



Environmental Data and Governance Initiative

envirodatagov.org

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Changes to EPA's Page on Federal Collaborations on Climate Change

Links to and descriptions of environmental programs collaborating with international, federal interagency, and tribal groups are removed from EPA's climate collaboration page.

Description

There were several potentially significant changes in the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Climate Change section on the Federal Partner Collaboration page, including a title change from "Federal Partner Collaboration" to "EPA Adaptation Collaboration." New text on the page checked on January 22nd about the US Global Change Research Program highlights adaptation research as a core function of the EPA rather than climate change mitigation, preparedness or resilience, as described on the same page on January 16th.

The most significant change to this web site is the number of program descriptions and links that have been removed:

1. Discussion of and reference to several plans, including the Climate Action Plan, the National Action Plan, the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan, and the National Fish, Wildlife, and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy.
2. Discussion of and reference to several committees, including the Interagency Council on Climate Preparedness and Resilience, and State, Local, and Tribal Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience, both of which were established by Executive Order in 2013. Language changed from requisite federal collaboration to the notion that EPA would support some local efforts.
3. Information about and links to the Council on Environmental Quality, the Tribal Environmental General Assistance Program, and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's (OECD) Environmental Policy Committee, which are federal, tribal, and international programs, respectively. More information about each of these is included toward the end of the document.

Screenshots

Screenshot 1: Federal Partner Collaboration

- URL: <https://www.epa.gov/climatechange/epa-adaptation-collaboration>
- Side-by-side View: 1/16/17 - 1/22/17

(1a) Name change from “Federal Partner Collaboration” to “EPA Adaptation Collaboration” and removal of reference to Climate Action Plan.

(1b) Removal of reference to federal task forces established in Executive Order 13653 and replacement with information about US Global Change Research Program (USGCRP), shifting focus to adaptation rather than prevention or resilience.

The image shows a side-by-side comparison of two EPA website pages. The left page is titled "Federal Partner Collaboration" and the right page is titled "EPA Adaptation Collaboration". The comparison highlights changes in the page content, including the removal of references to the Climate Action Plan and the addition of information about the US Global Change Research Program (USGCRP).

Left Page (Federal Partner Collaboration):

- Header:** Climate Change
- Section:** Federal Partner Collaboration
- Text:** EPA works with federal, state, tribal, local, and international partners to respond to a changing climate.
- Section:** Federal Agency Activities
- Text:** Federal agencies have taken important steps to lead the nation in preparing for and adapting to the impacts of climate change. These activities are **guided by:**
- Bullets:**
 - The president's **Climate Action Plan**, which calls for the United States to cut carbon pollution, prepare for the impacts of climate change, and lead international efforts to combat climate change and prepare for its impacts.
 - Executive Order: Preparing the United States for the Impacts of Climate Change** (November 1, 2013), which requires federal agencies to develop policies, modernization efforts, land and water management strategies, and data and tools on preparedness and resilience. It calls for agencies to develop plans to integrate climate change into their missions and operations. The Executive Order established:
 - The Interagency Council on Climate Preparedness and Resilience, replacing the previous Interagency Climate Change Adaptation Task Force
 - The State, Local, and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience
 - The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) **Climate Change Resilience** website, which provides information on how CEQ is coordinating federal environmental efforts to enact the President's Climate Action Plan and support local and federal climate adaptation efforts.
- Section:** Interagency Council on Climate Preparedness and Resilience

Right Page (EPA Adaptation Collaboration):

- Header:** Climate Change
- Section:** EPA Adaptation Collaboration
- Text:** EPA works with federal, state, tribal, local, and international partners to respond to a changing climate.
- Section:** Federal Agency Activities
- Text:** Federal agencies have taken important steps to lead the nation in preparing for and adapting to the impacts of climate change. These activities are **coordinated by the U.S. Global Research Program (USGCRP)**. Through interagency partnerships and collaborations with leading experts, the USGCRP works to advance the science on climate change and its impacts on society, now and in the future. USGCRP convenes federal agencies and resources to focus on **adaptation science** and effective actions to address global change at the local, regional, and national levels.
- Section:** States, Local Government, and Tribal Initiatives
- Text:** Governments at the state, local, and tribal levels are taking important steps to prepare now for the impacts of climate change. **Some of their activities are supported by EPA.**
- Bullets:**
 - EPA provides **climate and energy resources** for state, local, and tribal governments who are taking **action on** climate change.
 - EPA's **Making a Visible Difference in Communities** supports environmentally overburdened, underserved, and economically distressed areas to pursue community-based environmental improvements that enhance economic opportunity, improve quality of life, and build long-term sustainability.
- Section:** International Efforts

