

# Breaking Through The BS

## How To Win The Debate When The Other Side Is Lying About Climate Change

*Download this research in MS Word format here:*

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=16BXNflpvrM95oLDwpTmUqbprGolsra11>

### **BE READY WITH THE FACTS**

For months we've been tracking all of Trump's lies about climate change on the presidential campaign trail and have a very good sense of what kind of lies we can expect to hear in the upcoming debates.

You can help hold the candidates and the media accountable on climate action by arming yourself with the facts and raising your voice. You can let them know that climate change matters, that you want to hear about solutions, and that you won't accept lies and misinformation.

This document outlines the lies you can expect to hear, and the facts to correct the record.

# **CONTENTS**

<b>BE READY WITH THE FACTS</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>CONTENTS</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>ENERGY &amp; FRACKING</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>JOBS</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>DISTRACTIONS: AIRPLANES, BUILDINGS, AND COWS</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>COST OF CLIMATE (IN)ACTION</b> .....	<b>16</b>
<b>WIND AND RENEWABLE ENERGY</b> .....	<b>20</b>
<b>CLEAN AIR AND CLEAN WATER</b> .....	<b>24</b>
<b>PUBLIC LANDS</b> .....	<b>29</b>
<b>GLOBAL LEADERSHIP &amp; THE PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT</b> .....	<b>34</b>
<b>LISTENING TO SCIENTISTS</b> .....	<b>38</b>

## **ENERGY & FRACKING**

### **LIES YOU CAN EXPECT TO HEAR**

Trump claims Biden supports a total ban on fracking, which he equates with completely getting rid of all sources of energy, and paints a picture of a dystopian future without any energy.

#### **Donald Trump remarks at the Council for National Policy, 8/24/2020**

[Transcript](#) | [Video](#)

And remember this: If you look at what they're doing -- Biden -- he wants to end fracking, end petroleum products -- end petroleum. No natural gas, no nothing. End everything. And that's it. How does that work in Texas? How does that work in Pennsylvania?

#### **Donald Trump Rally in Old Forge, PA, 8/20/2020** [Transcript](#) | [Video](#)

Everything you want, from fracking. You don't realize how big a fracking state. Does anybody know how big fracking is? You're not going to be allowed to frack anymore. You're not going to be allowed. No oil, no nothing. No oil, no gas, no nothing. Just think of that. What would happen is, well, first of all, many of you, I guess 600,000, 670,000 lose their jobs.

#### **Donald Trump Interview With Sean Hannity, 8/20/2020** [Transcript](#) | [Audio](#)

We're energy independent. Biden is -- and it's not Biden. I don't think Biden knows what it even represents, but Bernie and everybody else -- and Biden has totally accepted it -- they're anti-fracking. They're anti-everything. They're anti-fossil fuel. And our nation would go into a massive depression if that ever happened. And when you talk about Pennsylvania and Ohio and Texas, by the way, and Oklahoma, they're anti-

fracking. They don't want to do any fracking. And they can end it very quickly, and they will.

## **IF YOU SAY ONE THING**

Trump is trying to distract voters from the chaos and crises he has created.

## **KEY MESSAGE**

No matter how many times Trump repeats the lie, independent fact-checkers keep saying his claims are “false.” Joe Biden does not support a ban on fracking – he supports common sense safeguards to protect our water from contamination by toxic chemicals and investing in clean energy to combat climate change and create 10 million good-paying jobs across the country. Trump is trying to distract voters from the fact that he is incapable of dealing with crises – whether it's his mishandling of the pandemic or his denial of climate change when wildfires are raging in the West. He doesn't want us talking about the climate crisis because he knows he doesn't have a plan to deal with it. He put oil and coal lobbyists in charge of protecting our environment – and they immediately went to work rolling back over 100 environmental safeguards and allowing corporate polluters to pump more toxic pollution and chemicals into our air and water. He's not looking out for you, he's looking out for the bottom lines of corporate polluters.

## **KEY FACTS**

**Trump is lying.**

- Trump's attack that Biden would eliminate fracking jobs has been debunked before by [multiple independent fact checkers](#).
- Biden wants to eliminate new fracking permits only on federal public lands.
  - There are currently [106,224 fracking wells](#) in Pennsylvania, but as of 2018 there were only [75 leases on federal land](#).

- At the end of FY18, the oil and gas industry was [sitting on](#)/not producing oil or gas from half of the 25.6 million acres of public lands leased for drilling.
- The [Biden plan](#) would follow the science to adopt common-sense protections against pollution that affects our air and water, and calls for investing in 250,000 jobs to plug abandoned oil and natural gas wells.
- Trump and other Republicans routinely claim that Biden would cost Pennsylvania 600,000 jobs. PolitiFact [rated](#) the claim 'False.'
  - The report Trump uses as the basis for this jobs attack was published by the [U.S. Chamber of Commerce](#) and was [criticized by PolitiFact](#) for not backing up the claim with any math or evidence.
  - According to [Food and Water Watch](#)'s analysis of BLS data from 2016-2018 approximately 636,000 jobs were directly related to oil and fracked gas extraction nationally, and only 26,000 of those were in Pennsylvania.

**Biden's plan would protect us from air and water pollution.**

- Chemicals leaking from natural or fracked gas wells can cause [serious health issues](#) including cancer and birth defects.
- People living near fracked gas wells were more than [twice as likely](#) to report health problems than those farther away.
- A [2013 study](#) found methane concentrations six times higher in drinking water close to natural gas wells, which can lead to [explosions](#) and [flaming tap water](#).
- Air pollution from the oil and gas industry causes [nearly 2,000 deaths](#) in the U.S. each year.
- Studies have shown that dangerous levels of toxic air pollution near fracking sites have resulted in rural areas having [worse smog levels](#) than downtown Los Angeles.
- There is a methane pollution "hot spot" roughly [half the size of Connecticut](#) over the four corners area in the Southwestern United States.
- The impact of methane on climate change is [25 times greater](#) than CO2 pound for pound.

## **JOBS**

### **LIES YOU CAN EXPECT TO HEAR**

Trump talks about jobs in two different contexts related to climate and energy. First, he makes broad unspecific claims that Biden and the Green New Deal would devastate the economy, resulting in job losses. In Pennsylvania, he will sometimes recite a debunked number of jobs lost related to a fracking ban. Quite often attacks about climate solutions hurting jobs will come paired with a reference to a fracking ban, but that isn't always the case.

On the flipside, Trump also brags about how he saved the energy industry by cutting regulations. Fossil fuel jobs are often at the center of his general, overall positive messaging to paint a rosy picture of the economy under his administration.

For a good example of Trump's messaging on this theme, be sure to read/watch Trump's remarks from an event in Midland, TX, 7/29/2020. In his Texas speech, Trump bragged "Before the invisible enemy struck our shores, we created 800,000 new energy jobs– a third of them in Texas." Full transcript and video [here](#).

