in one year. However, this price is not effective because too many sectors have been exempted and this price is still much too low to have an impact on prices.

Conversely, we propose to apply a price on carbon uniformly to all domestic and imported goods and services, as proposed by the CCL ([Citizens Climate Lobby](#)) in its CF&D ([Carbon Fee & Dividend](#)) package (for more details, read our [Post #10](#)).

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- The remainder of the tax should help reduce other taxes (for instance: revenue tax).

We are looking forward to your answer and working on climate action together.

With our respectful and best regards [sign name]

...

Send This Action Alert Message to:

Write to French President Emmanuel Macron, Champion of the Earth, at:

<http://www.elysee.fr/ecrire-au-president-de-la-republique/>

Education organizations, NGOs and community services in your neighborhood
To contact us for more information, email Climate Scorecard French Country
Manager:

Stephan Savarese at stephan@climatescorecard.org

GERMANY

Spotlight issue: The Government Establishes a Coal Exit Commission

Germany made a landmark decision to form a task force in 2018 to steer the country in establishing a coal exit path. Coal is responsible for about a third of the power used in Germany and over 80 percent of greenhouse gas emissions. The commission was formed to oversee the mandate of the federal government to ensure equal investments in employment opportunities throughout the country among other goals, especially in regions whose economies rely on coal mining. The deadline of the commission to deliver on its mandate was supposed to be December 2018. However, the commission postponed the conclusion of its report to Feb. 1, 2019. The decision to extend the commission's mandate was based on concerns from three eastern German states.

By close of the year, the commission was yet to reach a compromise and agree on a clear coal exit path. There were pending issues on how to finance the phase-out of coal, issues on energy and climate were yet to be discussed. This means that Germany participated in COP24 almost empty handed after failing to reach a decision on the probable coal exit path. The commission was only able to complete the first part of the report which contained proposals on the development of infrastructure and internet in affected areas.

Activity Ranking: ★★ Germany is standing still, with no change in either direction.

The formation of a Coal Exit Commission is a good initiative, but failure to reach a conclusive coal exit path by the end of the year could as well be regarded as a

failed climate protection effort, as far as the Paris agreement is concerned. The postponement of finalizing the coal exit path from December to February 2019 does not mean that the pending issues will be resolved by then. It is as though nothing changed in 2018 regarding coal mining, and nothing will change until an actual coal exit plan is agreed upon.

Take Action: To support the commission send the following message to the Federal Ministers of Economic Affairs and Energy, and Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety, BMUB:

We congratulate the German government for forming a commission to establish a clear coal exit path in 2018. We believe that the commission would have reached a conclusion in 2018 due to the urgency in setting goals that meet the Paris agreement. However, we encourage the commission's leaders to focus on reaching a compromise with the three German states on pending issues in the next meeting - to avoid another postponement of the coal exit decision. The commission's mandate is key to ensuring matters raised in the 2018 IPCC report are addressed, and we hope for a speedy conclusion of its report.

Contact:

Peter Altmaier - Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy

- Contact Mary@act.html
- Email: peter.altmaier@bundestag.de
- Scharnhorststraße 34-37, 10115 Berlin
- Phone: +49 (0) 3018 615-0
- Fax: +49 (0) 3018 615-7010

Svenja Schulze - Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety, BMUB

- Address: Robert-Schuman-Platz 3, 53175 Bonn
- Phone: +49 (0) 22899 305-0
- Email: Klimawandel.DeutscheAnpassungsstrategie@bmub.bund.de

- Website: <http://www.bmub.bund.de/en/topics/climate-energy/climate/adaptation-to-climate-change/>

This Post was submitted by Climate Scorecard Germany Country Manager Mary Nthambi: Contact Mary@climatescorecard.org

INDIA

Spotlight Activity: Kerala Floods 2018

The monsoon floods in south Indian state of Kerala led to the most casualties among extreme global events in 2018, according to a report by the World Meteorological Organisation. This disaster, the worst flood since 1920s, caused by extreme rainfall, killed about 500 people, displaced more than 1.4 million people from their homes and affected 5.4 million. It's estimated that the flooding and landslides wreaked havoc in the state by destroying 10,000 kms of highways and damaging 45,000 hectares of farmland. The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), a wing of the India's Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) has concluded, after a meteorological analysis of this disaster event, that the extreme rainfall and flooding were caused by climate change. The IMD, which has been working on a report to gauge the cause of these heavy floods, has found that more than 75 percent of the geographical area in Kerala is vulnerable to flooding. According to the IMD officials, this vulnerability of the state got exacerbated due to unprecedented rainfall that led to extreme flooding.

The state government has estimated the loss and damage at 20,000 crore Indian rupees, that's about \$2,840 million. According to the UK based Charity 'Christian Aid', that has come up with the cost of 10 biggest disasters of 2018, the Kerala floods cost \$500 million. The country witnessed dirty politics around the flood relief estimation as well as funds allocation. The state government alleged that the government of India not only refused to release the amount of funds it should from the dedicated kitty but also prevented the state from raising international resources. This calls for serious debate in the national and global climate dialogues under the 'Loss and Damage' domain of climate negotiations. The

provincial governments and federal government need to work in tandem with regard to allocation and use of the disaster relief and rehabilitation funds.

The other important issue that has popped up from the Kerala disaster is about role of the dams. The IMD officials themselves have admitted that Kerala flooding has happened because of extreme rainfall during monsoon 2018 and large amounts of water stored in catchments of reservoirs, which had to be released; and that it is because of climate change that such disasters happen. These official talks however do not get reflected in the country's Climate Change Action Plans.

Climate Scorecard Rank - * Falling Behind

The Kerala floods of August 2018 have exposed serious lacunae in the way India's climate action plans have been implemented. Most of the damage could have been averted and/or minimised with proper data generation, sharing and dam operations; and effective coordination mechanisms between the provincial and federal governments could have helped strengthen the relief and rehabilitation efforts. Given the damages the disaster caused and the lack of appropriate policies and mechanisms for use and management of disaster mitigation funds, Climate Scorecard is giving the government response one star.

Take Action:

Please write to the Disaster Management Division at the Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India and urge them to update the National Disaster Mitigation Fund allocation rules and then integrate them into the Climate Change Action Plans of both Federal and Provincial governments. Also urge upon them to review India's stand on support of foreign governments and agencies to disaster affected provinces and allow the same for effective adaptation to climate change induced disasters.

Please address your emails/tweets to:
Joint Secretary (DM) at jsdm@nic.in
Twitter handle of the NIDM: [@nidm_mha](https://twitter.com/nidm_mha)

For further details, contact:

Ranjan K Panda

Country Manager for India, Climate Scorecard Project
Convenor, Combat Climate Change Network, India
Email: ranjanpanda@gmail.com

INDONESIA

Spotlight Activity: Enforcement of Deforestation and Peatland Conversion Moratorium

The expansion of palm oil and pulp and paper is the greatest contributor to GHG emissions in Indonesia. Companies expanding their concessions into forests and mangroves expose carbon rich peatlands, causing massive fires. The government of Indonesia has implemented and renewed moratoriums on primary and natural forest conversion and peatland conversion as well as freezing new licenses for concessions.

