



2024 Global elections & climate trends monitor

04 November 2024

Greetings,

In this issue, we turn our attention to the US elections, set to conclude tomorrow. Kamala Harris and Donald Trump are in a high-stakes contest that will likely define the trajectory of global climate efforts.

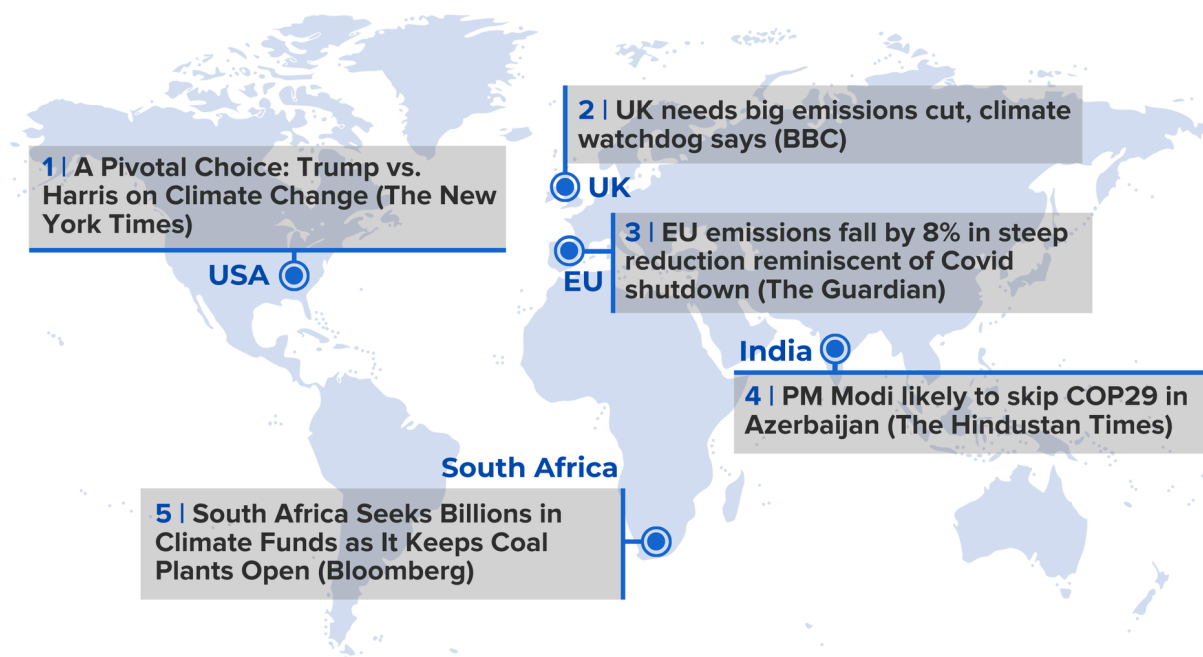
Trump, notorious for his climate science denialism and promoting disinformation, poses a significant threat, having pledged to cut clean energy spending and roll back various environmental regulations established during the Biden administration. In contrast, Kamala Harris aims to accelerate clean technologies and take on Big Oil, pushing beyond Biden's legacy. The outcome of this election could profoundly impact international climate action, with the global community watching closely.

We invite you to join us as we analyse how climate change is shaping political landscapes across other critical regions. Feel free to share this newsletter with your network and don't hesitate to reach out.

