



envirodatagov.org

Website Monitoring Update - 1/26/17

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Items in **blue** contain important contextual information that explains potential limitations to the significance of our finding.

Items listed below as “Key Changes” are corroborated: 1) significant language changes, 2) consequential links that have been deleted, or 3) pages that have been removed.

Pages listed as **“removed”** may appear in a federal archive, such as the State Department’s <https://2009-2017.state.gov/>, but have been completely decoupled from their prior URL and relegated to historical archives.

Major Changes:

State Department - Climate Change:

Many of the pages listed below as “removed” have been moved to the State Department archives: <https://2009-2017.state.gov/>, but no former links to these pages from other URLs will reach them.

The alterations and deletions of pages listed are not simply in specific reference to outgoing administration members or their goals, but often remove information relating to current policy of the US government - relating, for example, to the Montreal Protocol HFC Amendment (see #3 below).

1. **Office of Global Change:** URL: <https://www.state.gov/e/oes/climate/>

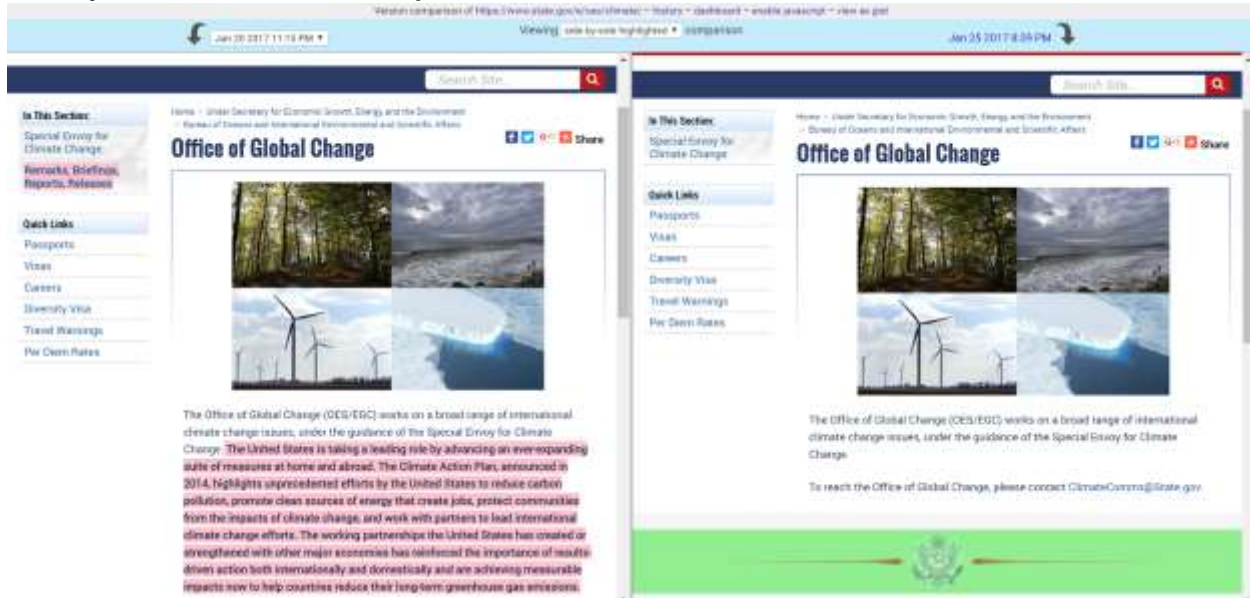
• **Key Changes shown in Side-by-Side comparison #1**

- Paragraph about Climate Action Plan removed during Trump Administration
- Link to “Remarks, Briefings, Reports, Releases” page deleted

▪ Alterations to this page can be found in the Internet Archive:

<http://web.archive.org/web/20170120155020/http://www.state.gov/e/oes/climate/mks/index.htm> - *Historical versions of this page have a more substantial left menu, but these links are not functioning within the Internet Archive currently*

Side-by-side View: 1/20/17 11:15pm - 1/25/17



1. Office of Global Change, cont.

- **Key Changes shown in Side-by-Side comparison #2**

- Link to "[22nd Session of the Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change](#)" deleted.