Screenshot 2: Federal Partner Collaboration

- URL: <https://www.epa.gov/climatechange/epa-adaptation-collaboration>
- Side-by-side View: 1/16/17 - 1/22/17

(2) Removal of reference to federal plans (and task forces therein).

Version comparison of <https://www.epa.gov/climatechange/federal-partner-collaboration> - history - dashboard - enable javascript - view as gist

Jan 16 2017 12:25 PM Jan 22 2017 5:24 AM

Viewing: side-by-side highlighted comparison

Climate Change

EPA Adaptation Collaboration

EPA works with federal, state, tribal, local, and international partners to respond to a changing climate.

Federal Agency Activities

Federal agencies have taken important steps to lead the nation in preparing for and adapting to the impacts of climate change. These activities are coordinated by the U.S. Global Research Program (USGCRP). Through interagency partnerships and collaborations with leading experts, the USGCRP works to advance the science on climate change and its impacts on society, now and in the future. USGCRP convenes federal agencies and resources to focus on adaptation science and effective actions to address global change at the local, regional, and national levels.

States, Local Government, and Tribal Initiatives

Governments at the state, local, and tribal levels are taking important steps to prepare now for the impacts of climate change. Some of their activities are supported by EPA.

- EPA provides climate and energy resources for state, local, and tribal governments who are taking action on climate change.
- EPA's Making a Visible Difference in Communities supports environmentally overburdened, underserved, and economically distressed areas to pursue community-based environmental improvements that enhance economic opportunity, improve quality of life, and build long-term sustainability.

International Efforts

Interagency Council on Climate Preparedness and Resilience

The Interagency Council on Climate Preparedness and Resilience comprises representatives from across the federal government and works to integrate climate resiliency into federal programs and support state, local, and tribal climate action.

The Council addresses key cross-cutting issues related to climate change preparedness and resilience, including the following national strategies developed by the previous Interagency Climate Change Adaptation Task Force:

- The National Action Plan (PDF) (76 pp, 28.52 MB, About PDF) explains how a changing climate challenges the nation's freshwater resources and describes actions that federal agencies will take to ensure adequate water supplies and to protect water quality and public health.
- The National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan describes actions that federal agencies will take to address key ocean challenges, including steps to improve resilience and prepare communities for climate impacts.
- The National Fish, Wildlife and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy (PDF) (120 pp, 4 MB, About PDF) addresses climate change impacts on the nation's natural resources and the people and economies that depend on these resources.

States, Local Government, and Tribal Initiatives

Screenshot 3: Federal Partner Collaboration

- URL: <https://www.epa.gov/climatechange/epa-adaptation-collaboration>
- Side-by-side View: 1/16/17 - 1/22/17

(3a) Removal of State, Local, and Tribal task force and community Climate Action Champions program. Changed language about federal EPA supporting “some” state, local, and tribal activities.

(3b) Removal of information about the Tribal Environmental General Assistance Program.

(3c) Removal of description and reference to international OECD’s Environment Policy Committee.

The screenshot displays a side-by-side comparison of the EPA website's 'epa-adaptation-collaboration' page. The interface includes a top navigation bar with version information and a 'Viewing' dropdown set to 'side-by-side highlighted'. The left pane shows the original version from January 16, 2017, and the right pane shows the updated version from January 22, 2017.

States, Local Government, and Tribal Initiatives

Original text (left): Governments at the state, local, and tribal levels are taking important steps to prepare now for the impacts of climate change.