Until next time,
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Key climate and election developments



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Climate politics

- [Trump's Environmental Claims Ignore Decades of Climate Science \(The New York Times\)](#)
"The former president says he wants "clean air and clean water," but he has rolled back environmental rules and dismissed the scientific consensus on climate change."
- [US election: Greens fear the EU may have to keep global climate action alive \(Euronews\)](#)
"We don't want other leaders and other countries laughing at us anymore,' Donald Trump said in June 2017 when he formally announced America's withdrawal from the Paris Agreement, the international deal signed in December 2015 to halt global heating. He's promised to do it again."
- [Biden announces \\$3B to reduce carbon emissions at US ports, 'the linchpin to America's supply chain' \(ABC News\)](#)
"The Biden administration is awarding nearly \$3 billion to boost climate-friendly equipment and infrastructure at ports across the country, including Baltimore, where a bridge collapse killed six construction workers in March and disrupted East Coast shipping routes for months."
- [Climate Commissioner eyes chance to drive emissions cuts through tax policy \(Euronews\)](#)
"Wopke Hoekstra wants to use tax changes to nudge Europeans towards cleaner and greener choices in areas such as transport and heating – but he'll face the same veto that has blocked reform for years."
- [Governments back delay to anti-deforestation law \(Euronews\)](#)
"A one-year postponement of new rules barring access to the EU market for goods linked to forest clearance moved a step closer today with EU diplomats endorsing the proposal tabled by the European Commission this month in a dramatic U-turn."

Climate impacts

- [Spain's 'monster' floods expose Europe's unpreparedness for climate change \(Politico\)](#)
"National government blamed local authorities after at least 92 people died as heavy rainfall swept

through homes, shops and roadways.”

- **[‘Crunch time is here’: Current climate policies put world on track for 3.1C by 2100, UN warns](#) (Euronews)**
“Governments need to step up with stronger NDCs, the report says, while highlighting the role of solar, wind and forests.”
- **[Heat-related deaths and diseases rising due to climate change, experts warn](#) (Al Jazeera)**
“Lancet report says average person experienced 50 more days of dangerous temperatures than normal due to climate crisis.”
- **[Climate crisis caused half of European heat deaths in 2022, says study](#) (The Guardian)**
“Researchers found 38,000 fewer people – 10 times number of murders – would have died if atmosphere was not clogged with greenhouse pollutants”.
- **[Planet-warming pollution is growing at the fastest rate in history, scientists say](#) (The Washington Post)**
“Planet-warming pollution in Earth’s atmosphere last year hit the highest levels in human history, scientists announced Monday — a worrying indicator of the world’s failure to curb climate change as global temperatures are on track to hit yet another record high.”

Country spotlight: USA

Polling day: **05 November 2024**



Country stats

- **Political stability:** **0.0** (range: -2.5 to 2.5 - *World Bank, 2022*)
- **Free elections score:** **0.90** (range: 0 to 1 - *V-Dem Institute, 2024*)
- **Envi Performance Index:** **51.10** (range: 0 to 100 - *Yale CELP, 2024*)
- **Happy Planet Index:** **32.1** (range: 0 to 100 - *New Economics Foundation, 2021*)
- **Net zero target:** **In policy** (*Net Zero Tracker, 2024*)
- **RE capacity:** **959.2 GW** (*IRENA, 2022*)
- **CO₂ emissions per capita:** **14.2 tonnes per person** (*Our World in Data, 2022*)

Top election stories

- **[If Trump Wins, Climate Diplomats Are Ready to Bypass US Role](#) (Bloomberg)**
“Secret talks are preparing to keep global cooperation alive under an adversarial US president. A second American withdrawal from the Paris accord could turn leadership over to China.”
- **[Five ways a Trump presidency would be disastrous for the climate](#) (The Guardian)**
“Second Trump term would restore climate denialism to an Oval Office efficiently dismantling protections”.
- **[Kamala Harris Pushed by Greens to Step Up Biden’s Climate Fight](#) (Bloomberg)**
“Kamala Harris hasn’t laid out a detailed vision for addressing climate change and energy if she’s elected president — but she’s already getting plenty of advice.”

Regional analysis

On the eve of the most consequential US presidential election (since the last one four years ago), Americans are wavering between hope, fear, anger, and despair. Polls are offering little clarity as

to the impending results, due sometime after voting ends on November 5, with the razor thin margins in the US Senate and House of Representatives providing little comfort as well – [a third of the US Senate](#), which has a two vote Democratic majority, is up for election, as are all 435 seats in the House, where Republicans currently hold sway by eight votes. Whether results come in hours or days after the polls close, and whether the results are accepted peacefully, are wide open questions as voters turn in their ballots in droves.

