



Climate Realists Declare Victory in Age of Trump

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With the election of President Donald Trump, and his emphasis upon reduced regulations and strengthening the nation's fossil fuels industries, the free-market Heartland Institute has announced it will host its twelfth International Conference on Climate Change, to educate and advise the new administration on recommended policies in transition to a freer and fairer energy economy.

The Arlington Heights, Ill.-based think tank is recognized as one of the top advocates for realism in the global warming debate, based upon observed scientific phenomena measured in actual data, as opposed to projections informed by computer modeling that can be more easily manipulated by human error and bias. Heartland and other nonprofit organizations that advocate for limited government, fewer regulations, and less intervention in a free economy — such as the Cato Institute, the Competitive Enterprise Institute, and the Heritage Foundation — have been the targets of demonization and attacks by environmentalist pressure groups, left-wing academia and the interventionist government establishment.

“The purpose of this conference is to introduce members of the Trump administration and newly elected members of Congress and their staff to leading scientists and economists who hold a data-based, non-alarmist view of the climate,” said Joseph Bast, president of The Heartland Institute. “It’s time to reset U.S. climate and energy policy away from the alarmism and fake science that dominated policymaking during the Obama era, and plot a new course based on real scientific data and economic analysis.

“The American people deserve a huge ‘peace dividend’ that can be brought about by ending the unnecessary and futile war on fossil fuels.”

The conference is scheduled for March 23-24 in Washington, DC. Thousands of people have attended previous conferences hosted by Heartland in various locations around the world.

Many of the presentations at past conferences delivered a scientific view on climate change that undermined the narrative — predominantly delivered by the legacy media — that fossil fuels and human activity exert an inordinate, dangerous, and heat-increasing influence upon the planet. Outcomes from that perspective have driven government policies that have nearly destroyed the coal industry; Placed onerous regulations on the automobile industry and other fossil fuel

development; Pushed lawmakers to pursue taxes on carbon dioxide and cap-and-trade policies; and subsidized inefficient and costly renewable energy schemes.

Trump's election has transformed the outlook on government's climate change and regulatory policies. The president appointed Myron Ebell of the Competitive Enterprise Institute as head of his transition team for the Environmental Protection Agency, and Thomas Pyle of the Institute for Energy Research as transition chief for the Department of Energy. Both advocate for free market environmental policies and less regulation in the electricity and transportation energy sectors.

And both of Trump's nominees to head EPA and the Department of Energy — Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt and former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, respectively — have exhibited similar conservative approaches to environment and energy policy.

Thus the Heartland conference marks a new emphasis on moving forward with the revitalization of the fossil fuel industry, now that American voters have spoken.

“The election of Donald Trump and Republican majorities in the U.S. House and Senate and in state capitals around the country is proof that most American voters, most Republican elected officials, and the president himself do not believe man-made global warming is a crisis,” Bast said.

“The task ahead is not to rehash the science yet again, hoping to win over those who will never admit to having been wrong about it. The task now is to explain the benefits of ending Obama's war on fossil fuels and what policy changes are needed to do this.”