**Donald Trump remarks at a rally in Old Forge, PA, 8/20/2020** [Transcript](#) | [Video](#)

Everything you want, from fracking. You don't realize how big a fracking state. Does anybody know how big fracking is? You're not going to be allowed to frack anymore. You're not going to be allowed. No oil, no nothing. No oil, no gas, no nothing. Just think of that. What would happen is, well, first of all, many of you, I guess 600,000, 670,000 lose their jobs.

**Donald Trump remarks at an oil rig in Midland, TX, 7/29/2020** [Transcript](#) | [Video](#)

The U.S. energy industry would grind to a halt, and every single energy-producing state would be plunged into a depression. Two million jobs would vanish overnight in just the state of Texas

alone. And I think the number is probably, Greg, a lot higher than 2 million. Millions more would disappear in New Mexico and Ohio and Colorado and Pennsylvania. By imposing these punishing restrictions – and beyond restrictions – the Washington radical-left, crazy Democrats would also send countless American jobs, factories, industries to China and to other foreign polluting states.

**Donald Trump remarks at a rally in Old Forge, PA, 8/20/2020** [Transcript](#) | [Video](#)

Under my administration, we ended the war on American energy and I put the miners back to work. We put them back to work. The miners are back to work now. I approved the Keystone XL and the Dakota Access Pipelines almost right at the beginning. I just approved them right at the beginning and a lot of jobs.

## **IF YOU SAY ONE THING**

Trump has given billions in tax breaks to oil and coal companies and their CEOs, while workers have been left on their own to deal with the chaos of the pandemic, economic upheaval, racial injustice and climate crisis.

## **KEY MESSAGE**

Every person has a right to clean air and water, and the opportunity for good health and a good job. By taking bold action to invest in clean energy, we can rebuild a strong and lasting economy for future generations while affording every community the basic rights they need to live safe, healthy lives in the 21st century.

While he claims to "defend American jobs," Trump and his Republican allies have waged a war on workers while giving billions in handouts to oil and coal CEOs. Trump's tax breaks allowed Chevron to pay zero in federal taxes even as they gave their CEO \$30 million and laid off thousands of workers. Meanwhile, Trump's war against renewable energy has devastated the

fastest growing industry in America and cost over 622,000 U.S. workers their jobs.

## **KEY FACTS**

**The Biden-Harris plan puts people back to work now and builds a better, more equitable future for our children.**

- Joe Biden [has a plan](#) to invest \$2 trillion to create millions of jobs and make us carbon-neutral by 2050.
- Clean energy is the [fastest growing industry](#) in America, and clean energy jobs [pay well above](#) the national average, have good benefits, and [can't be outsourced](#) to other countries.
- [Economists say](#) that investing in bold climate and clean energy policies would create 10 million more high-quality jobs.
- Trump does not have a plan to address the climate crisis or invest in a clean energy future.

**Trump keeps bailing out his Big Oil and gas CEO friends.**

- Fossil fuel company CEOs have raised [tens of millions for Trump](#) over the last 4 years; including [contributing over \\$4 million](#) towards the 2016 GOP convention.
- Trump's tax breaks opened the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to drilling and allowed Chevron to [pay zero in federal income taxes](#) even as they gave their CEO [\\$33 million](#) and [laid off](#) thousands of workers.
- Trump has turned over 24 million acres of our public lands to mining and drilling, now Trump wants to even [open up](#) the Grand Canyon to mining.
- More than [\\$1.9 billion](#) in CARES Act tax benefits went to 37 oil companies, including Marathon, which [reported a \\$411 million tax benefit](#) from the CARES Act alone. Marathon told investors they are expecting a [\\$1.1 billion tax refund](#).

**Trump's war on clean energy and mishandling of the pandemic have cost the U.S. more than 1.1 million clean energy jobs:**

- At least [490,341 clean energy jobs were lost](#) because of Trump's mishandling of the pandemic: The energy efficiency sector lost 345,024 jobs, renewable electric power generation lost 77,942 jobs, clean

vehicles lost 35,116 jobs, grid & storage lost 21,878 jobs, and clean fuels lost 10,381 jobs since the start of the pandemic.

- [Another 622,000 clean energy jobs have been killed](#) by Trump's war on renewable energy: Between trade wars, letting tax incentives lapse, de-prioritizing clean energy development on federal lands, and changing the rules to keep aging coal plants open, Trump's policies will add up to an additional 622,000 lost jobs in the long run in addition to those lost during the pandemic.

**Trump has failed to deliver on his promise to create 25 million jobs for American workers.**

- Upon inauguration, Trump [promised](#) to create 25 million jobs over ten years. In reality, the U.S. economy has lost over [6 million jobs](#) since Trump took office, and over [14.4 million jobs](#) have been lost since January 2020 due to Trump's mishandling of the pandemic.

<a href="#">CES Total Nonfarm Employment</a>	
January 2017	145,672,000
January 2020	152,212,000
July 2020	139,582,000
Total Jobs Lost Under Trump	6,090,000

<a href="#">Weekly Initial Unemployment Claims Since The Beginning Of March.</a>	
National	49,486,419
Arizona	846,450
Colorado	524,737
Florida	3,469,984
Georgia	3,378,073
Michigan	1,792,503

North Carolina	1,280,171
Pennsylvania	2,000,708
Wisconsin	839,146

**Trump can't blame the pandemic for his failure to live up to his bold jobs promises.**

- Even before the pandemic hit (and Trump failed to respond to it), job creation in Trump's first three years was less than the preceding three years under Obama and far behind the pace needed to meet his campaign promise of 25 million new jobs.

<u>Comparing Job Performance Before The Pandemic</u>	
Job Creation Under Obama's Last 3 Years	8.1 Million
Job Creation During Trump's First 3 Years	6.6 Million

**Clean energy jobs are good paying, high quality jobs that employ millions of Americans across the country.**

- At the start of 2020, clean energy jobs employed nearly 3.4 million workers in the U.S., three times as many workers as employed by the fossil fuel industry.
- In rural areas, the clean energy economy employed over 400,000 people, outnumbering jobs in the fossil fuel industry by more than 82,000.
- Hourly wages for clean energy jobs exceed national averages by 8 to 19 percent, the clean energy economy offers more opportunities for low and middle-skilled workers than the national economy, and educational barriers to entry are lower in clean energy jobs, even in high paying positions.
- Most clean energy jobs are local by nature, and clean energy companies support a range of secondary jobs in their local areas. Wind energy is cheaper than natural gas, and in 2018, the sector alone paid \$1 billion to state and local governments and private landowners in tax and lease payments, and supported a supply chain of 500 factories in 42 states employing 24,000 workers.

