

## Correction synthèse Trump's environmental policy

Document 1	Document 2	Document 3	Document 4	Document 5
<p>Key idea: The US withdraws from the Paris Climate Agreement with Trump renewing his vow to protect American citizens' interests</p>	<p>Key idea: The effects of climate change cannot be denied, so politicians must act accordingly</p>	<p>Key idea: Scott Pruitt announces the revoking of the Clean Power Plan implemented by Obama</p>	<p>Key idea: Americans are changing their views on climate change</p>	<p>Key idea: Trump is dismantling Obama's legacy</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Trump announces the withdrawal of the US from the Paris agreement which he deems unjust to Americans as it jeopardises their country's economy.</li> <li>- This announcement caused an outcry around the world.</li> <li>- Some members of Trump's cabinet opposed this decision and tried to dissuade him from making it.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Climate change and the extra heat that derives from it played a major part in the strength – and destructiveness – of hurricane Harvey.</li> <li>- Just before hurricane Harvey struck Texas, Trump had overridden the Federal Flood Risk Mitigation Standard, a regulation implemented by Obama that aimed at reducing the risk of flooding damage.</li> <li>- For some people, environmental rules are</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The decision was made in order to protect the economic interests of the coal industry which consequently approved it.</li> <li>- The decision is also highly condemned since it poses a real danger to Americans' health.</li> <li>- The decision was unwelcomed by some Attorneys General that have already announced that they would legally contest it.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- While in 2005, only 39 percent of Americans held climate change responsible for hurricane Katrina, today 51 percent of them see the recent sequence of hurricanes as a direct consequence of it.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The position of Obama standing on a dangerously melting ice floe metaphorically suggests that soon, because of Trump's all-out assault on his climate change legacy, nothing will remain of it.</li> <li>- The bears, which claim to feel good, are thankful to him and have thus started a collection on his behalf.</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This quintessential protectionist move is aimed at redirecting the promised \$ 3 billion in aid for developing countries to sectors where money is more needed.</li> <li>- Joining the agreement as part of a worldwide effort to curb greenhouse gas emissions was one of Obama's legacies.</li> <li>- Ultimately, whether the US will effectively withdraw from the agreement depends on the outcome of the next presidential election.</li> </ul>	<p>useless and adaptation is key to facing natural disasters. What's more, according to a columnist, natural disasters can boost a region's economy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Curbing one's carbon emissions to tackle climate change is imperative. It is reckless to override legislation aimed at dealing with the consequences of climate change.</li> <li>- Favouring economic development is not consistent with climate change action.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Clean Power Plan was a central piece in America's effort to reduce its carbon emission level as pledged in 2015.</li> <li>- Trump seems intent on dismantling Obama's climate legacy.</li> </ul>		
---	--	---	--	--

## Propositions de titres

The Trump administration undoes progress on climate change / Trump reverses Obama's climate policies / Trump dramatically changes US approach to climate change

## Introduction

The sequence of hurricanes that has severely hit the US over the past few months has reignited the issue of climate change in a country whose administration seems intent on denying it. What is Trump's environmental policy grounded in? To what extent can it be held to harm America or even impede the world's combined efforts to combat climate change? These are the questions raised by this set of documents, composed of three press articles respectively taken from *The Guardian*, *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*, a graph from the *Washington Post* and a cartoon from *Mercury News*, all published in 2017.

## Plan

I) Trump's all-out assault on Obama's environmental policy

- A series of measures were taken that unravel Obama's efforts to fight climate change or adapt to it: the US withdrew from the Paris Agreement (Doc 1 & 3), the FFRMS was overridden in August (Doc 2), Pruitt announced the end of the Clean Power Plan (Doc 3).
- The Clean Power Plan was a central piece in America's effort to reduce its carbon emission level as pledged in 2015 (Doc 3).
- Trump dismantles his predecessor's policy (Doc 1, 2, 3 & 5).

⇒ How does he politically justify these measures?

II) America First or how to protect Americans' *economic* interests

- Trump has a protectionist approach to politics. He thus wants to favour Americans, be it by redirecting the money not spent on environmental causes to sectors where it is more needed (Doc 1 & 2), or by unburdening the coal industry from restraining regulations (Doc 3).
- Just like Trump, some consider that environmental legislation is useless and that whatever happens, people will still adapt (Doc 2).

⇒ As stated in Doc 2, “economic growth has many benefits”, but the impact of climate change is undeniable and has to be tackled.

### III) Climate change: still contentious and yet undeniable

- Trump’s environmental policy is highly condemned (Doc 1, 2 & 3), even by some members of his cabinet (Doc 1), because it is deemed harmful (Doc 1, 2 & 3).
- Indeed, a direct cause and effect link is made between climate change and natural disasters such as hurricane Harvey (Doc 2).
- Some General Attorneys are preparing for a legal fight to contest Trump’s policy (Doc 3). What’s more, more and more Americans have become aware of the threat posed by climate change (Doc 4).

### **Conclusion**

Trump’s constant denial of environmental issues at a time when awareness is vital proves detrimental to America and, insofar as the US is the world’s second largest polluter, to the world. Whether the US will go on in this direction depends on the outcome of the next presidential election, and so ultimately lies in the hands of Americans.