Updated text (right): Governments at the state, local, and tribal levels are taking important steps to prepare now for the impacts of climate change. **Some of their activities are supported by EPA.**

International Efforts

Original text (left): Countries around the world are beginning to prepare for the impacts of a changing climate. Some of their efforts are supported by:

- **The State, Local, and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience** provides guidance on how the federal government can respond to the needs of communities nationwide that are dealing with climate change impacts.
- **The Climate Action Champions** competition identifies local leaders who are taking ambitious steps to address climate change and provides these communities with targeted federal support to help further their initiatives.
- **Making a Visible Difference in Communities** supports environmentally overburdened, underserved, and economically distressed areas to pursue community-based environmental improvements that enhance economic opportunity, improve quality of life, and build long-term sustainability.
- **The Tribal Environmental General Assistance Program** provides support in planning, developing, and establishing environmental protection programs in Indian country.

Updated text (right): Countries around the world are beginning to prepare for the impacts of a changing climate. Some of their efforts are supported by:

- EPA provides climate and energy resources for state, local, and tribal governments who are taking action on climate change.
- **EPA's Making a Visible Difference in Communities** supports environmentally overburdened, underserved, and economically distressed areas to pursue community-based environmental improvements that enhance economic opportunity, improve quality of life, and build long-term sustainability.

The bottom of the page features a dark navigation bar with links for 'Environmental Topics', 'Laws & Regulations', and 'About EPA'. A sidebar on the right contains sections for 'Discover.', 'Connect.', and 'Ask.' with various links like 'Accessibility', 'Data.gov', 'Contact Us', 'EPA Administrator', 'Inspector General', 'Hotlines', 'Budget & Performance', 'Jobs', and 'FOIA Requests'.

Internet Archive Page Status:

- Page is still up on January 13, 2017 at 07:36 -
<https://web.archive.org/web/20170113073652/https://www.epa.gov/climatechange/federal-partner-collaboration>
- Page redirects to “EPA Adaptation Collaboration” on January 26, 2017 at 14:58 -
<https://web.archive.org/web/20170126145822/https://www.epa.gov/climatechange/epa-adaptation-collaboration>

Status of Links Removed from Jan 16th Page:

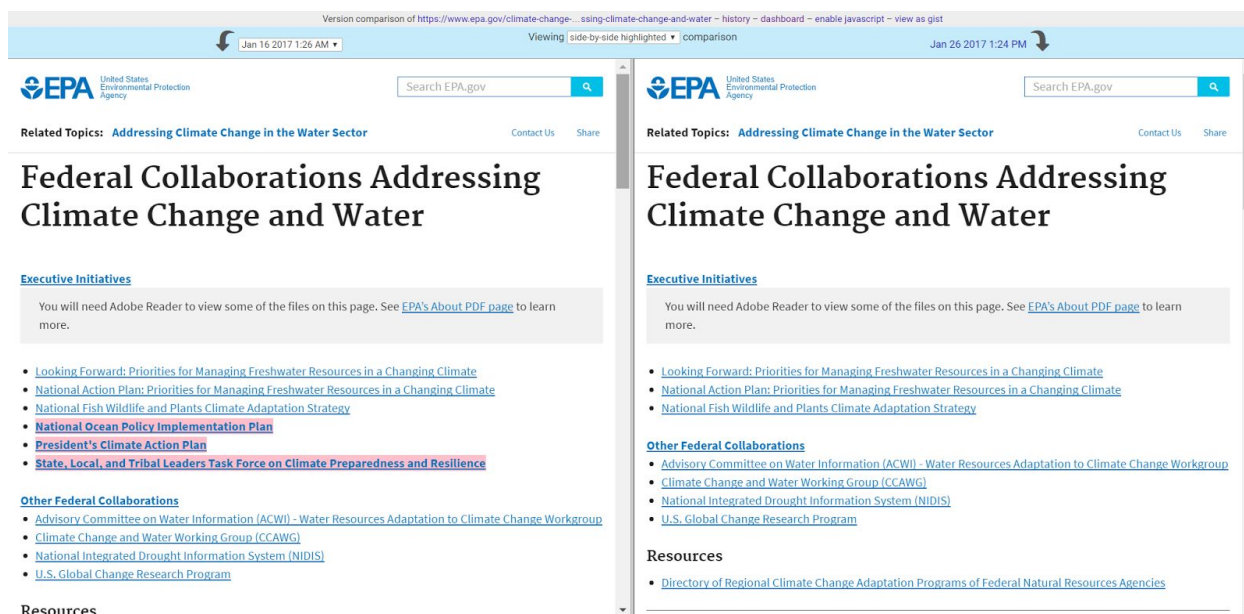
- **Broken Links** (*Disclaimer: These whitehouse.gov links were expected to change with the Administration change.*)
 - <https://www.whitehouse.gov/share/climate-action-plan>
 - <https://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/initiatives/resilience>
 - <https://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq>
 - https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/us_national_action_plan_final_2.pdf
 - <https://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/oceans/implementationplan>
- **Links Redirecting to Archived Sites**
 - <https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/administration/eop/oceans/policy>
 - <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2013/11/01/executive-order-preparing-united-states-impacts-climate-change>
 - <https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2014/12/03/announcing-first-class-climate-action-champions>
- **Working Links**
 - <https://www.wildlifeadaptationstrategy.gov/>
 - <https://www.epa.gov/tribal/indian-environmental-general-assistance-program-gap>
 - <http://www.oecd.org/env/epoc.htm>