**CLIMATE  
POWER  
2020**

- Clean energy companies [hire](#) a greater percentage of veterans than the national average, with veterans [filling](#) around 10 percent of the nation's advanced clean energy jobs. Clean energy also [employs](#) more veterans than the oil and gas industry.
- The renewable energy sector is [more diverse](#) than the workforce overall: it is less white, employs more workers who identify as Hispanic or Latinx, and employs 3 to 5 times more workers who identify as two or more races than the national average.
- Clean energy jobs provide a [long-proven](#) path to stability and reintegration for formerly incarcerated citizens, who were [unemployed](#) at a rate of 27 percent in 2018 and face over 45,000 [barriers](#) to reintegration.

# **DISTRACTIONS: AIRPLANES, BUILDINGS, AND COWS**

## **LIES YOU CAN EXPECT TO HEAR**

Trump says the radical left is going to kill your cows, end air travel, “destroy the look of homes”, and require windowless buildings. This usually comes as a follow-up to claims that Biden and Democrats will get rid of all forms of energy.

While almost all of these claims are based on early lies that popped up around the release of the Green New Deal resolution in Congress, in Donald Trump's rhetoric, Joe Biden's Build Back Better plan is treated as being no different from the Green New Deal.

### **Donald Trump on Fox Business - Maria Bartiromo Interview, 8/13/2020**

[Transcript](#) | [Audio](#)

But they're talking about no fossil fuels which means basically no energy, you'd have to close down half of the businesses of the country. You have to rebuild cities because too much light gets through the window, so let's make the windows nice and small. Let's rip down the Empire State Building and replace it with no windows.

### **Donald Trump remarks in a virtual North Carolina Tele-Rally, 7/19/2020**

[Transcript](#) | [Audio](#)

And this is out of their very long, very complex the Green New Deal they call. The Green New Deal is ridiculous, OK? It's ridiculous. Aside from the fact they want to get rid of second cars. They want to get rid of airplanes. They want to get rid of cows. They want to get rid of cows. Let's get rid of all the cows, AOC and her -- I say, AOC plus three. It is crazy.

## Donald Trump remarks at a campaign rally in Des Moines, IA Jan 30, 2020

[Transcript](#) | [Video](#)

But the Socialist Democrats want to shut down American energy. They support Representative Ocasio-Cortez. A real beauty. That's a real beauty. That's a beauty. I can't even believe it, but I don't want to knock it because the Green New Deal, which would crush your farms, destroy your wonderful cows, I love cows. They want to kill our cows. You know why, right? You know why? Don't say -- they want to kill our cows. That means you're next.

## **IF YOU SAY ONE THING**

Joe Biden's plan would put back to work now in good paying clean energy, union jobs while Trump is inventing ridiculous lies to distract from the chaos he has created and his record of bailing out Big Oil and gas CEOs.

## **KEY MESSAGE**

Trump is the same person who called coronavirus and climate change a hoax – and who insists the sound from wind turbines causes cancer. Now he wants you to believe that people want to spend \$100 trillion and ban airplanes and hamburgers – it's ridiculous. Trump and his oil and coal CEO buddies are trying to stir up controversy to distract us from discussing real solutions – and protect their own profits.

When you look at the actual policies, Donald Trump's record includes using taxpayers' money to give billions more in bailouts to big oil CEOs. Meanwhile, Joe Biden's plan would invest in clean, renewable energy that will create millions of good-paying jobs for all kinds of workers while boosting economic growth, combating climate change, and protecting our kids' health in the long-term.

## **KEY FACTS**

**Trump lies about airplanes.**

- Trump's targeting of the Green New Deal is based on lies to protect oil and gas executives' profits.

- Trump has lied almost 300 times about climate, the Green New Deal, clean energy, AOC, and Joe Biden’s plan to build a clean energy economy.
- Joe Biden [has a plan](#) to invest in creating millions of jobs improving our transportation infrastructure. It doesn’t say anything about doing away with air travel.
- [The Washington Post](#) concluded there was nothing in the Green New Deal “about putting an end to cars or cows or air travel or the military.”
- [Factcheck.org](#) debunked false claims that the Green New Deal called for an end to air travel, and [PolitiFact](#) determined that “the resolution does not ground airplanes, either now or in the future,” noting that climate change activists agree ending air travel is impractical.

**Trump lies about energy efficient buildings.**

- Joe Biden [has a plan](#) to create 1 million jobs upgrading 4 million buildings and weatherizing 2 million homes over 4 years.
- PolitiFact rated Trump’s attack on energy efficient buildings as “[False](#),” noting “Biden’s task force document doesn’t mention windows at all.” and pointing out that “buildings with windows can have net-zero emissions.”
- CNN [rated](#) Trump’s bizarre claim that energy efficiency standards would result in windowless buildings as “nonsense,” and the most energy-efficient buildings in the U.S. all have a large number of windows.

**Trump lies about hamburgers, cows, and even milkshakes:**

- Joe Biden [has a plan](#) to help farmers increase productivity and profit by leveraging new technologies, techniques, and equipment to remove carbon from the air and store it in the ground. There is nothing about getting rid of cows.
- [The Washington Post](#) concluded there was nothing in the Green New Deal “about putting an end to cars or cows or air travel or the military.”
- [Factcheck.org](#) also called out Trump’s false claims about the proposal’s restrictions on livestock ownership, and the [New York Times](#) stated the resolution “makes no mention of hamburgers, cows or beef.”

**Trump has given billions in tax breaks to oil and coal companies and their CEOs.**

**CLIMATE  
POWER  
2020**

- Fossil fuel companies including Marathon and Chevron [contributed over \\$4 million](#) towards the 2016 GOP convention.
- Trump's tax breaks opened the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to drilling and allowed Chevron to [pay zero in federal income taxes](#) even as they gave their CEO [\\$33 million](#) and [laid off](#) thousands of workers.
- More than [\\$1.9 billion](#) in CARES Act tax benefits went to 37 oil companies, including Marathon, which [reported a \\$411 million tax benefit](#) from the CARES Act alone. Marathon told investors they are expecting a [\\$1.1 billion tax refund](#) overall.

# **COST OF CLIMATE (IN)ACTION**

## **LIES YOU CAN EXPECT TO HEAR**

While other Republicans tend to cite a debunked estimate of \$93 trillion for the cost of the Green New Deal, Trump just goes with interchangeably saying that Biden's plan or the Green New Deal will cost \$100 trillion. In Trump's attacks, the Green New Deal and Biden's "Build Back Better" plan are the same thing.

**Donald Trump on Fox's Ingraham Angle, 8/31/2020** [Transcript](#) | [Video](#)

He's going to do things that are going to cost so much on the Green New Deal, which is -- which is done by a child, OK? That's the mind of a child because the Green New Deal is ridiculous. It doesn't work. They're going to do things under the Green -- you know, the Green New Deal, if you actually did it, is \$100 trillion. That's more money than this country could make in a thousand years.

