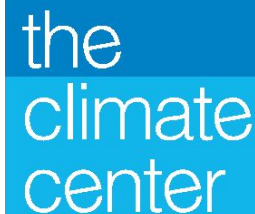


What the California Legislature Achieved on Climate in 2024

Wins, losses, lessons learned and opportunities

October 31, 2024

www.theclimatecenter.org

The logo for The Climate Center, featuring a vertical stack of four colored bars: yellow at the top, dark blue, light blue, and green at the bottom. The text "the climate center" is written in white lowercase letters across the dark blue and light blue bars.

the
climate
center

Sponsors



Promotional Partners



**ACTION FOR A
HEALTHY PLANET**



Global climate goals bold but inadequate

UN IPCC 1.5C Report, Oct 2018:

- Cut emissions by 45% by 2030,
AND
- remove 100 to 1000 Gt CO₂e from
atmosphere

to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 and stay under the 1.5C dangerous warming threshold agreed to in 2015 Paris accord



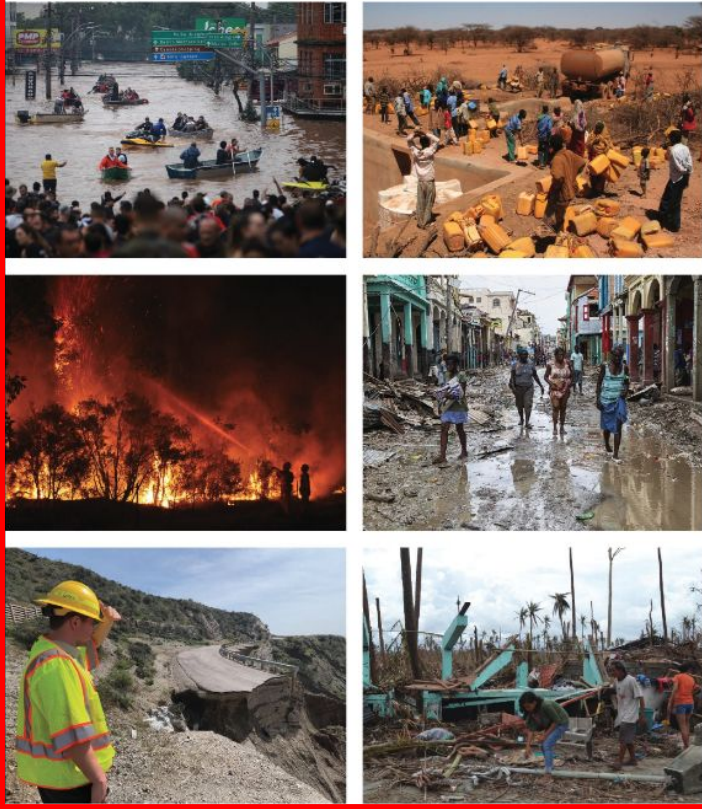
**UNEP Gap Report, Oct 2024: Current policies => 3.1 C warming!
Countries on track for ~9% increase in emissions!
“Code Red for Humanity”**

<https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/press-release/nations-must-close-huge-emissions-gap-new-climate-pledges-and> Oct 2024

<https://unfccc.int/news/climate-plans-remain-insufficient-more-ambitious-action-needed-now> Oct 2022

[UN predicts 9% rise in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030](https://www.ft.com/content/2023/11/14/un-predicts-9-percent-rise-in-greenhouse-gas-emissions-by-2030) FT Nov 14 2023

Untold Human Suffering in Pictures



2024 State of the Climate Report

Perilous times on planet Earth

**25 of 35 planetary
vital signs are at
record extremes**

Ripple et al. Oct 8 2024

<https://academic.oup.com/bioscience/advance-article/doi/10.1093/biosci/biae087/7808595?login=false>

Spoiler Alert: CA isn't on track to meet its climate change mandates — and a new analysis says it's not even close

March 15, 2024

Must now cut GHGs by 4.6% every year, to be on track for CA 2030 goal



<https://calmatters.org/environment/climate-change/2024/03/california-climate-change-mandate-analysis/>
<https://greeninnovationindex.org/2023-edition/>
New study by Beacon Econ and Next10

High Level Observations

Observation: Session characterized by incrementalism, limited progress, Climate movement on defense AND-- end of session was chaotic, anti-democratic!



