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Implications of U.S. withdrawing from Paris Climate Accord, and Proposed U.S. Federal Budget Cuts

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Projections for COP21

• Need for immediate and substantial actions

IMPORTANTANCE OF THE HEALTH FRAME

Global Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GtonsCO)

- No Action
- Current INDCs (No Continued Progress)
- Ratchet Success

Estimated 2100 temp:

- 4.5°C (8.1°F)
- 3.5°C (6.3°F)
- 1.8°C (3.2°F)

Opportunities for Health

1. Energy Sector
2. Food Systems
3. Transportation/Urban Planning
Current health impacts of fossil fuel combustion (main cause of climate change)

- **Outdoor air pollution** → 3.7 million deaths/yr – mostly from urban exposures
- **Indoor air pollution** → 4.3 million deaths/yr – mostly from inefficient biomass and coal cookstoves

*Courtesy: D. Campbell-Lendrum, WHO*
• **Cost of cleaner energy:**
  < $30/ tCO₂

• **Benefits of cleaner energy:**
  ● $200*/ tCO₂

* Range: $50 to $380

For E. Asia, co-benefits are **10 to 70 times** greater

West et al. 2013
In UK, if halve meat consumption:
-- GHGs cut by 25–40%
-- Saturated fat falls by 40%

Westhoek, 2014

Data from Scarborough et al. 2014
Based on Epidemiological Studies on Exercise


Announcement of U.S. withdrawing from PARIS CLIMATE ACCORD
US Mayors urge Trump to recognise 'urgent' climate threat to cities

C40 city leaders insist they 'will not be slowed down' if new president fails to support climate change policy
• Climate Declaration Represents 120 Million Americans and $6.2 Trillion of the U.S. Economy

• As of June 5, 1,219 governors, mayors, businesses, investors, and colleges and universities from across the U.S.

• 125 cities, 9 states, 902 businesses and investors, and 183 colleges and universities.
Jonathan Patz @jonathanpatz

China stepping up to defend the #ParisAgreement on #climatechange

World Economic Forum @wef

Best of Davos: President Xi Jinping on globalization and climate change.
wef.ch/2jPQazT

The Paris Agreement is a hard-won achievement... All signatories should stick to it rather than walk away.

Xi Jinping
President of the People's Republic of China
World’s largest floating solar array, China
Paris Climate Accord: U.S. stands alone

• The earliest possible date for the US to withdraw: **November 4, 2020** ... So still time to make some noise!

• At last month’s G7 leading industrial economies, the six non-US members – Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the UK – publicly reaffirmed their “strong commitment to swiftly implement the Paris Agreement.” At last week’s G20, US stood alone.

• Wind and solar power are projected to become a $7 trillion market by 2040; China announce a $360 billion investment in renewables over the next 3 years, creating 13 million new jobs.

• 70% of Americans support the Paris Agreement, and 65% feel that the nation should prioritize clean energy, according to Pew Research Ctr.
Former President of Ireland, Mary Robinson says,

“GOVERNMENTS WITH THE RESOLVE TO HONOUR THE VISION OF THE PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT WILL BUILD A WORLD POWERED BY RENEWABLE ENERGY WHICH LIFTS MILLIONS OUT OF POVERTY.”

MARY ROBINSON, PRESIDENT, MARY ROBINSON FOUNDATION - CLIMATE JUSTICE
Jobs and income => Health

• 1 million Americans are working near- or full-time in the energy efficiency, solar, wind, and alternative vehicles sectors, or \( \sim 5X \) current employment in the fossil fuel electric industry, which includes coal, gas, and oil workers.

• If add part-time worker, the number jumps to 3 million American workers in the energy efficiency, solar, and wind sectors. That’s 14 times the current employment in the fossil fuel electric industry.
FIGURE 5: RENEWABLE ENERGY EMPLOYMENT IN SELECTED COUNTRIES

Note: a) Jobs in large hydropower are not included in the country totals given differences in methodology and uncertainties in underlying data.

10 Primary data are collected through correspondence with government entities and industry representatives. Secondary data are referenced from a review of a wide range of national, regional and global studies.
Draft U.S. Federal Budget

CUTS TO E.P.A.
AND TO H.H.S.
Proposed Budget Cuts: U.S.

- **US EPA** (31% cut overall, including 25% of workforce)
  - 80% cut, “Diesel Emissions Reduction” program
  - 86% cut, ”Greenhouse Gas Reporting” (formerly “Climate Protection Program”)
    - i.e., ENERGY STAR & Ctr. Corporate Climate Leadership
  - 61% cut to research on, “Sustainable and Healthy Communities”

- Eliminate **Cross-Agency “Global Change Research Program”**
Proposed Budget Cuts: U.S. (cont)

- Dept. Health & Human Services (HHS) 18% overall cut
  - Elimination of the **Fogarty International Center**
  - 23% cut to National Institute of Environmental Health (NIEHS)
  - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
    - Elimination of “**Climate and Health**” program;
      - Impact Wisconsin’s BRACE efforts
    - 28% cut in **Environmental Health** activities (health threats similar to Flint, MI)
    - 41% cut to **Global Health** collaboration
    - $222.3 million cut in **Chronic Disease Prevention** and Health Promotion
Anyone against healthy places and people?

Therefore, assigning a price on carbon is the right choice, whether or not someone understands the science of climate change.
Thank you very much!

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