



PARIS AGREEMENT OVERVIEW

- Adopted through the United Nations in 2015, the Paris Agreement brought over 190 nations - including the U.S. - into a common framework to undertake ambitious efforts to combat climate change and adapt to its effects.
- The Paris Agreement requires all countries to put forward their best efforts to reduce greenhouse emissions through Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), which are to be made more ambitious over time. The Agreement includes no enforcement mechanism other than mandatory reporting to the other parties.
- Overall, the Paris Agreement's central aim is to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

U.S. POSITION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

- While experts project that U.S. greenhouse emissions could be 14-18 percent below 2005 levels by 2025, this is far less than what is needed to address climate change.
- During the negotiations of the Paris Agreement, the U.S. pledged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 26-28 percent below 2005 levels by 2025.
- The Paris Agreement has 185 Parties; however, the U.S. is the only country to have formally requested to withdraw.

WITHDRAWAL FROM GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

- On June 1, 2017, President Trump announced that the U.S. would withdraw from the Paris Agreement.
- The Department of State notified the UN Secretary General that the U.S. would provide formal notification of withdrawal on November 4, 2019.
- In accordance with Article 28 of the Paris Agreement, the earliest possible effective withdrawal date for the U.S. is November 4, 2020 – the day after the next Presidential election.

FOREIGN POLICY IMPLICATIONS

President Trump's decision to withdraw the U.S. from the Paris Agreement will...

- *Weaken* our country's reputation by making the U.S. an international outlier on climate change.
- *Threaten* vulnerable and underprivileged American communities at risk of climate change and increase associated risks for everyone.
- *Strengthen* perceptions that the U.S. is withdrawing from its traditional position of global leadership
- *Position* the U.S. as a less reliable negotiating partner, which could make it more difficult to address other issues of mutual interest or call on other countries to abide by their commitments in other international agreements.



We Can't Turn Our Backs on the Facts:

Global Temperature Rise	Sea Level Rise
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change concluded there is more than a 95 percent probability that human activities during the last 50 years have warmed our planet. • Earth's average surface temperature has risen 1.62 degrees Fahrenheit since the late 19th Century. • Associated risks of temperature rise include increased wildfire risks, spread of new diseases, increased risk of heat stroke, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A stronger greenhouse effect will warm the oceans and partially melt glaciers and other ice. • Global sea level has risen by about 8 inches since record keeping began in 1880. It is projected to rise another 1 to 4 feet by 2100. • In the next several decades, storm surges and high tides could combine with sea level rise and land subsidence to further increase flooding in many regions, especially coastal communities across the U.S.
Changes in Precipitation Patterns	Ocean Acidification
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average U.S. precipitation has increased since 1900, but some areas have had increases greater than the national average, while some areas have had drastic decreases. • More winter and spring precipitation are projected for the northern and midwestern regions of the U.S. • Projections suggest that heavy precipitation events, such as devastating hurricanes, will also continue to increase. • As Earth's precipitation patterns change, increasing severe droughts will leave populations, such as American farmers in the Western U.S., at risk. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, the acidity of surface ocean waters has increased by about 30 percent. • The amount of carbon dioxide absorbed by the upper layer of the oceans is increasing by about 2 billion tons per year. • Increased ocean acidification negatively impacts marine life, including coral reefs other shell fish populations. • Humans are inextricably linked to the health of the ocean, therefore increased ocean acidification affects resources for food, recreation, transportation and medicines.

Climate Change Hitting Close to Home

NORTHEAST	NORTHWEST	SOUTHEAST	SOUTHWEST	MIDWEST
<p>Heat waves, heavy downpours, and sea level rise pose growing challenges to many aspects of life in the Northeast. Infrastructure, agriculture, fisheries, and ecosystems will be increasingly compromised.</p>	<p>Changes in the timing of streamflow reduce water supplies for competing demands. Sea level rise, erosion inundation risks to infrastructure and increasing ocean acidity pose major threats. Increasingly wildfire, insect outbreaks and tree diseases are causing widespread tree die-off.</p>	<p>Sea level rise poses widespread and continuing threats to the region's economy and environment extreme heat will affect health, energy, agriculture and more. Decreased water availability will have economic and environmental impacts.</p>	<p>Increased heat, drought and insect outbreaks, all linked to climate change, have increased wildfires. Declining water supplies, reduced agricultural yields, health impacts in cities due to heat, and flooding and erosion in coastal cities are additional concerns.</p>	<p>Extreme heat, heavy downpours and flooding will affect infrastructure, health, agriculture, forestry, transportation, air and water quality, and more. Climate change will also exacerbate a range of risks to the Great Lakes.</p>