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Changes to the State Department's Office of Global Change Description

The description paragraph for the Office of Global Change of the State Department has been updated several times resulting in significant changes. The terms “adaptation” and “sustainable landscapes” have been added, while the term “greenhouse gas” has been removed. In addition, several links, including one to the Climate Action Report, were removed.

Description

There were several changes to the description of the Office of Global Change of the State Department over the course of the past month. First, between January 6 and January 24, 2017, several sidebar links related to climate change frameworks were removed, and then, between January 24 and 25, 2017, the main paragraph description of the office was deleted. Later, between January 25 and 26, 2017, a new description paragraph was added with significant content changes as compared to the previous version, and finally, between January 26 and February 2, 2017, an “Archives” link was added to the sidebar.

Note: changes described in screenshot 1.1 were referenced in articles in [Business Insider](#) and [the Intercept](#).

The most notable changes are summarized here:

1. Removal of links to the “Climate Action Report” (screenshot 1.1)
2. Significant wording and content changes to the office description (screenshot 1.5)
 - a. Removed mention of “greenhouse gas emissions” and this sentence, in particular: “The working partnerships the United States has created or strengthened with other major economies has reinforced the importance of results-driven action both internationally and domestically and are achieving measurable impacts now to help countries reduce their long-term greenhouse gas emissions.”
 - b. The terms “adaptation” and “sustainable landscapes” have been added.

Page 1: Office of Global Change (Department of State)

- URL: <https://www.state.gov/e/oes/climate/>

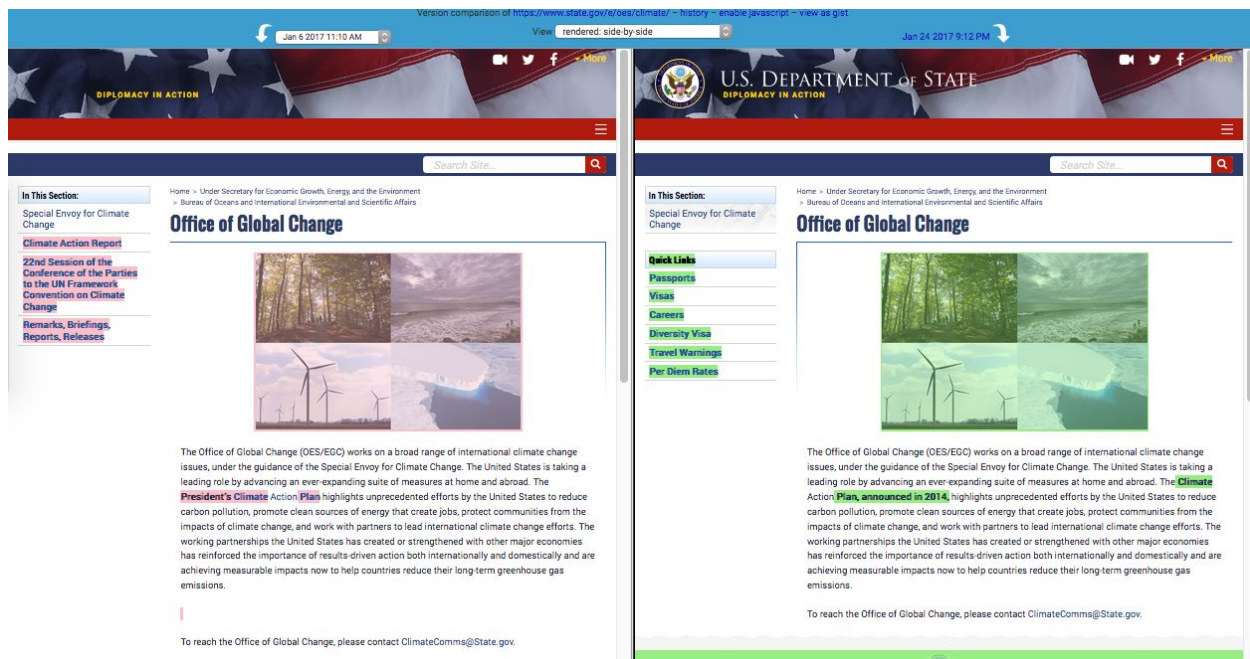
Screenshot 1.1

- Side-by-side: 1/6/2016 - 1/24/2017
- Change occurred between **Jan 23 2017 9:39 PM ET** and **Jan 24 2017 9:13 PM ET**

These changes were first reported in [Report 1](#) (Page 1, comparison 2), which led to articles in [the Intercept](#) and [Business Insider](#).