Another page where some of the same links have been removed:

Screenshot 4: Federal Collaborations Addressing Climate Change and Water

- URL:
<https://www.epa.gov/climate-change-water-sector/federal-collaborations-addressing-climate-change-and-water>
- Side-by-side View: 1/16/17 - 1/26/17

(4) “Federal Collaborations Addressing Climate Change and Water” - Removed three of the same links and preserved one.



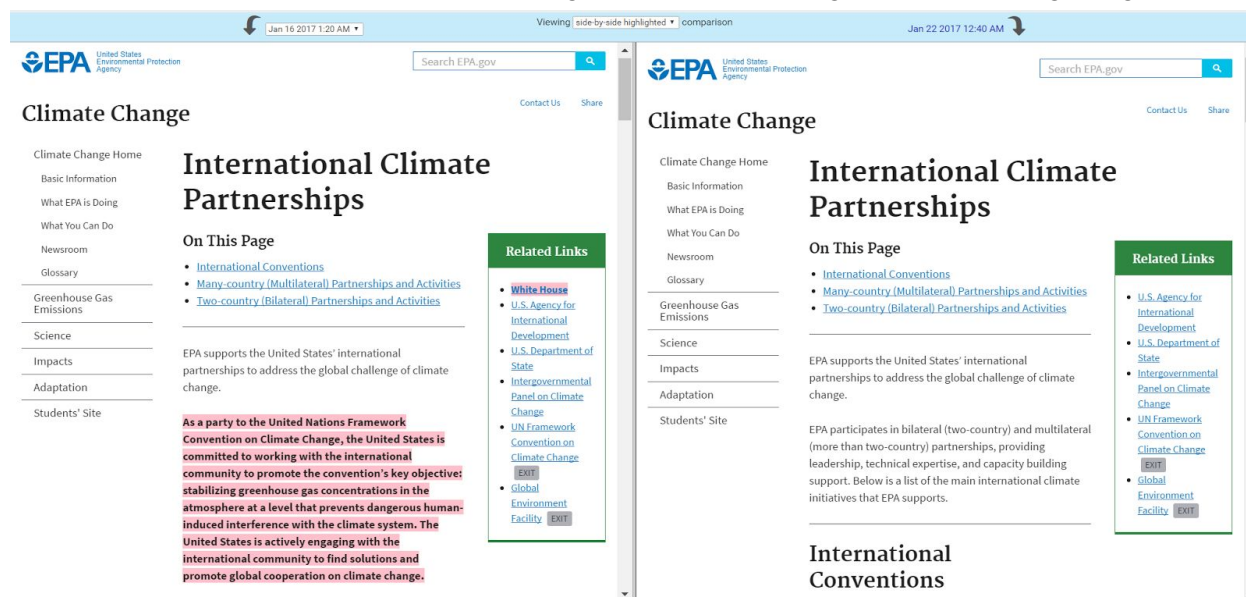
Another page with information about federal collaboration removed:

Screenshot 5: International Climate Partnerships

- URL: <https://www.epa.gov/climatechange/international-climate-partnerships>
- Side-by-side View: 1/16/17 - 1/22/17

(5a) Removal of paragraph affirming the United States' commitment to international collaboration on climate change.

