

Sierra Club of Pennsylvania, Southeastern PA Group Executive Committee Meeting
Wednesday, April 4 at 6:15 pm
Lang Center, Keith Conference Room, Swarthmore College
Shortened Business Meeting to allow Education Program

ExCom Members Attending: Pat Beaudet, Sue Edwards, Ken Hemphill, Kevin Little, Dave Moscatello, , Dennis Winters, JimWylie

Attending by Phone: Prasad Ramnath, Alexa Manning. Jim Kaff

ExCom Members Absent: John Butler

Other Members Attending: Emily Davis, Phyllis Gilbert, Yvonne Fever, Nathan Graff

The Meeting was called to order.

Secretary: Dennis moved and Dave seconded that the minutes be approved as emailed.

Treasurer:

C3	Balance (No Change)	\$6,739
C4	Beginning Balance (Feb 1):	\$13,632
	Income	0
	Expenditures	\$740
	Ending Balance	\$12,892

Expenditures were \$250 each to Crum Creek and Darby Creek and \$240 for City Coho. The treasurer's report was accepted.

It was noted that Chester-Ridley Crum board member supporting fracking accepted \$10,000 from Sunoco. This will be considered when considering future donations.

Standing Committee Reports

Conservation Committee: (Jim Wylie)

Philadelphia

Resolution stalled pending feedback from councilwoman Reynolds Brown's office and update of the Clean Energy Vision document from the OOS. We are working on a conf call with Joanne, Eva, Kassie and Pittsburgh city staffers to talk about what kind of language would be acceptable to all parties in a resolution or the updated Climate Action Plan regarding setting goals for renewable energy. We plan to invite Philadelphia city staffers to join in or organize a Philly only call.

Chester County

March Madness – 5 meetings were held in regions around Chester County to introduce Ready For 100 and talk about how to advance RF100 resolutions in townships surrounding the boroughs that have already passed resolutions. 15 to 25 people attended each of the meetings. Some great connections were made. I think 6 to 10 will be at least discussing a resolution.

Clean Energy Leaders – heard presentations about updating comp plans and options that municipalities can take now. One of which is a potentially attractive idea to pool together municipal electricity purchase to get a really good deal on renewable electricity and allocate at least some of that savings towards funding a permanent county energy office that would work as an advocate for all munis that want to commit to 100% renewable energy.

Montgomery County

Organizing continues to expand the volunteer ranks with positive outlook in Lower Merion, Narberth, Conshohocken, Ambler, Abington, Plymouth, Whitemarsh and others.

Montco volunteers are also working the regional planning commission connection to do ice-breaker presentations for 4 to 6 municipalities at a time.

Delaware County

A few municipalities have stepped forward with inquiries about Ready For 100, including Haverford and Radnor.

Letter to Chester County: Jim moved and Dave Seconded that we sign on to this letter. The motion passed

Green Building United: Dave Moved and Kevin seconded that we sign on to this letter supporting the move to 2018 building codes. The motion passed

Fracking Ban: The sign on period for this letter has passed.

Letter To Wolf: This letter is to be deliver to Governor Wolf at a Rally in the Capital on April 13. There was concern about influence our signature might have on our other lobbying activities. It was decided to pass this letter to the chapter.

Future Energy: (Dave Moscatello)

Political Committee: (Dennis Winters)

Dennis presented the following Candidates as environmental heros; incumbents who have been endorsed previously and maintained an LVC score above 85%. He moved that we endorse these candidates. Karen seconded. The motion passed with 10 affirming and one abstention.

Pennsylvania House:

Matt Bradford, 70th

Mary Jo Daley, 148th

Tim Briggs, 149th

Steve McCarter, 154th

Carolyn Comitta, 156th

Greg Vitali, 166th

Mike O'Brien, 175th

Pam DeLissio, 194th

Donna Bullock, 195th

Rosita Youngblood, 198th

US Congress:

Brendan Boyle (new Second District)

Dennis presented the candidates listed below for first time endorsements. He moved we endorse these candidates. Dave seconded. The motion passed with 10 affirming and one abstention.

Pennsylvania House:

Elizabeth Fiedler, 184th - ready

Christopher Rabb, 200th

The next round of endorsements will be considered at the July meeting and passed to the Chapter for consideration at its July meeting.

