

# Trump removes United States from Paris climate deal

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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 his 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."

All but two countries - Nicaragua and Syria - signed onto the 2015 accord. The deal was considered by many to be an achievement for President Barack Obama when he signed it. It involved a lot of discussion and cooperation between many countries.

## Trump's Team Divided On Paris Deal

For the Trump administration, though, the Paris agreement has caused a lot of division. 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. As the secretary of state, he often works with other countries on agreements like the Paris climate deal. Both Tillerson and Ivanka Trump, the president's daughter and adviser, 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 suggested the United States could have more power and influence.

White House chief strategist Stephen Bannon and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt were on the other side. Both of them pushed for a withdrawal.

They, along with other stricter conservatives, have tried to convince Trump that meeting the terms of the agreement would be harmful to U.S. businesses. They said it would put manufacturing jobs in danger. These jobs are especially important in states like Wisconsin and the Dakotas. Trump won many voters from those areas during last year's election.

## Paris Deal Backed By Big Oil Companies

More than 190 nations agreed to the Paris agreement in December 2015. Since then, 147 have joined, including the United States. Together, the countries represent more than 80 percent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions.

The agreement was also heavily backed by huge businesses from the U.S. and around the world. Supporters even included oil businesses like Royal Dutch Shell, ExxonMobil and BP. Large businesses, especially those working in international markets, have had years to get used to the idea that there are likely to be new rules limiting carbon emissions. They have been changing their businesses to fit these predictions for some time.

## The Goals Of The Agreement

Despite the announcement on Thursday, it could take years for the United States to leave the agreement. Still, Trump's move could have an effect sooner than that.

The United States is the world's second-largest greenhouse gas emitter. China is the largest. The U.S. would have accounted for 21 percent of the total reduction in greenhouse gas emissions achieved by the deal through 2030.

The Paris agreement is designed to set the world on a path toward keeping the warming of Earth "well below" a 2-degree Celsius (3.6-degree Fahrenheit) rise above pre-industrial temperatures. In other words, it's accepted among scientists and world leaders that the planet

is warming. The leaders are trying to contain the warming to only 2 degrees Celsius, rather than warming even more. Scientists believe that if countries and businesses continue with their current policies, more warming will occur.

## **Possible Effects On Environment, Global Relations**

Hans Joachim Schellnhuber is a physicist who founded the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research in Germany. He said that the United States opting out of the deal could have terrible consequences. Leaving the agreement could make the planet a few tenths of a degree Celsius warmer, based on the assumption that the world carries ahead with its plans while the United States keeps on emitting greenhouse gases as usual.

While this seems small, Schellnhuber emphasized that it's still a significant increase.

Schellnhuber says he thinks that other countries would not leave the deal because the United States did. Instead, he thinks they are likely to keep on pushing to cut their emissions. They may be able to do more to make up for the United States' departure from the agreement.

Still, Trump's decision could affect the way other countries feel about the United States. This was seen last week when European leaders pushed Trump to stay in the climate deal during a meeting between leaders of the seven most powerful industrialized countries in the world.

## **"Don't Count On America To Lead"**

Some environmentalists warned that pulling out of the deal will be a disaster.

Tom Steyer is a billionaire and an environmental activist who gives a lot of money to political campaigns. He wrote in a statement that Trump "sent a clear message to both our allies and enemies alike: In the search for courageous and moral solutions to the challenges of the 21st century, don't count on America to lead."

## Quiz

- 1 Which two of the following selections from the article include central ideas?
  1. *President Donald Trump made a big announcement Thursday afternoon. He said he is removing the United States from the Paris climate agreement.*
  2. *More than 190 nations agreed to the Paris agreement in December 2015. Since then, 147 have joined, including the United States.*
  3. *The agreement was also heavily backed by huge businesses from U.S. and around the world.*
  4. *The leaders are trying to contain the warming to only 2 degrees Celsius, rather than warming even more.*

(A) 1 and 2

(B) 2 and 3

(C) 3 and 4

(D) 1 and 4
- 2 Which of the following details from the article would be MOST important to include in a summary of the article?

(A) The deal was considered by many to be an achievement for President Barack Obama when he signed it.

(B) Trump found many supportive voters from those areas during last year's election.

(C) The United States is the world's second-largest greenhouse gas emitter.

(D) Schellnhuber says he thinks that other countries would not leave the deal because the United States did.
- 3 Trump's decision was MOST LIKELY influenced by which of the following?

(A) meeting with world leaders

(B) concerns about the economy

(C) evidence presented by scientists

(D) advice from the secretary of state

- 4 Read the final paragraph of the article.

*Tom Steyer is a billionaire and an environmental activist who gives a lot of money to political campaigns. He wrote in a statement that Trump "sent a clear message to both our allies and enemies alike: In the search for courageous and moral solutions to the challenges of the 21st century, don't count on America to lead."*

What is the MOST LIKELY reason why the author included this paragraph?

- (A) to imply that the decision to leave the Paris climate agreement was a mistake
- (B) to make a prediction about the consequences of leaving the Paris climate agreement
- (C) to explain why other countries in the Paris climate agreement wanted the United States to remain in the deal
- (D) to show that there is a small number of people who disagree with the decision to leave the Paris climate agreement