



## **Evolution of U.S. Major Energy Policies from Obama to Trump's Second Term**

This research brief intends to provide a comprehensive list of major U.S. energy policies implemented during each presidential administration, from the Obama era to present. While some of these policies have been subject to legal challenges, the scope of this brief focuses exclusively on outlining the policies themselves, rather than discussing the related legal proceedings or outcomes.

### **President Barack Obama's Major Energy Policies (2009 to 2013)**

- [The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, P.L. No. 111-5](#) (signed into law on February 17, 2009)
  - The Act allocates \$16.8 billion for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Programs and \$4.5 billion to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) for modernizing the electric power grid.
- [Final Rule; Mandatory Reporting of Greenhouse Gases](#), 74 FR 56260 (October 30, 2009)—also known as the GHG Mandatory Reporting Rule
  - The rule requires the monitoring and reporting of GHG emissions from fossil fuel suppliers, industrial gas suppliers, direct emitters, and manufacturers of heavy-duty/off-road vehicles and engines.
- [Final Rule; Mandatory Reporting of Greenhouse Gases: Petroleum and Natural Gas Systems](#), 75 FR 74458 (November 30, 2010)
  - The rule amends the GHG Mandatory Reporting Rule; it requires that petroleum and natural gas facilities emitting 25,000 metric tons or more of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) report their GHG emissions to the EPA.
- [Final Rule; Mandatory Reporting of Greenhouse Gases: Injection and Geological Sequestration of Carbon Dioxide](#), 75 FR 75060 (December 1, 2010)
  - The rule amends the GHG Mandatory Reporting Rule; it requires GHG monitoring and reporting for facilities involved in geologic carbon dioxide injection or sequestration.
- [Final Rule; Oil and Natural Gas Sector: New Source Performance Standards and National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants Reviews](#), 77 FR 49490 (August 16, 2012)
  - The rule updates pollution limits for volatile organic compounds (VOC) and sulfur dioxide from natural gas processing plants, establishes new limits for previously unregulated oil and gas operations, introduces leak detection and repair requirements, and implements new testing, monitoring, and reporting rules.
- [Final Rule; 2017 and Later Model Year Light-Duty Vehicle Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Corporate Average Fuel Economy Standards](#), 77 FR 62624 (October 15, 2012)
  - The rule establishes fuel economy standards for 2017-2021 for cars and light-duty trucks (the equivalent of 54.4 mpg) starting with model years 2017 and later.

- The White House, [President Obama Announces Historic 54.5 mpg Fuel Efficiency Standard](#) (July 29, 2011)
- The White House, [Obama Administration Finalizes Historic 54.5 mpg Fuel Efficiency Standards](#) (August 28, 2012)

### President Barack Obama's Major Energy Policies (2013 to 2017)

- [Final Rule; Standards of Performance for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from New, Modified, and Reconstructed Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units](#), 80 FR 64510 (October 23, 2015)
  - The rule establishes new standards that limit carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from steam-generating units and stationary combustion turbines. It also provides guidelines for states to develop plans to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from existing fossil fuel plants.
- [Final Rule; Carbon Pollution Emissions Guidelines for Existing Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units](#), 80 FR 64662 (October 23, 2015)—also known as the Clean Power Plan
  - The rule sets GHG emission guidelines for existing power plants.
  - The White House, [Climate Change and President Obama's Action Plan](#)
  - The White House, [Remarks by the President in Announcing the Clean Power Plan](#) (August 3, 2015)
- [President Obama's Climate Action Plan](#) (June 2015)
  - The plan focuses on reducing carbon dioxide emissions, addressing methane emissions from the oil and gas sector, expanding renewable energy projects on Federal lands, and strengthening the nation's resilience to climate change impacts.
- [The Paris Agreement](#) (adopted on December 12, 2015; entered into force on November 4, 2016; ratified on September 3, 2016)
  - The White House, [President Obama: The United States Formally Enters the Paris Agreement](#) (September 3, 2016)
  - The White House, [Remarks by the President on the Paris Agreement](#) (October 5, 2016)
- [The Consolidated Appropriations Act, P.L. No. 114-113](#) (signed on December 18, 2015)
  - The law ends the ban on U.S. crude oil exports.
- [Secretary of the Interior, Order No. 3338, Discretionary Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement to Modernize the Federal Coal Program](#) (January 16, 2016)
  - The order introduces a moratorium on the issuance of new Federal coal leases.
- [Final Rule; Oil and Gas and Sulfur Operations in the Outer Continental Shelf-Blowout Preventer Systems and Well Control](#), 81 FR 25888 (April 29, 2016)—also known as the 2016 Well Control Rule
  - The rule responds to past disasters, including the 2010 Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, and reinforces well control equipment and regulations.
- [Final Rule; Oil and Natural Gas Sector: Emission Standards for New, Reconstructed, and Modified Sources](#), 81 FR 35824 (June 3, 2016)
  - The rule sets new standards for GHG emissions and VOCs in the oil and gas sector.
  - The White House, [Administration Takes Historic Action to Reduce Methane Emissions for the Oil and Gas Sector](#) (May 12, 2016)