There was concern about the questionnaire which was not sent to all candidates.

Newsletter/Communications: (Ken Hemphill)

Articles for the next newsletter are due in mid to late April. Ken will send out a reminder. Ken paid \$100 to boost an article on our facebook page and the Mariner East Pipeline. That post received 30,000 views. It generated 77 likes for the article and 75 new page likes. The article was shared 196 times. The most likes received on a previous article was 12

Education Committee (Karen Melton)

Following the business meeting, students from Swarthmore discussed projects on which they were working.

Sierra Spencer discussed the feasibility of replacing gas with biofuels in the college's heating plant.

Chloe Klaus discussed the Green Allies, an organization in which students lead the way to sustainability

Saba ____ discussed the carbon fee Swarthmore charges its departments / activities.

Nomination Committee: (Alexa Manning) No report

Membership: (Prasad Ramnath / Pat Beaudet)

Pat has contacted members who joined in February and is working on those who joined in March.
An on-line survey is being developed for new members. They will also try to reach out to the Meet-Up outings membership.

Outings: (Jim Kaff, Amy Kwasnicki)

There are 3 outings in April. The SPG meet-up page has over 1000 members

Announcements:

Equity/ Inclusion/ Justice: Sue Edwards encouraged us to attend and support Union Rallies and suggests interviewing rally participants to make personal connections.

Meeting Call-in Number:

1-866-501-6174, PIN is 1004100#.

AGENDA

- Introductions
- Approval of March Minutes, Treasurers Report
- Vote on joining the following sign-on letters:
 - Green Justice Philly encouraging Philadelphia to commit to short term renewable energy goals. [Other signers](#), [Letter sign-on form](#). (Jim recommends YES)
 - Delaware River Keeper Networking calling for [full fracking ban in Del River Basin](#) (too late, letter is closed)
 - Letter to Gov Wolf warning him of [climate change impacts of gas fracking](#). Part of Apr 13 at “We Choose A Better Path” rally in Harrisburg. (Jim recommends punt to chapter ExCom because of lobby issues)
 - Letter to Chester County commissioners urging that a [SEPTA board member](#) be appointed to represent Chester county who supports: elec busses, public transit for intra-county commuting, extending rail service to West Chester, more federal funding, bike friendly trains, bike amenities at stations, improve north-south transit. (Jim recommends YES)
 - Green Building United’s [sign-on letter](#) in support of Philadelphia City Council Bill 180176. This legislation allows Philadelphia to adopt the 2018 International Codes (Codes) for commercial buildings. It is sponsored by Councilmembers Quiñones-Sánchez and Henon. (Jim recommends YES. Pratima has already signed on behalf of RF100/PHL)

Please try to read these sign-on requests and feel free to discuss via email before the meeting so we can discuss briefly and then vote to sign or not.

- Political Endorsement recommendations – Dennis should be sending out the list under separate email
- Other agenda topics as timer permits.
 - Outings
 - Tabling
 - Education
 - Communication
 - New Member Welcome
 - Conservation
 - Social
 - Nomination
 - Ready For 100
 - Chapter ExCom on Apr 7

Educational Program starting at 7:15 (or about)

- Presentation and discussion by Swarthmore students about their 2018 environmental projects



Sierra Club of Chester County, part of the
Sierra Club Southeastern Pennsylvania Group
2401 Walnut St, Philadelphia, PA 19103
<http://sierraclub.org/pennsylvania/southeastern>

Dear Chester County Commissioners,

Chester County's Landscapes 3 survey identified public concerns about being prepared for growth as the highest priority in *Transportation*. To prepare for growth that respects the Survey's highest priority - Open Space & Environment - the leadership of the Sierra Club of Chester County would like to encourage and asks the Chester County Commissioners to appoint a candidate for the vacant SEPTA board position who will help promote SEPTA goals that will work to preserve Open Space & Environment, such as:

- Transitioning to an electric bus fleet powered by renewable energy to help reduce emissions and pollution in Chester County
- Encourage the use of public transportation for intra-county movement in addition to commuting between Chester County and Philadelphia
- Extend regional rail/light rail service to West Chester
- Advocate for greater funding from state and federal governments.
- Explore the feasibility of adding a separate area on trains to accommodate bicycles.
- Invest in bicycle locking systems to dramatically reduce bike thefts from stations.
- **Improve public transportation in the north south corridor so that people can get to jobs.**

