

Trump removes U.S. from agreement to fight climate change

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The Paris City Hall is illuminated in green to show France's support for the Paris climate agreement on June 1, 2017, after President Donald Trump announced the United States will withdraw from the climate pact. The U.S. will join Syria and Nicaragua as the only countries in the world, out of 197, not part of the agreement. Photo by: Geoffroy Van Der Hasselt/AFP/Getty Images

WASHINGTON, D.C. — President Donald Trump made a big announcement Thursday afternoon. He said he will remove the United States from an agreement. The agreement was between the United States and more than 100 other countries.

What Is Climate Change?

The agreement is about climate change. The planet is getting warmer. Most scientists think that the warming cannot be explained by nature alone.

Most of Earth's warming since the mid-1900s is from people. We have burned coal, oil and gas. We do this to heat houses and drive cars. It emits greenhouse gases. They trap heat in the air.

Scientists use models and math to guess how Earth will change. They think it will keep getting hotter for the next 100 years.

A Deal To Stop Warming Temperatures

Countries around the world got together to try to stop the Earth from warming so much. The countries would come up with rules for businesses to follow. They would make changes to the fuels people used.

This would not happen right away. It would take a long time. The deal was called the Paris climate agreement. More than 100 countries signed it.

In 2015, Barack Obama was the president of the United States. He signed the deal. When Trump was running to be president, he said he would leave the deal.

Republicans, Democrats Divided

Democrats and Republicans are the two main political groups in the United States. Trump is a Republican. Obama is a Democrat. Many Republicans did not like the Paris agreement. They thought it would hurt businesses.

Some Republicans think it would cost too much money to make these changes. Many businesses use oil and coal. The fuels power factories to make things. Trump said the Paris deal would be bad for American workers. Many of these workers voted for him.

Businesses Supported The Climate Agreement

Still, some businesses liked the Paris agreement. Even some oil companies supported it. These included ExxonMobil and BP. Many of these oil companies have accepted new rules to stop greenhouse gasses. They have been changing their businesses for years.

The United States cannot leave the agreement right away. It may take years. Still, Trump's choice could affect other countries sooner.

Most countries wanted the United States to stay with the Paris agreement. Trump met with leaders in Europe last week. Many of them tried to convince him not to leave the agreement.

The United States creates a lot of the world's greenhouse gases. It releases the second most greenhouse gases of any country in the world.

Quiz

- 1 What is the MAIN idea of the section "What Is Climate Change?"
 - (A) People are causing Earth to get hotter.
 - (B) People should stop burning gas and oil.
 - (C) Scientists think nature is making Earth warmer.
 - (D) Scientists are worried about running out of coal.

- 2 Which of the following sentences BEST states the MAIN idea of the entire article?
 - (A) President Trump disagrees with Barack Obama about climate change.
 - (B) President Trump does not believe the United States helps to cause climate change.
 - (C) President Trump decided the United States will leave the agreement to help climate change.
 - (D) President Trump said the agreement to help climate change is not good for American companies.

- 3 Which event happened FIRST in the article?
 - (A) Barack Obama signed an agreement other countries made about climate change.
 - (B) Many countries joined together to make rules to try to help stop climate change.
 - (C) Other leaders tried to get President Trump to stay with the agreement to help climate change.
 - (D) President Trump visited leaders of other countries to talk about the agreement about climate change.

- 4 Read the section "Republicans, Democrats Divided."
 What is the MAIN reason why President Trump does not like the climate change agreement?
 - (A) He thinks the plan will cost too much money.
 - (B) He thinks the plan will not help stop Earth from getting warmer.
 - (C) He thinks the plan will upset people who own businesses that use oil.
 - (D) He thinks the plan will be bad for people who work in the U.S.