- Webpage on COP22 also removed. A snapshot of its prior contents has been stored at the Internet Archive here:

<http://web.archive.org/web/20170121023551/https://www.state.gov/e/oes/climate/cop22/index.htm>

Side-by-side View: 1/10/17 - 1/20/17 11:15PM

The image shows a side-by-side comparison of the Office of Global Change webpage. The left page is dated Jan 10 2017 7:27 AM and the right page is dated Jan 20 2017 11:15 PM. Both pages feature a header with the title 'Office of Global Change' and a navigation menu. The main content area contains a large image of wind turbines and a text block. The text block on the left page mentions 'Climate Action Plan, announced in 2014', while the text block on the right page mentions 'Climate Action Plan, announced in 2015'. The right page also includes a 'Quick Links' section with links to 'Partners', 'News', 'Events', 'Diversity Visa', 'Travel Warnings', and 'Hot News Items'.

- A number of other pages relating to COP22 and the Paris Climate Accords that are linked from this page have also been removed. For example: "The Paris Agreement To Enter Into Force" - stored at the Internet Archive on 12/31/16 here: <http://web.archive.org/web/20161223230046/https://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2016/10/262822.htm>

12/31/16 from Internet Archive:

The image shows a screenshot of the 'The Paris Agreement To Enter Into Force' webpage from the Internet Archive, dated December 31, 2016. The page features a header with the title 'The Paris Agreement To Enter Into Force' and a navigation menu. The main content area contains a large image of wind turbines and a text block. The text block mentions 'Paris Agreement' and 'Paris Agreement'. The page also includes a 'Quick Links' section with links to 'Partners', 'News', 'Events', 'Diversity Visa', 'Travel Warnings', and 'Hot News Items'.

1/26/17 8:05AM - Live at <https://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2016/10/262822.htm>:

The screenshot shows the U.S. Department of State website with a 404 error message. The header features the Department of State logo and navigation links: SECRETARY OF STATE, ABOUT, WHAT WE DO, POLICY ISSUES, COUNTRIES & REGIONS, and PRESS. A search bar is located at the top right. On the left side, there are navigation menus for 'In This Section' (with links for 'This Week', 'Press Room', 'News', 'Country', 'Country Visa', 'Travel Warnings', and 'For Your State') and 'Quick Links' (with links for 'Persons', 'Visas', 'Country Visa', 'Travel Warnings', and 'For Your State'). The main content area displays the error message: 'We're sorry, that page can't be found.' Below this, it provides suggestions for finding information on the website, including checking for typos, using the site's search engine, and navigating through the site's structure. At the bottom, it says 'If you still cannot find something, contact us. Thank you for your interest.'

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
SUPREMACY IN ACTION

SECRETARY OF STATE ABOUT WHAT WE DO POLICY ISSUES COUNTRIES & REGIONS PRESS

In This Section
This Week
Press Room
News
Country
Country Visa
Travel Warnings
For Your State

Quick Links
Persons
Visas
Country Visa
Travel Warnings
For Your State

We're sorry, that page can't be found.

Here are some suggestions for finding information on the U.S. Department of State website:

- Check our website page for links to previous Administrations websites
- Check the URL, and change any upper case letters to lower case. URLs for some sites are case-sensitive and use all lower case.
- Try the search engine located on every page
- Check our "A to Z subject index" for topics, countries, organizations
- Review the State's "Business and Office" organizational list
- Check out top index pages
 - Secretary of State
 - About the State Department
 - What We Do
 - Policy Issues
 - Countries
 - News
- Read the list of U.S. Embassies, Consulates, and Diplomatic Missions
- For career information, visit careers.state.gov
- For Travel information, visit travel.state.gov