Signatories

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Support Adopting the 2018 Codes in Philadelphia

Dear Chairperson Quiñones-Sánchez and Members of the Licenses and Inspections Committee:

The Pennsylvania State Legislature has granted Philadelphia an unprecedented opportunity to adopt the 2018 International Codes (Codes) for commercial and multifamily buildings for both new construction and major renovations. This update would put Philadelphia one cycle ahead of the rest of Pennsylvania, which is reviewing the 2015 Codes for adoption this year.

The decision of whether to adopt the 2018 Codes must be made on the same timeline as the rest of Pennsylvania's review and adoption of the 2015 Codes. If Philadelphia is to take advantage of this opportunity, City Council must pass Bill 180176 authorizing the adoption before it recesses this summer. Not following through on this hard-fought exemption for Philadelphia could have implications on the city's ability to negotiate future exemptions from state legislative requirements.

Background:

Building codes set a minimum construction standard to protect the health, safety, and welfare of those constructing, occupying, and managing buildings. Building codes ensure that construction standards are rigorous and keep pace with emerging technologies and market forces, including energy efficiency standards and practices. The transition from Pennsylvania's current 2009 Codes to the 2015 Codes will yield an energy savings of over 25%, per the U.S. Department of Energy. Adopting the 2018 Codes in Philadelphia will yield another 6.8% increase in energy savings over the 2015 edition.

Impacted Groups:

> Residential Tenants

The additional energy savings between the 2015 and 2018 Codes translates to lower utility bills for new construction or major retrofits. The opportunity for additional utility cost savings is especially important in Philadelphia, where low-income households are among the most burdened by the amount of household income spent on energy in the United States.

> Affordable Housing Developers

Modernizing codes will have a negligible impact on upfront cost for construction in this sector. Current projects are already subject to a competitive bid process for funding and the most competitive projects are already proposing designs that exceed the minimum required code.

> Market-rate Multifamily and Commercial Developers

The increased efficiency and improved safety of built projects will bring Philadelphia up to speed with neighboring states and will deliver utility costs savings benefits to end users all at a marginal cost difference from the previous code edition.

> Building Owners

The increased quality and energy efficiency of new construction and retrofit projects can be marketed to residential and commercial tenants as cheaper to operate and more comfortable than buildings built to our current base code.

> Practitioners in Architecture, Engineering, and Construction

Modern code adoption across Pennsylvania will require that those that design and construct buildings to re-train to ensure compliance with the changing requirements. Fortunately, many practitioners work on projects in neighboring states which have already adopted modern codes, easing the transition ahead. Training support is also available through non-profit and trade organizations.

> All Philadelphians

Modernizing building codes is a key strategy to ensure that the city reaches its goal to reduce carbon emissions 80% by 2050 to combat climate change. Per an analysis by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP), adoption of modern building codes "provides the single most cost-effective and expeditious means of achieving reductions in energy-related GHG [greenhouse gas] emissions in the building sector." In addition to helping mitigate climate change, the latest building codes ensure that new construction is safer and more resilient to the effects of climate change by specifying climate-appropriate building materials and construction practices.

For these reasons, we support moving Bill 180176 to a hearing as quickly as possible and advocate for its passage before the full Council.

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Letter to Wolf to be delivered after rally on 4/13

(This is an organizational sign-on letter that will be delivered to Governor Tom Wolf on 4/13 after the We Choose a Better Path rally in the rotunda. If you are an authorized signer for your organization, please fill out the fields below the letter. If you are not, please ask the leaders of your organization to sign on. Thanks!)

Governor Wolf,

Climate changed. Our best hope now is to rein in global warming. According to every reputable climate scientist, the way to do that is to transition from the fossil fuels of our past to clean, renewable, sustainable forms of energy as quickly as possible.

Although Pennsylvania's contribution to climate change isn't limited to shale gas development, it is arguably the leading contributor. Methane and ethane emissions are major contributors to climate change.

