



# State Of Obama's Union: Energy

## *After Five State Of The Union Addresses, Obama Continues To Disappoint With His Energy Policies*

**Obama In His 2012 State Of The Union Address: "This Country Needs An All-Out, All-Of-The-Above Strategy That Develops Every Available Source Of American Energy."** ([Remarks](#) By The President In State Of The Union Address, Washington, D.C., 1/24/12)

### **DESPITE PROMISES TO DEVELOP AMERICAN ENERGY, OBAMA MOVED FORWARD WITH HIS WAR ON COAL**

***The Wall Street Journal* Headline: "The Future Of Coal: New Pollution Rules Choke Old Power Plants"** (Rebecca Smith And John W. Miller, "The Future Of Coal: New Pollution Rules Choke Old Power Plants," [The Wall Street Journal](#), 1/7/14)

**Harvard University's Daniel P. Schrag, One Of Obama's Advisers On Climate Change, Said "A War On Coal Is Exactly What's Needed."** "Daniel P. Schrag, a geochemist who is the head of Harvard University's Center for the Environment and a member of a presidential science panel that has helped advise the White House on climate change, said he hoped the presidential speech would mark a turning point in the national debate on climate change. 'Everybody is waiting for action,' he said. 'The one thing the president really needs to do now is to begin the process of shutting down the conventional coal plants. Politically, the White House is hesitant to say they're having a war on coal. On the other hand, a war on coal is exactly what's needed.'" (John M Broder, "Obama To Outline Ambitious Plan To Cut Greenhouse Gases," [The New York Times](#), 6/25/13)

- **Schrag: "The One Thing The President Really Needs To Do Now Is To Begin The Process Of Shutting Down The Conventional Coal Plants."** (John M Broder, "Obama To Outline Ambitious Plan To Cut Greenhouse Gases," [The New York Times](#), 6/25/13)

### *Obama Introduced New Carbon Limits On The Nation's Power Companies*

***The Associated Press* Headline: "Obama Takes On Coal With First-Ever Carbon Limits."** (Dina Cappiello, "Obama Takes On Coal With First-Ever Carbon Limits," [The Associated Press](#), 9/19/13)

**In September, The Obama Administration Announced The "First Federal Carbon Limits On The Nation's Power Companies."** "The Obama administration on Friday announced that it was not backing down from a confrontation with the coal industry and would press ahead with enacting the first federal carbon limits on the nation's power companies." (Michael Shear, "Administration To Press Ahead With Carbon Limits," [The New York Times](#), 9/20/13)

- **The Regulations Are "An Aggressive Move By Mr. Obama" That Will Bypass Congress.** "The proposed regulations, announced at the National Press Club by Gina McCarthy, the administrator

of the Environmental Protection Agency, are an aggressive move by Mr. Obama to bypass Congress on climate change with executive actions he promised in his inaugural address this year.” (Michael Shear, “Administration To Press Ahead With Carbon Limits,” [The New York Times](#), 9/20/13)

**As A Result Of New Environmental Regulations, Dozens Of Coal-Fired Plants Are Likely To Close Over The Next Decade.** “Now the government and utilities are taking on what may be a stiffer challenge: reducing pollutants whose effects are harder to see, like mercury and greenhouse gases. As a result, dozens of coal-fired plants are likely to close over the next decade as utilities conclude it isn’t cost-effective to bring old coal generators into compliance with environmental rules.” (Rebecca Smith And John W. Miller, “The Future Of Coal: New Pollution Rules Choke Old Power Plants,” [The Wall Street Journal](#), 1/7/14)

**“The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Long-Awaited Guidelines Are Expected To Make It More Difficult For New Coal-Fired Power Plants To Be Built.”** (Valerie Volcovici, “U.S. EPA Sets First-Ever Curbs On Power Plant Pollution,” [Reuters](#), 9/20/13)

### ***The Regulations “Will Have Devastating Impacts To The Coal Industry”***

**The Regulations “Are Expected To Have Far-Reaching Implications For Coal States Such As Kentucky.”** “Together, they are expected to have far-reaching implications for coal states such as Kentucky, which ranks third nationally in coal production and uses coal to generate more than 90 percent of the state’s electricity.” (James Bruggers, “EPA Unveils Tougher Pollution Limits For New Power Plants,” [The \[Louisville, KY\] Courier-Journal](#), 9/20/13)

**Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV): The New Regulations “Will Have Devastating Impacts To The Coal Industry And Our Economy.”** “‘Never before has the federal government forced an industry to do something that is technologically impossible,’ said Senator Joe Manchin, a West Virginia Democrat. ‘Forcing coal to meet the same emissions standards as gas when experts know that the required technology is not operational on a commercial scale makes absolutely no sense and will have devastating impacts to the coal industry and our economy.’” (Mark Drajem, “New Coal Plants Must Limit Carbon Pollution Under Epa Regulation,” [Bloomberg Businessweek](#), 9/20/13)

### ***It Gets Worse – Throughout The Year, The EPA Plans To Announce “More Costly” Regulations On Existing Coal Plants***