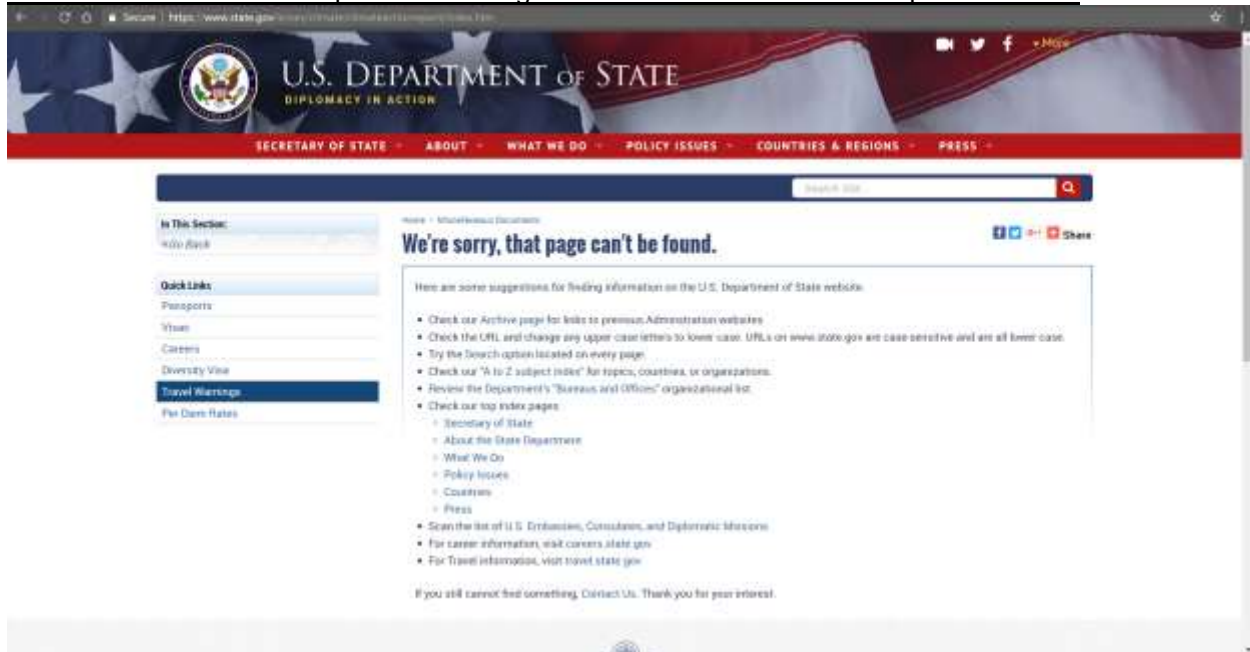
If you still cannot find something, contact us. Thank you for your interest.

1. Office of Global Change, cont.

- **Key Change #3**

- Link to "[Climate Action Report](#)" page deleted
- Page also removed. A snapshot of its prior content from 1/14/17 has been stored at the Internet Archive here:
<http://web.archive.org/web/20170114015511/https://www.state.gov/e/oes/climate/climateactionreport/index.htm>

1/26/17 8:05AM - Live at <https://www.state.gov/e/oes/climate/climateactionreport/index.htm>:



1/14/17 from Internet Archive:



2. Office of the Special Envoy for Climate Change: URL: <https://www.state.gov/s/climate/>

- **Key Changes from Side-by-Side View**

- [“Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate”](#) link deleted
 - Significant number of links to pages also removed. A snapshot of its prior contents from 1/19/17 is stored at the Internet Archive here: <http://web.archive.org/web/20170120144745/https://www.state.gov/e/oes/climate/mem/index.htm>

Side-by-side View: 1/6/17 - 1/20/17 11:13PM

The screenshot displays a side-by-side comparison of the Office of the Special Envoy for Climate Change website. The left version is dated Jan 6 2017 11:11 AM, and the right version is dated Jan 20 2017 11:13 PM. The main content area on the left features a headline: "The Obama Administration is committed to combating climate change and meeting one of the greatest challenges of the 21st century. To address this global threat, the Office of the Special Envoy for Climate Change (SECC) is actively engaging partners and allies around the world both bilaterally and through a wide variety of multilateral forums." Below this, it mentions the Paris Agreement and the rapid entry into force of the Paris Agreement. The right version shows a similar headline but with a different sub-headline: "The Office of the Special Envoy for Climate Change (SECC) is responsible for developing, implementing, and overseeing U.S. international policy on climate change. SECC actively engages partners and allies around the world representing the United States at the multilateral level both bilaterally and through a wide variety of multilateral forums." The bottom navigation menu includes BUSINESS, CAREERS, EDUCATION & EXCHANGES, and TRAVEL.

