

"The Pentagon says that climate change poses immediate risks to our national security. We should act like it. And that's why, over the past six years, we've done more than ever to combat climate change, from the way we produce energy to the way we use it."

-President Obama, State of the Union Address, January 20, 2015



[CEQ News]

President's Climate Action Champions

In December, President Obama recognized 16 U.S. communities as Climate Action Champions for their leadership on addressing climate change. From creating climate-smart building codes to installing green infrastructure to setting targets for reducing energy consumption, these 16 local and tribal communities have considered their climate vulnerabilities and taken decisive action to cut carbon pollution and build resilience.

The 16 designated Climate Action Champions represent a diverse group of communities that are defining the frontier of ambitious climate action, and their approaches can serve as a model for other communities to follow. More information about the communities and their projects is available [on the White House fact sheet](#).

Advanced Outdoor Lighting Challenge

Outdoor lighting consumes enough energy to power 6 million homes for a year, costing cities about \$10 billion per year. That is why the Administration launched the [Presidential Challenge for Advanced Outdoor Lighting](#) to accelerate the adoption and use of high-efficiency outdoor lighting, driving carbon pollution reductions across the nation. Using today's new technologies, these system-wide lighting exchanges can help local governments cut their outdoor lighting bills by 50% or more. Additionally, through the [Better Buildings program](#), the Department of Energy tripled its goal of upgrading 500,000 poles, on track to be exceeded, to 1.5 million poles. And the Federal Government is doing its part to improve lighting efficiency and save taxpayer dollars as well. Visit the [CEQ Blog](#) for more information on those efforts.

Administration Takes Steps Forward on Climate Action Plan by Announcing Actions to Cut Methane Emissions

On January 14, the Administration announced a new goal to cut methane emissions from the oil and gas sector by 40 – 45 percent from 2012 levels by 2025, along with a set of actions to put the U.S. on a path to achieve this ambitious goal. Achieving this goal would save up to 180 billion cubic feet of wasted natural gas in 2025 – enough to heat more than 2 million homes for an entire year. Methane emissions accounted for nearly 10 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions in 2012, of which nearly 30 percent came from the production, transmission, and distribution of oil and natural gas. Emissions from the oil and gas sector are down 16 percent since 1990, but without additional action, emissions from this sector are projected to rise more than 25 percent by 2025. Our strategy for cutting methane emissions from the oil and gas sector is an important component of efforts to address climate change. More information is available on the [White House fact sheet](#).

Executive Order Establishes Flood Standard

Across the country, extreme weather and other impacts of climate change are threatening the health, safety, and prosperity of our communities. NOAA and NASA recently [announced](#) that 2014 was the hottest global year on The GreenGov Leader

record. And as the planet continues to warm, impacts like rising sea levels, intensified storms, and heavy downpours are contributing to an increased risk of flooding. President Obama is committed to ensuring that American communities thrive in the face of a changing climate. In late January, the President signed an Executive Order establishing a flood standard that will reduce the risk and cost of future flood disasters by requiring all Federal investments in and affecting floodplains to meet higher flood risk standards. By requiring that Federally funded buildings, roads and other infrastructure are constructed to better withstand the impacts of flooding, the President's action will support the thousands of communities that have strengthened their local floodplain management codes and standards, and will help ensure Federal projects last as long as intended.

To read the Executive Order, click [here](#).

[News]

EPA Energy Star National Building Competition

EPA is once again hosting the largest building energy efficiency competition of its kind in the nation. Energy managers at commercial buildings in every state will compete to see who can save the most energy and water, all while fighting climate change. With help from EPA's ENERGY STAR program, competitors will work to reduce waste through improvements in energy and water efficiency. Registration is open until May 31 on the [National Building Competition](#) website.

Georgia PSC Approves Potential 30 MW Solar Project at Naval Submarine Base

The Georgia Public Service Commission, the Department of the Navy and Southern Company subsidiary Georgia Power plan to develop a potential 30 megawatt alternating current or 40 megawatt direct current renewable energy project at Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, Georgia. The Navy has been actively working with Georgia Power to develop a cost-effective, renewable energy project to meet the Secretary of the Navy's goal to produce or procure 1 gigawatt by the end of 2015. The DoN is aggressively pursuing renewable energy to improve energy security, operational capability, strategic flexibility, and resource availability. To date, there are up to 255 MW of renewable energy capacity in procurement from solicitations from the Western Area Power Authority for 14 installations in California and a solicitation from DLA-Energy for three installations in Texas. For more information about DON's Renewable Energy Program Office and potential projects, visit <http://greenfleet.dodlive.mil/energy/repo/>.

Navy, Air Force and Gulf Power to Partner on Northwest Florida Solar Project

The U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force, and Gulf Power have announced a partnership to install three solar plants across the Florida Panhandle. The three solar plants would produce a combined output of 120 megawatts –enough power 18,000 homes each year. Combined, these projects increase Florida's solar generation by 60 percent. More information is available through [Gulf Power's website](#).

Opening of Fort Huachuca Renewable Energy Project

Last year, the U.S. Army Office of Energy Initiatives and Fort Huachuca partnered with GSA and Tucson Electric Power to develop a large-scale renewable energy solar project to supply approximately 18-megawatts alternating current, or about 25 percent of Fort Huachuca's electricity requirements. In December 2014 the project became fully operational, with more than 57,000 solar panels supplying Fort Huachuca and the Southern Arizona grid with renewable energy. More information is available on the [Fort Huachuca Fact Sheet](#).

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