**Donald Trump on Fox Business - Maria Bartiromo Interview, 8/13/2020**

[Transcript](#) | [Audio](#)

So, I think it depends on who wins. I think if he wins you're going to end up with a disaster to be honest. I see his plans. The New Green Deal is something that -- the likes of which nobody can even comprehend, it's like drawn by children. It's drawn by children. It's so ridiculous. OK? You go over point over point and they're actually serious about it. I used to think they were playing games. It was politics. I don't even think it's good politics it's so ridiculous. But they're talking about no fossil fuels which means basically no energy, you'd have to close down half of the businesses of the country. You have to rebuild cities because too much light gets

through the window, so let's make the windows nice and small. Let's rip down the Empire State Building and replace it with no windows. I mean the whole thing is so preposterous, it's so crazy. And I guess you're talking about \$100 trillion, right, to do it, assuming you did it which will never happen by the way. But I will tell you –

**Donald Trump remarks at an Oil Rig in Midland, Texas, 7/29/2020**  
[Transcript](#) | [Video](#)

Washington Democrats have embraced Representative Ocasio-Cortez's nearly \$100 trillion Green New Deal disaster – I've added the fourth word; it's a "disaster" – which would ban oil and gas leasing on all federal lands. And, by the way, there'd be no fracking.

## **IF YOU SAY ONE THING**

Scientists, NASA, and our military leaders all agree that if we don't act on climate change, our kids will inherit a future filled with droughts, flooding, food and water shortages, and more.

## **KEY MESSAGE**

Trump is the same person who called coronavirus and climate change a hoax – and who insists that the sound from wind turbines causes cancer. Now, he wants you to believe that people want to spend \$100 trillion and ban airplanes and hamburgers – it's ridiculous. Trump and his oil and coal CEO buddies are trying to stir up controversy to distract us from discussing real solutions – and protect their own profits.

## **KEY FACTS**

**The Biden-Harris plan puts people millions of people back to work now and builds a better future for our children.**

- Joe Biden [has a plan](#) to invest \$2 trillion over ten years to create millions of jobs and make us carbon-neutral by 2050.
- Clean energy is the [fastest growing industry](#) in America, and clean energy jobs [pay well above](#) the national average, have good benefits, and [can't be outsourced](#) to other countries.
- [Economists say](#) that investing in bold climate and clean energy policies would create 10 million more high-quality jobs.
- Trump does not have a plan to address the climate crisis or invest in a clean energy future.

**The Biden plan will be paid for by reversing the Trump tax cuts for corporations, closing tax loopholes, and ending subsidies for fossil fuels.**

- An International Monetary Fund study found that the United States subsidized fossil fuels at [\\$649 billion a year](#) in 2015
- Trump's 2017 tax cut package is expected to cost [\\$1.9 trillion](#) over ten years.

**Trump is inventing ridiculous lies to protect Big Oil and gas profits and distract from the chaos and devastation of his record:.**

- The person who [originally posted](#) the \$100 trillion estimate on Twitter that Trump likes to repeat [admitted in the same thread](#) that he couldn't actually calculate a real number.
- Other Republicans have been citing an analysis by the American Action Forum (AAF), a right wing think tank and [sister organization](#) of Karl Rove's American Action Network (AAN), who tried to set a \$93 trillion cost for the Green New Deal.
- AAF's \$93 trillion figure is bolstered by non-environmental parts of the proposal, including \$36 for universal healthcare and up to \$44.6 trillion for a jobs guarantee.
- [PolitiFact](#) called that a "flabby" estimate and gave a statement by Senator Joni Ernst using that number a "false" rating.
- [Politico](#) called the \$93 trillion price tag "bogus," arguing the think tank's analysis "made huge assumptions" about the implementation of the plan and failed to distinguish between government and private-sector spending.

- The report's own author [acknowledged](#) the breadth of the Green New Deal, which doesn't outline any specific policy proposals, made the resolution impossible to quantify.

**The cost of doing nothing is far worse.**

- Trump was warned about climate change by officials from NASA, the [Department of Defense](#), the [Centers for Disease Control](#) and the [National Institute of Health](#), and top [climate scientists](#).
- Two [separate reports](#) have warned of a potential loss of as much as 10% of GDP annually from the United States economy by the end of the century due to climate change.
  - That's more than twice the impact of the [Great Recession of 2007-2009](#).
- [Another analysis](#) pegged the future economic cost of doing nothing in actual dollar amounts at almost \$700 billion per year.
- Since Trump took office, there have been 54 extreme weather or climate-related disasters that have caused [\\$478 billion in damages](#).

# **WIND AND RENEWABLE ENERGY**

## **LIES YOU CAN EXPECT TO HEAR**

Long rants filled with misinformation about wind energy seem to be an obsession that has stuck with Trump since long before his 2016 campaign. He doesn't bring up the subject nearly as often as fracking. If he can be goaded into talking about wind energy, once he gets on a roll he really goes off the deep end in a way that could easily undermine his credibility on broader energy issues.

On solar, Trump usually says he "loves solar" but a regular broad refrain against wind and solar is that they are "not powerful enough to power these massive factories and plants that we have being built all over."

**Donald Trump remarks at a rally in Manchester, New Hampshire, 2/10/2020** [Transcript](#) | [Video](#)

They want to give us wind. Wind, if it blows, wonderful. If it doesn't blow, you got problems. Wind. They want to destroy our countrysides, put windmills all over them. Watch your house go down in value. You ever see what happens? They build a windmill within distance of your house. You could forget about your house. You could just say, Well, that was the end of that investment. You want to see a bird graveyard, go to the bottom of a windmill. Take a look. it's a graveyard for birds. They kill all the birds.

**Donald Trump remarks at a rally in Colorado Springs, Colorado, 2/20/2020** [Transcript](#) | [Video](#)

They want to use wind wind wind blow wind, please please blow, please, please keep the birds away from those windmills. Please tell those beautiful bald eagles, "Dodo, bald eagle." You know, you shoot a bald eagle, they put you in jail for a long time. But the windmills knock them out like

crazy. It's show and I think they have a rule after a certain number of kills.

**Donald Trump remarks as a rally in Old Forge, PA, 8/20/2020** [Transcript](#) | [Video](#)

Our new forms of alternative energy just aren't powerful enough to power these massive plants and all of the things that are creating all of these jobs and all of this wealth for your state and for the country.

**Donald Trump remarks on an Arizona tele-rally, 7/18/2020** [Transcript](#) | [Audio](#)

They want to mandate zero-carbon emissions from power plants and mandate zero-carbon emissions period, which will make it impossible to have any form, in my opinion of energy. You couldn't even make what they want to do because the carbon emissions from the making of a windmill are so massive that you end up saving nothing.

## **IF YOU SAY ONE THING**

Literally everything that Trump says about wind energy is a lie. Wind turbines create jobs, not cancer. What [does cause cancer](#) are the toxic chemicals Trump let corporate polluters pump into our communities.

## **KEY MESSAGE**

Wind energy has created hundreds of thousands of good-paying jobs and provides 100% clean energy at a lower price than coal or gas. Yet, Trump and his Republican allies have waged a war on wind energy, eliminating incentives for wind power, killing jobs, and making electricity more expensive for American families. And Trump has made repeated, "bizarre" attacks on wind, falsely claiming that the sound from wind turbines causes cancer.