(1.1a) Removal of sidebar links to “Climate Action Report”, “22nd Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change”, and “Remarks, Briefings, Reports, References”

(1.1b) Removal of the descriptor “President’s” from “Climate Action Plan”

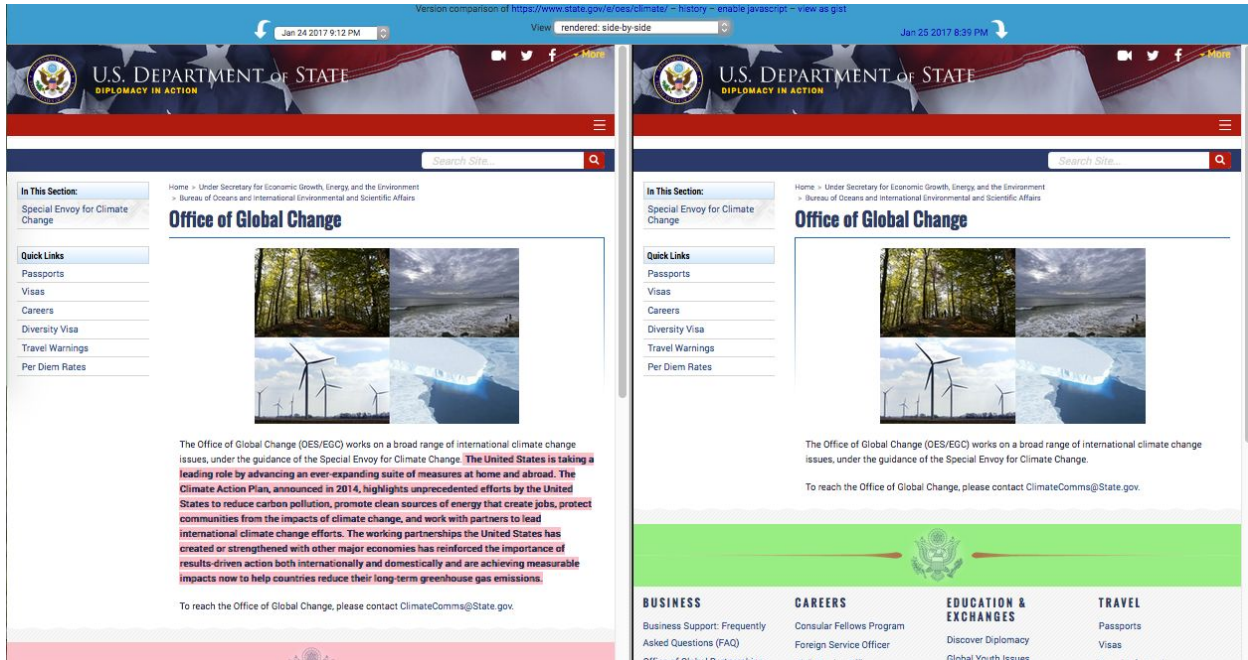


Screenshot 1.2

- Side-by-side: 1/24/2017 - 1/25/2017
- Change occurred between **Jan 24 2017 9:13 PM ET** and **Jan 25 2017 8:39 PM ET**

(1.2a) Removal of office description paragraph

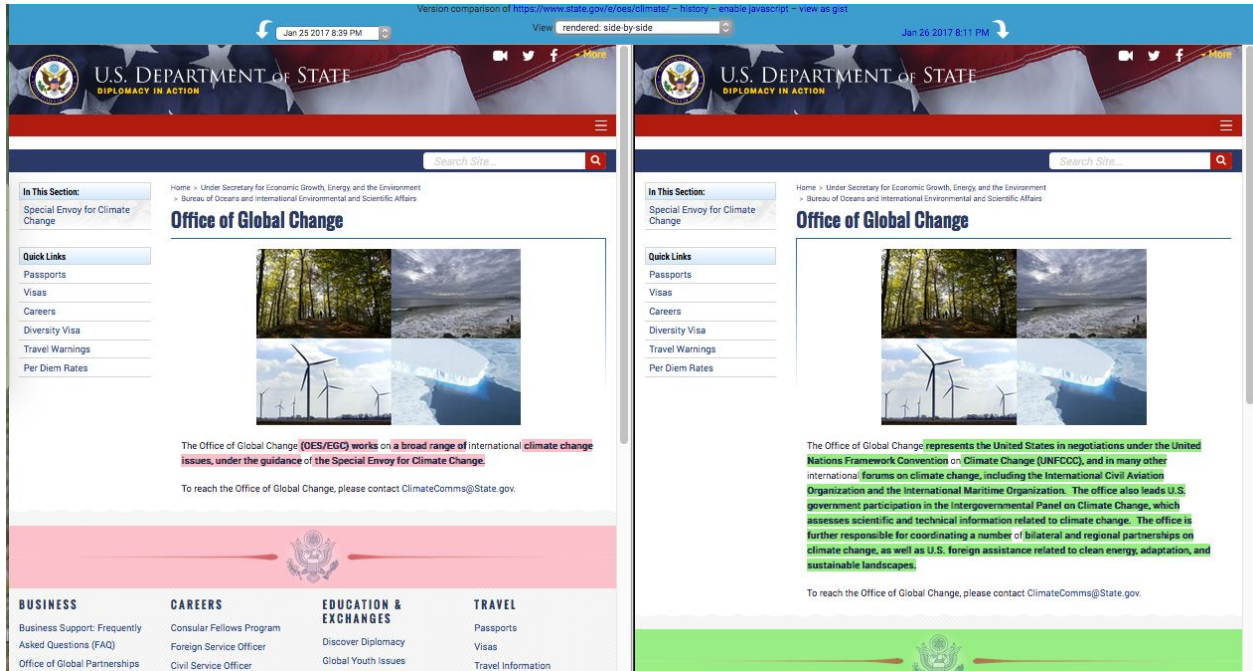
These changes were first reported in [Report 1](#) (Page 1, comparison 2) , which led to articles in [the Intercept](#) and [Business Insider](#).



