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TRUMP ADMINISTRATION (/TAG/TRUMP%20ADMINISTRATION)

# Trump’s Misleading Speech on His Environmental Record Is a ‘True “1984” Moment’

(https://www.ecowatch.com/u/oliviarosane)

Olivia Rosane (https://www.ecowatch.com/u/oliviarosane)

POLITICS

President Donald Trump (<http://www.ecowatch.com/tag/donald-trump>) delivered a speech (<https://www.ecowatch.com/trump-america-environmental-leader-2639096425.html?rebelltitem=2#rebelltitem2>) Monday on "America's environmental leadership" that failed to even once mention climate change (<https://www.ecowatch.com/tag/climate-change>), The New York Times reported (<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/07/08/us/politics/trump-environment-climate-change.html>). The speech was also riddled with inaccuracies, as the president took credit for environmental achievements enacted by previous administrations and downplayed the impacts of his deregulatory agenda.

"This speech is a true '1984' moment," said David G. Victor, director of the Laboratory on International Law and Regulation (<http://ilar.ucsd.edu/>) at the University of California, San Diego, to The New York Times.

At one point, the doublespeak prompted Fox News host Shepard Smith to interrupt the broadcast to point out that many of Trump's policies had been "widely criticized by environmentalists and academics," HuffPost reported ([https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/donald-trump-fox-news-fact-check\\_n\\_5d23ef40e4b0cfb595faeac7](https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/donald-trump-fox-news-fact-check_n_5d23ef40e4b0cfb595faeac7)).

Smith then went on to list some of the more than 80 regulatory rollbacks the Trump administration has initiated, including the recent repeal (<https://www.ecowatch.com/clean-power-plan-trump-epa-2638927020.html>) of the Clean Power Plan (<https://www.ecowatch.com/tag/clean-power-plan>) that would have limited emissions from coal (<http://www.ecowatch.com/tag/coal>) plants.

While Trump did not mention the climate crisis outright, he did make a misleading claim about U.S. carbon dioxide emissions, stating that, in the past decade, the U.S. had seen an emissions decrease "more than any other country on earth," The New York Times reported. In fact, more than 12 other countries, including much of the EU, have seen declines that double the U.S. decrease of more than 10 percent.

In addition to lying about greenhouse gas emissions, Trump also criticized one of the leading proposals for reducing them: the Green New Deal (<https://www.ecowatch.com/tag/green-new-deal>).

"While we're focused on practical solutions, more than 100 Democrats in Congress support the so-called Green New Deal," the president said, as CBS News reported (<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/trump-to-tout-environmental-stewardship-in-speech/>). "Their plan is estimated to cost our economy nearly \$100 trillion. A number unthinkable. A number not affordable even in the best of times. If you go 150 years from now, and we've had great success, that's not a number that's even thought to

be affordable. Kill millions of jobs, it'll crush the dreams of the poorest Americans and disproportionately harm minority communities. I will not stand for it. We will defend the environment but we will also defend American sovereignty, American prosperity, and we will defend American jobs."

In fact, the Green New Deal resolution (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-resolution/109/text>) proposes to create millions of high-wage jobs and to specifically protect and uplift vulnerable communities.

"Here are the facts: The Green New Deal puts justice and equity at its center," Washington Governor and climate-focused presidential candidate Jay Inslee (<https://www.ecowatch.com/tag/jay-inslee>) tweeted in response to Trump's remarks. "If we don't act on climate, people of color and low-income communities will continue to be hit the hardest."

