

# Kids' Climate Action 2017 Fact Sheet

## HR 637 and Kids' Effort to Preserve Their Future

Kids are scared about climate change and the future of the planet and they want the government to protect them.

Few children are learning the facts about climate change in school; in fact, corporate interests are actively spreading misinformation (see below). The government should assure that children learn accurate information in school so that they are equipped to face the challenges that lie ahead, many of which are tied to the shortsightedness of current leaders.

[HR 637 EPA Overreach Act](#), co-sponsored by 120 Republican members of Congress (20 of whom are from Texas) would release Congress from regulating pollutants that contribute to climate change and poison the air. It would put corporate profits over children's health and the future of the planet.

## Teachers face many challenges in getting and teaching children the facts about climate change

[A well funded effort to spread climate denial](#) is offering tools to 200,000 science teachers across America. The Heartland Institute, a libertarian think tank that rejects the scientific consensus on climate change, is sending their [book](#) "Why Scientists Disagree About Global Warming," and a DVD rejecting the human role in climate change.

Their message has been embraced by some educators. A survey of 1,500 science teachers nationwide, [published in the journal Science last year](#), found more than half taught their students that humans are unequivocally causing climate change. But 31% of teachers told their students that the cause of climate change is still being debated. About one in 10 teachers teach children that humans had no significant role in climate change, [the study showed](#).

The current issue of [National Geographic](#) contains clear, non-partisan information about climate change, including: "The climate is changing, It's Because of Us, and We're Sure."

## Environment-Related Policies and Executive Actions

**President's Proposed Budget:** Would cut EPA funding by 31% and eliminate 3,200 staff (15% of its workforce) [\[Washington Post, 03/15/17\]](#)

## President's Executive Orders & Memos

### ["Energy Independence" Executive Order](#)

- Does away with the current review of the federal coal program and lifted a moratorium imposed by Obama on new coal mine leases on public lands
- Begins the process to r
- Repeal hydraulic fracking standards, on public lands and methane limits for new oil and gas fracking anywhere
- Eliminates multi-agency group that estimates the costs of carbon pollution and the benefits of reducing it, known as the "social cost of carbon"
- Grants drillers impunity if they pollute and spill oil and gas in wildlife refuges
- Kicks off the repeal processes for two rules that reduce emissions of methane
- Asks a federal court to stop work on pending litigation surrounding the Clean Power Plan (CPP), which aims to curb carbon pollution 30% by 2030.

- CPP is one of the pillars of the Paris Climate Agreement, and freezing it erodes US standing as a global leader in the fight against climate change.

[[NRDC, 03/31/17](#)]

## Climate Facts

### **Regulating emissions does not kill jobs**

Clean energy jobs, as in solar and wind energy, outnumber fossil fuel jobs nationally by over 2.5 to 1 and exceed all jobs in coal and gas by 5 to 1. 41 states and Washington, D.C., have more jobs in the clean energy sector than in the fossil fuel industry. [[Sierra Club, 03/27/17](#)]

### **Emissions are at their highest point in our history**

“Concentrations of carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxides ‘have increased to levels unprecedented in at least the last 800,000 years.’ Indeed, the atmosphere’s share of carbon dioxide—the planet’s chief climate change contributor—has risen by 40 percent since pre-industrial times.” [[NRDC, 02/23/17](#), citing Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, [Summary for Policymakers, 10/2013](#) & [2014 Synthesis Report](#)]

### **There are multiple human-generated contributors to climate change**

“The burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil, and gas for electricity, heat, and transportation is the primary source of human-generated emissions.” [[NRDC, 02/23/17](#)]

### **Earth’s average temperature is rising**

“It’s estimated that the earth’s average temperature rose by about 1 degree Fahrenheit during the 20th century. If that doesn’t sound like much, consider this: When the last ice age ended and the northeastern US was covered by more than 3,000 feet of ice, average temperatures were just 5 to 9 degrees cooler than they are now.” [[NRDC, 02/23/17](#), [climate.nasa.gov](#)]

## Climate change and its cascading effects are dire

“Failure to mitigate and adapt to climate change will be ‘the most impactful risk’ facing communities worldwide in the coming decade—ahead even of weapons of mass destruction and water crises.”

[[NRDC, 02/23/17](#), citing [World Economic Forum 2016 Global Risks Report](#)]

“Effects include:

- Extreme Weather
- Dirty Air
- Health Risks
- Rising Seas
- Warmer, more acidic oceans
- Imperiled ecosystems

[[NRDC, 02/23/17](#)]

## Resources

### **NASA**

<https://climate.nasa.gov>

### **NATURAL RESOURCE DEFENSE COUNCIL**

<https://www.nrdc.org/stories/global-climate-change-what-you-need-know>

### **INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE (IPCC)**

- the foremost international scientific body for the assessment of climate change - their most recent report

<http://ar5-syr.ipcc.ch/>

### **US GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH PROGRAM, 2014 NATIONAL CLIMATE ASSESSMENT**

<http://nca2014.globalchange.gov/report>