Our climate isn't the only thing adversely affected by our continued reliance on fossil fuels, however. In Pennsylvania, our communities and natural resources have been profoundly harmed by fossil fuel extraction for centuries. In fact, it was state representative Franklin Kury's memory of the tragic legacy of the coal industry that inspired him to propose an environmental rights amendment to the state's constitution that received strong bipartisan support and became Article 1, Section 27.

For more than a dozen years, Pennsylvanians have organized, petitioned, testified, commented, bird-dogged, lobbied, sued, protested, been arrested, and even jailed in an effort to get our state government to stop shale gas development and take decisive action on climate change. Since the beginning of the shale gas boom, pipelines have allowed the impacts to metastasize from the shale fields to communities across the state that are being damaged by processing plants, cracker plants, waste treatment facilities, water withdrawal operations, natural gas power plants, export facilities, and the pipelines themselves.

Our efforts have been ignored, dismissed, criticized, side-stepped, and trivialized by our state government at times. At other times, our government has spied on us, pushed legislation to criminalize us, and characterized us as eco-terrorists.

We're not criminals or eco-terrorists. We're citizens. And we're on the right side of the most important issue of our time.

Your constituents know that the fracking that has robbed Pennsylvanians of their health, safety, and natural resources is on one end of every pipeline and pollution and exacerbated climate change are on the other. In between are the pipeline companies' bullying tactics, eminent domain used for corporate gain, fouled water, scarred landscapes, permanent easements, leaks, blowdowns, and explosions.

You have failed us spectacularly, Governor Wolf. You campaigned on a severance tax that would institutionalize fracking. New York banned fracking shortly after you were elected. You called the decision "unfortunate". You have said over and over that you thought fracking could be done safely without evidence to support your claim. You lead a state that can't pass a budget, yet you supported giving the largest tax break in the state's history, \$1.65 billion, to Royal Dutch Shell to entice it to put its polluting cracker plant in Beaver County and dropped a record-breaking \$8.9 million fine against Range Resources. You issued a report saying Western Pennsylvania can support four more cracker plants. You teamed up with the governors of Ohio and West Virginia on a cooperation agreement to promote shale-related manufacturing in the region. A series of texts shows that your office injected politics into the permitting of the Mariner East 2 pipeline and a staffer married to an industry lobbyist pressured the DEP to disinvite

anti-fracking activist Scott Cannon from your Pipeline Infrastructure Task Force. You commissioned the Pipeline Infrastructure Task Force with the goal of building public acceptance of the industry. You moved \$24 million from an alternative energy program to fund grants for more natural gas pipelines. You have supported turning Philadelphia into a gas hub. You have refused to join the U.S. Climate Alliance created by Democratic governors, even though you lead the largest state with a Democratic governor yet to join. You have never visited an impacted community to talk to frontline community members and see the damage firsthand.

Governor Wolf, we choose a better path. We choose a path to a government that is responsive to its people. We choose a path to elected officials who put the interests of the people they represent before those of the shale gas industry. We choose a path to elected officials who are climate leaders moving Pennsylvania toward a clean energy future.

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POLITICS

US utilities find water pollution at coal ash dumps

Matthew Brown and Sarah Rankin, Associated Press Fri, Mar 2, 2018 7:25 PM EST

<https://verizon.yahoo.com/news/apnewsbreak-us-utilities-water-pollution-ash-sites-194822429.html>

Critics tap decades-old law to stall Trump bid to undo Obama regulations

By Suzy Khimm NBC NEWS MAR 5 2018, 10:42 AM ET

<https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/white-house/amp/critics-tap-decades-old-law-stall-trump-bid-undo-obama-n852091>

Democrats Release Infrastructure Plan With \$80 Billion for Grid Upgrades

The plan includes funding for energy storage, smart grid technologies, microgrids and electric vehicles—paid for by reversing parts of the Republican tax bill.

Julia Pyper **GREENTECH MEDIA** March 07, 2018

<https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/democrats-infrastructure-plan-80-billion-grid-upgrades#qs.0fp6igi>

REGULATION & POLICY

Trump administration broke the law by failing to implement smog rule, federal court rules

"Everyone deserves to breathe clean air. And because of the Clean Air Act, we're legally entitled to it."