- [Final Rule; Oil and Gas and Sulfur Operations on the Outer Continental Shelf-Requirements for Exploratory Drilling on the Arctic Outer Continental Shelf](#), 81 FR 46478 (July 15, 2016)—also known as the 2016 Arctic Offshore Drilling Safety Rule
  - The rule sets new and revised regulatory requirements for exploratory drilling in the Arctic Outer Continental Shelf, particularly in the Beaufort Sea and Chukchi Sea.
- [Final Rule; Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Fuel Efficiency Standards for Medium- and Heavy-Duty Engines and Vehicles-Phase 2](#), 81 FR 73478 (October 25, 2016)
  - The rule extends CAFE standards to heavy-duty vehicles.
- [Final Rule; Management of Non-Federal Oil and Gas Rights](#), 81 FR 79948 (November 14, 2026)
  - The rule requires operators to obtain a federal permit to develop oil and gas resources on private lands within the National Wildlife Refuge System, as well as additional permits for each phase of development. It also clarifies royalty obligations.
  - Replaces an outdated policy (NTL-4A issued in January 1980)
- [Final Rule; Waste Prevention, Production Subject to Royalties, and Resource Conservation](#), 81 FR 83008 (November 18, 2016)—also known as the Methane Waste Prevention Rule
  - The rule requires operators to minimize natural gas waste from flaring, venting, and leaks on Federal and Indian lands.

### **President Donald Trump’s Major Energy Policies (2017 to 2021)**

- [Presidential Memorandum Regarding Construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline](#) (January 24, 2017)
  - The memorandum invites TransCanada to re-submit its Keystone XL pipeline application for a Presidential Permit to the U.S. Department of State.
- [Presidential Memorandum Regarding Construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline](#) (January 24, 2017)
  - The memorandum orders the Secretary of the Army to review and expedite the DALP’s construction and operation.
- Executive Order No. 13783, [Promoting Energy Independence and Economic Growth](#) (signed on March 28, 2017)
  - The order directs a review of President Obama’s climate and energy regulations, including the Clean Power Plan, methane emissions requirements, and fuel efficiency standards; lifted the moratorium on new coal mining leases on federal land.
- Executive Order No. 13795, [Implementing an America-First Offshore Energy Strategy](#) (signed on April 28, 2017)
  - The order promotes offshore oil and gas exploration on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), limits the expansion of marine sanctuaries, removes restrictions on energy development in the Bering Sea, reverses prior restrictions on offshore leasing established under prior administrations.
- [The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, P.L. 115-97](#) (signed into law on December 22, 2017)
  - The Act includes provisions allowing oil and gas leasing in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
- [Final Rule; Waste Prevention, Production Subject to Royalties, and Resource Conservation; Rescission or Revision of Certain Requirements](#), 83 FR 49184 (September 28, 2018)
  - The rule revises the 2016 Waste Prevention Rule and reinstates NTL-4A standards for flaring when there are no applicable state or tribal regulations.