1/19/17 from Internet Archive:

The screenshot shows the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate website from the Internet Archive, dated 1/19/17. The main content area features a headline: "Climate Change is One of the Defining Challenges of our Time" and a quote from President Obama: "I don't think I have to emphasize that climate change is one of the defining challenges of our time. The science is clear and conclusive, and the impacts can no longer be ignored. Our oceans are melting. Sea levels are rising. Our oceans are becoming more acidic. And we've already seen its effects on weather patterns, our food and water sources, our health and our habitats. Every nation on this planet is at risk, and just as no one nation is responsible for climate change, no one nation can address it alone." Below the quote, it states that President Barack Obama announced the launch of the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate on March 26, 2009. The 17 major economies participating in the forum are listed: Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, the European Union, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Russia, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Denmark is also mentioned as the President of the December 2009 Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. A list of Chair's Summary and Remarks is provided, including: Sixteenth Leaders' Representatives Meeting, 24 September 2013 - New York City; Sixteenth Leaders' Representatives Meeting, 18 July 2013 - Warsaw, Poland; Fifteenth Leaders' Representatives Meeting, 12 April 2013 - Washington, DC; Fourteenth Leaders' Representatives Meeting, 27 September 2012 - New York City; Thirteenth Leaders' Representatives Meeting, 17 April 2012 - Rome, Italy; and Twelfth Leaders' Representatives Meeting, 17-18 November 2011 - Arlington, VA.

1/26/17 8:05AM - Live at <https://www.state.gov/e/oes/climate/mem/index.htm>:

The screenshot shows the U.S. Department of State website header with the logo and navigation menu. Below the header is a search bar and a sidebar with "In This Section" and "Quick Links". The main content area displays a 404 error message: "We're sorry, that page can't be found." Below the error message is a list of suggestions for finding information on the website, including checking the Archive page, using the search option, and reviewing the "Business and Offices" organizational list. The footer of the page is partially visible at the bottom.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIPLOMACY IN ACTION

SECRETARY OF STATE - ABOUT - WHAT WE DO - POLICY ISSUES - COUNTRIES & REGIONS - PRESS

Home - [Government Documents](#)

We're sorry, that page can't be found.

Here are some suggestions for finding information on the U.S. Department of State website.

- Check our [Archive page](#) for links to previous Administration websites
- Check the URL, and change any upper case letters to lower case. URLs on [www.state.gov](#) are case sensitive and are all lower case
- Try the search option located on every page
- Check our "A to Z subject index" for topics, countries, or organizations
- Review the Department's "Business and Offices" organizational list
- Check our top index pages
 - Secretary of State
 - About the State Department
 - What We Do
 - Policy Issues
 - Countries
 - Press
- Scan the list of U.S. Embassies, Consulates, and Diplomatic Missions
- For career information, visit [careers.state.gov](#)
- For Travel information, visit [travel.state.gov](#)

If you still cannot find something, Contact Us. Thank you for your interest

3. Phasing Down HFCs: URL: <https://www.state.gov/e/oes/hfcs/index.htm>

- **Key Changes from Side-by-Side View**

- Links to “International Statement on HFCs”, “Secretary Kerry’s Statement on the Montreal Protocol HFC Amendment”, and others deleted.

- Page also removed. A snapshot of it’s prior content from 12/31/16 has been stored at the Internet Archive here:

