

Climate Nexus

From: Climate Nexus
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 8:28 AM
To: <Christopher.Vaccaro@noaa.gov>
Subject: NOAA reportedly threatened with firings over accurate tweet, Amazon employees plan strike, & more

The latest: Invest \$1.8 trillion in adaptation, reap 4x benefits

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FIRST LOOK

The ninth annual [National Drive Electric Week](#), a coast-to-coast celebration of electric vehicles (EVs), will be held September 14-22 as public interest in EVs

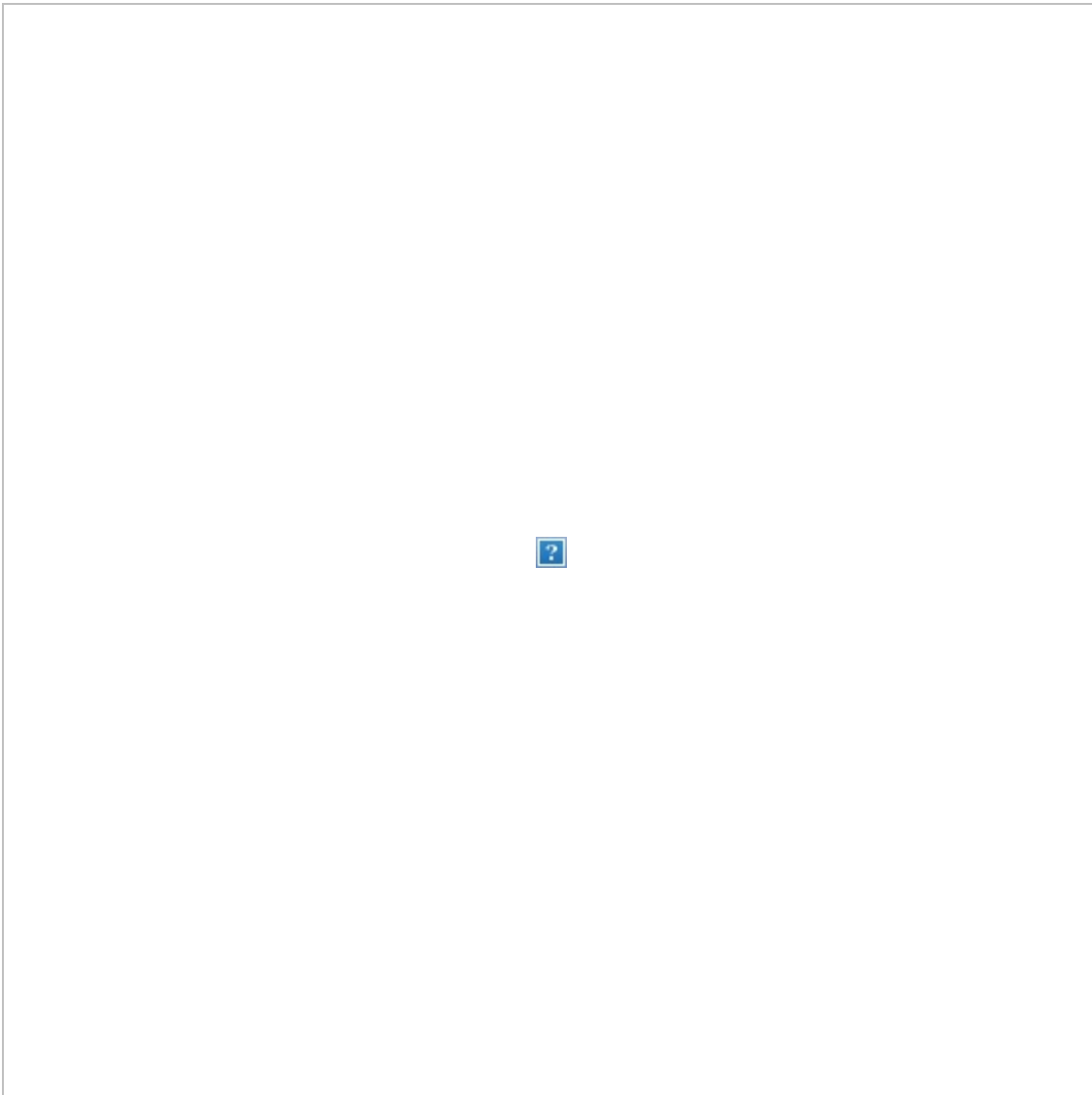


Report: NOAA Jobs Were On The Line Due to Trump's Bad Dorian Claims: The Secretary of Commerce threatened firings at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which is part of the Commerce Department, last week following forecasts that directly contradicted tweets from President Trump, the [New York Times](#) reports. Sources told the Times that calls made from Secretary Wilbur Ross to the acting administrator of NOAA Friday morning were what led to the agency's much-maligned retraction late Friday of an accurate tweet from the National Weather Service's Birmingham office, which alerted the public that Trump's claim that Hurricane Dorian would impact Alabama was false. High-ranking scientists at the agency, including its acting chief scientist and the director of the National Weather Service, have spoken out publicly against Friday's retraction, and the Commerce Department's Office of Inspector General is looking into the statement for possible ethics violations. (Firings: [New York Times](#) \$. Scientists: [AP](#), [NPR](#). Commentary: [Washington Post](#), [Jane Lubchenco](#), [D. James Baker](#) and [Kathryn D. Sullivan op-ed](#) \$)

Amazonians Will Walk Out: Hundreds of Amazon employees say they will go on strike later this month to call on the company to change its climate policies--the first planned

strike in Amazon's 25-year history. More than 1,000 workers, many based at the company's headquarters in Seattle, have signed an internal petition from the group Amazon Employees for Climate Justice pledging to walk out on September 20 as part of the [Global Climate Strike](#). The employee group [made headlines](#) earlier this year after thousands of employees signed an open letter criticizing the company's lack of action on climate while it courted the oil and gas industry. ([Wired](#), [Gizmodo](#), [CNN](#), [Vox](#), [Vice](#). Commentary: [The Guardian](#), [Rebecca Sheppard interview](#))

