

Journal 4057 from sdc 12.27.17

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Nearly 100 Climate Action Plans for National Parks Removed From Website

[Climate change](#) is a major challenge to America's beloved [National Parks](#)—from hotter, drier conditions that can spark intense [wildfires](#) that can permanently alter Yosemite's landscapes, to [sea level rise](#) triggered by warming temperatures that threaten the Everglades.

In fact, nearly 100 parks have been preparing for and adapting to the damaging effects of climate change for years under the National Park Service's "Climate Friendly Parks Program" (CFP). However, you'll no longer be able to easily find these well-documented efforts to reduce emissions and move to more sustainable operations—that's because their work has been completely scrubbed from the [Climate Friendly Parks Program website](#), a watchdog group has found.

BHP Billiton relies heavily on science and technology, recognizes climate change and supports the Paris agreement. *YouTube*

World's Largest Mining Company Breaks With Global Trade Groups That Deny Climate Change

One of the world's largest [coal](#) companies is making plans to quit the World Coal Association over a disagreement on [climate](#) policies.

British-Australian mining giant BHP Billiton noted in a [review](#) of the company's industry associations issued Tuesday that it may end its membership in the international lobbying group and will reconsider its membership in the U.S. Chamber of Commerce due in part to the U.S. planned withdrawal from the [Paris agreement](#). Keep reading...

In an Era of Online Outrage, Do Sensitivity Readers Result in Better Books, or Censorship? By **ALEXANDRA ALTER**

A new class of editors is quietly reshaping children's literature, vetting books for cultural and racial stereotypes before they reach readers.

QUOTATION OF THE DAY

"It's a craft issue; it's not about censorship. We have a lot of people writing cross-culturally, and a lot of people have done it poorly and done damage."

[DHONIELLE CLAYTON](#), a former librarian and writer who has evaluated more than 30 children's books as a sensitivity reader this year.



A new mole species named *Euroscaptor orlovi* discovered in northern Vietnam. WWF

OPINION |
OP-ED
COLUMNIST
[Flying](#)

[Saucers and Other Fairy Tales](#)

By ROSS DOUTHAT

Why ancient folklore might tell us more than federal research about alien encounters.

[VIDEO: Weaving Around the World](#)

From Venice to Addis Ababa, the West Bank to the Navajo Nation reservation, follow the process of weaving, which has been developed across cultures for thousands of years.

Trump Administration, Which Wants More Offshore Drilling, Shuts Down Study Into Its Safety

<https://www.ecowatch.com/offshore-drilling-trump-2519347831.html>

France Approves World's First Ban on Fracking and Oil Production

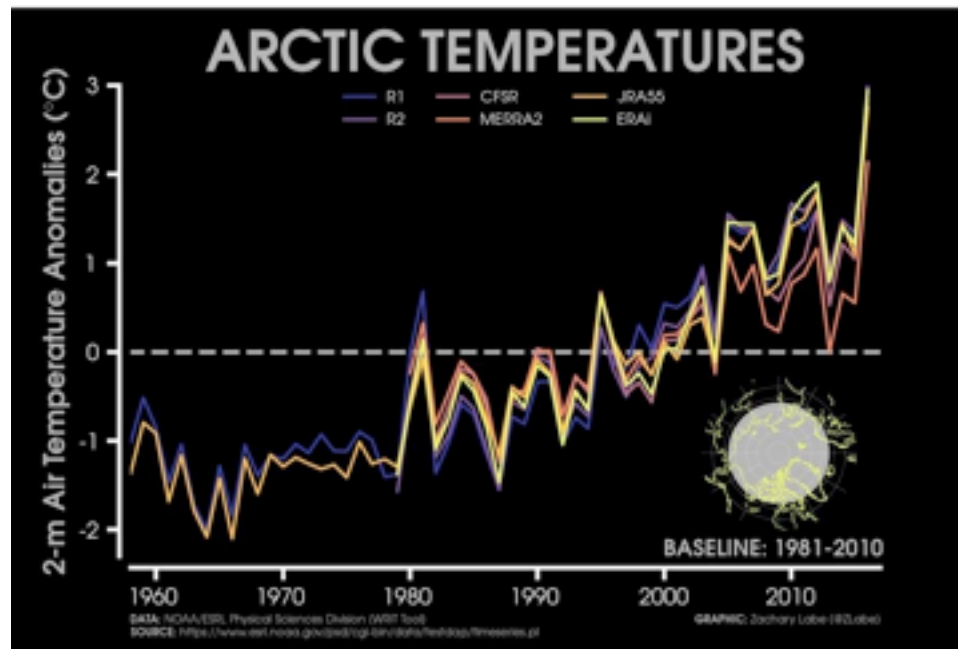
<https://www.ecowatch.com/france-fracking-ban-2518885658.html>

