

Of Trump and temperatures

Not every believer of man-made global warming is fretting over the idea of a Trump administration.

Chris Woodward

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It's long been argued that man's burning of fossil fuels is contributing to what is referred to as "climate change" or "global warming." As a result, politicians, private citizens, think tanks and special-interest groups have been pushing for significant reductions in emissions. And while there are people and organizations skeptical of the existence of global warming, others question only the severity of the situation.

Pat Michaels, Ph.D., a self-identified "lukewarmer" at the [Cato Institute's](#) Center for the Study of Science, is one example.

"Human beings have something to do with the warming in the 20th century, at least the second warming of the 20th century that began around 1976," says Michaels, "but that is clearly far underneath what the computer models say should be happening in the lower atmosphere. Therefore it's going to remain less than what the computer models say, which kind of relegates it to a non-issue."

Still, people and groups often labeled as "alarmists" want the incoming Trump administration to keep rules and regulations such as the EPA's Clean Power Plan. OneNewsNow asked Michaels whether he thinks the Trump administration should keep the Clean Power Plan.

"They're not going to keep it one way or another," he answers. "It is in the courts right now and when President Trump nominates his choice for the Supreme Court, it will be very clear that that person is going to vote to get rid of the Clean Power Plan. So he could actually have the Supreme Court do it for him."

In the meantime, Michaels thinks Trump will say *We're keeping that on hold and will let the courts decide.*

As for the recent Paris climate agreement, Michaels thinks the Trump administration will withdraw the U.S. from that international deal to curb emissions.

"It's an executive agreement," says Michaels, a past president of the American Association of State Climatologists. "Any new executive could say *Oh, I didn't make that agreement* – and that's precisely what's going to happen here."

So what will Michaels and his fellow lukewarmers do?

"We want to make sure that the science is respected," he replies. "In other words, yes, warming is a real thing; yes, human beings have something to do with it – but no, it is nowhere near what it was forecast to be ... and that means it's not going to be what it was forecast to be."

He also argues that the best policy is one of economic development, allowing for free markets to determine which sources of energy to use.

Michaels is co-author of *Lukewarming: The New Climate Science that Changes Everything*.