(5b) Removal of "White House" link directing to the whitehouse.gov climate change page.



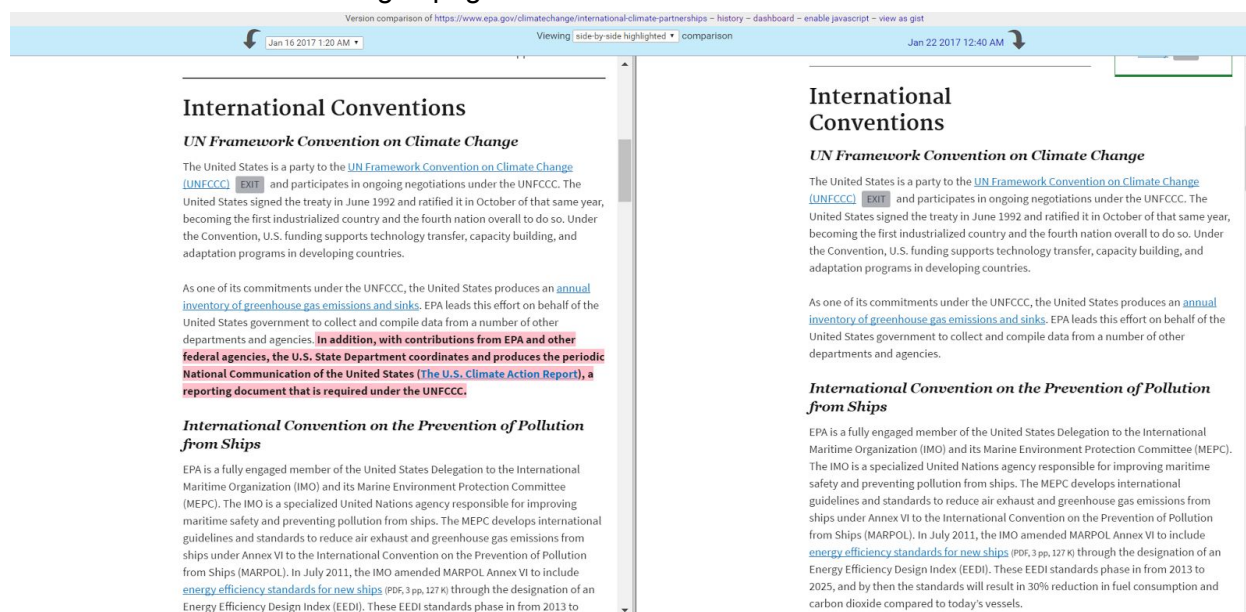
Status of Links Removed from Jan 16th Page:

- Broken Links
 - "White House": <https://www.whitehouse.gov/energy/climate-change>

Screenshot 6: International Climate Partnerships

- URL: <https://www.epa.gov/climatechange/international-climate-partnerships>
- Side-by-side View: 1/16/17 - 1/22/17

(6) Removal of sentence highlighting EPA's participation in developing the US Climate Action Report, produced by the State Department. Note that "The U.S. Climate Action Report" link forwards to a removed state.gov page.

**Internet Archive**

- IA version from January 10th:
<http://web.archive.org/web/20170110201820/https://www.epa.gov/climatechange/international-climate-partnerships>
- IA version from January 22nd:
<http://web.archive.org/web/20170121095208/https://www.epa.gov/climatechange/international-climate-partnerships>

Status of Links Removed from Jan 16th Page:

- **Broken Links**
 - "The U.S. Climate Action Report":
https://www.state.gov/e/oes/rls/rpts/car6/index.htm?utm_content=bufferab672