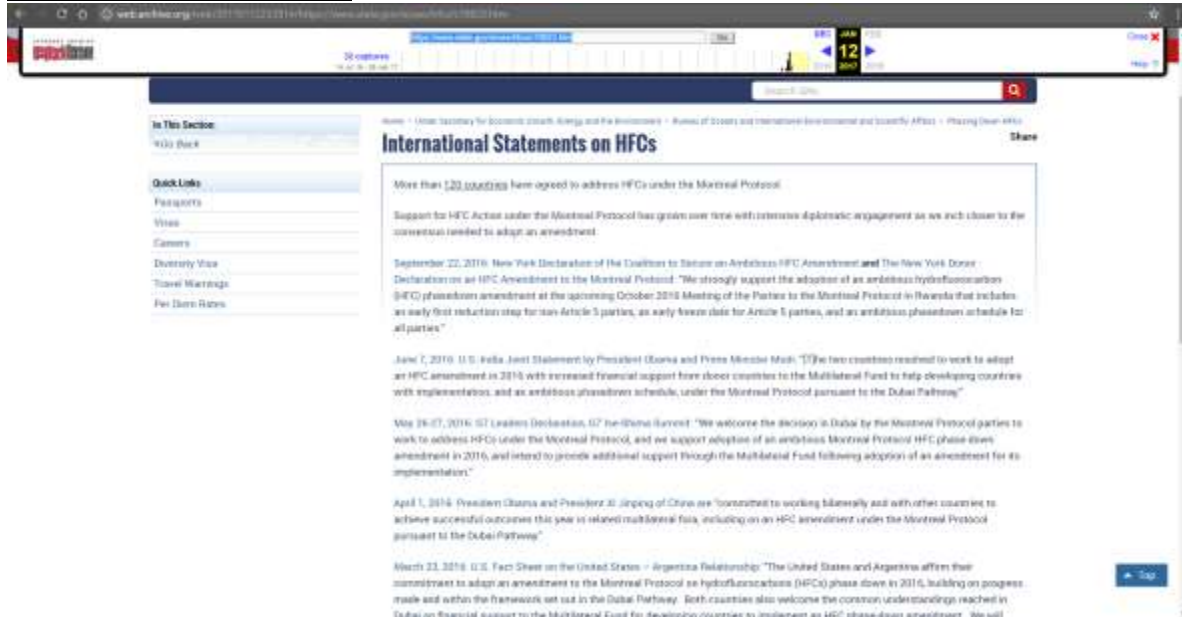
<http://web.archive.org/web/20161223230006/https://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2016/10/263170.htm>