- [Final Rule; Oil and Gas and Sulfur Operations in the Outer Continental Shelf-Blowout Preventer Systems and Well Control Revisions](#), 84 FR 21908 (May 15, 2019)
  - The rule revises the 2016 Well Control Rule and encourages offshore energy production.
- [Final Rule; Repeal of the Clean Power Plan; Emission Guidelines for GHG Emissions from Existing Electric Utility Generating Units; Revisions to Emission Guidelines Implementing Regulations](#), 84 FR 32520 (July 8, 2019)—also known as the Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) Rule
  - The rule repeals the Clean Power Plan and establishes new regulations for implementing ACE and future emissions guidelines.
- U.S. Department of State, [Press Statement, On the U.S. Withdrawal from the Paris Agreement](#) (November 4, 2019)
  - The U.S. formally exits from the Paris Agreement.
  - The White House, [Statement by President Trump on the Paris Climate Accord](#) (June 1, 2017)
- [Final Rule; The Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient \(SAFE\) Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks](#), 85 FR 24174 (April 30, 2020)
  - The rule sets new fuel economy standards for model years 2022-2026 and amends carbon dioxide standards for model years 2021 and later.
- [Final Rule; Hazardous Materials: Liquefied Natural Gas by Rail](#), 85 FR 44994 (July 24, 2020)
  - The rule authorizes transportation of LNG by rail
- [Final Rule; Oil and Natural Gas Sector: Emission Standards for New, Reconstructed, and Modified Sources Review](#), 85 FR 57018 (September 14, 2020)
  - The rule amends the 2012 and 2016 oil and gas emissions regulations to reduce unnecessary burdens, rescinds transmission and storage rules and removes methane-specific requirements for production and processing.

### **President Joe Biden’s Major Energy Policies (2021 to 2025)**

- The White House, [Paris Climate Agreement, Acceptance on Behalf of the United States of America](#) (January 20, 2021)
  - The U.S. formally rejoins the Paris Agreement
- Executive Order No. 13990, [Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis](#), 86 FR 7037 (signed on January 20, 2021)
  - The order revokes the Keystone XL Pipeline, imposes a moratorium on new oil and gas leases in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and directs federal agencies to factor the social cost of carbon, methane, and nitrous oxide into their decision-making.
- Executive Order No. 14008, [Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad](#) (signed on January 27, 2021)
  - The order directs a review of renewable energy projects on public lands and offshore waters to increase offshore wind production by 2030, pauses new oil and gas leases on public lands and waters pending an environmental and climate impact review, and eliminates fossil fuel subsidies from the FY 2022 budget.
- [Secretarial Order No. 3401, Comprehensive Analysis and Temporary Halt on all Activities in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Relating to the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program](#) (June 1, 2021)

- The order imposes a moratorium on oil and gas leasing in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
- [U.S. Methane Action Plan](#) (November 2021)
  - The plan outlines strategies to reduce methane pollution from the country's largest sources.
- [The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, P.L. No. 117-58](#) (signed into law on November 15, 2021)—also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
  - The Act allocates \$62 billion to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to promote clean energy projects.
  - U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) website, [How the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will energize America with water power](#) (June 2022)
- [The Inflation Reduction Act, P.L. No. 117-19](#) (signed into law on August 16, 2022)
  - The Act is considered the first significant national legislation addressing climate change and promoting a clean energy economy.
  - U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), [Inflation Reduction Act of 2022](#)
- The White House, [Factsheet: Biden-Harris Administration Announces Actions to Expand Offshore Wind Nationally and Harness More Reliable, Affordable Clean Energy](#) (February 22, 2023)
  - The actions include the first-ever lease sale in the Gulf of Mexico as well as the expansion of the Federal-State Offshore Wind Implementation Partnership with California and Louisiana, among other things.
- [Final Rule; Oil and Gas and Sulfur Operations in the Outer Continental Shelf-Blowout Preventer Systems and Well Control Revisions](#), 88 FR 57334 (August 23, 2023)
  - The rule revises the 2019 Well Control Rule promulgated under the Trump administration.
- [U.S. Methane Action Plan](#) (December 2023)
  - The plan highlights key U.S. actions taken to tackle methane emissions in 2023.
- The White House, [Statement from President Joe Biden on Decision to Pause Pending Approvals of Liquefied Natural Gas Exports](#) (January 26, 2024)
  - President Joe Biden temporarily pauses pending decisions on new LNG export applications to countries that do not have a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the U.S.
  - U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) website, [DOE to update public interest analysis to enhance national security, achieve clean energy goals and continue support for global allies](#) (January 26, 2024)
- [Final Rule; Standards of Performance for New Reconstructed, and Modified Sources and Emissions Guidelines for Existing Sources: Oil and Natural Gas Sector Climate Review](#), 89 FR 16820 (March 8, 2024)
  - The rule sets standards and measures to reduce methane and harmful air pollution from oil and gas operations, including emissions from existing sources nationwide, includes new source performance standards for new, modified, and reconstructed sources, and emissions guidelines for states to limit methane from existing sources.
- [Final Rule; Waste Prevention, Production Subject to Royalties, and Resource Conservation](#), 89 FR 92602 (April 10, 2024)—also known as the Methane Waste Prevention Rule
  - The rule requires operators to obtain a federal permit to develop oil and gas resources on private lands within the National Wildlife Refuge System, as well as additional permits for each phase of development. It also clarifies royalty obligations.

