

### Donald Trump & Renewable Energy

Donald Trump's return to the White House marks a significant shift for the renewable energy sector. In his inauguration speech, Trump declared a "national energy emergency" and notably exclaimed his intentions to "drill, baby, drill" for new fossil fuels. Following the trend of his first term where he withdrew from the Paris climate Agreement, in his first weeks back in office, Trump has halted over \$300 billion in green infrastructure funding, targeting subsidies and regulatory frameworks, such as Biden's Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), that had previously accelerated the build-out of wind, solar, and other clean energy projects. Furthermore, Trump eased restrictions on oil & gas, ending bans on offshore drilling and freezing new permits for liquified natural gas (LNG) terminals.



Despite this aggressive rollback, Trump's presidency has not been uniformly negative for the renewable sector. During his first term, renewable energy capacity continued to expand, particularly in Republican-led states such as Texas, Oklahoma, and Iowa—regions that have seen significant job creation and economic benefits from wind and solar developments from Biden's IRA. The Production Tax Credit (PTC) and Investment Tax Credit (ITC), both of which predated Trump, remained in place during his tenure, allowing the industry to continue its momentum despite the administration's preference for fossil fuels.

Moreover, corporate America's commitment to renewables remains robust, driven by economic incentives, shareholder pressures, and long-term energy security strategies. Brookfield Renewables, for instance, recently reported strong demand from major companies seeking long-term clean energy contracts. In May 2024, the company signed the largest-ever renewable power purchase agreement with Microsoft, underscoring the growing intersection of artificial intelligence and clean energy. With AI-driven data centres requiring vast amounts of power, and corporations are increasingly turning to renewables to ensure stable and sustainable energy supply chains.

Looking ahead, Trump's policies may slow the pace of renewable expansion by removing federal support, but market forces and corporate demand will continue to propel the sector forward. Additionally, many states—especially those with Republican leadership that have benefited economically from renewable investment—may resist efforts to dismantle local incentives. While federal policy plays a significant role, the resilience of the U.S. renewables market, coupled with corporate commitments and technological advancements in AI and energy efficiency, ensures that clean energy will remain a critical component of the nation's power landscape.

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