Report: Invest Now in Adaptation, Gain 4x Benefits: Investing \$1.8 trillion worldwide in climate adaptation measures over the next decade could reap enormous returns as countries avoid the worst impacts of a warming planet, a new UN report shows. The flagship report from the Global Commission on Adaptation finds that putting money into storm warning systems, resilient infrastructure, mangrove forests, water resources and improved agriculture between 2020 and 2030 could generate more than \$7 trillion in returns. "The message of this report is either we delay and pay or we plan and prosper," commission member and former UNFCCC secretary Christiana Figueres told InsideClimate News. ([AP](#), [Reuters](#), [InsideClimate News](#), [BBC](#), [Bloomberg](#), [The Guardian](#))



2020: Here how Democrats plan to pressure Trump on energy and environmental policy this fall ([Washington Post](#) \$), how does rural America want the next President to tackle climate change? ([Grist](#)), the left has reframed Democrats' climate debate ([The Atlantic](#))

IMPACTS: 122 degrees for days: the looming Phoenix heat wave that could harm thousands ([Vox](#)), Alaska just had the most ridiculous summer--that's a red flag for the planet ([CNN](#))

DORIAN: Crews in the Bahamas keep finding bodies--the official Hurricane Dorian death toll is rising more slowly ([Washington Post](#) \$), Dorian's claim to fame: 36 hours of pummeling just one spot ([Bloomberg](#)), 'trees snapped like toothpicks': how Dorian laid waste to Marsh Harbour ([The Guardian](#)), Trump dismisses idea of allowing Bahamians into US after Hurricane Dorian ([NBC](#))

TRUMP ADMIN: Trump defends lightbulb efficiency rollback: 'I look better under an incandescent light' ([The Hill](#)), documents show extent of Interior plan to decentralize BLM ([The Hill](#))

THE HILL: McConnell said no to money for miners, yes to Russian-backed plant ([Daily Beast](#))

RENEWABLES: Musk deposed in class-action lawsuit over Tesla SolarCity merger ([Bloomberg](#))

OIL & GAS: Gas plants will get crushed by wind, solar by 2035, study says ([Bloomberg](#)), fracking buzzwords evolve, from 'ramp up' to 'capital discipline' ([Wall Street Journal](#) \$), oil drilling plan near Utah monument draws tribal opposition ([AP](#))

VROOM: What we're driving on the 6,000-mile Electric Road Trip ([E&E](#) \$), climate groups call for SUVs to be banned ([Reuters](#)), automakers turn on style to try to switch SUV fans to electric ([Reuters](#)), diesel cars emit more air pollution on hot days, study says ([The Guardian](#)), how polluted, noisy Barcelona could save lives by cutting traffic ([Thomson Reuters Foundation](#)), Volkswagen bets big on electric--will consumers buy in? ([AP](#)), an increasingly urbanized Latin America turns to electric buses ([Yale Environment 360](#)), climate change, trade woes reshape Frankfurt auto show ([AP](#))

PIPELINES: Blocking a pipeline in Kentucky would be a felony if this lawmaker has his way ([Louisville Courier-Journal](#)), after state rejects gas pipeline permit, utility pushes back; one result: new buildings go electric ([InsideClimate News](#)), India, Nepal open cross border oil pipeline ([AP](#))

