

CLIMATE CHANGE

Biden administration to unveil more climate policies

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John Kerry, special climate envoy of Joe Biden, says a recent pledge by China, the world's top greenhouse gas emitter, was 'not good enough'

US President Joe Biden's administration next week will release more policies it believes are needed to tackle climate change and is urging China to toughen one of its targets on greenhouse gas emissions, his top climate advisers said on Saturday, January 23.

Gina McCarthy, the White House's national climate adviser, did not say what policies would be released. A memo seen by Reuters on Thursday, January 21, showed Biden will unveil a second round of executive orders as soon as Wednesday, January 27, that include an omnibus order to combat climate change domestically and elevate the issue as a national security priority.

"We've already sent signals on the things that we don't like that we're going to roll back, but this week you're going to see us move forward with what's the vision of the future," McCarthy told a virtual meeting of the US Conference of Mayors.

Biden, a Democrat who took office on January 20, **quickly issued executive orders canceling the Keystone XL pipeline** that would import tar sands oil from Canada and **rejoining the 2015 Paris climate agreement**.

Both of those moves reversed former President Donald Trump's policies. During his 4 years in office, Trump rolled back about 100 regulations on climate and the environment as he pursued a policy of "energy dominance" to maximize output and exports of oil, gas, and coal.

John Kerry, **Biden's special climate envoy**, said a recent pledge by China, the world's top greenhouse gas emitter, was "not good enough." In September, Chinese President Xi Jinping **set a goal for his country to become carbon neutral by 2060**, 10 years after the 2050 time frame favored by most countries, while also pledging a more ambitious short-term goal on emissions. As secretary of state under former President Barack Obama in 2015, Kerry helped bring China to the table at the United Nations climate conference in Paris. Now, the Biden administration has begun to apply diplomatic pressure on countries to work harder on climate, said Kerry.

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