



Climate change chat coming up this week

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An expert with more than 20 years of experience with climate research doesn't know what to expect of President Obama's meeting with his Canadian counterpart this Thursday, March 10th, on North America's strategy regarding what they call man-made climate change.

President Obama and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau agree that man's burning of fossil fuels is bad for the environment and, if unchecked, could lead to environmental problems. The two leaders will hold their first bilateral meeting in the Oval Office. The White House is also hosting a state dinner for Trudeau.

Chip Knappenberger, assistant director of the Center for the Study of Science at the Cato Institute, is not sure what to expect from the meeting.

"What I think is interesting is that this last December, all the leaders of the world got together and promised that they were going to combat global warming," Knappenberger recalls. "So, it's unclear to me what's going to be new between the U.S. and Canada in that realm."

Among the many arguments from critics of climate deals is that local or regional efforts are meaningless if other countries are not fully on board. Skeptics, meanwhile, say that is the reason why the U.S. should not wreck its economy, the argument being that fossil fuels are cheaper and more efficient than alternative energy sources like wind and solar.

"The idea is you're just going to nibble around the edges, and then maybe, if the whole world sees what North America is doing, they're all going to play along," the expert explains. "I seriously doubt that's what's going to happen."

And since Canada emits just ten percent of what America does, Knappenberger concludes that the neighboring country does not have much to offer in this area.