- Replaces an outdated policy (NTL-4A issued in January 1980); earlier efforts to revise the rule in 2016 and 2018 faced legal challenges, preventing full implementation.
- [Final Rule; Management and Protection of the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska](#), 89 FR 38712 (May 7, 2024)
  - The rule does not restrict oil and gas leasing but requires stronger environmental protection and codifies five existing Special Areas.
- [Final Rule; Corporate Average Fuel Economy Standards for Passenger Cars and Light Truck for Model Years 2027 and Beyond and Fuel Efficiency Standards for Heavy-Duty Pickup Trucks and Vans for Model Years 2030 and Beyond](#), 89 FR 52540 (June 24, 2024)
  - The rule increases fuel economy standards for passenger cars, light trucks, heavy-duty pickup trucks and vans.
- [Presidential Memorandum; Withdrawal of Certain Areas of the United States Outer Continental Shelf from Oil and Natural Gas Leasing](#) (January 17, 2025)
  - The rule prevents future oil and gas leasing in areas of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, the Gulf of Mexico and the northern Bering Sea.
  - The White House, [Statement from President Joe Biden on Protecting America's Ocean and Coasts from Offshore Oil and Gas Drilling](#) (January 6, 2025)

### **President Donald Trump's Major Energy Policies (2025 to present)**

- Presidential Memorandum, [Temporary withdrawal of all areas on the Outer Continental Shelf from Offshore Wind Leasing and Review of the Federal Government's Leasing and Permitting Practices for Wind Projects](#) (January 20, 2025)
  - The memorandum temporarily halts the consideration of new or renewed wind energy leases in the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) for electricity generation but does not affect leasing for other purposes such as oil, gas, minerals, or environmental conservation.
- Executive Order No. 14162, [Putting America First in International Environmental Agreements](#) (signed on January 20, 2025)
  - The order withdraws the United States from the Paris Agreement
- Executive Order No. 14154, [Unleashing American Energy](#) (signed on January 20, 2025)
  - The order eliminates regulatory barriers to energy production, opens federal lands for oil and gas extraction, reverses policies promoting electric vehicle production. It suspends funding from the Inflation Reduction Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law that do not support the above objectives. It disbands the Interagency Working Group on the Social Cost of Greenhouse Gases. It also directs to resume consideration of the review process for pending LNG export applications to countries without a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the U.S.
  - U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), [U.S. Department of Energy Reverses Biden LNG Pause, Restores Trump Energy Dominance Agenda](#) (January 21, 2025)
- Executive Order No. 14156, [Declaring a National Energy Emergency](#) (signed on January 20, 2025)
  - The order declares a national energy emergency and lays out steps to address said emergency, including expanding energy production and infrastructure through emergency powers, using eminent domain or the Defense Production Act to accelerate projects, allowing year-round sales of E15 gasoline, and accelerate energy infrastructure projects.