CITIES & STATES: How Big Oil blocked the nation's greenest governor on climate change ([InsideClimate News](#)), Louisiana agriculture chief candidates talk climate, tariffs ([AP](#)), on the Alabama coast, the unluckiest island in America ([Yale Environment 360](#)), PG&E plan offers billions to victims, others after wildfires ([AP](#))

COAL: Greenpeace activists detained in Poland during coal protest ([AP](#))

KIDS: Greta Thunberg's New York visit inspires young climate activists ([Washington Post](#) \$)

INT'L: Melting ice sees Sweden's highest peak lose crown after 139 years ([Reuters](#)), clean energy or food? Asian nations grapple with new demands on land ([Thomson Reuters Foundation](#)), Australian natural disasters minister David Littleproud: 'I don't know if climate change is manmade' ([The Guardian](#)), Australians increasingly fear climate change-related drought and extinctions ([The Guardian](#))

OCEANS: Climate crisis may be disrupting the 'great orgy' of coral spawning ([The Guardian](#))

ART: Is global warming the 21st century's black death? ([New York Times](#) \$), 10 films about climate change to see this fall in New England ([WBUR](#))

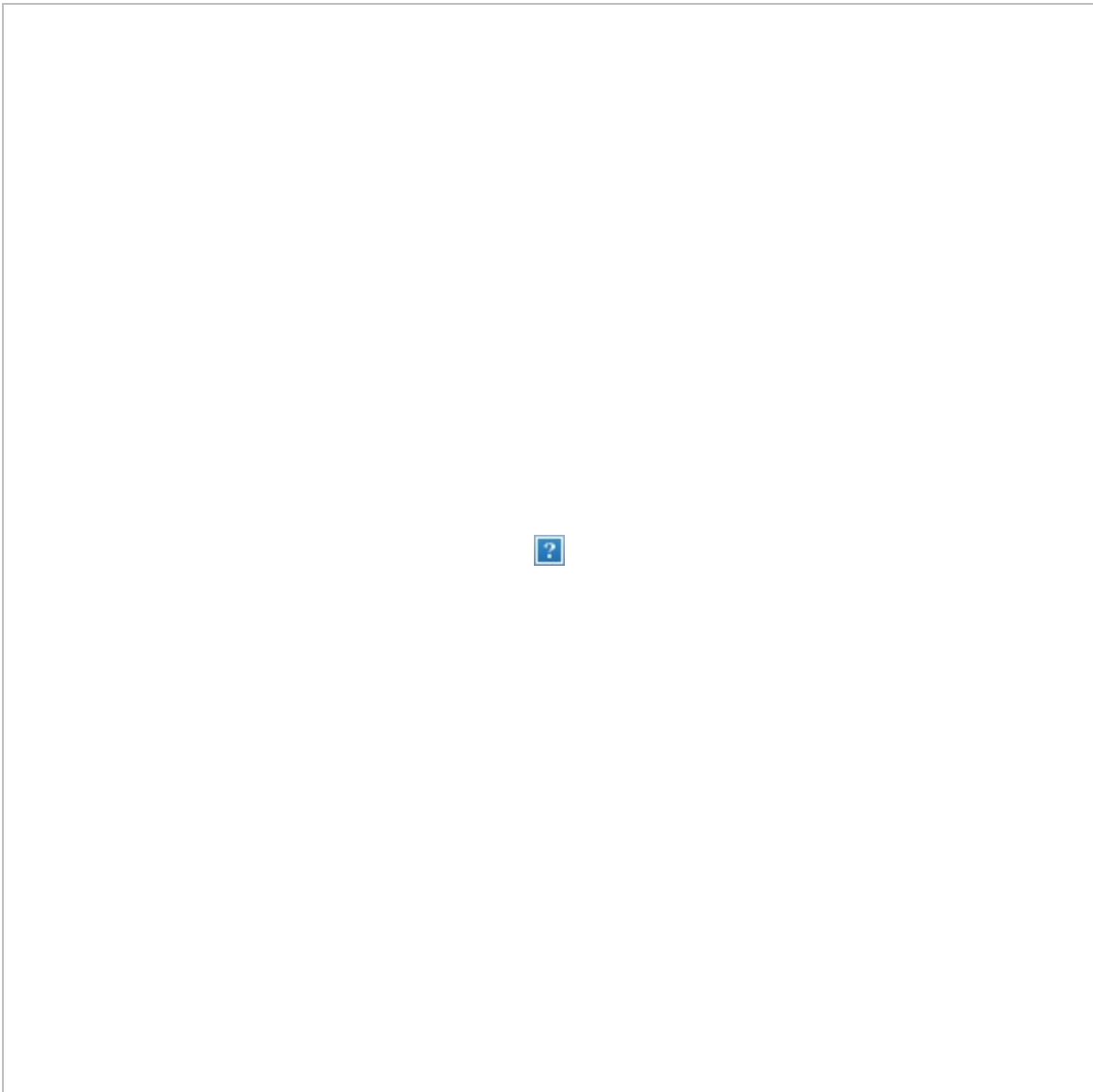
MINIMUM WAGE: Fed paper suggests climate change will affect retail worker pay ([Bloomberg](#))