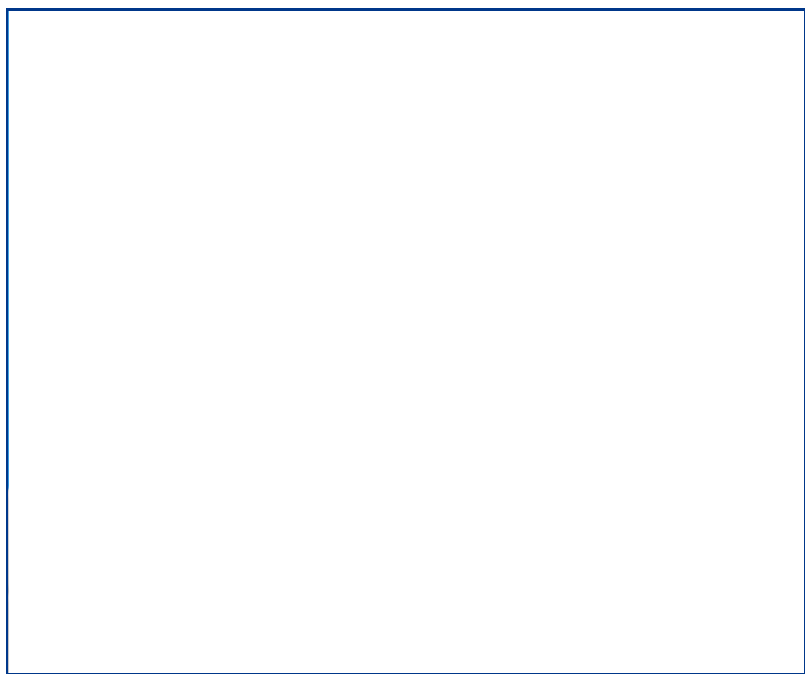
Trump was also misleading when he shifted away from carbon pollution.

"From day one my administration has made it a top priority to ensure that America is among the very cleanest air and cleanest water on the planet," Trump said, as CNN reported (<https://edition.cnn.com/2019/07/08/politics/donald-trump-environmental-leadership/index.html>). "We want the cleanest air. We want crystal clean water and that's what we're doing and that's what we're working on so hard."

But Trump's rollbacks attack air and water as well as climate. The Clean Power Plan replacement could cause (<https://www.ecowatch.com/trump-epa-dirty-power-plan-2597804270.html>) up to 1,400 extra air pollution (<http://www.ecowatch.com/tag/air-pollution>) deaths a year, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's own estimates, and his EPA (<http://www.ecowatch.com/tag/epa>) is also working to weaken (<https://www.epa.gov/wotus-rule>) the Obama-era Clean Water Rule (<https://www.ecowatch.com/tag/clean-water-rule>) that would protect streams and wetlands from pollution.

Environmental groups roundly criticized Trump's speech.

"Donald Trump's speech today was full of more hot air than his dangerous policies and rollbacks are pumping into our atmosphere," Sierra Club (<https://www.sierraclub.org/>) executive director Michael Brune said in a statement (<https://www.sierraclub.org/press-releases/2019/07/trump-s-speech-full-more-hot-air-his-policies-and-rollbacks>). "Attempting to greenhouse gaslight the American people with a single speech — one that fails to even acknowledge the climate crisis — won't help the families and communities suffering from the toxic pollution caused by Trump's dangerous agenda. No amount of speeches, lies, or stunts will ever change the fact that Donald Trump has the worst record on the environment and climate of any president in American history."



Environmental Defense Fund Action (<http://www.edfaction.org/>) President Joe Bonfiglio agreed.

"President Trump has obviously seen the polls showing that Americans care about clean air, clean water, and solving climate change — so today he's reportedly going to try to do the impossible: talk his way out of the most damaging and backward environmental record in American history," he said in a statement ([http://www.edfaction.org/media/edf-action-statement-trump-will-attempt-talk-his-way-out-damaging?](http://www.edfaction.org/media/edf-action-statement-trump-will-attempt-talk-his-way-out-damaging?utm_source=edaf&utm_campaign=edaf_none_upd_dmt&utm_medium=social-media&utm_id=1562592377)

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A rooftop solar system was installed at Philippine Science High School in Diliman, Quezon City in 2010. *Gregorio B. Dantes Jr.*  
*Pacific Press / LightRocket via Getty Images*

Manila's new mayor wants to turn the city's public schools into a living lesson in sustainability (<https://www.ecowatch.com/tag/sustainability>).