Added to the stakes of this US election for global climate ambition is the fact that it comes on November 5, just [six days before the start of COP29](#). Though large segments of US society have pledged to continue progress on Paris Agreement commitments with or without the federal government's sanction, the results could strain the system of international climate cooperation.

If Harris wins, she promises continuity with Biden's climate policy, including the massive Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) investments in clean energy – initially estimated at US\$369 billion, but with the potential to reach up to US\$1 trillion – which has [energised and greened US industry](#) in record time, creating over 300,000 clean energy jobs. On the campaign trail, Harris has [studiously avoided](#) speaking directly about climate change, but does not shy away from addressing clean air and water, and the health of the American people. She has [supported climate justice initiatives](#), even back to her time as the top attorney for the City of San Francisco, and she considers climate change to be an existential crisis. Harris has also won endorsements and/or support from the vast majority of the climate movement, [including youth activists](#) who continue to push her on fossil fuel retirement.

Former President Donald Trump, a climate denier, has promised to pull the US out of the Paris Agreement, again, and possibly to withdraw from the UN climate body altogether. He promises to repeal the IRA, which could result in 4 billion tonnes of additional carbon in the atmosphere, and has used climate change as a wedge issue, [spreading disinformation](#) about climate disasters like the pair of hurricanes that hit the US Southeast in the final weeks of the election. Trump [courted US\\$1 billion from the oil and gas industry](#) in support of his campaign and plans to open up more drilling in the US.

Beneath it all, the US remains the [largest petro state of all time](#) – a record that Trump and the Biden/Harris administration share. However, Americans are increasingly concerned about climate change – a majority of registered voters (62%) would prefer to vote for a candidate for public office [who supports action on global warming](#). We will know soon enough if that concern translates into votes at the polls.

Energy and transport

- [How do Trump and Harris differ on energy policy? \(Reuters\)](#)
“Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Kamala Harris have a couple of things in common on the issue of U.S. energy policy: both say they want to expand production and keep prices down for consumers.”
- [Trump has vowed to gut climate rules. Oil lobbyists have a plan ready. \(The Washington Post\)](#)
“As companies fall short on methane flaring emission reductions, a top trade group has crafted a road map for dismantling key Biden administration rules.”
- [TotalEnergies chief warns Donald Trump against cutting climate rules \(Financial Times\)](#)
“Patrick Pouyanné told the Financial Times that if the former US president were to tear up rules governing methane and other emissions it would torpedo the sector's reputation and fuel opposition.”
- [Chinese companies use Biden's climate law to expand their solar dominance \(Politico\)](#)
“The president tried to weaken China's control over solar parts globally by funding U.S. manufacturing plants. But Chinese companies are tapping into the cash.”
- [EU hikes tariffs on Chinese EVs, prompting rebuke from Beijing \(Al Jazeera\)](#)
“China's Commerce Ministry promises to take 'all necessary measures' to protect the interests of Chinese firms.”

Climate movement

- [**The Depths of Their Discontent: Young Americans Are Distraught Over Climate Change \(Inside Climate News\)**](#)

“A new study of 16,000 young people aged 16 to 25 found clear majorities across all regions and political affiliations deeply concerned about the impacts of a warming planet.”

Commentary

- [**What could stop the global green energy race? A Trump victory** | By Pilita Clark \(Financial Times\)](#)

“One candidate, Kamala Harris, wants to hasten the energy transition away from fossil fuels while the other, Donald Trump, wants to slow or stop it.”

- [**The Future of the Planet Hangs on This Vote** | By Margaret Renkl \(The New York Times\)](#)

“If ever we must resist the temptation to fall into despair, surely it is now, with the election polls so close and the future of the planet hanging on what happens Tuesday.”

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