Big Oil spent record \$15.3m lobbying in CA in first half 2024=> Chevron #1; PG&E spent ~\$3m



- <https://lastchancealliance.org/q2-lobbying-big-oil-on-record-annual-spending-pace-fighting-polluter-accountability-bills/>
- <https://calmatters.org/politics/2024/05/california-lobbying-state-government-2/>
- <https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2024/2/17/2224095/-Chevron-topped-CA-lobbying-spending-with-11-million-in-2023-Big-Oil-set-new-record-of-27-million>

ABX2-1- Assembly Special Session-signed into law

- Gov's Office tried last minute, [SB 950](#), to increase storage at refineries; help prevent supply shortages, price spikes for consumers;
- But bill could have expanded fossil fuel infrastructure
- Then called Special Session; [ABX2-1](#) passed
- Dysfunctional- crammed in
- BUT changes made to improve it - does not allow new storage to be built



<https://scied.ucar.edu/image/oil-refineries-create-air-pollution>

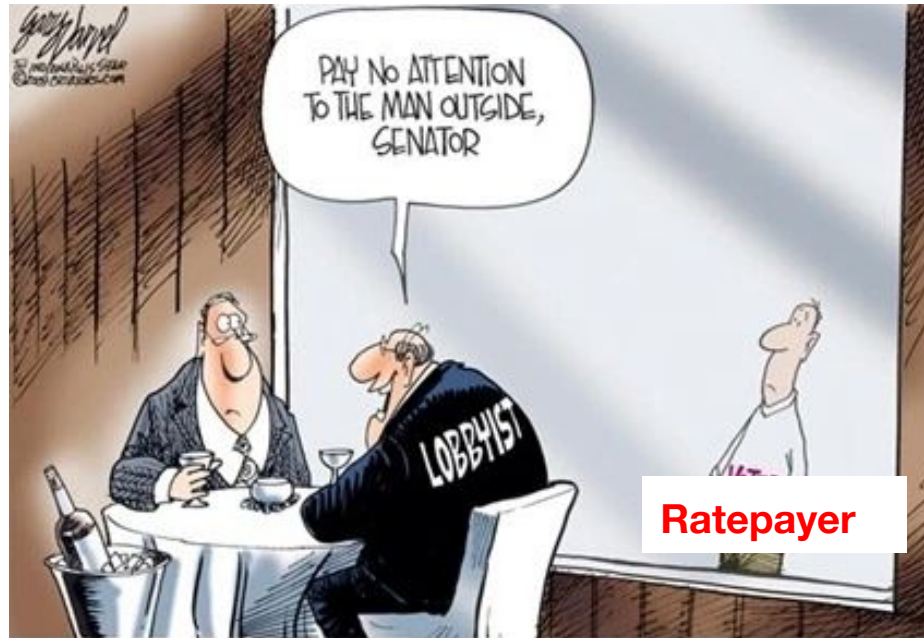
Answer to Affordability Crisis? \$30 credit?? AB 3121 (Petri-Norris) killed!

- Another last minute bill- “gut and amend”
- **Would have given ratepayers a one time \$30 credit.....**
- **by cutting existing programs that support energy efficiency in schools and solar and storage for low income households and multi family apartments!!**



SB 938 (Min) to prevent IOU's from using ratepayer dollars for lobbying

Killed in Committee



SB 1497- Menjivar- Pulled

Polluters Pay Climate Cost Recovery Act of 2024

- Bill would **establish a CA EPA program to require fossil fuel polluters to pay their fair share of the damage caused by the sale of their products from 2000 and 2020**
- Reintroduce in 25-26 legislative session



ON HOLD (for now) SB 252 (Gonzalez): Divest state retirement funds from Fossil Fuels

- Divest public employees and state teacher retirement funds
- Co-sponsors:
 - Fossil Free CA
 - CA Faculty Assoc.
 - The Climate Center
- Held in Committee



130+ organizations in support



SB 308 Becker-- CDR Guardrails

Dead for now

SB 308 (Becker) - Carbon Dioxide Removal
- Held in Asm Appropriations - aimed to set an interim target for carbon dioxide removal to balance out remaining greenhouse gas emissions, and achieve the target through the utilization of existing or new state programs.

