

# Getting informed and involved on science and environmental policy: resources and reading list

Compiled by Cecilia Noecker

This list is definitely not comprehensive and is focused on accessible and relatively up-to-date starting points for education and advocacy.

## Understanding the possible actions of the Trump administration

### Science policy generally

- What will President Trump mean for science? (Washington Post, [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/speaking-of-science/wp/2016/11/09/what-will-president-trump-mean-for-science/?utm\\_term=.852df04588bb](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/speaking-of-science/wp/2016/11/09/what-will-president-trump-mean-for-science/?utm_term=.852df04588bb))
- The ultimate experiment: how Trump will handle science (Nature news, <http://www.nature.com/news/the-ultimate-experiment-how-trump-will-handle-science-1.20971>)
- Who will advise Trump on science? (Ed Yong, The Atlantic, <http://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2016/11/who-will-advise-trump-on-science/508055/>)
- How Trump's White House Could Mess with Government Data (FiveThirtyEight, <https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/how-trumps-white-house-could-mess-with-government-data/>)
- Live updates from *Science* about what cabinet nominees say about science in their confirmation hearings: <http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2017/01/tracker-we-re-letting-you-know-when-trump-s-cabinet-nominees-talk-about-science-and>
- Donald Trump's War on Science (New Yorker, <http://www.newyorker.com/tech/elements/donald-trumps-war-on-science>)

### Climate research

- Obama on clean energy and the Paris agreement (*Science*, <http://science.sciencemag.org/content/early/2017/01/06/science.aam6284.full>)
- Climate data presentation and availability (ProPublica, <https://www.propublica.org/article/endangered-species-under-gop-climate-change-information-on-the-web>)

### Biomedical research

- Surprising Contenders Emerge for Trump's NIH Chief: <http://www.nature.com/news/surprising-contenders-emerge-for-trump-s-nih-chief-1.21295>
- What Trump Will Mean for Biomedical Research (podcast from Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology News, <http://www.genengnews.com/gen-exclusives/what-trump-will-mean-for-biomedical-research/77900830>)

### Public health research

- The challenges to public health under the Trump administration: [https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/the-challenges-to-public-health-under-the-trump-administration/2016/11/21/d46d001e-adaa-11e6-a31b-4b6397e625d0\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/the-challenges-to-public-health-under-the-trump-administration/2016/11/21/d46d001e-adaa-11e6-a31b-4b6397e625d0_story.html)

- How a pandemic might play out under Trump (The Atlantic, <https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2016/12/outbreaks-trump-disease-epidemic-ebola/511127/>)
- How Donald Trump's conspiracy theories about vaccines could harm public health (Washington Post, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/posteverything/wp/2017/01/11/how-donald-trumps-conspiracy-theories-about-vaccines-could-harm-public-health/>)
- Trump's CDC may face serious hurdles (Scientific American, <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/trump-rsquo-s-cdc-may-face-serious-hurdles/>)

#### Other

- Possible changes to visas for international students and researchers
- Science education
- Academic freedom, tenure:
  - Missouri Lawmaker Who Wants to Eliminate Tenure Says It's 'Un-American' (Chronicle of Higher Education, <http://www.chronicle.com/article/Missouri-Lawmaker-Who-Wants-to/238886>)
  - Who's Really Placing Limits on Free Speech? ([https://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/09/opinion/whos-really-placing-limits-on-free-speech.html?\\_r=0](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/09/opinion/whos-really-placing-limits-on-free-speech.html?_r=0))

#### **Organizations advocating for science and environmental policy**

##### Science advocacy

- Union of Concerned Scientists (<http://www.ucsusa.org/>)
- AAAS (<https://www.aaas.org/election-transition/science-community-resources>)

Advice for young scientists from the head of the AAAS:

<http://motherboard.vice.com/read/rush-holt-young-scientists-speak-up-keep-focused-carry-on>

- 314 Action: Drafting and supporting scientists to run for public office (<http://www.314action.org/home>, <http://motherboard.vice.com/read/314-action-drafting-scientists-to-run-for-office-to-oppose-trump>)

##### Environmental advocacy

- 350.org: climate change advocacy primarily focused on direct action
- Sierra Club: huge range of programs, notably Beyond Coal campaign working through regulatory system to shut down coal plants
- National Resources Defense Council: primarily working through the legal system to protect environmental resources
- Our Children's Trust: small grassroots group supporting children suing the federal government for failing to protect the planet (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2016/12/01/trump-could-face-the-biggest-trial-of-the-century-over-climate-change/>)

#### **Learning more about climate change and related issues**

- UN educational materials on climate change (<http://unccelearn.org>)
- *Climate Change: What Everyone Needs to Know* by Joseph Romm, former asst Secretary of Energy
- Sightline Institute: a Northwest environmental policy think tank, with high-quality policy analyses and a weekly email newsletter ([www.sightline.org](http://www.sightline.org))

#### **Following and influencing government**

### EPA and FDA regulations: how they are made and rescinded

- Track regulations and post comments here: <https://www.regulations.gov>
- How Trump Could Wage a War on Scientific Expertise: detailed description of the regulatory process and how it could be eroded (The Atlantic, <http://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2016/12/how-trump-could-wage-a-war-on-scientific-expertise/509378/>)
- If Trump wants to dismantle Obama's EPA rules, here are all the obstacles he'll face: discussion of EPA regulations and treaties and various ways they can or cannot be modified (Vox, <http://www.vox.com/energy-and-environment/2016/12/7/13855470/donald-trump-epa-climate-regulations>)

### Legislation: How to keep track of what your legislators are doing and communicate constructively with them:

- Represent Project from ProPublica describes current legislative activities: <https://projects.propublica.org/represent/>
- Washington Post has a page tracking the status of Trump appointments requiring Senate confirmation: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/politics/trump-administration-appointee-tracker/database/>

### Guides for calling your federal representatives:

- Indivisible Guide: <https://www.indivisibleguide.com/> - another resource from congressional staffers, drawing from the Tea Party's success in slowing Obama's agenda
- Call the Halls guide: <http://www.callthehallsguide.com> - very complete guide to influencing the offices of your representatives
- We're His Problem Now guide: [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/174f0WBSVNSdcQ5\\_S6rWPGB3pNCsruyyMZrQ6QUhGmo/htmlview?usp=embed\\_facebook&sle=true](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/174f0WBSVNSdcQ5_S6rWPGB3pNCsruyyMZrQ6QUhGmo/htmlview?usp=embed_facebook&sle=true) - calling suggestions and specific weekly campaigns
- Track Washington State legislation and submit public comments on state bills: <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/>

### Local advocacy opportunities

- Comprehensive events calendar and list of organizations: <http://www.ftgf-seattle.com>
- Graduate student union represents many climate scientists, opportunities include Climate Change Working Group and Speakers Bureau: <http://www.uaw4121.org/get-involved-2/>

### **Examples of effective scientist lobbying**

- UCS accomplishments includes good examples of influencing regulatory processes: <http://www.ucsusa.org/about/history-of-accomplishments.html#.WHx35YnQdE6>