Side-by-side View: 1/10/17 - 1/20/17 11:14PM

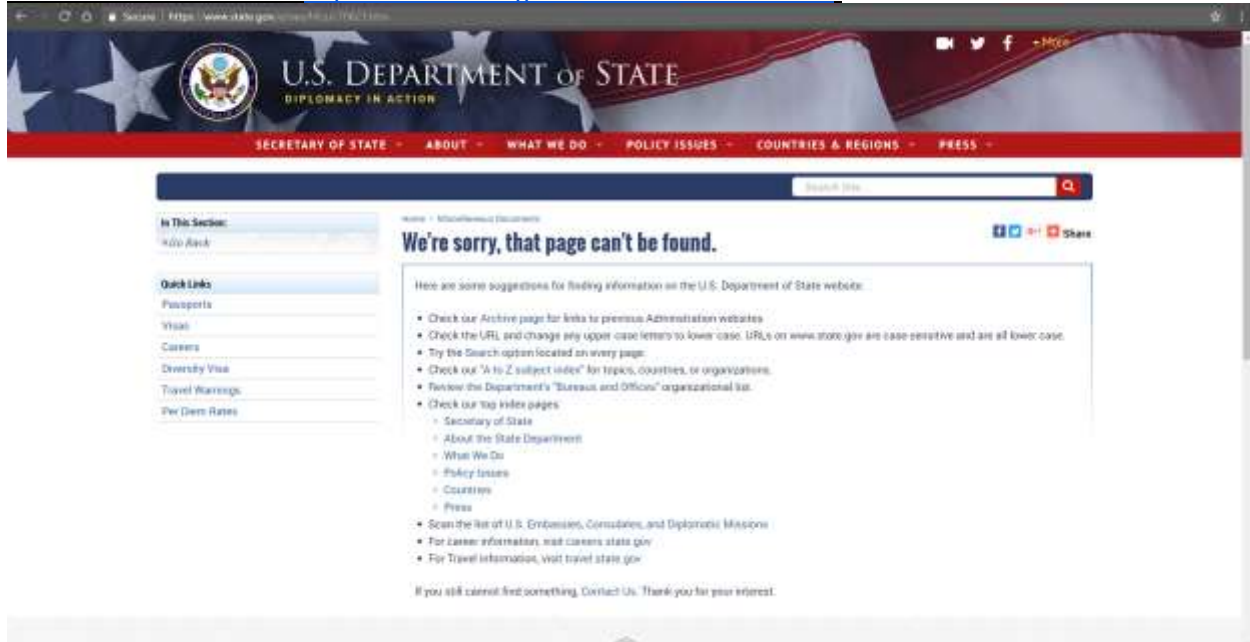
The image displays two side-by-side screenshots of the U.S. Department of State website, illustrating changes to the 'Phasing Down HFCs' page. Both screenshots show the top navigation bar with the U.S. Department of State logo and the slogan 'DIPLOMACY IN ACTION'. The left screenshot, dated Jan 10 2017 11:03 AM, shows a page with a sidebar on the left containing 'In This Section', 'Diplomacy in Action', 'Additional Resources', and 'Quick Links'. The main content area features the title 'Phasing Down HFCs' and a sub-header 'Phasing down HFCs under the Montreal Protocol'. Below this, there is a quote: 'Nearly 200 Parties to the Montreal Protocol agreed to an amendment to phase down the use and production of potent greenhouse gases known as hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). The legal Amendment we adopted could avoid up to half a degree Celsius of warming by the end of the century.' This is followed by a link to 'Secretary of State John Kerry, October 18, 2016' and a section titled 'Montreal Protocol' which describes the protocol's success and the impact of HFCs. The right screenshot, dated Jan 20 2017 11:14 PM, shows a similar page but with a different layout. The sidebar on the left now includes 'Passports', 'Visas', 'Careers', 'Diversity Visa', 'Travel Warnings', and 'Pet Care Rates'. The main content area features the title 'Phasing Down HFCs' and a sub-header 'Phasing down HFCs under the Montreal Protocol'. Below this, there is a quote: 'The Montreal Protocol has proven to be innovative and successful, and is the first treaty to achieve universal ratification by all countries in the world. Leveraging global participation, the Montreal Protocol Parties have placed the ozone layer that was in extreme peril on a path to repair, and prevented widespread devastating impacts such as increased incidence of skin cancer, damage to agricultural crops, and disruption of marine ecosystems. By 2035, the Parties will have eliminated the vast majority of ozone depleting substances globally. And, because most of these substances are also potent climate gases, this phase-out has also been a huge success in slowing global warming.' This is followed by a section titled 'The development of alternatives to ozone depleting substances have been instrumental to saving the ozone layer, but are not without their challenges. HFCs are widely used alternatives to ozone depleting substances such as hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) and chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) that will now be phased out under the Montreal Protocol. Many HFCs are also potent climate gases, so while an improvement over their predecessors, the global community has more work to do to ensure that our refrigeration, air conditioning, insulation, and other common uses for HFCs do not contribute to future climate change.' Below this is a section titled 'Assessment to the Montreal Protocol on Phasing Down HFCs' which states: 'On October 14, 2016, the Montreal Protocol adopted an amendment to phase down the use of hydrofluorocarbons worldwide. This ambitious amendment confirms the momentum of the Paris Agreement on climate change and is a critically important step in protecting our planet.' This is followed by a link to 'Whitehouse Fact Sheet on the Montreal Protocol HFC Amendment' and a link to 'Secretary Kerry's Statement on the Montreal Protocol HFC Amendment'. The footer of the right screenshot includes 'BUSINESS', 'CAREERS', 'EDUCATION & EXCHANGES', and 'TRAVEL' with sub-links like 'Business Support', 'Consular Fellow Program', 'Discover Diplomacy', and 'Passports'.

- Link to “[International Statements on HFCs](https://www.state.gov/e/oes/hfcs/c70623.htm)” page deleted - Page also removed - snapshot of its prior contents from 1/13/17 has been stored at the Internet Archive here:
<http://web.archive.org/web/20170112232814/https://www.state.gov/e/oes/hfcs/c70623.htm>

1/12/17 from Internet Archive:



1/29/17 11:50AM Live at <https://www.state.gov/e/oes/hfcs/c70623.htm>:



Department of Energy - Climate Change:

Disclaimer: We cannot currently prove that these changes to the DOE website occurred during the Trump administration - it is only clear that they occurred between 1/17/17 and 1/26/17

Disclaimer: The [EERE's Climate Action Plan page](#) remains unchanged from 1/17/17

Update – 1/27/17: The DOE's "Climate Action Plan" page is live again and the links from the other pages have also been reverted. Less significant changes relating to Obama administration work and personnel (certain images and blurs) are still removed.