VETOED:

SB 1374 (Becker)

Allows schools and some apartment buildings to fully benefit from their own solar - aggregated net metering - saving significant money on energy bills and incentivizing continued solar deployment.

The only bill supporting rooftop solar to make it to the Governor



SB1420 (Caballero) Loosens Hydrogen Standards: Signed by the Governor

- **Erodes H2 production standards**, allows streamlining of CEQA for hydrogen projects, allows combustion and bioenergy-based hydrogen production.
- We and many of our allies opposed this bill



<https://earthjustice.org/feature/green-hydrogen-renewable-zero-emission>

PROGRESS: SB 59 (Skinner) Bidirectional EVs on Gov's desk!



**Union of
Concerned Scientists**

NUVVE

- 100+ orgs in support
- Brought [national attention](#) to bidirectional EVs
- Growing momentum with the auto industry, [eg Toyota](#),
- Inspired a [federal bill](#).
- Quoted in 20+ media stories over past 12 months
- Foundation of GFTF

SB 59: authorizes CEC to establish categories of EVs sold in CA that will be required to have bidirectional charging capability.

PROGRESS: Signed into Law Sept 25 2024

Make Polluters Pay- Signed into Law

1. **[AB 1866](#) (Hart) - Accelerating closure of 40k idle wells--** Increases the idle well fees and increases the amount of wells that must be eliminated under an idle well management plan
2. **[AB 3233](#) (Addis) - Strengthen Local govt authority over O&G wells and drilling**
3. **[AB 2716](#) (Bryan) -** requires that low-producing wells in the Inglewood oilfield (835 wells) to be plugged. Noncompliance fine of \$10K per month



PROGRESS:

- **Restored some of state climate budget**
- **Passed \$10 billion climate bond -- Prop 4 now on November ballot**
- Co-led coalition working to protect CA historic \$54 billion five year climate investments (2022)
- Saved \$100s of millions in clean transportation, clean energy and natural climate solutions
 - ...but big cuts and long deferrals still remain.



Opportunities for 2025

- **Prop 4 - we must pass it** - climate budget was cut this year. 2025 expecting another state deficit
- **Approximately 31 new legislators** after the election - likely a more moderate Senate
- **Polluter's Pay** - helps fund clean energy transition
- **Affordability** - Governor and Legislature can't ignore, IOU rates keep increasing
- **Cap & Trade Reauthorization/Reform** coming to the legislature in 2025, state's biggest climate program
- **Carbon Removal** - good chance of another bill - job creation, set guardrails for industry, model for country
- **Governor Newsom's** shifting ambitions - support him to vision and leave a real climate legacy

Summary of the Summary

- **A lot was attempted, but a lot was thwarted**
- **Some good things for the climate got done**
- **A lot more is needed to meet CA targets for emissions reduction much less what is required by science**
- **There are opportunities to do more next year**

Thank You

Record emissions and destruction globally YET world plans for 4X new oil & gas prod. by 2030

Fossil fuel industry responsible for 76% of warming



<https://www.energymonitor.ai/risk-management/exclusive-oil-majors-expansion-little-heed-to-net-zero/?cf-view>

<https://www.wri.org/insights/interactive-chart-shows-changes-worlds-top-10-emitters>

<https://thebulletin.org/2024/04/world-set-to-quadruple-oil-and-gas-production-by-2030-led-by-new-us-projects/>

<https://www.colorado.edu/today/2024/08/22/report-shows-2023-marked-record-breaking-greenhouse-gas-levels-extreme-heat-and-high-sea>

No more business as usual...sampling of 2024 Climate bills killed, gutted or held:

X ACA 16 (Bryan) - Constitutional Right for Clean Air/Environment

X SB 1497 (Menjivar) - Polluters Pay Climate Cost Recovery Act of 2024 - required fossil fuel polluters to pay their fair share of the damage caused by the sale of their products from 2000 and 2020

X AB 2054 (Bauer-Kahan)- limited revolving door between CPUC & regulated utilities