The government has attributed the decline in deforestation to its moratorium enforcement efforts, which have included a new special working unit – the Directorate General of Law Enforcement – and actions such as administrative sanctions and criminal and civil court hearings taken by KLHK to condemn illegal forest conversion and land fire. KLHK has revoked and frozen company permits. This is good work. The government claims it has protected 8 million hectares of forest from illegal activities. The legal framework for forestry law enforcement appears strong. Although the deforestation rate has fallen from 1.69 million hectares in 2015 to 479 thousand in 2017, these slowing rates are not steep enough. Deforestation continues to occur on protected (12.7percent of total deforestation in 2017) and conservation forest (7.5percent).

The Indonesian government must encourage small holder farmers to intensify on existing land and begin projects to reforest cleared areas. More importantly, it must monitor large agribusinesses to ensure they do not illegally expand their concessions or convert forests and mangroves to new agriculture. In addition to monitoring illegal conversion, customary forests should be transferred from state administration – particularly from under the KLHK – and from private holdings back to communities. This would ensure sounder land management and be in line

with decentralization under reformasi. Indigenous participatory mapping of 40 million hectares of customary land should be approved under land tenure reform as well. Shifting land away from potentially corrupt mismanagement under government agencies to village and community control will decrease the access of agribusiness to permitting and their ability to illicitly expand concessions.

Activity Rating: *** Moving Forward

The movement of 1.9 million hectares of forest to community management, “social forestry,” shows that the Indonesian government is prioritizing community forest control over companies that seek to expand agriculture through mangrove and forest clearing and peatland drainage. It appears that forestry reform is moving in the right direction.

Monitoring of illegal deforestation, infringements of moratoriums, and enforcement of moratoriums could be improved. Further, only 21 industrial forestry permit holders and 39 plantation concessions have submitted plans to restore degraded lands. The Indonesian government must push more companies to submit plans to restore peatlands. So far, only 80 plantations and 15 forestry companies have begun restoration. The government also appears to be underreporting on newly issued permits for palm oil. Transparency continues to be an issue in the Indonesian ministries. In Riau, there are 18,000 square kilometers of palm oil plantations without permits. The Gecko Project, an investigation under EarthSight, recently released a report on illegal palm oil licensing between district officials and palm oil firms (link below).

Action Alert:

The Indonesian government needs to address corruption in addition to improving illegal deforestation monitoring and moratorium enforcement.

Send Action Alert Message:

Contact Komisi Pemberantasan Korupsi (KPK, Corruption Eradication Commission) if you are aware of any illegal permitting or agricultural expansion into primary forests or peatlands.

KPK email: pengaduan@kpk.go.id and informasi@kpk.go.id

Contact the KHLK, which is responsible for most of the monitoring and enforcement of the moratoriums: pusdatin@menlhk.go.id and <http://www.menlhk.go.id/kontak.php> with the following message:

Seven years after the moratorium was instituted, 10 thousand square miles of protected areas have been cleared. The enforcement of the moratorium needs to be improved. Monitoring of illegal conversion needs to be improved. The moratorium should include existing concessions, not only newly issued concessions. To prevent future fires and mitigate GHG emissions, monitoring, enforcement and robustness of moratoriums must be improved. Indonesia will not meet its Paris Agreement pledge unless the Indonesian government steps up its law enforcement and addresses corruption.

For more information contact Climate Scorecard Indonesia Country Manager Tristan Grupp: Tristan@climatescorecard.org

The Gecko Project: <https://thegeckoproject.org/>

For more information on deforestation rates reported by the KLHK in Indonesia: <http://www.mongabay.co.id/2018/01/29/deforestasi-indonesia-2017-turun-definisi-masih-perdebatan/>

For more information on palm oil permitting issues: <http://www.mongabay.co.id/2018/11/26/kajian-walhi-sumut-perizinan-sawit-di-sumatera-utara-harus-dibenahi/>

ITALY

Spotlight Activity Report: The New Rome Declaration on Health and Climate Change Creates implication for Italian Government Policy

In December 2018 the Italian Istituto Superiore della Sanità hosted the first Scientific Symposium on Health and Climate Change. More than 500 scientists from 30 countries debated about climate change's effects on health and produced the International Charter on Health and Climate Change.

Pollution, high temperature and extreme natural events foster the diffusion of diseases; make food, water and energy scarce; increase the amount of illness and the mortality rate of children, because they are more exposed to climate change than adults. The International Charter aims at being a guideline for policy makers to fight against climate change. The document identifies a set of key actions that need to be taken in order to protect our future.

Because of its geographic features, post-industrial pollution, seismic and hydrogeological vulnerability, Italy is a real laboratory on climate change's impact on health. It has the ability to demonstrate how policies to prevent and mitigate climate change are important. Two examples show the direct correlation between greenhouse gas emissions and health problems in Italy: the case of ILVA steel plant in Taranto, and the carbon power station "Federico II" in Brindisi.

Until 2015 the ILVA in Taranto was the plant with highest greenhouse gases emission in Italy; the Environmental Ministry (according to the Kyoto agreement) assigned to the Taranto ILVA a share of CO₂ emissions dozens of times higher than other production plants. Now the level of production, and consequently of emissions, is 75percent lower than 2015, but the number of child tumors caused by ILVA's emissions is still 30percent higher than in other cities of Puglia region, and the child mortality rate, due to tumors is 54percent more than in other cities. The carbon power station "Federico II" in Brindisi is another example; it represents the icon of the WWF fight against carbon in Italy. The Federico II power station is the largest carbon station in Italy, with a high level of CO₂ emissions, which exceeded the 14 million of tons/year in the past. According to CNR researchers, every year in Brindisi 44 people die because of pollution derived from the carbon power station.

Even though the ILVA's production has been reduced since 2015, the discussion about emissions is ongoing and it seems there is still a long way to go to reach an agreement that satisfies environmentalists and Taranto inhabitants.

However, fortunately with the approval of the National Energy Strategy (SEN – Strategia energetica nazionale) in 2017, Italy committed to shut down all carbon power stations by 2025. Moreover, the share of renewable energy is increasing year by year and sustained by economic incentives.

According to WHO every year over 250,000 people die because of climate change”, declares Mr. Ricciardi, the President of the Istituto Superiore della Sanità. Climate change is the main global threat of the current century that affects humans and their environment. Pollution and climate change put our survival at risk. Managing energy transformation and changing direction is our challenge. We can win the challenge all together, politicians, industrialists, and common people with education and daily actions.

The next Symposium on Health and Climate Change will be in Boston, in September 2019. We hope that this initiative will produce tangible results as soon as possible.

Activity Rating: *** Moving Forward.

With the National Energy Strategy Italy seems to be on the right path to demonstrate how reduction emissions can have a positive impact on people’s health. Now increased actions are needed such as the dismantling of carbon power stations and the reduction of emissions in large steel plants close to the cities. Italy has now the opportunity to make the difference and to become a model for other countries.