## **KEY FACTS**

**Trump's obsession with windmills is built on lies.**

- No, windmills don't cause cancer. [Period.](#)
- [Factcheck.org](#) called out Trump for overblowing the risks of wind turbines to birds. Yes, birds are sometimes killed by turbines, but maybe only five per turbine per year.
  - Even the [Audubon Society](#) supports well-sited wind projects because sticking with fossil fuels is a far worse option. Climate change will lead to total extinction for one in six bird species.
  - [One study](#) even found that pollution from fossil fuels kill 17 times more birds than windmills per unit of energy produced.
- Researchers have analyzed home sales data and [found there is no truth](#) to the claim that wind turbines will harm real estate value.
- Wind is one of the [cheapest sources of electricity](#) in the United States.
- Wind energy supports [24,000 manufacturing jobs](#) right here in the United States with 500 factories in 42 states.
- Wind energy also brings value to the communities where projects are located. Most clean energy jobs are [local by nature](#), and support a range of secondary jobs throughout the communities they serve.
- In 2018, the [wind sector alone](#) paid \$1 billion to state/local governments and private landowners in tax and lease payments.
- Windmill production has a low carbon footprint, wind power [produces](#) the lowest emissions of all energy forms, [holding](#) a carbon footprint almost 90 times lower than coal.
- The environmental impacts associated with manufacturing, transport, installation, and maintenance of a wind turbine [are offset](#) within the first 5-6 months of use.

**Despite what Trump believes, renewable power is being used across the country to power factories.**

- Two steel mills in the U.S. are set to be [powered entirely](#) by renewables – Nucor's micromill in Missouri on wind and EVARZ Rocky Mountain factory in Colorado on solar.

**CLIMATE  
POWER  
2020**

- In July 2020, Apple [announced](#) it was shifting its entire supply chain to operate on 100% clean power.
- Tesla's Nevada gigafactory is set to be [entirely powered](#) by renewables upon completion, and in 2015, General Motors [announced](#) its manufacturing operations would be largely powered by wind.
- Intel [sourced](#) 100 percent of its U.S. electricity use from renewable power, in addition to installing wind turbines and solar plants at several of its facilities.
- On the global stage, manufacturing facilities including ABB factory in Luedenscheid, Germany, is [entirely powered](#) by solar.

# CLEAN AIR AND CLEAN WATER

## LIES YOU CAN EXPECT TO HEAR

Donald Trump likes to brag about having the cleanest air and cleanest water under his administration. This of course is false, but he uses it as a means of deflecting from his anti-environment record and to frame regulations he seeks to repeal as over-burdensome and unnecessary. Trump often includes a rant about being fact-checked about this claim by the fake news media.

**Donald Trump remarks at an event in Jupiter, FL, 9/8/2020** [Transcript](#) | [Video](#)

The left's agenda isn't about protecting the environment, it's about punishing America, and that's true. Instead of focusing on radical ideology, my administration is focused on delivering real results, and that's what we have. And we right now have the cleanest air we've ever had in this country, let's say over the last 40 years -- [applause] -- because I assume 200 years ago is probably better. What do you think? I would say that. What do you think, fellas? So I do want to preface that because the fake news is back there. When I say "the cleanest air we've ever had," over a 40- year period, Lindsey. Is that okay? A couple of hundred years ago, I would imagine it was pretty good, right?

**Donald Trump remarks at a UPS facility in Atlanta, GA, 7/15/2020** [Transcript](#) | [Video](#)

At the same times, we'll maintain America's gold-standard environmental protections. The United States will continue to have among the very cleanest air and cleanest water on Earth – which we do now, we have the cleanest that we've ever had, meaning ever – I guess in the last forty years. I assume that 200 years ago it was

cleaner. I can imagine it was very clean a couple of hundred years ago, Bryan, right? They'll say – that's why I'm very careful with the fake news media because if I say that we have the cleanest water we've ever had they say what about two hundred years ago before anybody touched the lake when the lake was a beautiful virgin lake. Nobody ever touched it. They said yeah, they got me on that one don't they. So now I've become extremely careful. So I always like – So I say they're probably talking about 35, 40 years, something like that. If it's any different from that, media, we will – look at all those people back there. Any different that that we will report to you. We will make an amendment. We will – we'll never make a correction because I don't like doing that.

**Donald Trump remarks at an oil rig in Midland, Texas, 7/29/2020**

[Transcript](#) | [Video](#)

At the same time, we're strongly protecting our environment. Air pollution is down significantly since I took office. While other countries are polluting the world's air and oceans, we will never cease to be a leader in protecting our natural environment. And that's what's happening. (Applause.) People don't know that about us. We love our environment.

## **IF YOU SAY ONE THING**

Trump and his allies put oil and coal lobbyists in charge of our air, water, and climate and they immediately went to work rolling back 100 environmental safeguards – even using the pandemic to allow corporate polluters to pump more pollution into our communities.

## **KEY MESSAGE**

Scientists and doctors tell us that more pollution leads to more asthma attacks, heart attacks, and even cancer. Yet, Trump and his Republican allies put oil and coal lobbyists in charge of our air, water, and climate and they immediately went to work rolling back 100 environmental safeguards, allowing corporate polluters to pump more toxic pollution and chemicals into our air and water and putting the health of millions of Americans – especially children and seniors – at risk. Trump is the most anti-nature president in our nation’s history.

## **KEY FACTS**

**Independent fact checkers repeatedly call out Donald Trump's lies when it comes to his record on clean air and clean water.**

- In an editorial responding to Donald Trump's event in Jupiter, FL when he signed a ban on offshore drilling and touted himself as an environmentalist, the [Palm Beach Post editorial board](#) wrote: "He was like the firefighter who is also an arsonist — the guy who starts blazes in order to bask in the adulation he receives for putting them out."
  - Reporting on the same event, the [Associated Press](#) pointed out “The environment has also been the primary target of Trump's push to eliminate regulations, eliminating or weakening dozens of rules that protect the air and water, along with lands essential for imperiled species while reversing Obama-era initiatives to fight climate change.”
- In 2019, the [Associated Press reported](#) simply that Trump is “getting his facts wrong when it comes to clean air.”
  - According to the AP story: “Trump’s own Environmental Protection Agency data show that in 2017, among 35 major U.S. cities, there were 729 cases of “unhealthy days for ozone and fine particle pollution.” That's up 22 percent from 2014 and the worst year since 2012.”
- [FactCheck.org](#) found that the U.S. ranked 10th overall in the world for best air quality and 29th for water and sanitation.
- [PolitiFact](#) found that the U.S. ranked 88th on exposure to particulate matter pollution in the air, in fact a [Carnegie Mellon study](#) found that this form of pollution has increased 5.5% since 2016.