Note that the reverted DOE's "Climate Action Plan" page itself still has text/information regarding Obama's administration: "Since President Obama's announcement of the Climate Action Plan (CAP) on June 25, 2013, the Department of Energy (DOE) ..."

The fact that this text remains on this page that was recently put back online, while other Obama references on nearby pages have been removed, may indicate something about the process through which these decisions are being made - we no additional evidence relating to this discrepancy.

1. Climate Action Plan: <https://www.energy.gov/ia/initiatives/climate-action-plan>

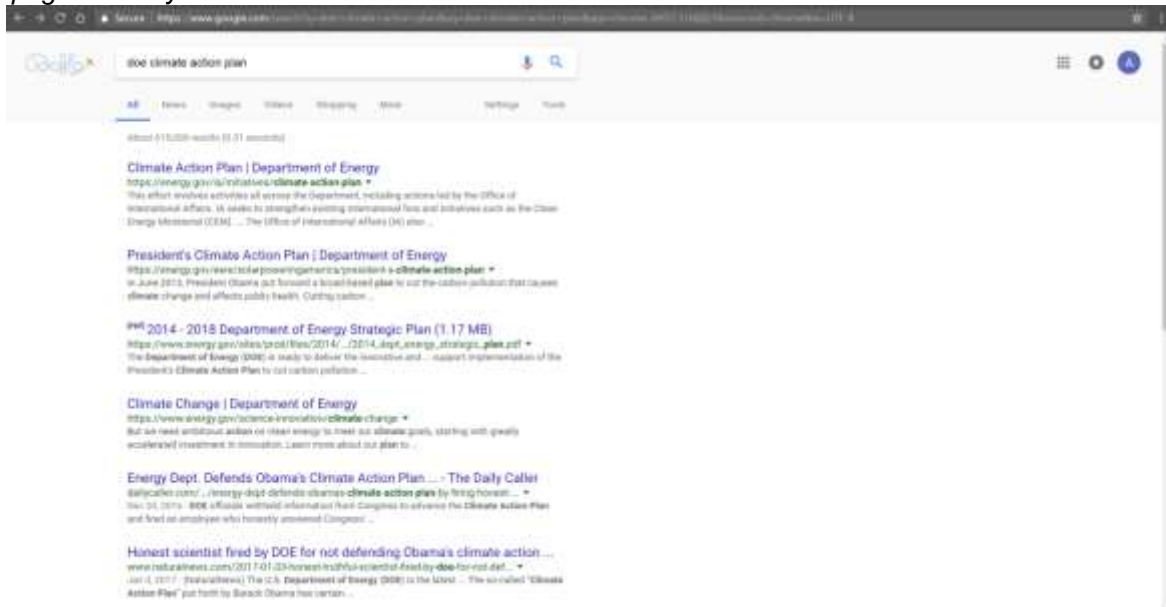
- **Key Change:**

- The DoE's Climate Action Plan has been removed, and links to it from other pages have been deleted.