Take Action

Please send the following message to the Government of Italy’s Department of European Union Relations

The Rome Declaration on Health and Climate Change is a great starting point, but now it is time for the Italian government to implement policies and programs that support the Rome Declaration and encourage environmental-friendly behavior by businesses and people. For example, imposing severe restrictions to ILVA’s emissions, strengthening controls on the emissions of all factories, and imposing high penalties to those who do not respect limits

CONTACT:

Dott. Francesco La Camera, Director General of the Sustainable Development, Environmental Damage, and European Union Relations (SVI)
Email: SVI-UDG@minambiente.it

Fabiola Giuliano, secretary of the President of Istituto superiore della sanità
Email: fabiola.giuliano@iss.it

Learn More:

Rome declaration (English): <https://ufficiostampa.iss.it/?p=1493>

Symposium facts (Italian): <https://ufficiostampa.iss.it/?p=1485>

Data on natural disasters: <https://emdat.be/>

The case of ILVA: <http://www.rainews.it/dl/rainews/media/Ilva-aumentano-le-morti-a-Taranto-dottoressa-spiega-Fare-la-pediatra-qui-significa-essere-impotenti-3a659bf9-127b-400b-b17b-c1c61143501d.html>

<http://www.inchiostroverde.it/2016/03/14/gas-serra-nel-2015-assegnate-allindustria-di-taranto-emissioni-200-volte-superiori-a-quella-di-genova/>

<http://www.minambiente.it/pagina/assegnazione-titolo-gratuito-il-periodo-2013-2020-agli-impianti-esistenti>

The case of Carbon power station: Gianicolo, E. A. L., Bruni, A., Mangia, C., Cervino, M., & Vigotti, M. A. (2013). Acute effects of urban and industrial pollution in a government-designated “Environmental risk area”: the case of Brindisi, Italy. International journal of environmental health research, 23(5), 446-460). <http://www.le.isac.cnr.it/personale.php?id=88>

This Post was submitted by Climate Scorecard Italy Country Manager Ambra Altimari: Contact Ambra@climatescorecard.org

ITALY (Italian)

POST 11: Italia

Spotlight Activity Report: La Dichiarazione di Roma su salute e cambiamenti climatici e le sue implicazioni per la politica del Governo

A dicembre 2018 l'Istituto Superiore della Sanità ha ospitato il primo Simposio su salute e cambiamenti climatici. Un grande incontro internazionale nel quale più di 500 scienziati, provenienti da 30 diversi paesi, hanno fatto discusso degli effetti che i cambiamenti climatici hanno sulla salute. Obiettivo dei lavori era quello di produrre la Carta Internazionale su Salute e Cambiamenti Climatici.

Inquinamento, temperature elevate ed eventi estremi favoriscono la diffusione di malattie, fanno scarseggiare cibo, acqua e risorse energetiche, aumentano il numero di malattie in circolazione, e alzano il tasso di mortalità infantile. La Carta Internazionale sarà una guida per i politici nella lotta ai cambiamenti climatici, e identifica una serie di azioni chiave da svolgere per proteggere il nostro futuro.

Per le sue caratteristiche geografiche, l'inquinamento industriale, e la vulnerabilità sismica e idro-geologica, l'Italia rappresenta un vero e proprio laboratorio per valutare l'impatto dei cambiamenti climatici sulla salute. Qui è possibile dimostrare quanto sono importanti le politiche di prevenzione e mitigazione. In Italia ci sono due esempi emblematici, che mostrano la diretta correlazione tra emissioni di gas serra e problemi di salute: l'impianto siderurgico dell'ILVA di Taranto, e la Centrale elettrica a carbone "Federico II" di Brindisi.

Fino al 2015 l'ILVA di Taranto era lo stabilimento produttivo con il più alto livello di emissioni in Italia; le quote di CO2 assegnateli dal Ministero dell'Ambiente, secondo il protocollo di Kyoto, erano decine di volte superiori a quelle assegnate ad altri stabilimenti. Ad oggi l'attività produttiva si è ridotta del 75percent, e di conseguenza anche le emissioni sono più basse rispetto al 2015, tuttavia, l'incidenza dei tumori, direttamente imputabili alle emissioni inquinanti dello stabilimento, è circa del 30percent superiore rispetto ad altre città pugliesi, ed il tasso di mortalità infantile a causa dei tumori è del 54percent più elevato delle altre città pugliesi. La centrale elettrica a carbone "Federico II" di Brindisi è un altro importante esempio, non a caso è l'emblema della lotta al carbone portata avanti dal WWF in Italia. La centrale di Brindisi è la centrale a carbone più grande d'Italia, con livelli di emissioni di CO2 altissimi, che in passato hanno superato anche i 14 milioni di tonnellate annui. Alcuni ricercatori del CNR hanno condotto una ricerca sull'impatto della centrale e hanno dimostrato che l'inquinamento da essa derivante causa circa 44 morti l'anno, nell'area di Brindisi.

Sebbene la produzione e le emissioni dell'ILVA siano ridotte rispetto al 2015, la discussione sul suo destino è ancora molto accesa e finora non sono state proposte soluzioni soddisfacenti per i cittadini e gli ambientalisti. Tuttavia, fortunatamente, con l'approvazione della Strategia Energetica Nazionale (SEN) nel 2017, l'Italia si è impegnata a chiudere tutte le centrali a carbone presenti sul territorio italiano, entro il 2025. Inoltre, la quota di energie rinnovabili è in continuo aumento, anche grazie agli incentivi economici forniti dal Governo.

Walter Ricciardi, presidente dell'ISS ricorda che secondo l'OMS ogni anno oltre 250'000 persone muoiono a causa dei cambiamenti climatici, che sono la vera minaccia del secolo e attraversano tutta la condizione umana e ambientale. Gestire le trasformazioni e cambiare rotta sono la vera sfida. Si vince insieme, con la collaborazione dei decisori politici, del mondo industriale e con i nostri atti quotidiani.

Il prossimo simposio su salute e cambiamenti climatici si terrà a Boston, a settembre 2019, ci auguriamo che questa iniziativa inizia a produrre effetti tangibili al più presto.

*** Continuare così

Con l'approvazione della Strategia Energetica Nazionale l'Italia sembra essere sulla strada giusta per dimostrare l'impatto positivo sulla salute derivante dalla riduzione delle emissioni. È il momento delle azioni forti, come velocizzare la chiusura delle centrali a carbone e restrizioni forti sulle emissioni degli stabilimenti produttivi prossimi ai centri urbani. L'Italia ha l'opportunità di fare la differenza e diventare un modello per gli altri paesi.

Attivati

Invia il seguente messaggio al Direttore generale del Dipartimento per lo sviluppo sostenibile, danni ambientali, e relazioni con l'UE (SVI):

La Dichiarazione di Roma su salute e cambiamenti climatici è un ottimo punto di partenza, ma adesso il governo italiano deve implementare politiche che supportino la Dichiarazione di Roma e incoraggino un comportamento eco-

sostenibile da parte delle persone e delle imprese. Ad esempio, imponendo forti restrizioni alle emissioni dell'ILVA, rafforzando i controlli sulle emissioni degli impianti produttivi, e imponendo elevate multe a coloro che non rispettano i limiti.