- [Another AP story](#) found there were 15% more days with unhealthy air in America in both 2018 and 2017 than there were on average from 2013 to 2016.

**Trump has waged war on our right to clean air.**

- Trump is rolling back at least [100](#) environmental safeguards.
- Trump eased air pollution rules during the middle of a respiratory disease pandemic, allowing companies like refineries to get away with not complying with air pollution rules. In Houston, [Texas A&M researchers monitored](#) a 62% increase in air pollutants in industrialized areas.
- Trump also [eliminated safeguards](#) on [pollution](#) that leaks from oil and gas wells and has been linked to [asthma](#) and [respiratory problems](#).
- Trump [eased safeguards](#) on coal power plants, which spew [dangerous chemicals](#) like mercury, lead, and arsenic into the air.
- After Marathon Petroleum [ran a lobbying campaign](#) against clean car standards, Trump [eased the rules](#), ignoring objections [from scientists who warned](#) about the health impacts from exhaust pollution.
- According to the American Lung Association, particle pollution from vehicle exhaust and power plants can cause [lung cancer, heart disease, and asthma attacks](#).

**[Tens of millions of Americans are exposed to unsafe drinking water each year, and yet Trump continues to roll back clean water protections.](#)**

- Trump eased rules on the storage of toxic coal ash, which can seep into drinking water supplies.
- [50 million gallons a day](#) of polluted water pours from U.S. mine sites, but Trump [ignored calls](#) to strengthen rules that hold mining companies responsible for their waste.
- Trump even [rolled back rules](#) meant to [protect streams](#) that flow into drinking water sources from being contaminated with coal mining waste
- Trump's administration has repeatedly blocked action to address contamination from toxic PFAS chemicals.

**CLIMATE  
POWER  
2020**

- In 2017, a former chemistry industry leader appointed to Trump's EPA [eased proposed rules](#) on the chemicals.
- Donald Trump has [twice said](#) he would veto legislation being considered in Congress that would address PFAS contamination and hold polluters responsible for their mess.
- PFAS chemicals were [linked to](#) kidney and testicular cancer, hypertension, and other diseases.

## **PUBLIC LANDS**

### **LIES YOU CAN EXPECT TO HEAR**

Trump likes to call himself a “great environmental president,” comparing himself to Teddy Roosevelt. Unbelievably, he also brags about his efforts to sell off the Bear’s Ears national monument to fossil fuel and mineral interests as pro-environment actions.

**Donald Trump remarks at an event in Jupiter, FL, 9/8/2020** [Transcript](#) | [Video](#)

Last month, I signed the Great American Outdoors Act, the most significant investment in our national parks in over a century. Since Teddy Roosevelt. Teddy Roosevelt. You know they came to my office, a lot of the Senators I just introduced, and Ron and everybody that came to my office, they said that this will make us and make you the number one environmental president since Teddy Roosevelt. I said, ‘huh, that sounds good.’ Because I wasn’t going to do it, I figured, you know, let’s not do it, but when they said that, that was like a challenge. So i said, well, why does it only have to go back to Teddy Roosevelt, which is over a hundred years. Why can’t we say for. George Washington, right from the beginning? They said well we’re not quite there yet, but one other bill like this and we will be, Lindsey, you know that right?

**Donald Trump call-in to Fox and Friends, 8/17/2020** [Transcript](#) | [Audio](#)

At the same time, I’m very -- look at what we just signed with Cory Gardner and Steve Daines just two weeks ago. We signed the biggest --

probably the biggest environmental bill -- they said the biggest since Teddy Roosevelt and it could be bigger when you add what I did for Utah, so I'm very much -- I hate to say it. In theory, I should go down as a great environmental president because if you take a look at that, add that on to what we did, also if you look at -- I opened up the mines, the iron ore mines. We have the best in the world, so I opened that.

**Donald Trump tweet on 8/5/2020** [Link](#)

For those that thought I wasn't into the Environment, this is the biggest bill ever passed, by far. I wonder if this will silence the Fake News? Probably not!

## **IF YOU SAY ONE THING**

Trump is the most anti-nature president in U.S. history, selling off America's public lands to oil, gas and mining CEOs.

## **KEY MESSAGE**

Trump is the [most anti-nature president in the history of the U.S.](#) and the only president to have removed more public lands than he protected. When it comes to Trump, our national parks are treasures to be sold out and decimated by oil, gas and coal companies. During his time in office, Trump has rescinded protections for nearly [2 million acres](#) of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments in Utah, opening the land up to more drilling and mining and has turned over [24.4 million acres](#), including the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, one of the [last truly wild places left on earth](#), to be made available for oil and gas leasing.

## **KEY FACTS**

*Additional Research:* [Selling Out: Trumps Real Record On Public Lands](#)

**Trump's focus on giving Big Oil everything they want has undermined any election year attempt at trying to greenwash his pro-polluter record.**

- In fact, his efforts to cut royalty rates for offshore oil drillers directly [impacts the funding stream](#) for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which is supported by revenues from offshore drilling.
- In the [first lease sale of Trump's administration](#), royalty rates on shallow water offshore drilling leases were slashed to the statutory minimum of 12.5%, down from 18.75%.
- Recently, Trump's administration has [proposed a discount scheme](#) to allow oil companies to effectively pay [even less than the legal minimum](#) for oil pumped from our coasts.

**Trump prioritized selling out our nation's public lands for fossil fuel development.**

- The Department of the Interior under Trump's administration has been characterized as a "[Return to the Robber Baron Years](#)," a reference to the oil barons who financed the election of Warren G. Harding.
- Trump's Interior department released a strategic plan [that prioritized approving more oil and gas permits](#) on public lands, even when the industry was sitting on thousands of approved permits.
- Staff at the Bureau of Land Management were even directed to [promote images of oil and gas wells](#) on the agency's social media.

**Trump rolled back protections on public lands to allow oil and gas drilling.**

- Trump rescinded protections for nearly [2 million acres](#) of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments in Utah.
- Much of that land was later [made available for drilling and mining](#).
- After passage of the 2017 tax cut bill, [Trump bragged](#) about the fact that he had managed to secure a provision in the bill to open up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for oil drilling.
- Since the start of the Trump administration, the Department of the Interior has turned over [24.4 million acres](#) to be made available for oil and gas leasing.

**Instead of using the Antiquities Act to protect natural and historic resources as national monuments, Trump is focused on protecting monuments to the Confederacy.**

- Trump [signed an executive order](#) on protecting monuments, memorials and statues after protestors toppled statues of figures from the Confederacy.
- Trump even [deployed Homeland Security officials](#) across the country ahead of July 4th to protect controversial statues.