- Executive Order No. 14148, [Initial Rescissions of Harmful Executive Orders and Actions](#) (signed on January 20, 2025)
  - The order revokes previous executive orders and presidential memoranda related to energy policy issued by the prior administration.
- Executive Order No. 14153, [Unleashing Alaska’s Extraordinary Resource Potential](#), 90 FR 8347 (signed on January 20, 2025)
  - The order reopens oil and gas leasing in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) and reverses prior restrictions on oil drilling in the National Petroleum Reserve.
- Secretary of the Interior, [Order No. 3415, Temporary Suspension of Delegated Authority](#) (January 20, 2025)
  - The order temporarily halts the approval of renewable energy projects on federally owned lands and offshore areas. The pause is set to last 60 days, unless modified or revoked, and applies to leases, amendments, right-of-way approvals, contracts, and other government authorizations required for renewable energy development.
- Presidential Memorandum, [Temporary Withdrawal of All Areas on the Outer Continental Shelf from Offshore Wind Leasing and Review of the Federal Government’s Leasing and Permitting Practices for Wind Projects](#) (signed on January 20, 2025)
  - The memorandum directs the temporary withdrawal of offshore areas from wind energy leasing starting January 21, 2025, until further notice.
- U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), [Memorandum: Fixing the CAFE Program](#) (January 28, 2025)
  - The memorandum requires the review and revision of all Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards established since 2022.
- Executive Order No. 14153, [Unleashing Alaska’s Extraordinary Resource Potential](#) (signed on January 29, 2025)
  - The order seeks to maximize Alaska’s natural resource production, accelerate permitting and leasing for energy projects, and capitalize on Alaska’s LNG potential. It directs all agencies to expedite permits for pipelines and other export infrastructure, begin development in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and fully develop the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska.
- Executive Order No. 14193, [Imposing Duties to Address the Flow of Illicit Drugs Across our Northern Border](#) (signed on February 1, 2025)
  - The order imposes a 10% tariff on Canadian energy-related imports. The specific energy products affected are defined in Executive Order 14156, Declaring a National Energy Emergency.
  - [Factsheet: President Donald Trump proceeds with tariffs on imports from Canada and Mexico](#) (March 3, 2025)
- Secretary of the Interior, [Orders on Energy Policy](#) (February 3, 2025)
  - The Secretary of the Interior issued five orders relating to U.S. energy policy: (1) Order 3417 declares a “national energy emergency” and accelerates permitting, leasing, development, and production of all energy resources on Federal lands and the Outer Continental Shelf; (2) Order 3418 seeks to “unleash American Energy” by eliminating regulations, revoking prior executive orders, and promoting energy exploration; (3) Order 3419 rescinds clean energy and climate policies; (4) Order 3420 removes regulatory barriers restricting energy development and leasing in the Outer Continental Shelf; and (5) Order 3422 prioritizes the expansion of Alaska’s LNG industry, and expedites the permitting and leasing of energy projects in Alaska.

- Executive Order No. 14196, [A Plan for Establishing a United States Sovereign Wealth Fund](#) (signed on February 3, 2025)
  - The order directs Secretaries of the Treasury and Commerce to develop a comprehensive plan for creating a U.S. sovereign wealth fund.
  - [Factsheet: President Donald Trump orders plan for a United States Sovereign Wealth Fund](#)—outlines potential assets for investment, including U.S. natural resource reserves.
- Executive Order No. 14213, [Establishing the National Energy Dominance Council](#) (signed on February 14, 2025)
  - The order establishes the National Energy Dominance Council, a new body within the Executive Office of the President. Its purpose is to provide guidance to the President on expanding U.S. energy production.
- U.S. EPA, [Ahead of Summer Driving Season, EPA Allows Expanded E15 Access to Midwest States Year-Round](#) (February 21, 2025)
  - The order allows year-round E15 sales in eight Midwestern states starting April 28, 2025, per governors' requests; announces future legislative effort in Congress to allow year-round E15 sales nationwide. If Congress does not act before the summer driving season, the EPA may issue emergency fuel waivers under the Clean Air Act to temporarily allow E15 sales nationwide.



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