

Giving Power Over Environmental Regulations to the States is Focus of GOP Platform

Energy and Environment Issues in the 2016 Republican Platform



Coal and Mining

- Coal is defined as an **abundant, clean, affordable, reliable domestic energy resource**
- Clean Power Plan is Obama's war on coal and would **eliminate the Clean Power Plan**



Climate Negotiations

- Reject the agendas of both the Paris Climate Agreements and the Kyoto Protocol
- Block all funding directed toward the Green Climate Fund as a part of the UNFCCC



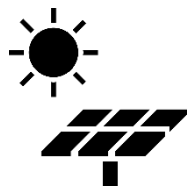
Pipelines and Electric Grid

- Supportive of Congress in their efforts to modernize pipelines and the electric grid
- Continue policies that support ways to store electricity



Trade for Agriculture

- Expanding trade opportunities and opening new markets with fewer regulations on the poultry and livestock industries.



Renewable Energy Resources

- Should be developed cost-effectively through the support of private capital
- Development of nuclear energy should be supported, with research for alternative processes



Waters of the United States

- Federal agencies will never be responsible for regulating state waters, watersheds, or groundwater-it must always fall under jurisdiction of the state

Sources: RNC, "Republican Platform 2016," 2016; "Steve Mufson, "GOP Platform, Which Calls Coal 'Clean', Would Reverse Decades of U.S. Energy and Climate Policy," The Washington Post, July 19, 2016; NounProject, David Chapman, Ron Scott, Max Hancock, Irene.

GOP Platform Calls for a Major Change in How the EPA Functions and the Use of Public Lands

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Changes to the Environmental Protection Agency

- Shift environmental regulatory power away from the federal bureaucracy and **give the power to the states**
- Reform the EPA to act as an **independent bipartisan commission**
- Forbid the EPA to **regulate carbon dioxide**, and modernize permitting under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)



Transform Public Lands

- Enact legislation that would require certain federally controlled public lands be given to the states
- Energy resources on federal lands will be managed by state regulators
- Support opening federal lands for energy exploration, mineral production, and fracking

Analysis

- Several of the points outlined in this platform contradict legislation and judicial precedent, including a Supreme Court ruling in 2007 that the EPA could regulate carbon dioxide.
- Overall, the platform rolls back federal level regulation in favor for state level enforcement working to eliminate bureaucratic delay.

Sources: RNC, "Republican Platform 2016," 2016; "Steve Mufson, "GOP Platform, Which Calls Coal 'Clean', Would Reverse Decades of U.S. Energy and Climate Policy," The Washington Post, July 19, 2016; NounProject, Creative Stall.