CONTATTI:

Dott. Francesco La Camera, Director General of the Sustainable Development, Environmental Damage, and European Union Relations (SVI)

Email: SVI-UDG@minambiente.it

Fabiola Giuliano, secretary of the President of Istituto superiore della sanità

Email: fabiola.giuliano@iss.it

Maggiori informazioni

Dichiarazione di Roma (inglese): <https://ufficiostampa.iss.it/?p=1493>

I principali fatti emersi dal Simposio: <https://ufficiostampa.iss.it/?p=1485>

Dati sui disastri naturali: <https://emdat.be/>

Notizie sul caso ILVA: <http://www.rainews.it/dl/rainews/media/Ilva-aumentano-le-morti-a-Taranto-dottoressa-spiega-Fare-la-pediatra-qui-significa-essere-impotenti-3a659bf9-127b-400b-b17b-c1c61143501d.html>

<http://www.inchiostroverde.it/2016/03/14/gas-serra-nel-2015-assegnate-allindustria-di-taranto-emissioni-200-volte-superiori-a-quella-di-genova/>

<http://www.minambiente.it/pagina/assegnazione-titolo-gratuito-il-periodo-2013-2020-agli-impianti-esistenti>

Il caso della Centrale ENEL a carbone: Gianicolo, E. A. L., Bruni, A., Mangia, C., Cervino, M., & Vigotti, M. A. (2013). Acute effects of urban and industrial pollution in a government-designated “Environmental risk area”: the case of Brindisi, Italy. *International journal of environmental health research*, 23(5), 446-460. <http://www.le.isac.cnr.it/personale.php?id=88>

JAPAN

Spotlight Activity Report: 2018 Marked by Extreme Weather Events And Expansion of Coal-Fired Power Plants

In July 2018, more than 200 people were confirmed dead after record rainfall caused flooding and landslides in western Japan, and more than 8 million people were advised or urged to evacuate across 23 prefectures. In addition, an intense heat wave continued every day immediately after the rainfall. It made the restoration work in the disaster areas difficult and people died of heatstroke in various places.

Because of the heavy rainfall, the Japan Meteorological Agency for three days issued “special heavy rain warnings” in advance of extreme rain events, with the potential of the rainfall being "the worst in decades" in 11 prefectures in western Japan. Since the start of special alarm operation in 2013, it was the first time that it was issued to over four prefectures due to one disaster.

Given the atmospheric pressure pattern generated this time, it is clear that increased water vapor caused by global warming strengthened the torrential rain, and as global warming progresses, the possibility of such heavy rain will continue to rise, an expert said.

COP24 showed the important of eliminating dependence on fossil fuel, and especially the phase-out of coal. However, in Japan, there are plans to build 35 coal-fired power plants under the policy of promoting large-scale thermal power plants with "high efficiency". At COP24, Japan did not clarify the vision of decarbonization beyond the previous policies and maintains the prospect of promoting coal. In addition, there has been virtually no substantial debate about a “Just Transition”.

It is worth noting the behavior of one Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) after the heavy rainfall. While "abnormal" is becoming "normal", Greenpeace Japan conducted a survey on abnormal weather, climate change and coal-fired power generation for 1,000 people in Japan in August 2018. According to the result, over 80percent of people feel a threat to Japan's weather this summer, such as the heavy rainfalls in July and the intense heat. Plus, 84percent think that it is related to long-term trends caused by global warming. In addition, half of respondents said that they have known the fact that coal-fired power plants emit the largest amount of CO₂, which causes global warming, however, about

80percent of people did not recognize that many domestic coal-fired power plants already operated and more plants will be built.

Activity Rating: * Falling Behind:

In 2018, Japan experienced frequent extreme weather, such as intense heat wave, torrential rain and huge typhoons. At COP24, Japan did not clarify the vision of decarbonization beyond the previous policies and maintains the prospect of promoting coal. In the Climate Change Performance Index in 2018, Japan ranks 50th and shows a very low to low performance in all categories except energy use. National experts see the continued increase in the number of coal-fired power plants as becoming a major threat to achieving Japan's already weak 2030 mitigation target.

Action Alert Message:

Dear Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Hiroshige Seko,

Our government should not disregard these disasters as abnormal weather and face the essence of the problem. What we can do right now to reduce even extreme weather disasters is to stop coal-fired power generation and not build any more new coal-fired plants. We also expect companies and local governments to make more advanced movements to mitigate risks in climate change.

Contact: Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Hiroshige Seko

Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry

Web: Leave message(https://www.meti.go.jp/honsho/comment_form/comments_send.htm)

The Agency for Natural Resources and Energy

Web: Leave message (<https://www.meti.go.jp/enecho/about/form.html>)

For more information, please contact Climate Scorecard Japan Country Manager;

Erina Imai: climateyouthjapan@gmail.com

JAPAN

Japanese

2018年7月、台風および梅雨前線等の影響で発生した集中豪雨により、200人を超える犠牲者を出した。また、その直後から続いた連日の猛暑は被災地の復旧作業を困難にし、熱中症による死亡者も各地で続出した。

その豪雨で気象庁は、数十年に一度の重大な災害が予想される場合に出す「大雨特別警報」を3日間に渡り、西日本の11府県で発表した。2013年に特別警報の運用が始まって以降、一つの災害で4都道府県以上に出されたのは初めてだった。

今回生じた気圧パターンを前提とするならば、地球温暖化による水蒸気が増加が豪雨を強化させたことは明らかであり、地球温暖化が進む限り、このような豪雨の起きる可能性はこれからも上がり続けると専門家は述べている。

COP24において各国の行動の引き上げにおいて、最も重点を置くべきことは脱化石燃料、そしてその中でも脱石炭を迅速に実現することが示された。一方で、国内では経済産業省が掲げる『高効率』で大型の火力発電所を推進する方針のもと、現在35基の石炭火力発電所の新設が計画されている。日本は従前の方針以上の脱炭素のビジョンを明確にせず、石炭推進方針を維持したままである他、公正な移行についても実質的な議論はほとんど行われていない。

「異常」が「日常」になりつつある中、グリーンピース・ジャパンは、8月に国内1000人を対象に異常気象と気候変動、石炭火力発電に関する意識調査を行ったところ、7月の豪雨や最高気温の更新と猛暑など、この夏の日本の気象に、8割を超える人が脅威を感じている。また長期的な地球温暖化による傾向と関係していると思う人は84%にのぼった。一方で石炭

火力発電は地球温暖化の原因となる CO2 を最も多く排出するが、そのことを知っている人と答えた人は約半数いた一方、国内ではすでに多くの石炭火力発電所が稼働し、さらに推進の傾向にあることについては、8割以上の人が認識していなかった。

2018年、日本は猛暑や豪雨や台風の頻度が増すなどの数々の異常気象を経験した。しかし政府はCOP24においても従前の方針以上の脱炭素のビジョンを明確にせず、石炭推進方針を維持したままである。COP24で発表された温暖化対策の国別ランキング(Climate Change Performance Index)では、日本は5段階評価で最低のグループに入る49位（昨年50位）だった。国内の専門家は、石炭火力発電所の数の継続的な増加が、日本の2030年26percent減という緩和目標を達成するための大きな脅威になると考えている。

政府はこれらの災害を異常気象だと片づけず、問題の本質と向き合うべきである。極端な気象災害を少しでも減らすために日本が今すぐにできる対策は、石炭火力発電をやめ、これ以上新しくつくらないことである。また気候変動におけるリスクを軽減するために企業や自治体にもより先進的な動きを期待する。

MEXICO

Spotlight Activity Report: Mexico's New Development Agenda Creates Climate Opportunities and Risks

Mexico made headlines when it became the first developing country to submit its National Determined Contribution (NDC) to the UNFCCC, with an unconditional reduction goal of 22percent in GHG and 51percent of black carbon by 2030 and conditional targets of 36percent and 70percent, respectively, setting a track record for decisive climate action. As a signing party of the Paris Agreement, Mexico must increase its goals' ambition, working under a progressive principle. The country is undergoing a transition to a new federal government, whose proposed

development agenda, focused in social justice and poverty reduction, has the potential to strengthen and increase Mexico's climate actions. Working in sustainability and development, as a whole, could bring important solutions and results in both in the social and environmental sectors.

