

Aug 18, 2021 - Energy & Environment

Exclusive: EPA administrator visits Apple HQ to talk climate, environmental justice

Andrew Freedman, author of [Axios Generate](#)

EPA administrator Michael Regan (L) on a tour of Apple headquarters led by former EPA head and now Apple executive Lisa Jackson on Aug. 17, 2021. (Apple handout)

Environmental Protection Agency administrator Michael Regan visited the Apple headquarters Tuesday for a conversation with former EPA head Lisa Jackson, who now serves as the tech giant's leader on environment, policy and social initiatives.

The big picture: Apple, considered a leader in procuring renewable energy for its stores, data centers and offices, is in the midst of tackling its toughest

Driving the news: Regan sat down with Jackson for a [fireside chat in the Steve Jobs Theater](#) at One Apple Park to discuss their respective priorities, particularly their shared commitment to environmental justice.

- The discussion brought together the only two Black leaders of EPA — one past (during the Obama administration), the other present — since that agency was created more than five decades ago.
- "It makes me happy to know I'm not the last," Jackson said, according to an Apple-provided transcript of the meeting. "And you won't be the last either," she told Regan.

Context: Apple took a step Tuesday toward finding ways to have minority-owned businesses help the company clean up its supply chain, through a three-month "Impact Accelerator" program for an initial group of 15 Black, brown, Native American and Indigenous-owned businesses.

The accelerator program is aimed at pairing companies with Apple experts to help them grow further, and potentially become Apple suppliers.

- The companies include BlocPower, a Brooklyn-based firm that has retrofitted more than 1,200 buildings in disadvantaged communities across more than two-dozen cities with efficient, electric heating and cooling systems.
- Another company selected is Volt Energy Utility, which is a utility-scale solar energy development firm based in Washington, D.C.
- There's also GreenTek Solutions, which focuses on repurposing, refurbishing, recycling and reusing tech products.
- In addition, there's Oceti Sakowin Power Authority, which is an independent, nonprofit governmental organization comprised of six Sioux tribes to develop tribal renewable energy resources.

What they're saying: Jackson told Axios in an interview that the accelerator companies could help Apple achieve its 2030 supply chain goal if they eventually become suppliers to the tech giant. So far, she said, 110 of Apple's

- "You can easily see that with the training, mentoring, the work they're going to do combined with their own business savvy, they're going to be formidable competitors to get Apple contracts and business," she said.
- Jackson views Apple's lofty sustainability ambitions as good for the bottom line. "We've never approached clean energy or climate solutions as charity work," she said. "This is a business investment like all the other investments that Apple makes."
- In the [wake of last week's IPCC report](#) on the effects of climate change, she said, "It's not just bad business, it's almost dangerous to operate your business in a way that isn't mindful of the impact on our planet and what it's doing to people, to real lives."

Regan told Axios in an interview that the agency is seeking to partner with private companies such as Apple that are pursuing environmental goals that are consistent with the administration's focus on climate and environmental justice.

- "It's important that we truly understand what companies like Apple are doing so that we can take advantage of this moment, and the resources that are being made available to us," Regan said, referencing the money for environmental justice initiatives contained in the bipartisan infrastructure bill.
- From the IPCC report, Regan took away a sense of urgency. "You know, the IPCC report was, it was jarring," he told Axios. "I think when you look at what the scientists have laid out, it reinforces what we've always known. But it puts it on an expedited timeframe. And so, every second counts."

Yes, but: While Apple is trying to create products with net zero carbon impact by 2030, it is still vulnerable to the charge that it promotes electronic waste by frequently making changes to its flagship products.

- This churn can contribute to the problem of electronic waste.

What to watch: Apple is pursuing e-waste recycling programs, including the use of financial incentives to customers who return their old equipment when purchasing something new.



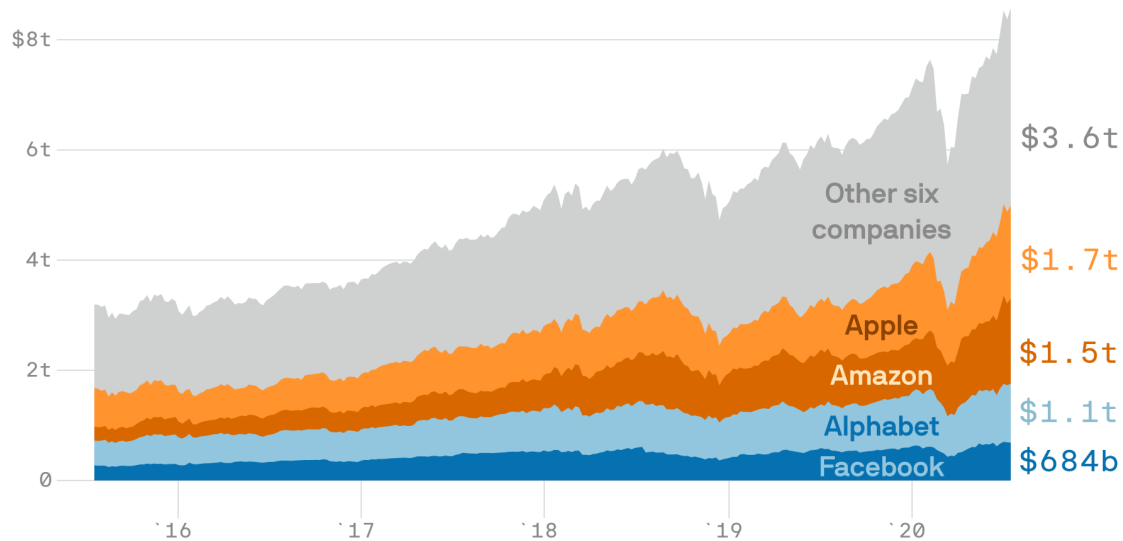
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Kyle Daly

Jul 27, 2020 - Technology

Big Tech's power, in 4 numbers

July 24, 2015, to July 22, 2020. Ranked top ten as of July 22, 2020.



Data: FactSet; Chart: Naema Ahmed/Axios

The four Big Tech CEOs who will testify before Congress Wednesday command global empires with power and wealth that make them more like countries than companies.

By the numbers: Here are four very large stats for Facebook, Apple, Google/Alphabet and Amazon that tell the story of their value, scale and influence.

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Rebecca Falconer

Updated 3 hours ago - Energy & Environment

California's Fairview Fire kills 2 people and triggers evacuations

Fairview Fire near Hemet, California, on Monday. Photo: CAL FIRE/Riverside County Fire Department/Twitter

A wildfire near Hemet, California, killed at least two people and wounded another as the blaze exploded in size during the [historic heat wave](#) that's engulfing much of the U.S. West, per [Cal Fire](#).

By the numbers: The Fairview Fire grew by 500 acres one hour after igniting some 80 miles east of Los Angeles on Monday afternoon, according to [Cal Fire](#). By late Monday, it had grown to 2,000 acres and was 5% contained, the Riverside County Fire Department [tweeted](#).

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Andrew Freedman, author of [Axios Generate](#)
Updated 5 hours ago - Energy & Environment

Historic heat wave intensifies in the West as grid concerns mount

Electrical transmission towers during a heatwave in Vallejo, Calif., on Sept. 4. Photo: David Paul Morris/Bloomberg via Getty Images

One of the U.S. [West's worst-ever](#) September heat waves is bringing a prolonged period of record-shattering temperatures to at least a half-dozen states this week.

The big picture: Numerous monthly and all-time temperature records began to tumble in the [San Francisco](#) Bay Area and [elsewhere](#) in California on Monday. More records are likely to be threatened into the coming weekend.

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