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**Subject:** Alaska to tackle climate change, meet Paris goals

By Eric Wolff

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Alaska Gov. Bill Walker (I) said today the state will try to meet the goals of the Paris climate accord, and he announced the creation of a new committee to address the impacts of climate change.

Walker, a former Republican turned independent in 2014, called climate change a "nonpartisan issue."

"We're going to follow the goals of the Paris accord," he said. "We're going to do them in our time frame, and in our way. "

President Donald Trump earlier this year promised to withdraw the U.S. from the Paris climate agreement, but some states and cities aim to comply on their own.

Walker said he recognized the contradiction in trying to address climate change from a state whose economy is 70 percent based on oil and natural gas production.

"There are those who will say, 'How do you balance the two?' But we have to," he said. "We will continue to responsibly develop our non-renewable resources and use that as the bridge funding to do what we need to do deal with the impact of climate change on Alaska."

At least 10 villages in Alaska will have to be uprooted before they are swamped by rising sea levels, and Walker said he was "not confident" the federal government will help with relocation costs.

**WHAT'S NEXT:** Lt. Gov. Byron Mallott (I) will chair Walker's Climate Change for Alaska Leadership Council, and he will seek nominees for the rest of the board's seats.

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