Even though the new government's environmental policy proposal accounts for climate change and ensures mitigation and adaptation goals will be achieved, certain commitments and proposals could hamper the realization of climate targets if they are not well-monitored, advised and key actors are not consulted.

These include:

- The National Plan for the Production of Hydrocarbons which contemplates the "rescuing" of PEMEX (The National Oil Company) through investing in the reconditioning and building of refineries and increasing oil exploration, with the promise of freezing fuel prices. This plan aims to achieve national energy security through the exploitation and use of fossil fuels. These could jeopardize the realization of the national 35 percent renewable energy target by 2022. It is necessary to insist on the importance of reductions in methane, oil, and gas consumption, and on the investment in clean energies and technologies.
- The building of an interstate train in the Yucatán peninsula. As of today, the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment documents have not been released, nor has the exact train route. However, preliminary drafts suggest the crossing through National Parks and Biosphere Reserves. This could trigger the deforestation of important vegetation patches and the fragmentation of unique habitats. Considering land use change is a major contributor to GHG emissions, these threats cannot be overlooked during planning.
- The planting of a million hectares of fruit and timber trees in the South-Southeast regions of the country. Although in the proposal states, only paddocks and degraded lands will be targeted, a rigorous monitoring mechanism must be put in place to ensure no native vegetation is substituted by plantations, as the opportunity cost of conservation is greatly raised by the promise of payment for participating in the scheme.

Mexico is still far from meeting its GHG reduction commitments. It is necessary to take effective actions and increase the transparency in the new projects and

proposals, as these could have unintended negative consequences. If social justice and poverty alleviation are to be achieved, the new administration must make mitigation and adaptation targets a priority, as climate change disproportionately affects low-income groups and exacerbates existing inequalities.

Activity Rating: **

These strategic projects have the potential to increase regional and national development and contribute to the achievement of Mexico's climate goals. However, they require substantial efforts, as well as meticulous environmental, economic and social research to succeed. Moreover, an effective coordination between government, institutions, civil society and key actors is also crucial for success. Otherwise, these projects could be a counterweight against the country's climate action and its national and international commitments.

Action Alert Message: Please send the following message to the policymaker below:

We applaud the new government's efforts to develop comprehensive programs and projects that aim to benefit social and economic development while contributing to climate action. However, we are concerned that the projects could affect regional ecosystems and dramatically increase the country's GHG emissions. Therefore, we ask the new government to consider all actors, create partnerships with academia and civil society, and to carry out rigorous monitoring in order to ensure that the projects and programs are consistent with national climate goals and commitments.

Contact:

Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources- Josefa González Blanco

Emails: atencion.ciudadana@semarnat.gob.mx

Website: <https://www.gob.mx/semarnat>

Telephone: 54900900 Ext. 12000/12076/12001

Address: Ejercito Nacional 223,

Col. Anáhuac, Delegación Miguel Hidalgo,

Ciudad de México, México,

Z.C. 11320

Welfare Secretary- María Luisa Albores

Email: demandasocial@sedesol.gob.mx

Website: <https://www.gob.mx/bienestar>

Telephone: 5328 5000

Address: Av. Paseo de la Reforma 116,

Col. Juárez, Del. Cuauhtémoc, Ciudad de México. C.P. 06600

Secretary of Energy- Rocío Nahle

Email: calidad@energia.gob.mx

Website: <https://www.gob.mx/sener/es/#383>

Telephone: 50006000

Address: Insurgentes Sur 890,

Del Valle, Ciudad de México. C.P. 03100

National Commission for Protected Natural Areas- Alejandro del Mazo Maza

Email: gobmx@funcionpublica.gob.mx

Website: <https://www.gob.mx/conanp>

Learn more:

- See “Mexico’s National Determined Contribution”: https://www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/162974/2015_indc_esp.pdf
- “Mexico’s Climate Change Mid-Century Strategy”: https://unfccc.int/files/focus/long-term_strategies/application/pdf/mexico_mcs_final_cop22nov16_red.pdf
- For a more comprehensive view of the Mexico new government’s environmental agenda see: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wtqDgsYrhY6wIxVo3nRz4ou7qK1JPEOj/view>
- To know more about the referred projects:
 1. National Plan for the Production of Hydrocarbons: <https://www.gob.mx/sener/articulos/presentacion-del-plan-nacional-para-la-produccion-de-hidrocarburos?idiom=es>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKlohunp-Qw>

2. Interstate train (Tren Maya): <https://www.tren-maya.mx/>
3. Refineries investment: <https://lopezobrador.org.mx/temas/refineria/>
4. Fruit and timber plantations (Sembrando Vida): <http://sembrandovida.mx/>

This post was submitted by Climate Scorecard Country Managers

Aline Escalona and Valeria Portillo: Contact Aline@climatescorecard.org or Valeria@climatescorecard.org

SAUDI ARABIA

Spotlight Activity: Saudi Arabia Signals Increased Acceptance of Climate Change Risks and Willingness to Invest in Renewable Energy

The climate change policy for Saudi Arabia in 2018 has seen some bright and some concerning signs. The major policy shift has been its move from reluctance to address the dire effects in climate change on the fragile ecosystems of the Kingdom to its acceptance of the climate change risks and its willingness to invest in renewable energy projects.

For example, in February 2018, the Saudi government awarded ACWA Power a contract to build a 300 megawatt Skaka IPP PV solar project in Al Jouf region, the first utility-scale renewable project in the country which will cost \$300 million, create hundreds of jobs, and generate enough electricity to power roughly 40,000 homes. In March of this year, Saudi Arabia and SoftBank Group Corp. signed a memorandum of understanding to build the largest solar power development in the world at \$200 billion, thereby producing 200 gigawatts and creating as many as 100,000 jobs. In September, the government invited bidders to operate the new wind farm, Dumat Al Jandal near the Kingdom's border with Jordan that will cost \$ 500 million and "generate enough power to supply up to 70,000 Saudi households as it connects to the northern electricity grid," according to Energy Minister Khalid Al Falih.

However, in December, Saudi Arabia objected to welcoming the IPCC report during the COP24 meeting in Poland.

ACTIVITY RATING: **

Saudi Arabia started off this year in a promising note, wowing the whole world with the pace at which it was willing to invest in mega-renewable energy projects. Although it is known that Saudi Arabia is starting to move towards more renewable energy, primarily in order to decrease its reliance on oil sales, it was understood that carbon emissions would also decrease as a result. Now we learn that Saudi Arabia, along with the United States and Russia, has objected to welcoming the latest IPCC's (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) report at the COP24 summit in Poland. The report warns that immediate action must be taken by countries around the world to keep warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. The fact that it has objected to the text of the report, casts doubt on the idea that Saudi Arabia is serious about its commitment to cutting carbon emissions.

ACTION ALERT: Please send the following message to the policymaker below:

We commend Saudi Arabia on its commitment to invest a considerable amount of capital into building renewable energy projects across the country in 2018. This should help Saudi Arabia diversify its economy away from oil sales, as it adjusts to a world in which oil is used less and less as a source of energy. We urge Saudi Arabia to reverse its position on the latest IPCC report, and renew its commitment to join other countries in combating climate change by reducing carbon emissions.

