

# Tri-County Sun Times

## Paris Agreement on climate change to be signed today in New York

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At the national level, India is putting its weight behind ramping up clean energy capacity in a big way.

The signing ceremony - which is taking place on Earth Day - will be accompanied by a lot of speeches and even some Hollywood star power. Countries that sign must then have the agreement ratified by their own legislative procedures.

The event coincides with International Mother Earth Day and in his message on the Day, Mr. Ban said the Paris accord, in conjunction with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, holds the power to transform our world. "In Paris, governments demonstrated that by acting together, they can achieve something none could achieve alone".

Boosted by El Nino and climate change, March was the 11th consecutive record warm month, and it deviated from normal more than any previous month on record. Whether they keep their promises will in large part determine whether the Paris deal succeeds.

"President Obama should rescind his emissions pledges made under the Paris Climate Agreement for two primary reasons", Chip Knappenberger, a climate scientist at the free-market Cato Institute, told The Daily Caller News Foundation.

In its final 167-page report on the matter, now awaiting publication in the Federal Register, the EPA details how it considered cost in evaluating whether to regulate coal-and oil-fired power plants under the Clean Air Act (subscription). This is the beginning of the end of dirty fossil fuels.

All those factors mean that a goal established by the governments of the world in 2009 - limiting the warming of the planet to 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit above the preindustrial level - remains far out of reach.

Oh yeah, one more thing: Follow UNICEF on Snapchat to join us behind the scenes and maybe meet the heads of states!

The International Maritime Organisation (IMO) once again pushed back proposals for the global shipping sector to take on emissions reduction targets amid stiff opposition from emerging economies. There's also a one-year notice period, so the earliest a country could drop out is four years after the agreement has come into effect.

"1.5 C is nearly certainly not feasible without an overshoot", said Peter Frumhoff, chief scientist at the Union of Concerned Scientists in Washington, expressing a view shared - if not frequently articulated - by climate experts. World temperatures are on an upward trajectory year on year, and we need to find a way to decarbonise our economies and lifestyles, if we are to live in a future world that we recognise. The Democratic candidates, Hillary Clinton and Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont, have promised to pursue strong climate policies. The United States sure hasn't done that.

The plan still has to move through a June hearing in a federal circuit court, and the deciding vote when it gets to the Supreme Court for a final ruling could well be cast by Scalia's replacement.

Translation: We're anxious about a Republican President - There are concerns within the United Nations about apparent attempts inside the USA to "sabotage" President Obama's commitments to reducing GHG emissions, according to the head of the body's General Assembly.

The signing ceremony Friday is only an intermediate step.

"The Paris climate conference was an historic event in achieving the unanimous agreement of 195 countries that we need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions".