



Environment Digest 21

29th January 2021

The USA's renewed commitments to international climate efforts

The United States of America has for a very long time been the unrivalled global political-economic superpower, and this has far-reaching implications for the global community. Its political-economic status enables it to influence international trade and markets, as well as the regulations, laws and institutions that govern international relations – mostly for its own benefit. In recent years this has had worrying consequences for climate change.

Despite significant efforts to move towards renewable energy sources, the use of fossil fuels still dominates in an economy as large and influential as the USA's.

<https://pewrsr.ch/3qN5Gyb>

This was exacerbated by some of President Donald Trump's policy decisions. During his term the USA formally withdrew from important international treaties and agreements, including the 2015 Paris agreement that aims at reducing carbon emissions and addressing climate change.

<https://bit.ly/3oh0bpG>

Joe Biden ran on an election campaign that included a progressive climate plan, in which he proposed spending US\$2 trillion and creating millions of new jobs to pivot the country to clean energy and net-zero carbon emissions by no later than 2050.

<https://bit.ly/2LUGGq6>

Within hours of taking office, President Biden signed directives to re-enter the Paris agreement, and indicated a more decisive move from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources.

<https://bit.ly/2YaAVH5>

This gesture is further supported by the appointment of cabinet members with experience in environmental issues and climate justice. For instance, the appointment of Xavier Becerra, who led lawsuits against Trump's environmental rollbacks.

<https://bit.ly/3qOqrts>

The Biden-Harris administration signals a drastic shift in environmental policy, and creates a hopeful future for both the USA and the wider world, where international co-operation and re-building seem to be the order of the day. “Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home”, said Vice-President Kamala Harris, quoting Pope Francis’s 2015 encyclical ‘*Laudato si* – on Care for Our Common Home’.

<https://bit.ly/3qQwxg>

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