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**From:** InsideEPA/climate  
**Sent:** Wed 11/8/2017 10:21:26 PM  
**Subject:** Today on Climate Beat

November 8, 2017

## Today on Climate Beat . . .

. . . we tallied up the votes, reporting that Democrats had a good night in many key state elections yesterday, securing governor's mansions in Virginia and New Jersey and flipping the Washington state Senate, victories that could provide a boost to cap-and-trade programs to control greenhouse gases.

Speaking of states, a coalition of governors and other state officials plan to emphasize their progress on climate policies next week at the United Nations climate conference, arguing their presence is more important than ever after the Trump administration's rejection of the Paris climate accord.

In personnel updates, veteran climate change and energy lawyers and advisers from both sides of the political aisle are joining forces to launch a new consulting firm, the Coefficient Group, which will focus on unique approaches to climate policy, regulations and politics.

Out in court, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is asking a federal appeals court to reject environmentalists' efforts to force it to conduct a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review of the climate impacts of coal leasing on federal lands, arguing that there is nothing in existing law that requires it to update a 1970s-era NEPA review.

And speaking of coal, the Clean Air Task Force is blasting what it says are the negative health impacts that would occur if federal energy regulators adopt a Trump administration plan that would subsidize coal and nuclear electricity, warning it would keep high-emitting coal plants running longer and lead to much more air pollution.

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