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An aerial view of Thwaites glacier, which shows growth of gaps between the ice and bedrock. *Nasa / Jeremy Harbeck*

A glacier the size of Florida is melting much faster than expected and may soon trigger a 50cm, or 19.6 inches, rise in sea level, according to a new NASA-funded study (<https://www.pnas.org/content/early/2019/07/02/1904822116>) published online by the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

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By Jordan Davidson (<https://www.ecowatch.com/u/jordandavidson>)

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Max Pix

Governors from 24 states, including two republicans and four states won by Trump in 2016, are standing together to ask President Trump to put the brakes on his plan to weaken the federal clean car rules, the New York Times

([https://www.nytimes.com/2019/07/09/climate/trump-governors-clean-car-rules.html?rref=collection%252Fsectioncollection%252Fclimate&action=click&contentCollection=climate&region=stream&module=stream\\_unit&version=latest&contentPlacement=2&pgtype=sectionfront](https://www.nytimes.com/2019/07/09/climate/trump-governors-clean-car-rules.html?rref=collection%252Fsectioncollection%252Fclimate&action=click&contentCollection=climate&region=stream&module=stream_unit&version=latest&contentPlacement=2&pgtype=sectionfront)) reported.

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By Truthout (<https://www.ecowatch.com/u/truthout>)

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Carbon farming on an organic farm. A cover crop of buckwheat in flower on permanent beds with grass strips between the beds to reduce tillage and provide habitat for beneficial insects. *Elizabeth Henderson*

By Elizabeth Henderson

In February, a dairy farmer friend sent me a note confiding that a few farmers she knows are living on cereal until their milk checks arrive. Yet, the recently released census of agriculture (<http://www.ecowatch.com/tag/agriculture>) shows that the number of young farmers is growing

([https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Full\\_Report/Volume\\_1,\\_Chapter\\_1\\_US/usv1.pdf](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Full_Report/Volume_1,_Chapter_1_US/usv1.pdf)) even as the average age of farmers also increases

(<https://www.youngfarmers.org/2019/04/census2017/>), and there are uplifting articles about young black farmers connecting with the land

(<https://www.foodsystemsjournal.org/index.php/fsj/article/view/675>) and enjoying the self-empowerment that comes with being an independent farmer.

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Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (R), Democrat of New York, speaks alongside U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders (L), Independent of Vermont, during a press conference to introduce college affordability legislation outside the U.S. Capitol in Washington, DC June 24. SAUL LOEB / AFP / Getty Images

By Eoin Higgins

A cohort of progressive Democrats plan to introduce a resolution declaring a climate emergency Tuesday in Congress, a move that could open the door to decisive action on the crisis.

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Residents watched from their roofs as firefighters fought the Peak Fire on Nov. 12, 2018 in Simi Valley, California. *Marcus Yam*  
*Los Angeles Times via Getty Images*

Do the daily climate change (<https://www.ecowatch.com/tag/climate-change>) headlines make you feel stressed, afraid or powerless? If so, you're certainly not alone.

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A bench submerged by flood waters in DC's East Potomac Park Monday. *JIM WATSON / AFP / Getty Images*

The Washington, DC region received a month's worth of rain in one hour Monday, leading to the most severe flooding (<http://www.ecowatch.com/tag/flooding>) in the area in recent years, The Washington Post reported

([https://www.washingtonpost.com/weather/2019/07/08/washington-dc-flash-flood-how-why-area-was-deluged-by-months-worth-rain-an-hour-monday/?noredirect=on&utm\\_term=.d46754f3551c](https://www.washingtonpost.com/weather/2019/07/08/washington-dc-flash-flood-how-why-area-was-deluged-by-months-worth-rain-an-hour-monday/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.d46754f3551c)).

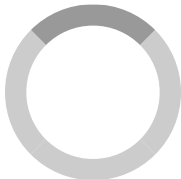
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