Send Action Alert Message to:

Khalid A. Al-Falih

Minister of Energy, Industry, and Mineral Resources

webmaster@meim.gov.sa

Abdurrahman Abdul Mohsen Al-Fadli

Minister of Environment, Water and Agriculture

Toll Free 800 247 2220

[For further information contact Climate Scorecard's Saudi Arabia Partner Organization----- OR Climate Scorecard Country Managers for Saudi Arabia,](#)

SAUDI ARABIA (Arabic):

لقد شهدت سياسة التغير المناخي للمملكة العربية السعودية في عام 2018 بعض النقاط المضئبة وبعضها الآخر المثير للقلق وكان أهم تغيير في هذه السياسة هو التحول من التردد في مواجهة التأثيرات الخطيرة للتغير المناخي على الأنظمة البيئية الهشة للمملكة الى قبولها بمخاطر التغير المناخي وإستعدادها للإستثمار في مشاريع الطاقة المتجددة. فعلى سبيل المثال أعطت الحكومة السعودية في فبراير 2018 عقداً لشركة أكوا باور لبناء مشروع سكاكا IPP للطاقة الشمسية ، الذي تبلغ طاقته 300 ميغاوات في منطقة الجوف وهو أول مشروع مرافق عامة للطاقة المتجددة في البلاد الذي سيكلف المشروع 300 مليون دولار ويساعد في خلق مئات الوظائف وتوليد ما يكفي من الكهرباء لتشغيل ما يقرب من 40000 منزل. وفي آذار من العام نفسه وقعت المملكة العربية السعودية ومجموعة سوفت بانك مذكرة تفاهم لتطوير الطاقة الشمسية الأكبر من نوعه في العالم وسينتج المشروع بكلفة 200 مليار دولار والذي من شأنه أن ينتج 200 جيجاوات من الطاقة ويسهم في خلق 100 ألف وظيفة عمل. وفي ايلول الماضي، دعت المناقشين لتشغيل مزرعة الرياح الجديدة دومة الجندل قرب حدود المملكة مع الأردن والذي سيكلف 500 مليون دولار "وسينتج من الطاقة الكهربائية ما يغذي ما يقرب من 70,000 منزل عندما يرتبط مع الشبكة الكهربائية الشمالية" حسب تصريح وزير الطاقة خالد الفالح. غير أن المملكة في ديسمبر الماضي أعترضت على الترحيب بتقرير IPCC خلال إجتماع مؤتمر المشاركين 24 في بولندا.

تصنيف النشاط**:

بدأت المملكة العربية السعودية هذه السنة بداية مشجعة مثيرة إعجاب العالم بأكمله بالسرعة التي بدت فيها مستعدة للإستثمار في مشاريع عملاقة للطاقة المتجددة. على الرغم من أن السعودية كما ذكر آنفاً بدأت في التحول نحو الطاقة المتجددة لغرض تقليص اعتمادها على مبيعات النفط، فأن من المفهوم أن إنبعاثات الكربون ستقل أيضاً كنتيجة لذلك. والأن نعلم أن السعودية، مع الولايات المتحدة وروسيا، أعترضت على الترحيب بتقرير IPCC الأخير خلال قمة مؤتمر المشاركين 24 في بولندا. ويحذر التقرير بضرورة إتخاذ إجراء فوري من قبل الدول حول العالم لإبقاء الاحتماس الحراري الى درجة 1.5 مئوية. وفي الحقيقة يلقي أعتراض المملكة العربية السعودية على نص التقرير الشكوك حول مدى جدية المملكة في تعهداتها بالحد من إنبعاثات الكربون.

تنبيه العمل (المملكة العربية السعودية):

نثني على المملكة العربية السعودية تعهداتها بالإستثمار مبالغ ضخمة لبناء مشاريع الطاقة المتجددة حول البلد في عام 2018. وهذا سيساعد السعودية في تنويع أقتصادها بعيداً عن مبيعات النفط بينما تتكيف المملكة الى عالم يقل فيه استخدام النفط كمصدر للطاقة. نحث المملكة العربية السعودية أن تعكس موقفها من تقرير IPCC الأخير وتجدد التزامها بالإنضمام الى الدول الأخرى في مكافحة التغير المناخي بالإقلال من إنبعاثات الكربون.

إرسال رسالة تنبيه العمل الى:

خالد الفالح، وزير الطاقة والصناعة والموارد المعدنية webmaster@meim.gov.sa

سعادة معالي الوزير عبد الرحمن الفضلي، وزير البيئة والمياه والزراعة ، رقم الهاتف 8002472220 للحصول على مزيد من المعلومات ، يرجى الاتصال بمؤسسة شركاء Climate Scorecard في المملكة العربية السعودية ----- أو مدراء بلد Climate Scorecard في المملكة العربية السعودية ،
Amgad Ellaboudy و Aberer Abdulkareem abeerabdulkareemm2003@gmail.com
amgad.ellaboudy@gmail.com

SOUTH KOREA

Spotlight Activity Focus: The New Moon Jae-in Administration's Energy Transition Policy and Saemangeun Renewable Energy Project

Korea Hydro & Nuclear Power(KHNP) signed a business agreement with the Korean government and local governments to promote the Saemangeun renewable energy project at the "Saemangeun renewable energy vision declaration ceremony" held in Gunsan on October 30. Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Saemangeun Development and Investment Agency, Saemangeun Development Corporation and North Jeolla Province participated in the agreement. Saemangeun area is located in the west coast of Korea, encircled by the world's longest 33.9km-long Saemangeun seawall, and the development of this area has been supported by the central government.

Through this business agreement, KHNP will promote the Saemangeun photovoltaic business and grid-related business. In particular, it plans to lead the Saemangeun renewable energy business, which is a core task of the government, such as establishing the Saemangeun solar comprehensive plan. The plan suggests completing the world's largest offshore photovoltaic power generation by April 2022. According to the plan, the construction of the 300MW power generation facility will be done first, and the additional power generation facility up to 2.1 GW will be built.

Jung Jae-hoon, president of KHNP, said, "We will allocate a dedicated manpower for the successful execution of the world's largest photovoltaic business, and make the Southwest region a center for the renewal energy business of KHNP, centering on the Saemangeun region." "We will make efforts to create new jobs

and revitalize the local economy through participation of local residents and local SMEs," he added.

President Moon Jae-in who was visiting the G20 summit in Buenos Aires applauded South Korea's efforts to combat climate change including reduction of coal-fired power plants, construction of large-scale solar and wind power complexes at Saemangeum, cultivation of energy industry based on clean energy technology, and shift to hydrogen economy. He emphasized that Korea is already implementing energy transition policies and plans to increase the proportion of renewable energy development to 20 percent by 2030.

Source:

<http://news.kmib.co.kr/article/view.asp?arcid=0924036189&code=11151400&cp=nv>

<http://www.edaily.co.kr/news/read?newsId=01830246619434256&mediaCodeNo=257>

Activity Rating: **** Moving Forward

Action Alert Message: Please send the following message to the policymaker below:

Dear President Jung Jae-hoon of KHNP,

We, Climate Scorecard, appreciate KHNP's efforts to boost renewable energy business in South Korea, centering in the Saemangeum area. We expect it will contribute to diversification of Korea's energy portfolio and KHNP's business beyond nuclear energy.