COOKING: No need to cut beef to tackle climate crisis, say farmers ([The Guardian](#)), the next target in the climate-change debate: your gas stove ([Reuters](#))

QUOTABLES: 'Queer Eye' star Bobby Berk says Conoco contaminated family's water ([The Hill](#))

BALANCING ACT: Man climbs world's fair Unisphere to draw attention to climate change ([Gothamist](#))

STFU: Jonathan Franzen's made-up climate change model sparks online pile-on ([The Guardian](#), [Gizmodo](#), [Business Insider](#)), scientist suggests eating human flesh to fight climate change ([New York Post](#))



- Help those suffering in the Bahamas. Make sure they have a viable future, too.

([Washington Post, Eugene Robinson column](#) \$)

- Car companies want stricter emissions standards. What's the problem? ([Wall Street Journal, Fred Krupp op-ed](#) \$)
- How Greta Thunberg captured our attention on climate ([Slate, Rebecca Onion essay](#))
- The auto rule rollback that nobody wants, except Trump ([New York Times, Jody Freeman op-ed](#) \$)
- Climate change finally took center stage in 2020 race ([The Hill, Brad Bannon op-ed](#))
- Why do most people find us vegans so annoying? ([The Guardian, Dejan Jotanovic op-ed](#))
- I never thought I'd see the Australian rainforest burning. What will it take for us to wake up to the climate crisis? ([The Guardian, Joëlle Gergis op-ed](#))
- The US government should steer clear of Argentina's 'Dead Cow' ([Devex, Karen Orenstein and María Marta Di Paola op-ed](#))
- Democrats need a feisty fighter on climate change ([Washington Post, Katrina vanden Heuvel column](#) \$)
- Democrats: Americans won't pay your carbon taxes ([Bloomberg, Ramesh Ponnuru op-ed](#))



They're Destroying

While we were tempted to address Jonathan Franzen's latest example of why media should do a better job publishing perspectives beyond those of comfortable old white men, Emily Atkin's brand new [Heated newsletter pretty much nails it](#). (Yes, this is one climate newsletter telling you to go subscribe to another climate newsletter!)

Since Atkin took most of the good bird puns and linked to a few of the many great Twitter threads that cooked Franzen's goose, today we're going to talk about something else. While Franzen's out here appealing to the fainting couch set, the oil industry is busy trying to prop up its public image, particularly among young people.

And to do so, Houston Chronicle's MARRISA LUCK [explained Friday](#), they're meeting their audience where they are: social media.

While companies like Shell have for years now sought out [creative](#), if [cringey](#), ways to appeal to The Youths, they've now found a potentially valuable venue for their propaganda: social media influencers.

As Luck reports, Shell pays 40 "influencers" (aka people with a lot of social media followers) to post positively about Shell on various platforms. And while it may not be particularly persuasive for posters to repeat slogans and tag fossil fuel companies in posts made from gas stations, it shows just how desperate the fossil fuel industry is to appeal to kids.

The industry knows it needs the help. Whether [it's Greta and other youth leaders](#) organizing the coming [climate strikes](#) or the fact that [even Republican kids](#) are increasingly climate concerned, Shell and other fossil fuel companies can see the writing on the wall.

Not only are they worried about climate policy putting polluters out of business, but even if policy fails, they're having [trouble recruiting new talent](#). Turns out, kids these days [aren't eager to get into a career](#) killing the planet (not to mention the [whole sexual harassment issue at Shell](#)).

But while making sure a [24 year old with her Ferrari](#) is seen filling up at a Shell station certainly isn't climate action, it can be seen as a welcome step forward, given the fact that Shell [has been](#) trying [various other methods](#) to [deceive Gen Z on climate](#) since [before they were born](#).

At least now they're just giving money directly to people frivolously burning fossil fuels instead of spending that money on front groups- a small but noticeable step towards honesty.

But it's still one that, like Franzen, is little more than empty encouragement for us to ignore all the available offramps to get us off fossil fuels, and instead continue driving headlong into disaster.



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