



the weekly anthropocene



dispatches from the wild, weird world of humanity and its biosphere

By Sam Matey, October 28, 2020

America, and the World. Election Day is on November 3rd, 2020. The danger Donald Trump poses to America is demonstrated every day, and the immense moral, civic, and human importance of voting for the Biden/Harris ticket and the Democratic Party is self-evident. This newsletter will focus on the key environmental and climate issues at stake.

First, of course, a Biden presidency would stop the bleeding: since his inauguration, Trump has been working with the most corrupt of fossil fuel executives to strip away environmental regulations and allow corporations to drill, mine, pollute, imperil endangered species, and exploit their workers as much as possible. (For a list of 75 ways Trump tried to pollute America and the world further, see tinyurl.com/TrumpDirtyRecord). Biden would roll back this wave of deregulation with the stroke of a pen and end the perversion of agencies like the EPA, making Americans safer and stopping fossil fuel executives getting away with murder in their desperate attempts to cash in on their dying industry.

Beyond that, though, a Biden presidency with a Democratic-led Senate could really make the difference in whether and how fast the world contains and addresses climate change. Wood Mackenzie, a global energy research group, calculates that Biden's climate plan could accelerate US growth in renewables to the point where America reaches a 100% renewable energy-powered electric grid in 2035. Without Biden, simply continuing current trends, they estimate that we would only reach 87% renewables by 2050. A separate report, from the University of California Berkeley, found that if Biden were to establish a national clean energy standard (as he plans to, see joebiden.com/climate-plan/), it would likely create 500,000 new jobs and lead to at least 95% renewable electricity nationwide by 2035, with little or no additional cost over "business as usual." (For more, see <https://tinyurl.com/BidenDecarbonize2035>).

We could be at the brink of an environmental renaissance. The EU and China have already committed to net-zero emissions by mid-century, and if a Biden Administration joins them, the 2020s could be remembered centuries from now as the decade we finally turned civilization onto a sustainable path and averted catastrophic climate change.

We also need to prepare for the possibility that even if Biden wins (especially if it's by a narrow margin and it takes a while to finalize the result) Donald Trump may not give up power willingly, and may need to be forced out through legal injunctions and massive nationwide protests. Hopefully, as soon as a week from now, the previous sentence will look like anxiety-driven alarmism, an artifact of a time so crazy that there were serious doubts about whether the President of the United States would give up power peacefully if they lost an election. (For more, see [Politico's guide on post-election landmarks and warning signs](#) and protecttheresults.com/). Stay safe out there, everyone. Here's hoping that in the next *Weekly Anthropocene* (to come out once results are clear) we're celebrating. If not, see you in the streets.