Please, keep moving forward and we would like to ask your organization to cooperate and consult closely with local communities in order to avoid and mitigate conflicts, which can undermine the project planned.

Contact:

Department of Renewable Energy Business

Tel: +82-54-704-2609

Address: 1655 Bulguk-ro, Gyeongju-si, Gyeongsangbuk-do, South Korea (postal code. 38120)

This Post was submitted by Climate Scorecard South Korea Country Manager Eunjung Lim: Contact Eunjung@climatescorecard.org

SPAIN

New Government Suggests Potential Era of Environmental Leadership on the Iberian Peninsula

2018 has been a promising year for Spanish environmental stewardship. The beginning of June saw with it the election of a socialist Prime Minister, Pedro Sánchez, whose self-purported ecological empathy and progressive stance on climactic issues far surpasses the lack thereof, on both accounts, of his carbon-allied conservative predecessor, Mariano Rajoy. The aftershock of the election brought about a whirlwind of bureaucratic change, culminating in the creation of a new governmental ministry that united two conflicted environmental regulatory bodies. Highly qualified Teresa May Ribera was then charged with spearheading this transition at the helm of the aptly named “Ministry for Ecological Transition.” This unification has created a vessel for change and a found a congruous captain, but it remains to be seen if this change is realizable on a national level in a majority conservative country that is historically dependent on and lenient towards the fossil fuel industry.

The first environmental policy passed by the new government reverted much-contested restrictions on solar energy production, setting the stage for Spain’s solar potential. This was an important maneuver, as these restrictions had left bad tastes in the mouth of many a Spaniard. Secondly, it called to shut down the majority of the countries coal mines by the end of this year, simultaneously allocating 250 million Euros in professional retraining and social security benefits

for miners, re-greening of the mines, and general diversification of the mining areas. This policy has been met with support from the European community as an exemplary step in the right direction with climate neutrality going hand in hand with social security and support, although it has been heavily criticized by conservative factions of the Spanish nation. The Ministry for Ecological Transition has further promised to ban the sale of fossil-fueled automobiles by 2040, but little obligatory language has been utilized to reinforce this decision on a policy level.

These governmental changes set the stage for a potential EU future wherein Spain takes the role of leader in climate change reduction on a global scale if they play their environmental cards right, namely their solar suit. The question levied by many critics is, do these progressive actions have adequate support of the conservative majority government and of civil society to ensure the implementation and longevity of the policies? Only time will tell but we hope that Sánchez and Ribera will stay true to their campaign convictions and will start utilizing some hardline obligatory rhetoric and regulation in their utopian environmental policies.

Status: Right Direction

Take Action:

These new progressive policies hopefully foreshadow Spain's role at the forefront of environmental stewardship on the international geopolitical seas as we sail towards the future of sustainability. Please send the following message to the policymaker below:

Secretary of State for the Environment,

We would like to thank the Spanish government as a whole, and more specifically, the Ministry for Ecological Transition, for taking the first progressive steps towards carbon neutrality on the Iberian Peninsula. The future is brighter now that Spain's

solar potential is being politically recognized, and coal reliance is waning, although more stringent regulations and obligations need to be put in place in order to ensure the preservation of the international climate for future generations. Gracias por su ambición y continua con los pasos progresivos que ha tomado contra el cambio climático para garantizar la seguridad futura de nuestro mundo.

Sincerely, [your name]

Contact:

Secretary of State for the Environment - sema@mapama.es

Secretary of State of Energy - seenergia@minetad.es

Spanish Climate Change Office - buzon-dgoecc@mapama.es

Ministry for Ecological Transition (Press Contact) -
secretaria.ambiente.prensa@mapama.es

This Post was submitted by Climate Scorecard Spain Country Manager Chauncey Erskine: contact Chauncey@climatescorecard.org

THAILAND

Spotlight Activity: New Mass Transportation System Proposed As A Way to Reduce Emissions

One of the most significant climate change related news in the year 2018 is about Thailand's annual carbon dioxide emissions and the respective emissions reduction strategies in place. The Energy Policy and Planning Office (EPPO) estimated Thailand's annual emissions in 2018 where it is found that carbon dioxide emissions were the greatest, which reached at 196.5 tonnes during the first nine months of 2018. Comparing Thailand's annual carbon dioxide emissions, the EPPO determined that in 2018 there was a 0.98 percent increase in carbon dioxide emissions with respect to the year 2017. Here, the EPPO also stated that even though large proportion of carbon dioxide emissions is generated from the

power sector; overall due to the increased power generation from renewable energy sources the power sector is emitting relatively lower proportions of greenhouse gases as compared to other sectors. In order to reflect upon the increased carbon dioxide emissions in 2018, Raweewan Bhuridej, the secretary general from the Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning Office argued “This increase in emissions will not affect Thailand’s Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs). Since Thailand is a developing country, we do not have to lower our emission rate as significantly as wealthy nations, who ought to cut down their net CO₂ emission rate every year”.

Raweewan Bhuridej further argued about the active emissions reduction strategies Thailand has in place by saying, “thanks to this positive reduction effort, Thailand has already achieved its Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action, in which the country pledged to lower greenhouse gas emissions by 7 to 20 percent within 2020”. Finally, Raweewan Bhuridej also advised about more room for improvement in Thailand’s low-carbon society policy for enhancing Thailand’s emission reduction strategies. Here, she stated, “However, despite us having done great work in reducing emissions in Thailand’s energy sector there is still room for improvement in order to transform the country into a low-carbon society. For instance, the government is investing in a mass transportation network so as to encourage people to use public transport instead of driving, in a move to lower emissions in the transportation and logistics sector”.

For more information please view the December 7, 2018 news report by the Nation at <http://www.nationmultimedia.com/detail/national/30359964>

Activity Ranking: *** Right Direction

Through the facilitation of mass transportation system as noted by Raweewan Bhuridej, Thailand is certainly headed in the right direction in terms of enhancing its emission reduction strategies in place. However, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions on a larger-scale and for strengthening Thailand’s Paris Agreement pledge, more work needs to be done. For instance, there needs to be an annual review and regular monitoring of the emissions reduction strategies in place. This will help in determining about the scope, strengths and areas of improvement of

the emission reduction strategies, which are in place. Similarly, a concrete roadmap needs to be designed, which needs to account for emissions reduction in transportation, power as well as other relevant sectors. Finally, for enhancing the effectiveness of greenhouse gas emissions reduction strategies in Thailand in the long-run; specific emission reduction targets should be established and emission reduction strategies should be designed according to the set targets.

Take Action:

To help Thailand in implementing effective greenhouse gas emission reduction strategies, you can contact the members of the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning with the following Action Alert message:

We congratulate the Government of Thailand for proposing a roadmap to facilitate mass transportation system in Thailand. A well-designed mass transportation system in Thailand will certainly help in decreasing large amounts of vehicle generated greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector. However, in order to enhance greenhouse gas emission reductions at a larger-scale in Thailand your role will be crucial. As a prominent member of the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning, I kindly request you to take three key steps for strengthening the emissions reduction strategies, which are in place. First, there needs to be an annual review and regular monitoring of the emissions reduction strategies in place. This will help in determining about the scope, strengths and areas of improvement of the emission reduction strategies, which are in place. Second, a concrete roadmap needs to be designed, which needs to account for emissions reduction in transportation, power as well as other relevant sectors. Finally, for enhancing the effectiveness of greenhouse gas emissions reduction strategies in Thailand in the long-run; specific emission reduction targets should be established on a regional as well as national scale; and appropriate emission reduction strategies should be designed according to the set targets.

