

# Los Angeles to continue its climate change efforts despite the change in national administration

Donald Trump's second term as President poses an uncertain future for the United States' climate change efforts, but the county of Los Angeles is set in its 2045 Climate Action Plan.

By Alyssa Peccatiello



The Los Angeles skyline with a layer of smog. (Photo by Getty Images/Justin Lambert).

In Los Angeles, a major city known for its smoggy skies, LA County Planning's efforts to mitigate climate change aim to make the city more sustainable, but some experts say the upcoming change in national administration could put a damper on the nation's global environmental efforts.

The LA County Board of Supervisors adopted the 2045 Los Angeles County Climate Action Plan ([2045 CAP](#)) to combat the city's contributions to climate change and adhere to the 2016 Paris Climate Agreement. In Los Angeles, lawmakers and climate change experts are preparing

for a future of uncertain national funding and attention to climate change because of President-Elect Donald Trump.

“The county is committed to staying on track and implementing our Climate Action Plan... but everyone knows that funding from the federal government for climate action will dry up with the new administration,” said Iris Chi, the senior planner of environmental planning and sustainability at LA County Planning.

Chi was one of the experts who worked on creating the L.A. County’s 2045 CAP, which was adopted on June 25, 2024. The CAP adheres to the [Paris Agreement](#), an international climate change treaty signed by 195 countries and the European Union. The treaty’s goal is to curb the rate of global temperature increase, with each country communicating its long-term plans to limit greenhouse gas emissions.

The CAP aims to reduce fossil fuel use and create more efficient systems for the county’s unincorporated areas, meaning the regions that aren’t governed by any of LA’s 88 cities. LA County Planning states that [over 65%](#) of the county is unincorporated.

“We cover five sectors, we have 94 actions in the Climate Action Plan,” said Chi. “Trying to cover everything has always been challenging,” she said.

The CAP covers energy supply, transportation, water, waste, and land use. Chi explained that the overall goal is for the unincorporated areas of L.A. County to become carbon neutral by 2045.

According to the [LA County Department of Public Health](#), Los Angeles County has one of the worst air qualities in the nation. Vehicles emit harmful pollutants like particulate matter, carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxides that impact air quality and human health.

Vehicle emissions are one of the driving forces behind Los Angeles’ air quality problem, as its reputation for heavy traffic and the size of the city make driving one of the primary modes of transportation.

The 2045 CAP aims to facilitate the transition from gas vehicles to electric vehicles, reduce single-occupant vehicle trips and coordinate land use to have increased density near transit centers to reduce travel distances.

Los Angeles may be making strides to adhere to the Paris Agreement, but its history is contentious when it comes to the United States as a nation.

In 2017, former president Donald Trump announced that the U.S. would be leaving the Paris Agreement, making it the only one of the 196 parties to do so. In 2020, the decision was finalized. In 2021, President Biden rejoined the Paris Agreement.

With a second Trump Administration beginning in 2025, the U.S.'s role in the Paris Agreement, and its attention to climate change in general, may be in limbo once again.

“The next four years will absolutely be a period of the state of California pursuing climate leadership, finding ways to Trump-proof how California does business... even if the federal government is thwarting them,” said Evan George, the director of communications for UCLA’s Emmett Institute on Climate Change & the Environment.

Efforts to minimize pollution and improve sustainability in Los Angeles like the 2045 CAP have continued to push for increased use of renewable energy and water conservation. However, the effects of global warming are still felt by LA residents.

“In LA County, hotter, longer heat waves caused by climate change are one of the major threats to the health and well-being of our communities,” said the [LA County Department of Public Health](#).

Some independent organizations are working to aid L.A.’s climate change efforts by engaging in grassroots movements and projects to minimize the effects of greenhouse gas emissions.

Climate Resolve, a non-profit founded in 2010, works in historically disadvantaged communities in L.A. to provide relief from the effects of climate change while making the city more sustainable. “Shine On” is Climate Resolve’s initiative that refurbishes roofs to be more reflective of solar radiation; cooling homes in hot weather.

“Climate Resolve was founded with the idea that even though climate change is a global issue... to think globally, you have to see how it manifests locally,” said Jonathan Parfrey, the executive director of Climate Resolve.

Parfrey is hopeful that California’s climate change efforts will not be impeded by the change in national administration, adding that the state is “smart and aggressive in terms of its climate goals.”

“California has tacked in a different direction than the federal government when it comes to climate action,” he said.

Parfrey is confident in Los Angeles’ efforts and current plan for tackling climate change, adding that “the 2045 Climate Action Plan is enforceable.”

Effects on climate management by the upcoming Trump Administration will take time to manifest, yet the progress made during the Biden Administration may not be completely erased.

“It won’t be immediate, there’s a lot of economic private sector investments and job creation in red states as a result of Biden’s climate law that Republicans are not going to want to undo,” said Evan George. George explained that Biden’s [Inflation Reduction Act](#) has had a significant impact on the switch to clean energy.

Climate change remains a pertinent issue, with natural disasters and rising temperatures posing threats to various industries and communities, and the upcoming change in national leadership potentially impeding climate change efforts.

Los Angeles and its 2045 Climate Action Plan have set the county on a decisive track to tackle greenhouse gas emissions and achieve carbon neutrality.

“People are not going to act on a problem unless they believe there are solutions,” said Parfrey. Between the 2045 Climate Action Plan and the work of non-profits like Climate Resolve, Los Angeles is working to combat the county’s contributions to climate change.