Screenshot 1.3

- Side-by-side: 1/25/2017 - 1/26/2017
- Change occurred between **Jan 25 2017 8:39 PM ET** and **Jan 26 2017 8:11 PM ET**

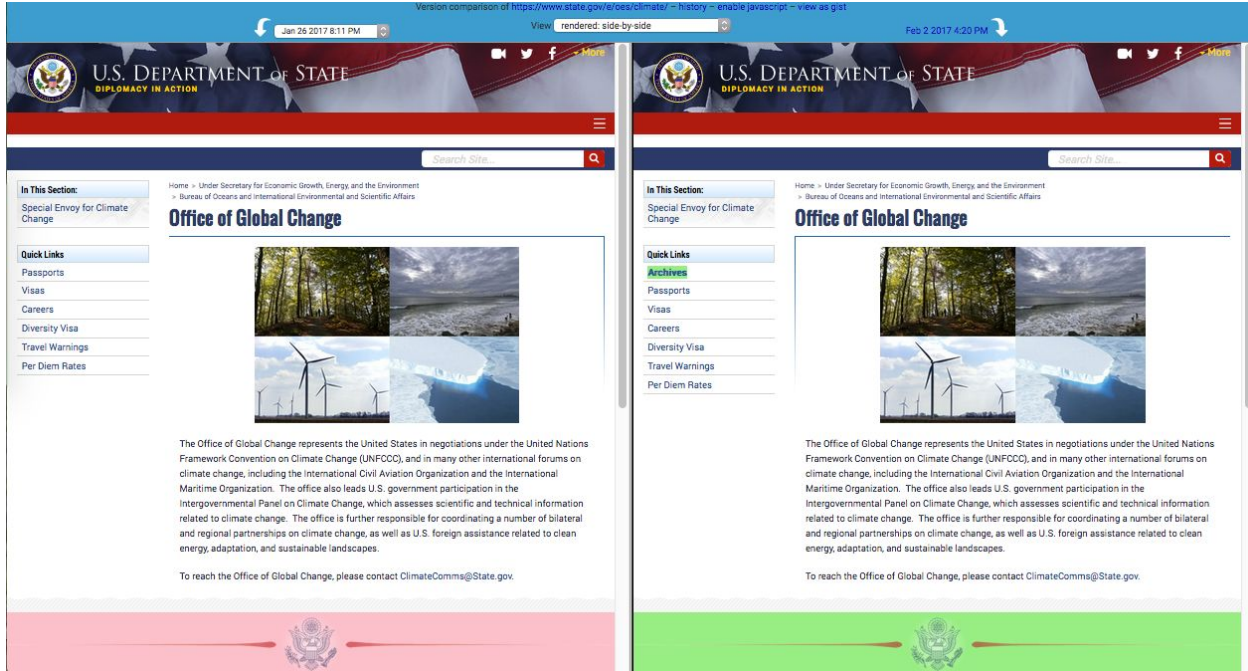
(1.3a) Addition of office description paragraph (see screenshot 1.5 for more comparison of changes between previous and current office description)



Screenshot 1.4

- Side-by-side: 1/26/2017 - 2/2/2017
- Change occurred between **Feb 1 2017 4:53 PM ET** and **Feb 2 2017 4:20 PM ET**

(1.4a) Addition of “Archives” link in sidebar



Screenshot 1.5

- Side-by-side: 1/6/2017 - 2/2/2017 (this shows the first captured page version compared with the last captured version)

