



The Climate Registry

The Climate Registry, in partnership with the Climate Action Reserve, led a delegation to the UNFCCC COP 22 conference in Marrakech in November, 2016. In partnership with other NGOs - including the Georgetown Climate Center, the Center for Climate & Energy Solutions and The Nature Conservancy - TCR produced events at COP that featured senior officials from U.S. states and Canadian provinces, as well as executives from U.S. businesses.

As hosts of a delegation to COP each year, we have two main objectives: (1) to provide a platform for North American sub-national jurisdictions to showcase their climate policies, and (2) to enable learning and exchange opportunities between our delegates and those from other countries and regions.

### **About COP22**

In the run up to Marrakech, the expectation was for this COP to be a low-key, workman-like follow-up to last year's COP21 meeting in Paris, where 190 countries came together to design the Paris Agreement. The Paris Agreement officially entered into force on November 4th, having been ratified by countries representing more than 55% of global emissions. This historic agreement came into effect just three days before the official opening of COP 22 and, by many expectations, two years ahead of schedule.

At about half the size of COP21, the discussions in Marrakech were expected to focus on the details of implementing the Paris Agreement, with topics ranging from transparency and capacity building to finance, agriculture and the development of ITMOs (internationally transferrable mitigation outcomes)—the newest code word for market mechanisms<sup>1</sup>.

The U.S. has committed to cutting our national greenhouse gas emissions by 26-28% by 2025 over 2005 levels. However, this commitment and the other Nationally Determined Commitments (NDCs) within the Paris Agreement do not get us far enough in curbing dangerous levels of global warming. The UNEP projects<sup>2</sup> that if all countries make good on their NDCs, we will still see warming of between 2.9 and 3.4 degrees C—well above the scientific consensus that warming must be contained to within 2 degrees C to avoid the worst impacts.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://sdg.iisd.org/news/marrakech-conference-carries-momentum-of-climate-action/>

<sup>2</sup> UNEP Emissions Gap Report: <http://www.unepdtu.org/newsbase/2016/11/emissions-gap-report-2016-released?id=2bc248af-6a1a-40df-8828-ad7653fb823c>

## **TCR's COP22 events**

TCR co-produced daily briefings and official UN- and U.S. Center-side events that highlighted the ways in which states are leading on climate action. Below is a round up of some of the most memorable quotes from our speakers on the role of sub-national action and the transition to a low-carbon economy:

### ***Ken Alex, Senior Policy Advisor to Governor Jerry Brown and the Director of the Office of Planning and Research***

“The theme of this COP is that states have their own authority and their own commitments and we’re working together.”

### ***Kevin de Leon, California Senate President pro Tempore***

“California will not retreat or go backwards on climate action. Our resolve and determination are stronger than ever, and we will continue to move forward on climate policies with like-minded states and countries such as Canada and Mexico. What is at stake is the future of this planet, the health outcomes of our children, and our economy. California has shown that you can grow the economy, create jobs, and allow families to be part of the middle class while reducing emissions. Forward-thinking, progressive policies that grow the economy while reducing carbon are the future of this nation and the future of the world.”

### ***Deb Markowitz, Secretary of Natural Resources, Vermont***

“One in 20 of our jobs in Vermont is in the clean-energy economy. We have the lowest unemployment rate in the U.S. in large part because of our clean-energy jobs. Much of the action in the U.S. is happening at the state level, and we are not slowing down: 36 of our states have climate action plans. There has already been an economic transformation in the states; that will not change.”

### ***Chris Davis, Senior Advisor – Energy and Carbon Markets, Office of the Governor, Washington***

“In 2014, we experienced the largest forest fires in Washington state’s history, surpassed only by the fires in 2015, which resulted in hundreds of millions of dollars in damage. We saw a complete die-off of oysters in 2006 due to acidification of the ocean and abnormally high temperatures. The impacts of climate change are happening now. With the re-election of Governor Inslee last week, Washingtonians are demanding that we go even further to address climate change. In the next four years, we will go further on ridding our electricity grid of carbon and on the electrification of our vehicles. We will continue to provide leadership and demonstrate the role that states can play on climate action.”

### ***Matt Rodriquez, Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency***

“California has adopted a number of programs designed to reduce carbon emissions, use our energy resources more efficiently, and to support the transition to a low-carbon lifestyle. We are meeting our target to reduce our emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 while simultaneously growing our economy. California’s economy is growing faster than the economy in the rest of the U.S., we have eliminated a budget deficit, and we have attracted venture capital

while also reducing emissions. We will continue to operate our climate programs and we will continue to work with the international community to address climate change.”

***Dirk Forrister, CEO and President, International Emissions Trading Association (IETA)***

“There’s going to be an important role that sub-national actors can play with respect to [carbon credit] trading with sectors that don’t have NDCs. They’re going to come up with ways to handle that that has environmental integrity. It’s not just REGGIE and CA or WCI issue. In Brazil, you have the same thing going on with subnational leaders, with these actors wanting to help out and their country isn’t ready for that. We have this upwards percolation. So I think it’s going to be an issue in a lot of places. Historically, it’s been a big issue in Canada. You have a lot of Canadian ministers doing things and trying to show the government what they’ve been doing, but because of the governance system in Canada they have more of an effect on the federal government. It’s going to be very important in the coming years—how can subnational actors have influence.”

***Karen Florini, Deputy Special Envoy for Climate Change at the U.S. Department of State***

“The states have played a phenomenal role in creating the momentum for the Obama Administration. I think it’s important for other countries to understand that a significant fraction of the U.S. economy is still very much forward-leading on climate. Perhaps the single most important message of this COP is that there will not be enough money to address climate mitigation and adaptation needs. It’s not a question of shifting billions; it’s a question of shifting trillions. We need to use public money to leverage private money. There’s a lot of discussion about the need to layer finance.”

***Katie Sullivan, Director, Americas and Climate Finance International Emissions Trading Association (IETA)***

“A lot of the world is watching to see how Canada is going to stitch together what is going on at the sub-national levels because, if Canada can do it, that provides some promise and hope and excitement for the rest of the world.”

**Stay tuned: COP 24 will be held in Bonn, Germany hosted by Fiji**