Side-by-side View: 1/17/17 - 1/26/17

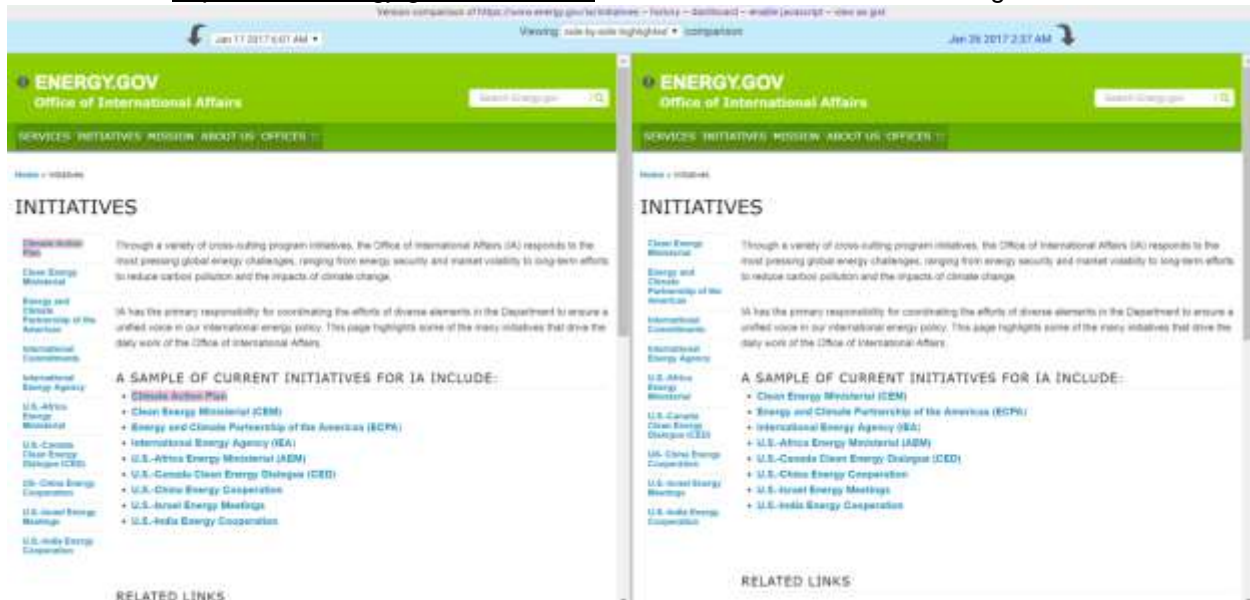
The image shows a side-by-side comparison of the DOE website. The left panel shows the 'CLIMATE ACTION PLAN' page as it appeared on January 17, 2017. The right panel shows the same page as it appeared on January 26, 2017, which is an 'ACCESS DENIED' page. The 'ACCESS DENIED' page includes a message: 'You are not authorized to view this page.' Below the message are links for 'CAREERS & INTERNSHIPS' and 'CONTACT US'. The 'CLIMATE ACTION PLAN' page on the left has a header with 'ENERGY.GOV' and 'U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'. It features a navigation menu with 'HOME', 'ABOUT US', 'MISSION', 'PROGRAMS', and 'OFFICES'. The main content area is titled 'CLIMATE ACTION PLAN' and contains several sections of text, including a paragraph about President Obama's announcement of the CAP on June 25, 2013, and a section about the Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM) platform. The footer of the 'CLIMATE ACTION PLAN' page includes the U.S. Department of Energy logo and the text '1100 Independence Ave. Washington, DC 20585-1204'.

As of 8:57AM on 1/26/17 Google still indexes the above page with its old text although, as shown above, the page currently reads "Access Denied".



Side-by-side View: 1/17/17 - 1/26/17 - Office of International Affairs – Initiatives.

- URL: <https://www.energy.gov/ia/initiatives> - Link to dead "Climate Action Page" deleted



Side-by-side View: 1/17/17 - 1/26/17 - Clean Energy Ministerial

- URL: <https://www.energy.gov/ia/initiatives/clean-energy-ministerial> - Link to dead "Climate Action Page" deleted

The screenshot shows two side-by-side browser windows of the Energy.gov website. The left window is dated Jan 17 2017 11:48 AM and the right window is dated Jan 26 2017 1:55 AM. Both pages are titled "CLEAN ENERGY MINISTERIAL" under the "Office of International Affairs" header. The content includes a navigation menu, a main heading, a photo of ministers, and several text blocks describing the CEM's mission and membership. The text on the right window is slightly more updated than the left window, reflecting changes made between the two dates.

Side-by-side View: 1/17/17 - 1/26/17 - U.S.-China Energy Collaboration

- URL: <https://www.energy.gov/ia/initiatives/us-china-clean-energy-research-center-cerc> - Link to dead "Climate Action Page" deleted

The screenshot shows two side-by-side browser windows of the Energy.gov website. The left window is dated Jan 17 2017 5:08 AM and the right window is dated Jan 26 2017 1:48 AM. Both pages are titled "U.S.-CHINA ENERGY COLLABORATION" under the "Office of International Affairs" header. The content includes a navigation menu, a main heading, a photo of officials, and several text blocks describing the collaboration. The text on the right window is slightly more updated than the left window, reflecting changes made between the two dates.