**This Year, The EPA Plans To Announce Regulations On Existing Coal Plants, “A Far More Costly And Controversial Step.”** “Ms. McCarthy also announced a yearlong schedule for an environmental listening tour — a series of meetings across the country with the public, the industry and environmental groups as the agency works to establish emissions limits on existing power plants — a far more costly and controversial step. Mr. Obama has told officials he wants to see greenhouse gas limits on existing and new power plants by the time he leaves office in 2017.” (Michael Shear, “Administration To Press Ahead With Carbon Limits,” [The New York Times](#), 9/20/13)

- **The Restrictions On Existing Power Plants Will Be Proposed By June 2014.** “In his June climate action plan, Mr. Obama ordered the E.P.A. to propose new greenhouse-gas rules covering existing plants by next June, and to issue final standards by June 2015.” (Michael Wines, “E.P.A. Is Expected To Set Limits On Greenhouse Gas Emissions By New Power Plants,” [The New York Times](#), 9/14/13)

### **AFTER PROMISING INVESTMENTS IN CLEAN ENERGY THAT WOULD CREATE NEW JOBS, AMERICANS ARE STILL WAITING FOR THOSE BETS TO PAY OFF**

**Obama In His 2011 State Of The Union Address: We Will Invest In Clean Energy Technology, “An Investment That Will Strengthen Our Security, Protect Our Planet, And Create Countless New Jobs.”** “We’ll invest in biomedical research, information technology, and especially clean energy

technology -- (applause) -- an investment that will strengthen our security, protect our planet, and create countless new jobs for our people.” ([Remarks](#) By The President In State Of Union Address, Washington, D.C., 1/25/11)

### ***But Obama's Investments In Green Energy Companies Have Been Risky Bets***

**Obama's Clean Energy Investments Are "A Case Study Of What Can Go Wrong When A Rigid Government Bureaucracy Tries To Play Venture Capitalist."** "The Obama administration's vaunted initiative to catalyze the U.S. clean-energy industry — under attack for betting half a billion dollars on the solar-panel manufacturer Solyndra, which closed last month — has become a case study of what can go wrong when a rigid government bureaucracy tries to play venture capitalist and jump-start a nascent, fast-changing market." (Steven Mufson And Carol D. Leonnig, "Some Clean-Energy Firms Found US Loan-Guarantee Program A Bad Bet," [The Washington Post](#), 9/26/11)

**"For 'Green Jobs' There's Some Risk. A Legitimate Question Can Be Raised To Say This Is Not The Time To Be Spending Money In Initiatives That Go Nowhere."** (Alison Fitzgerald, "Solyndra Investigations Likely To Hurt 'Green Jobs' Not Obama," [Bloomberg](#), 10/7/11)

- **Economists Say Obama's Green Energy Programs Are Not "The Most Efficient Way To Stimulate The Economy."** "Obama's efforts to create green jobs are lagging behind expectations at a time of persistently high unemployment. Many economists say that because alternative--energy projects are so expensive and slow to ramp up, they are not the most efficient way to stimulate the economy." (Carol D. Leonnig and Steven Mufson, "Obama Green-Tech Program That Backed Solyndra Struggles To Create Jobs," [The Washington Post](#), 9/14/11)

### ***Solyndra Went Bankrupt After Receiving Half A Billion In Taxpayer Dollars***

**In August 2011, Solyndra Announced That It Would File For Bankruptcy, "Immediately Laying Off 1,100 Employees."** "Solyndra, a Fremont solar tech manufacturer, announced Wednesday it is suspending operations and immediately laying off 1,100 employees. The company said it will also file for bankruptcy." (George Avalos, "Fremont Solar Tech Firm Solyndra To Shut Down, Lay Off 1,100 Workers," [The San Jose Mercury News](#), 8/31/11)

- **A Total Of 1,861 Workers Were Laid Off By Solyndra As It Went Bankrupt.** "Since September 1, 2010 (impact date), an estimated 1,861 workers have been separated from the firm." (Employment And Training Administration, "Investigative Report TA-W-80,410; Solyndra LLC," [Department Of Labor](#), 9/12/11)

**"Solyndra's Final Liquidation Plan Estimated That The Government Will Recover Just \$24 Million Of The \$527 Million That Taxpayers Lent To The Company" Because The Restructuring Loan From Obama Specifically "Put Private Investors Ahead Of Taxpayers."** "Even so, senior officials in the White House's Office of Management and Budget did not discourage the Energy Department from proceeding with its plan to restructure a federal loan to Solyndra — a move that put private investors ahead of taxpayers for repayment if the company closed, the investigation by Republicans on the House Energy and Commerce Committee found. The restructuring went forward, but within months Solyndra failed anyway, leaving federal taxpayers on the hook for much of the half-billion-dollar federal loan. Now, a year after the company's collapse, debate continues over whether the refinancing plan was legal or a wise investment. Last week, Solyndra's final liquidation plan estimated that the government will recover just \$24 million of the \$527 million that taxpayers lent to the company." (Joe Stephens and Carol Leonnig, "White House Analyst Warned Saving Solyndra Could Cost More Than Letting It Fail," [The Washington Post](#), 8/1/12)

