

Trump removes United States from global climate agreement

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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 is removing the United States from the Paris climate agreement. The move made many of the people who voted for Trump happy. Meanwhile, many businesses and environmentalists were disappointed by the decision.

"The Paris Accord is a BAD deal for Americans" a White House note to supporters read. The note went on to say that Trump's action was part of a promise to "put American workers first."

What Is The Paris Climate Agreement?

The deal was made in Paris in December 2015. All but two countries in the world signed it. It involved a lot of discussion and cooperation between many countries to fight against climate change.

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

They think most of the warming since the mid-1900s is from the burning of coal, oil and gas. Burning these fuels is how we produce most of the power we use. This burning adds carbon dioxide into the air and also traps heat inside the Earth's atmosphere. These gases are called greenhouse gases.

Together, the countries that signed the Paris agreement represent more than four-fifths of the world's greenhouse gas emissions.

A Global Effort To Slow Global Warming

The Paris agreement was not designed to stop global warming. It simply wanted to slow the warming. The goal was to keep temperatures lower than 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit above historic temperatures. These temperatures were from before factories and fuel burning caused too many greenhouse gases to be released.

The United States is the world's second-largest greenhouse gas emitter. China is the largest. The U.S. would have been a part of about one-fifth of the total lessened greenhouse gas emissions achieved by the deal through 2030.

Leaving the agreement was not a quick decision for Trump. The president took months to make up his mind as people on both sides tried to influence his decision.

Rex Tillerson is President Trump's secretary of state. He often works with other countries on agreements like the Paris climate deal. Ivanka Trump is President Trump's daughter and adviser. Both Tillerson and Ivanka Trump urged him to stay in the deal. They argued it would help the United States to remain in meetings about the agreement. By doing this, they said the United States could have more power.

Would The Agreement Hurt Big Businesses?

Stephen Bannon and Scott Pruitt were on the other side. They both work for President Trump. They told Trump that meeting the terms of the agreement would hurt U.S. businesses.

They said the agreement would hurt U.S. factories. This could mean fewer jobs for Americans in those factories. These jobs are especially important in states like Wisconsin and the Dakotas. Trump won many voters from those areas during last year's election.

The agreement also had support from big businesses from U.S. and around the world. These businesses even included giant oil companies like ExxonMobil and BP. Many of these oil companies have had years to get used to new rules limiting carbon emissions. They have been changing their businesses to fit these predictions for a while.

The process for the United States to leave the agreement might take years. Still, Trump's decision could affect other countries sooner.

U.S. Leaving Deal Could Cause More Warming

Hans Joachim Schellnhuber is a scientist. He said that leaving the agreement could make the planet warmer. He said it would only be a few tenths of a degree Celsius warmer, but it would still be a big change.

Schellnhuber says this would only happen if the other countries continued on with their climate plans without changing them. Instead, the other countries might try to make up for the United States leaving the deal.

Still, Trump's decision could affect the way other countries feel about the United States. This was seen last week when Trump went overseas. Trump met in Italy with the leaders of seven of the most powerful countries in the world. There, European leaders pushed Trump to stay in the climate deal. At the end of their meetings, Trump had not changed his mind.

Quiz

- 1 Which of the following options states the MAIN goal of the Paris accord?
 - (A) to raise awareness about global warming
 - (B) to put an end to climate change
 - (C) to stop the creation of greenhouse gases
 - (D) to limit the rise of Earth's temperatures

- 2 Which two of the following sentences from the article state its MAIN ideas?
 1. *He said he is removing the United States from the Paris climate agreement.*
 2. *The president took months to make up his mind as people on both sides tried to influence his decision.*
 3. *Trump found many voters from those areas during last year's election.*
 4. *Trump met in Italy with the leaders of seven of the most powerful countries in the world.*
 - (A) 1 and 2
 - (B) 1 and 3
 - (C) 2 and 4
 - (D) 3 and 4

- 3 Based on the article, why would the United States be an important part of the Paris climate agreement?
 - (A) because the U.S. helped to create the plan for reducing global warming
 - (B) because the U.S. creates more greenhouse gases than every other country except China
 - (C) because the U.S. will be one of only three countries in the world that is not participating
 - (D) because the U.S. has many companies that are trying to reduce greenhouse gases

- 4 Based on the article, which of the following statements about Trump's meeting with world leaders is TRUE?
- (A) Trump did not share his opinions with other leaders.
 - (B) Trump was not convinced by the opinions of other leaders.
 - (C) During the meeting, other leaders thought Trump decided to stay in the climate deal.
 - (D) After the meeting, other leaders told Trump to do what he thought was best.