Hawaii's mayors commit to have 100 percent renewable ground transportation by 2045

<https://www.dailykos.com/story/2017/12/22/1726910/-Hawaii-s-mayors-commit-to-have-100-renewable-ground-transportation-by-2045>

**Welcome to the
'New Arctic': The
Region 'As We
Once Knew It Is
No More'**

[https://www.
ecowatch.com/
arctic-sea-
ice-noaa-
2518858382.
html](https://www.ecowatch.com/arctic-sea-ice-noaa-2518858382.html)



People's Climate

March NYC. *Elizabeth Stilwell / Flickr*

New York Takes Giant Step to Divest From Fossil Fuels

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo and New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer released separate plans on Tuesday to [divest](#) state and city pension funds from [coal, oil and gas](#) companies.

Environmentalists are celebrating this major win in the [global movement](#) for fossil fuel divestment, as the state and city's public pension funds are among the largest in the world, representing a combined \$390 billion.

Gov. Cuomo [said](#) Tuesday he was working with state Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli to study how the \$200 billion Common Fund can stop "significant" investment in fossil fuels and reinvest in [renewable energy](#) and a low-carbon economy.

New York's pension fund holds shares in more than 50 oil and gas companies, including oil giant [ExxonMobil](#). Divesting from such polluting entities, Cuomo said, would lead to "a more secure retirement fund for countless New Yorkers while also helping to achieve the state's clean energy goals."

Cuomo cited recent examples such as Norway's intention to divest its [\\$1 trillion sovereign wealth fund](#) in oil and gas holdings, as well as the World Bank [announcement](#) that it will stop financing oil and gas exploration after 2019.

That same day, Comptroller Stringer separately announced that New York City would also explore a plan to de-carbonize its portfolio.

"Today, I'm announcing that my office will bring a proposal to the trustees of the NYC pension funds in the coming weeks to examine ways to de-carbonize the portfolios, including the

feasibility of ceasing additional investments in fossil fuels, divesting current holdings in fossil fuel companies, and increasing investments in clean energy," Stringer said.

The state and city's moves follows five years of powerful advocacy from thousands of climate activists.

"The dam has broken: after years of great activism, New York has taken a massive step towards divesting from fossil fuels," said Bill McKibben, the 350.org co-founder [who helped launch](#) the growing divest movement. "Coming from the capital of world finance, this will resonate loud and clear all over the planet. It's a crucial sign of how fast the financial pendulum is swinging away from fossil fuels."

To date, more than 800 institutions representing more than \$5.2 trillion in assets have committed to divest. Other New York institutions that have cut ties with fossil fuel companies include Cooperstown, Barnard College, Columbia University, Syracuse University and the American Museum of Natural History.

Rachel Rivera, a member of [New York Communities for Change](#), also praised her lawmakers for their proposals.

"During Sandy, the water took everything from me in a storm supercharged by [climate change](#). My family back in [Puerto Rico](#) is still without power and resources due to a devastating hurricane. This did not happen by chance, I know this is caused by corporations like ExxonMobil that continue to profit from a business model that destroys the planet," Rivera said.

"Today, I am happy to congratulate Governor Cuomo and Comptroller DiNapoli for making New York the leading state in the country fighting against climate change. It's both morally bankrupt and bad finance to invest our public funds in climate destruction. Now at the city level, [Public Advocate Tish James, who urged divestment], has pointed the way, and Comptroller Stringer has rightly responded by moving forward with fossil fuel divestment to protect all New Yorkers and the planet."

[Power Prices Go Negative in Germany, a Positive for Energy Users](#)

By STANLEY REED

Germany has spent \$200 billion over the past two decades to promote cleaner sources of electricity. That enormous investment is now having an unexpected impact.

Trump may look like he's failing, but he's getting powerful right-wing judges installed at an unprecedented rate

The Independent

While President Donald Trump for most of the year struggled on the legislative front, his administration was quietly succeeding at nominating and installing powerful right-wing judges at an unprecedented rate for a president's first year in office. [Read the full story](#) [Apple News](#)



New York Times:

[The Hard Truth About the West's Wild Horse Problem](#)

By CHRIS STEWART

The population has exploded. Animals are starving. Government efforts to fix the problem have failed. We need to cull the herds.

[Coyotes Are Colonizing Cities. Step Forward the Urban Hunter.](#)

By SIMON ROMERO

The pursuit of the predator in settings like strip malls, residential streets and parks is igniting a debate over the benefits and dangers of urban hunting.