**Trump's zeal for handing over lands to oil companies means he has repeatedly ignored Native Americans' tribal sovereignty and rights.**

- Trump [tried to rush approval](#) of the Keystone XL and Dakota Access pipelines, which would have [violated tribal sovereignty](#) and threatened [burial sites, water supplies](#), and other important natural resources.
- By opening up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for oil drilling, Trump threatened the caribou herds that the Gwich'in people rely upon for food.
  - As the oil leasing process moved forward in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, a [Gwich'in leader said](#): "This document disrespects the Gwich'in Nation and all people in the Arctic and world who suffer the impacts of climate change and nonstop exploitation, while formally scratching the backs of those who seek to desecrate land and dishonor human rights to fill their pockets."
- In Utah, Trump's moves to shrink the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase Escalante National Monuments and open up oil drilling leases [put sacred sites and cultural artifacts at risk](#).

**Trump sides with fringe anti-public-lands extremists.**

- Trump [pardoned the Oregon ranchers](#) who were convicted of arson for setting fire to federal lands, and whose sentencing inspired an armed standoff at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.
- Trump [nominated](#) extremist William Perry Pendley, an anti-public-lands crusader, to be the Director of the Bureau of Land Management.
  - Pendley spent decades campaigning against federal land protection and suing to try to open up more lands for drilling and mining.
  - Pendley has [repeatedly denied](#) the existence of climate change and mocked the scientific consensus around environmental issues as rooted in "bad science." Pendley called believers in climate change "kooks" and claimed concern over global warming was "all about government control."

**Trump is running (again) with a Republican platform that calls for selling out public lands.**

- The 2016 Republican National Committee platform [included a provision](#) calling for a transfer of federal public lands to the states.
- In [June of 2020](#), the Republican National Committee moved to keep the 2016 platform in place through 2024.
- [Experience has shown](#) time and time again that handing federal lands to the states is a [precursor to](#) selling them off to private development, drilling, and mining.

**Trump even signed a measure to block public input on how public lands are managed.**

- Trump [signed into law](#) a repeal of the Bureau of Land Management's "Planning 2.0" rule, which created a framework for how the BLM develops management plans for our nation's public lands.
- [Backcountry Hunters and Anglers said](#) "Planning 2.0 revises outdated regulations, in part by giving hunters, anglers and other citizens a greater say in the management of our public lands."
- After the repeal passed the Senate, [Trout Unlimited said](#) "Putting the public back in public land management just became a whole lot more difficult."

**Teddy Roosevelt was known as the trust buster for his courage in taking on big corporations. Trump is selling out our public lands and our children's future to them.**

# **GLOBAL LEADERSHIP & THE PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT**

## **LIES YOU CAN EXPECT TO HEAR**

Trump often brings up the Paris agreement in the context of positive bragging about his accomplishments. He claims the Paris agreement was unfair, it would have made us less competitive, it would have killed jobs, and would have cost trillions of dollars.

**Donald Trump remarks at a rally in Toledo, Ohio, 1/9/20** [Transcript](#) | [Video](#)

You never know, but our water and our air is as clean as it's ever been, and I took us out of that horrible Paris accord. I always say, how are you doing with the Paris accord? Don't ask, saved trillions and trillions of dollars that was put in there to hurt us. In my opinion, it was put in there to hurt us. We were paying money to India, we were paying money to China, China's didn't kick in until 2030, we kicked in immediately.

**Donald Trump remarks at the 2020 Council for National Policy in Arlington, 8/24/2020** [Transcript](#) | [Video](#)

I withdrew from the one-sided Pari- -- if you -- if you see it, the Paris Climate -- I call it the Paris Climate disaster. This was a way of -- [applause] -- this was a way of taking advantage of the United States. We wouldn't be able to drill; we wouldn't be able to frack; we wouldn't have energy. Russia went way back into the dirtiest years. China didn't even come into it until 2030 or 2035, and when they did, they came in very lightly. We came in immediately, and we would have had to close down many, many businesses in order to achieve the goals that

they set, which are totally unrealistic. We would have -- it was a disaster.

**Donald Trump remarks on an Arizona tele-rally, 7/18/2020** [Transcript](#) | [Audio](#)

I'm just looking at a list that's been put in front of me. This is a long agreement that Bernie Sanders made with Biden. Seek prison closures, end solitary confinement, free federal housing for former inmates, and then, they want to abolish energy, rejoin the Paris Climate Accord. I got us out because it was a rip-off.

**Donald Trump remarks at an oil rig in Midland, Texas, 7/29/2020** [Transcript](#) | [Video](#)

If these far-left politicians ever get into power, they will demolish not only your industry, but the entire U.S. economy. Their stated agenda includes rejoining the Paris Climate Accord, spending billions and billions of dollars in order to make us non-competitive and seeking an even higher level of restrictions; mandating net-zero carbon emissions – which, frankly, is impossible – for all new homes, offices, and buildings by 230[2030]. Not possible to do. And if you ever did it, it would cost so much that your home would be valueless.

## **IF YOU SAY ONE THING**

We have a basic responsibility to leave a better world for our children and grandchildren and keep our communities safe, but Trump is selling out our air, water, climate, and clean energy jobs based on a lie and threatening our nation's role as a global leader on climate and clean energy.

## **KEY MESSAGE**

We have a basic responsibility to leave a better world for our children and grandchildren, but scientists tell us that unless we take bold action to eliminate the carbon pollution that causes climate change in the next 15 years, they will inherit an irreversibly damaged world – more fires, more floods, more droughts and more intense hurricanes and extreme storms. Achieving the goals of the Paris agreement will help us meet the scale of this challenge and lead the world in building an equitable, clean energy economy.

## **KEY FACTS**

**Donald Trump is lying about the Paris climate agreement to help his fossil fuel friends while letting the rest of us fall further behind.**

- At the start of the Trump administration, exiting the Paris climate agreement was a high priority on the wish lists of coal baron [Bob Murray](#) and the oil billionaire [Koch brothers](#).
- Remaining in the Paris climate agreement would actually [save](#) the U.S. over half a trillion dollars annually, while doing nothing on climate change comes at an annual cost of \$698.77 billion.
- Trump [cherry picked](#) jobs data from a faulty study to justify leaving the Paris Agreement.
- UN [researchers found](#) the Paris Agreement, if honored, would create 24 million jobs around the world by 2030 by growing the renewables sector and related industries.
  - The study also found that if left unchecked, [climate change will destroy jobs](#).
- Major employers, including GE, Disney, and Apple [disagreed](#) with Trump's 2017 decision to withdraw the U.S. from the pact, arguing that staying in the agreement would create jobs by spurring investment, increasing American competitiveness in and access to international markets, encouraging innovation, and reducing business risk associated with climate change.
  - In late 2019, they joined with the Chair of the International Committee of AFL-CIO in a [letter](#) re-asserting their support.

**CLIMATE  
POWER  
2020**

- At least 290 cities and counties, 10 states, and 2,275 businesses have said they are “still in” and [pledged to stick to the goals](#) of the Paris agreement.
  - The 2020 GOP convention host city, [Charlotte, NC is “still in”](#)
- The U.S. is already falling behind as other nations, including China and countries in Europe, move forward on clean energy jobs of the future. China is [already](#) the world’s largest producer of solar panels, and last year European nations [installed](#) more solar infrastructure than the U.S.

