

250th Revelers Impacted By Dangerous Heat: The Trump Administration is Actively Fighting Against Efforts to Tackle It

Allis Druffel - July 5, 2025

It's the U.S.'s 250th birthday and folks are celebrating - or trying to. Many are celebrating the best accomplishments of our nation or, at least, reveling in the ideals that built it: equality, liberty, and democracy. Among the shortcomings over U.S. history is a blatant irony that the current administration and corporations don't want you to recognize: the country is baking under extreme heat exacerbated by the climate crisis, yet those responsible are being ferociously protected while life-saving efforts are being thrown out.

In Washington, DC, over the last several days, the temperature has hovered around 100 degrees. The National Park Service's 4th of July parade was cancelled due to an extreme heat warning issued by the National Weather Service. The temperature was expected to reach as high as [102 degrees Fahrenheit, with the heat index making it feel as hot as 115F](#).¹ Extreme heat has gripped the U.S. Midwest and East, as well as other areas of the globe. [Germany marked a new heat record of 107 degrees Fahrenheit, and the Czech Republic reached 106F](#).² Extreme heat is the leading cause of weather-related deaths in the U.S. In 2014, [U.S. military leadership recognized rising global temperatures](#) as a "threat multiplier" to global instability, hunger, poverty, and conflict.³

Scientists made the connection between the burning of fossil fuels, (particularly coal at that time,) to a warming of Earth's surface temperature in 1896, [supported by scientific research from the 1860's](#).⁴ Public understanding of this connection in the U.S. hit a new high in the 1960's and with it, a campaign of deceit, disinformation, and lying by the fossil fuel industry. Oil companies dismissed their own scientists' reports, [which showed a remarkably accurate link](#) between their product and a changing climate, choosing profits over a healthy planet.⁵ Major oil, gas, and coal companies continue to fight local, state, national, and international regulatory efforts to transition to cleaner, life-protecting energy sources.

The dirty energy industry has no better friend than the current administration, which is **actively working against efforts to mitigate fossil-fuel driven climate change**. [Trump and his allies have wiped out many gains made by previous administrations](#),⁶ including canceling incentives for cleaner energy industries, electric vehicles, energy-efficient home fixtures, and more. Especially pernicious is [Trump's multi-billion dollar payoffs to wind energy companies to halt production of planned projects in the U.S.](#)⁷ Trump's EPA continues to weaken standards that protect public health and the planet, [including revoking the "Endangerment Finding"](#) the longstanding climate policy allowing the EPA to regulate climate pollution.⁸

Back in Washington, DC and other areas of the country, 250th anniversary revelers had little to celebrate. The much-anticipated [Great American State Fair abruptly closed temporarily](#) after multiple people were treated for heat-related illnesses.⁹ Around the country, [deaths and illnesses were reported](#)¹⁰ while the perpetrators of extreme heat and

climate chaos are sanctioned by the current administration. Everyone deserves to live free from public health and planet-killing pollution. Millions around the world are working for climate strategies that will benefit everyone. We need leaders that follow the will of the people and prioritize life-saving strategies, not the profits of powerful friends.

Citations:

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- 3 - 10.13.14, U.S. Department of War, "Hagel to Address 'Threat Multiplier' of Climate Change"
- 4 - Updated 10.23.24, National Aeronautics and Atmospheric Administration (NASA,) "Evidence"
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- 7 - 06.05.26, National Resources Defense Council (NRDC), "Billion-Dollar Deals to Quit Offshore Wind Leases Ignite Investigations and Investor Alarm"
- 8 - 02.12.26, CNN, "Trump delivers a deadly blow to EPA's ability to regulate climate pollution"
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- 10 - 07.08.26, USA Today, "Was that climate change? Scientists ponder a deadly July 4 weekend."

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