Send Action Alert Message to:

Dr. Raweewan Bhuridej
Secretary General

Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning
60/1 Soi Pibulwatana 7, Rama VI Road,
Phayathai, Bangkok 10400 Thailand
Telephone: 0-2265-6506, Fax: 0-2265-6506
Email: rawewan@onep.go.th

Dr. Asadaporn Kraipanont
Deputy Secretary General
Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning
60/1 Soi Pibulwatana 7, Rama VI Road,
Phayathai, Bangkok 10400 Thailand
Telephone: 0-2265-6505, Fax: 0-2265-6506
Email: kasdaporn@gmail.com

For more information please contact Climate Scorecard Thailand Country Manager Neebir Banerjee: Neebir@climatescorecard.org or neebirban@yahoo.com

UNITED KINGDOM

Calls for Further Actions to Implement the 2008 Climate Change Act

Spotlight Activity Report: 2018 has been a year of evaluation for the UK policy on climate change. It is the [10th anniversary of the original Climate Change Act 2008](#). New independent reports have tackled the legacy and impact of these measures.

A report by London School of Economics found that the main achievements of the Climate Act have been institutional and procedural, rather than practical. In other words, the Climate Act has helped maintain consensus across parties for the need of climate change mitigation, and has promoted devolution of power to local communities in tackling climate change; however, it has not provided sufficient mechanisms to monitor progress and hold the government accountable for their climate policies. One of the biggest criticisms of the Climate Act is that while it had well defined carbon emission targets, it had no well defined carbon reduction policies, leading to investors' uncertainty in future Government policies and fear of inconsistency between different Cabinets' approaches to the issue. Even more worrisome is the fact that the report found that in spite its efforts, "the UK is not

currently on track to meet its statutory carbon targets for the mid-2020s and early 2030s”.

This is significant in the context of the alarm bells that activists have been raising throughout the year. Many have pointed to the fact that the UK Government’s excessive focus on climate mitigation is obscuring the importance of adaptation policies, especially in the light of unprecedented heat waves and drought that has afflicted the country in this past summer, and the rising flooding emergencies. For many activists, the Government’s dual decision to expand Heathrow airport while discarding the plan for a new Swansea tidal lagoon on the same day represents the failure of the current leadership to grasp the extent of the threat of climate change.

A second report commissioned by the Climate Change Committee (CCC)—UK independent monitoring body—and conducted by Imperial College highlights the importance of energy efficiency and the risks that a poorly managed transition to a low carbon economy will entail. The report finds that “The studies demonstrate that the decarbonisation of electricity generation and improvement of system flexibility are essential irrespective of the adopted heat decarbonisation strategy”. Yet in spite of this, the Government has decided to cut Feed-In Tariff (FiT)—a Government scheme designed to promote the uptake of small-scale renewable and low-carbon electricity generation technologies—which have in the past years been the backbone of community-led projects for low carbon energy. Local activists at the Low Carbon Hub (Oxford, UK) remarked how this move has already affected the community, forcing the organisation to cut two municipal heating projects due to lack of funding.

Another prominent grassroots organization for cleaner community energy provision, Community Energy England, has already produced a [report on the positive impact of FiT](#), calling for the Government to retain them.

Activity Rating: ** Standing Still

The findings of the report per se are not as worrying, since there is still a viable path forward to reach zero net emissions. However, the developments in 2018 warrant two stars due to the fact that the directions taken by the Government with the expansion of Heathrow and the cut of FiT are a decisive step away from climate mitigation.

Action Alert Message:

“We urge the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy to reconsider the government plan to cut Feed-in Tariff (FiT) by April 2019. We take note both of the recent Imperial College London Report on Alternative Paths to Heat Decarbonisation, which highlights the importance of decarbonisation of electricity to reach emission targets, and the Consultation on the Feed-in Tariff scheme of Community Energy England and Community Energy Wales, which highlights how important the scheme has been for community projects. In the light of both academics’ and activists’ recommendation, we believe the maintenance of the FiT scheme is central to future climate mitigation in the UK”

Contact Information:

Rt Hon Claire Perry MP

Minister of State (Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy)

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Tel: 020 7219 7050

Fax: 0207 219 1385

Email: claire.perry.mp@parliament.uk.

Sources:

Imperial College London Report on alternative paths to Decarbonisation:

<https://www.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Imperial-College-2018-Analysis-of-Alternative-UK-Heat-Decarbonisation-Pathways-Executive-Summary.pdf>

London School of Economics – Grantham Institute: report

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/GranthamInstitute/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/10-years-of-UK-Climate-Change-Act-Summary-Policy-Brief.pdf>

Article on the UK leadership failure to confront the growing threat of climate change: Lord Deben of the CCC (Climate Change Committee) warns UK Cabinet

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/GranthamInstitute/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/10-years-of-UK-Climate-Change-Act-Summary-Policy-Brief.pdf>

Article on Heathrow and Swansea policies and their significance for wider UK climate change policies

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/GranthamInstitute/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/10-years-of-UK-Climate-Change-Act-Summary-Policy-Brief.pdf>

Low Carbon Hub, Oxford: <https://lowcarbonhub.org>

This Post was submitted by Climate Scorecard UK Country Manager Valentina Pegolo: Contact Valentina@climatescorecard.org

UNITED STATES

US Mid-Term Elections Have Potential to Affect Climate Change Policy

In November 2018, the U.S. held midterm congressional elections, in which many districts across the country elected new, more left-leaning representatives. Called a “blue wave” by some news outlets, the shift to Democratic control of the U.S. House of Representatives promised to herald a new era of resistance to President Trump’s and the Republicans’ increasing rollbacks of public policy regulations.

Among the newly-elected representatives is Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, a 29-year-old progressive from NY-14, who ran on a far-left platform promising living wages for all and a plan to address climate change. Shortly after she was elected, and before she was sworn into office, she attended a climate protest in Washington, D.C. and brought the “Green New Deal” into the national spotlight.

The “Green New Deal” (GND) is an ambitious plan that proposes to completely decarbonize the American economy through a massive investment in renewable energy, green jobs, and infrastructure. First laid out several years ago, the proposal only became widely recognized and discussed in the national media upon its introduction by Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez.

Activity Rating: *** Right Direction

At a time when the federal government is attempting to roll back every existing climate regulations and prevent any new regulations from being put in place, the momentum behind the Green New Deal proposal offers hope for climate action under the new House of Representatives. Although the Senate and presidency are still Republican-controlled, action on climate change policy now has greater potential.

Additionally, discussions of the practical implications of a Green New Deal have entered the public spotlight, allowing public discourse to move beyond simply a discussion of whether climate change is real, into a discussion of how best to solve the issue.

Action Alert Message:

Dear Representative,

The time for climate action is now. As Speaker of the House, I urge you to support a Green New Deal and implement swift, drastic carbon emission reductions.

Contact:

Send a message to the representative of your Congressional district. Use this tool to find his/her contact information: <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>

This Post was submitted by Climate Scorecard US Country Manager Stephanie Gagnon: Contact Stephanie@climatescorecard.org