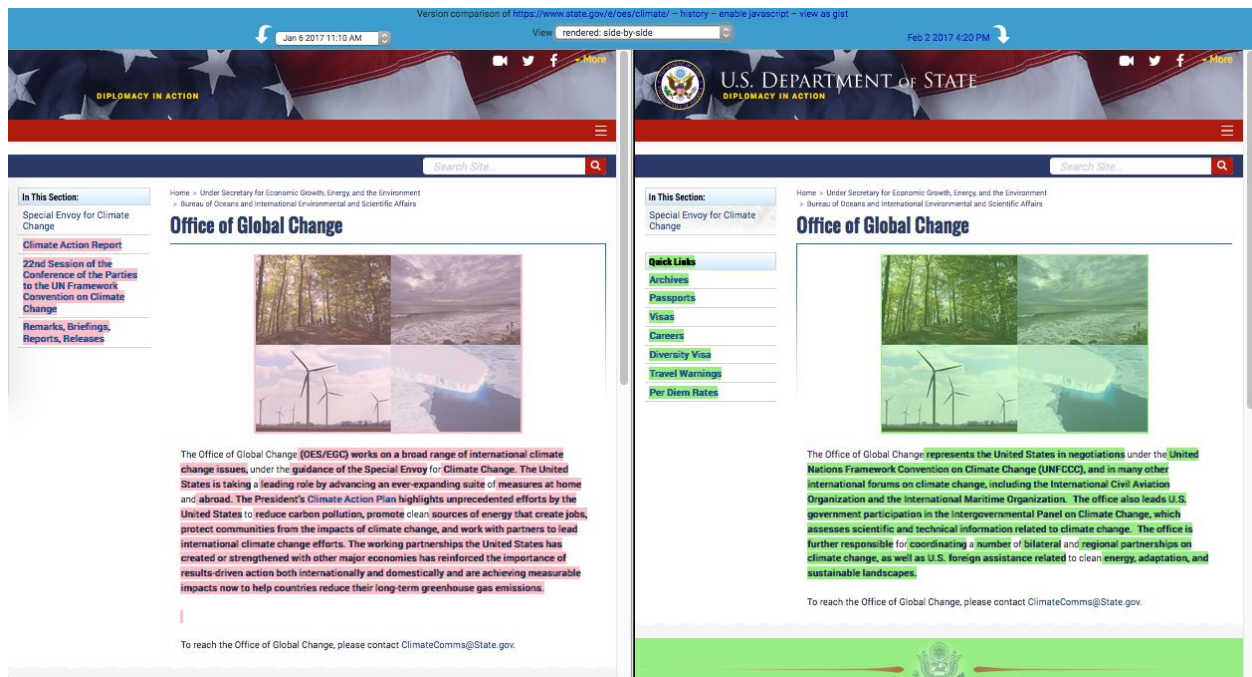
(1.5a) Significant wording and content changes to the office description (screenshot 1.5)

Previous description of office:

“The Office of Global Change (OES/EGC) works on a broad range of international climate change issues, under the guidance of the Special Envoy for Climate Change. The United States is taking a leading role by advancing an ever-expanding suite of measures at home and abroad. The President’s Climate Action Plan highlights unprecedented efforts by the United States to reduce carbon pollution, promote clean sources of energy that create jobs, protect communities from the impacts of climate change, and work with partners to lead international climate change efforts. The working partnerships the United States has created or strengthened with other major economies has reinforced the importance of results-driven action both internationally and domestically and are achieving measurable impacts now to help countries reduce their long-term greenhouse gas emissions.”

Current description of office:

“The Office of Global Change represents the United States in negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and in many other international forums on climate change, including the International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Maritime Organization. The office also leads the US government participation in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which assesses scientific and technical information related to climate change. The office is further responsible for coordinating a number of bilateral and regional partnerships on climate change, as well as US foreign assistance related to clean energy, adaptation, and sustainable landscapes.”



Internet Archive Page Status:

Original version of the page captured on January 2, 2017:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20170102202342/https://www.state.gov/e/oes/climate/>

Changed version of the page captured on January 25, 2017: (very short description of office)

<https://web.archive.org/web/20170125215346/https://www.state.gov/e/oes/climate/>

Changed version of page captured on January 26, 2017: (updated description of office)

<https://web.archive.org/web/20170126142454/https://www.state.gov/e/oes/climate/>

Current version of page captured on February 9, 2017: (archives link added)

<https://web.archive.org/web/20170209220615/https://www.state.gov/e/oes/climate/>

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Appendix:

1. Added bullet point to screenshots 1.1-1.4 indicating time window during which change could have occurred [Updated: 5pm ET 4/12/17]