### ***Fisker Automotive, Another Obama-Backed Green Energy Company, Filed For Bankruptcy While Taxpayers Footed The Bill***

**In November, Fisker Automotive Filed For Chapter 11 Bankruptcy.** "Fisker Automotive, the moribund maker of the Karma plug-in hybrid sports cars that was backed with a loan by the U.S.

government, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection on Friday after lengthy efforts by investors to salvage the company.” (Deepa Seetharaman And Timothy Gardner, “UPDATE 2-Fisker Files Chapter 11 As Investor Group Buys Company,” [Reuters](#), 11/22/13)

- **Reuters’ Headline: “Fisker Automotive Failure Could Hit U.S. Taxpayers For Years To Come.”** (Tom Hals, “Fisker Automotive Failure Could Hit U.S. Taxpayers For Years To Come,” [Reuters](#), 11/25/13)

**“The Bankruptcy Of Fisker Automotive Could End Up Costing The U.S. Government Much More Than The \$168 Million It Loaned To The Maker Of The Karma Plug-In Hybrid Sports Car.”** (Tom Hals, “Fisker Automotive Failure Could Hit U.S. Taxpayers For Years To Come,” [Reuters](#), 11/25/13)

## **AND NOW, THE WORLD IS STILL WAITING FOR A DECISION ON THE KEYSTONE PIPELINE**

**In His 2013 State Of The Union Address, Obama Said, “My Administration Will Keep Cutting Red Tape And Speeding Up New Oil And Gas Permits.”** “Now, in the meantime, the natural gas boom has led to cleaner power and greater energy independence. We need to encourage that. And that’s why my administration will keep cutting red tape and speeding up new oil and gas permits. That’s got to be part of an all-of-the-above plan. But I also want to work with this Congress to encourage the research and technology that helps natural gas burn even cleaner and protects our air and our water.” (President Barack Obama, [Remarks](#) By The President In The State Of The Union Address,” Washington, D.C., 2/12/13)

**But, The White House Has Failed “So Far To Approve The Keystone XL Pipeline From Alberta To Nebraska, Which Would Help Carry Crude From Canada To United States Refineries On The Gulf Coast.”** “Officials say the White House’s failure so far to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline from Alberta to Nebraska, which would help carry crude from Canada to United States refineries on the Gulf coast, has dampened the faith of prime minister Stephen Harper in deeper North American integration: Canada is looking across the Pacific for oil markets.” (“Ready To Take Off Again?” *The Economist*, 1/4/14)

**The Associated Press Headline: “Kerry: No Rush To Decide On Keystone XL Pipeline”** (Matthew Daly, “Kerry: No Rush To Decide On Keystone XL Pipeline,” [The Associated Press](#), 1/17/14)

**Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper: Obama Has “Punted” On Keystone.** “‘He’s punted,’ Harper said of Obama in an interview at an event today hosted by the Vancouver Board of Trade. ‘He said, ‘Maybe.’” (Andrew Mayeda And Christopher Donville, “Harper Says Obama Punting Won’t Stop Keystone XL,” [Bloomberg](#), 1/6/14)

**ABC’s Jon Karl To White House Deputy Press Secretary Josh Earnest: Is Obama Trying To “Run Out The Clock” On Keystone And Use A “Pocket Veto” By Delaying Approval?** “ABC’s JON KARL: “Josh, I wasn’t even going to ask about Keystone, but what’s taking so long for this decision?” PRINCIPAL DEPUTY PRESS SECRETARY JOSH EARNEST: “Well, I mean –” KARL: “I mean, this has been going on for years. Why are we still--” EARNEST: “It has. Well, there have been a couple of times where the process got upended because of concerns that were raised by the Republican governor of Nebraska and the route that had been proposed.” KARL: “Yes, that’s ancient history, too.” EARNEST: “Well, but you said it’s going on for years, and that’s one of the things that slowed down the process. So I think that demonstrates the commitment of the administration to get this right. It demonstrates that there are people in both parties who have a range of views on this topic. And what the State Department is doing is they’re reaching a determination of national interest.” KARL: “Is this a pocket veto? Is this basically like run out the clock?” EARNEST: “That’s not something that should be taken lightly. It certainly isn’t taken lightly by the President or his administration.” KARL: “So you’re not running out the clock? Because if you delay and then you don’t make a decision, it doesn’t get built, you know?” EARNEST: “That’s not how I’d characterize the ongoing policy process.” (White House [Press Briefing](#), Washington, DC, 12/11/13)

***As The Administration Continues To Delay A Keystone Decision, A Former White House Official Called For Its Approval***

**Former Obama National Security Advisor Tom Donilon: I Would Recommend That Obama Approve Keystone Pipeline.** WALTER ISAACSON: “I know you’re not in the administration anymore, so maybe you could answer. Would you recommend for the keystone pipeline if you were there?” DONILON: “You know, I would.” (Tom Donilon, [Remarks At Aspen Institute Forum](#), Washington, D.C., 1/7/14)