# LISTENING TO SCIENTISTS

## LIES YOU CAN EXPECT TO HEAR

Starting in September, Donald Trump started using a line of attack against Joe Biden and Kamala Harris over the role of science in rolling out vaccines for COVID-19. This is rich from a man who has a very significant record of ignoring, attacking, and sidelining scientists in his administration.

Climate Power 2020's research team has [previously published an extensive breakdown](#) of Trump's past denial of climate science and his record of pushing back against scientists who tried to raise warnings about COVID-19.

Trump's previous record of climate science denial goes back many years, but for more recent examples there are two instances of dismissing concerns about climate change in the wake of Hurricane Laura transcribed below.

## Recent Examples Of Trump Using Science As An Attack

**Donald Trump remarks at a White House press conference, 9/7/2020,**  
[Transcript](#) | [Video](#)

Under my leadership, we'll produce a vaccine in record time. Biden and his very liberal running mate – the most liberal person in Congress, by the way, who's not a competent person, in my opinion; would destroy this country and would destroy this economy – should immediately apologize for the reckless anti-vaccine rhetoric that they are talking right now, talking about endangering lives. And it undermines science.

**Donald Trump remarks at a rally in Winston-Salem, NC, 9/8/2020,**  
[Transcript](#) | [Video](#)

People don't know that because the fake news doesn't want to write about it under Operation warp speed, we're producing a vaccine in record

time, there's a vaccine that we're gonna have very soon very very soon by the end of the year, but much sooner than that.

Perhaps -- and this is something that's incredible -- this would have taken two or three years by the last administration and in all fairness by most other administrations. We have upped it to a level that nobody even believes is possible and totally safe, Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, rated the most liberal, are undermining science and risking countless lives with their reckless anti vaccine rhetoric.

...

North Carolina has to open up. By contrast, my administration is following the science protecting those at highest risk, while allowing those at lower risk to safely return to work and to school go back to school.

## Earlier Examples Of Climate Science And COVID Denial

For earlier examples (before August) of Donald Trump's denial of climate science and refusal to listen to scientist and experts about the COVID-19 pandemic, please see our earlier research document: [Trump's Science Denial](#)

## Recent Examples Of Trump's Climate Science Denial

Donald Trump at a briefing on California wildfires, 9/14/2020, [Transcript](#) | [Video](#)

WADE CROWFOOT: So I think one area of mutual agreement and priority is vegetation management, but I think we want to work with you to really recognize the changing climate and what it means

to our forests, and actually work together with that science; that science is going to be key. Because if we -- if we ignore that science and sort of put our head in the sand and think it's all about vegetation management, we're not going to succeed together protecting Californians.

DONALD TRUMP: Okay. It'll start getting cooler. You just watch.

WADE CROWFOOT: I wish science agreed with you.

DONALD TRUMP: Well, I don't think science knows, actually.

**Donald Trump at a briefing on Hurricane Laura in Lake Charles, 8/29/2020,**  
[Transcript](#) | [Video](#)

Question: Mr. President, storms like this, do you think they're becoming more frequent because of climate change? And, Governor, the same question to you.

Gov Edwards: I can't hear you.

President Trump: Go ahead. Just take it off.

Question: Mr. President, do you think that storms like this are becoming more frequent because of climate change? And, Governor, the same question to you.

President Trump: Well, that was the question I asked these folks: Are the storms more frequent? Are they bigger? In all fairness, you probably had your biggest storms. I think you said your biggest one was in the 1800s, but who knows? Who knows? It might have been a very small storm, by comparison, right? There's no way of really understanding that or knowing that.

**Donald Trump at a briefing on Hurricane Laura in Orange, Texas,  
8/29/2020, [Transcript](#) | [Video](#)**

Question: Mr. President, one question about Laura. So in June of this year, NOAA issued a report indicating that climate change is at least in part responsible for increasing sea temperatures, which then, in turn, lead to storms like Laura and Harvey. In an area where petrochemicals and the energy industry are so critical, how do you balance that with, at the same time, attacking climate change so that storms like this don't continue to ravage the Gulf Coast?

President Trump: Well, I tell you, you've had tremendous storms in Texas for many decades and for many centuries, and that's the way it is. We handle them as they come. All I can do is handle them as they come, and that's what we do, and nobody has ever done a better job of it.

## **IF YOU SAY ONE THING**

Trump is putting American lives at risk by repeatedly ignoring warnings from scientists and experts and lying about the facts – it's true for COVID-19 and it's true for the climate crisis.

## **KEY MESSAGE**

Our leaders have a duty to listen to our nation's most respected experts – and a basic responsibility to leave a better world for our children. But Trump and his Republican allies ignored warnings from the CDC and other public health experts about the coronavirus. And they keep ignoring scientists, NASA, and our military leaders who say that if we don't act on climate change, our kids will inherit a future filled with droughts, flooding, food and water shortages, and more.

Instead of listening to these experts, Trump and his Republican allies put oil and coal lobbyists in charge of protecting our environment – and they

immediately went to work rolling back over 100 environmental safeguards, allowing corporate polluters to pump more toxic pollution and chemicals into our air and water, and putting the health of our families and kids at risk.

## **KEY FACTS**

**Trump refuses to believe in science or heed the advice of experts.**

- Trump was [repeatedly warned](#) by scientists and experts about both [COVID-19](#) and [climate change](#).
- Trump [ignored](#) those [warnings](#), calling concerns about [both COVID-19](#) and [climate change](#) a “hoax.”
- When pressed, Trump downplayed the threats, initially [comparing COVID-19 to the flu](#) and [insisting he had things under control](#), and arguing that climate change is “[not a big problem at all](#)” and that the climate “[changes both ways](#).”

**When scientists speak up, Trump goes on the attack and tries to discredit them.**

- On COVID-19, Trump called a study that showed the impacts of early inaction a “[political hit job](#)” and dismissed those who warned about hydroxychloroquine because they “[aren’t big Trump fans](#).” White House officials [blocked](#) a CDC report over [economic and religious concerns](#), [ousted](#) and official who raised concerns about an unproven drug touted by Trump.
- On Climate Change, Trump has a [long history](#) of attacking climate scientists, [claiming](#) they have a political agenda and dismissing them as “[hoaxsters](#)” and “[dollar sucking wiseguys](#).” Government scientists have even been [pushed out](#) or [forced](#) to stop work on climate issues.

**Trump’s science denial is costing lives.**

- Trump’s anti-science attitude has [cost more than 165,000 American lives](#) during the COVID-19 crisis.
- If climate change goes unaddressed, [hundreds of thousands more American lives](#) will be lost.

**CLIMATE  
POWER  
2020**

For an exhaustive list of examples of Trump's science denial, read and share our research memo [here](#).