Circle of Blue:

Lake Powell Pipeline Inches Ahead

A 140-mile pipeline from Lake Powell to southwest Utah cleared a first permitting step when federal energy regulators [accepted the state's application to build the water delivery system](#). The next phase will be environmental studies of the pipeline's threat to land, air, and water.

The scope of those studies is still to be determined. Utah filed its permit application with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission because the state considers the pipeline a hydropower project, due to the six generating stations that will take advantage of elevation drops along the route. FERC, however, said it is still deciding whether its review will include the pipelines that connect the power-generating stations, which are clearly its jurisdiction.

If FERC excludes the pipeline from its review, other federal agencies including the Bureau of Land Management would be responsible for issuing rights of way. That would add additional steps and cost to Utah's plan.

The pipeline, estimated to cost more than \$1 billion, would deliver Colorado River water to a corner of Utah that uses more water per person than almost any place in the United States. Residents of Washington County, the terminus of the pipeline, used an average of 158 gallons per person per day in 2015 for indoor and outdoor purposes, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Critical Minerals

There are valuable rocks in the U.S. that, for the reliability of computer and defense systems, need to be mined at home instead of abroad. That's the gist of a [Trump administration order on "critical" minerals](#).

The order requires the Interior Department to submit, within 60 days, a list of critical minerals, the attributes of which are somewhat circular. The order says that critical minerals are important to national and economic security, have easily disrupted supply chains, and are used in products essential to national security.

After identifying the indispensable rocks, government agencies are to speed up the leasing and licensing processes, in line with the president's orders on faster permitting.

The U.S. Geological Survey already runs a [critical minerals program](#), listing 23 essentials in an update earlier this month, including gallium, a soft metal that is a component of the aerospace and telecommunications industries, and vanadium, used in large-scale batteries.

Already in the American West, major companies are joining wildcat miners to [search for exploitable lithium deposits](#), *High Country News* reports. Lithium ion batteries are under the hood of the Tesla Model S while the world's largest such battery is now feeding the electric grid in Australia.

Arizona Tribal Water Rights Settlement

A bill from Rep. Paul Gosar (R-AZ) would [approve a water rights settlement with the Hualapai](#) that gives the tribe use of 4,000 acre-feet of water per year from the Colorado River and authorizes \$134 million for a system to deliver the water. The tribe's reservation abuts the river in northern Arizona.

A [companion bill](#) with identical funding and water rights was introduced in the Senate earlier this month.

National Park Service Accepting Proposals for the Save America's Treasures Grant Program

Proposals for grants to support the preservation of nationally significant historic properties and collections are due February 21, 2018. [Read more](#)

IMLS Announces FY 2016 State Library Administrative Agencies Survey Results

The biennial survey, conducted in FY 2016, assesses the condition of SLAAs in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. [Read more](#)

Professional Development Grants Will Help Museums Better Serve the Public

Museums Empowered is designed to help museums respond to the evolving needs of the museum profession and changes in their communities. [Read more](#)

There's Something in the Backyard Songs of the Hopi

www.theressomethinginthebackyard.com/songsofthehopi.html

The following *recording* was released in 1926 on *Victor Records*, "20043-B, listed as "*Chant of the Snake Dance*" performed by Hopi Indian Chanters (Group of M. W. Billingsley). Released by the *Victor Talking Machine Co.* of Camden, N.J. The "A" side of the original *recording* was the "*Chant of the Eagle Dance*." It seems ...

[America's recorded roots | Listen Up | santafenewmexican.com](http://www.santafenewmexican.com/...recorded.../article_4a0fb389-4ca7-52da-acac-0b308...)
www.santafenewmexican.com/...recorded.../article_4a0fb389-4ca7-52da-acac-0b308...

May 12, 2017 - Here, too, the Southwest gets its moment in the sun, thanks to a segment focusing on the Hopi Indian Chanters, whose two sides of a 1926 *Victor* platter offer performances of the “*Chant of the Snake Dance*” and the “*Chant of the Eagle Dance*.” The story behind this *record*, which proved to be a strong seller ...

[Verde Valley Archaeology Center - OLLI - Hopi Billingsley Dancers](https://www.verdevalleyarchaeology.org/event-2140307)
<https://www.verdevalleyarchaeology.org/event-2140307>

In 1921 the *Hopi* were told that “church people” petitioned Congress to stop their “pagan” dancing. A group of *Hopi* dancers from Second mesa were assembled to demonstrate a version of their dances. After touring the country, a platform was erected on the U.S. Capitol steps where both Houses of Congress assembled ...

Under Scott Pruitt, a year of tumult and transformation at EPA The Washington Post

‘He didn’t pretend he was going to be Theodore Roosevelt,’ one conservation leader says of Pruitt’s industry-friendly approach. [Read the full story](#)