Yvette Cabrera ThinkProgress MAR 12, 2018, 8:15 PM

Trump EPA Plans New Restrictions on Science Used in Rule Making

By Jennifer A Dlouhy Bloomberg Politics March 20, 2018, 4:02 PM EDT From Climate Changed

https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-03-20/trump-epa-plans-new-restrictions-on-science-used-in-rule-making?utm_source=yahoo&utm_medium=bd&utm_campaign=headline&cmpld=yhoo.headline&yptr=yahoo

- EPA Chief Pruitt says data should be objective, transparent
- Move could limit reliance on health studies with shielded data

EPA brings its final Clean Power Plan repeal hearing to the new heart of coal country

The EPA will wrap up its public hearing sessions on the Clean Power Plan repeal with a meeting in Gillette, Wyoming.

Natasha Geiling ThinkProgress Mar 26, 2018, 4:24 PM

<https://thinkprogress.org/epa-clean-power-plan-repeal-final-hearing-wyoming-ce42668d4d8c/>

The President's Own Party Still Doesn't Back His Attempts to Dismantle Clean Energy

The appropriations bill shows continued Republican support for clean energy—no matter what the president's budget authors try to kill.

Emma Foehringer Merchant **GREENTECH MEDIA** March 26, 2018

<https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/the-presidents-own-party-still-doesnt-back-his-energy-strategy>

EPA still not saying if Phila. has smog problem

By Frank Kummer Staff Writer The Philadelphia Inquirer Thursday March 22, 2018, pB2

Hurricane Harvey's toxic impact

Residents were given only scant information about chemical releases into Houston's air and waterways.

By Frank Bajak & Lise Olsen AP and Houston Chronicle The Philadelphia Inquirer Sunday Mar. 25, 2018, pE4

CLIMATE CHANGE & ADAPTATIONS

Economic Equality Is Key to Solving Climate Change, Report Shows

By Jeremy Hodges **BloombergTechnology** March 5, 2018, 11:00 AM EST

From **Climate Changed**

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-03-05/economic-equality-is-key-to-solving-climate-change-report-shows>

SCIENCE

Federal Judge demands unprecedented 5-hour climate change lesson

BY Mark Kaufman **Mashable** March 9, 2018

https://mashable.com/2018/03/09/first-ever-federal-court-climate-science-hearing/?utm_campaign=Feed%3A+Mashable+%28Mashable%29&utm_cid=Mash-Prod-RSS-Feedburner-All-Partial&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed#8izFoCUUIQqb

ENERGY

U.S. Utilities Want Carbon Pricing and Think Coal Is Dead. That's A Reality Check for Trump's Energy Agenda

March 14, 2018 **ec** the energy **collective** by Energy Innovation

<http://www.theenergycollective.com/energy-innovation-llc/2428405/u-s-utilities-want-carbon-pricing-think-coal-dead-thats-reality-check-trumps-energy-agenda>

Wind Shift

With a new governor, N.J. is in a good place for an offshore industry.

By Andrew Maykuth Staff Writer The Philadelphia Inquirer Sunday March 11, 2018, pE1

New York commits \$1.4 billion to renewable energy projects

Funding for solar, wind, and hydro comes with a statement against offshore drilling.

Megan Geuss – **arsTECHNICA** 3/12/2018, 2:00 PM

<https://arstechnica.com/tech-policy/2018/03/new-york-commits-1-4-billion-to-renewable-energy-projects/>

Developer Using the 'Paul Bunyan' Method in First-of-Its-Kind Wind Repowering Project

Sixty-three aging 850-kilowatt turbines will be replaced by twenty-nine 2.6-megawatt turbines at the first utility-scale wind project site in Illinois.

Justin Gerdes **Greentech Media** March 13, 2018

<https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/developer-first-of-its-kind-wind-repowering-project#gs.m0ub7js>

BRIEFCASE The Philadelphia Inquirer Wednesday March 28, 2018, pA12

In the Region

Judge backs Sunoco pipeline

The Commonwealth Court ruled Monday that the public utility status of **Sunoco Pipeline LP's** Mariner East project outweighs a Delaware County community's zoning law that prohibits a pipeline from passing

less than 75 feet from a residence. The appeals court dismissed the appeal of six Middletown Township residents...Monday's ruling by a full panel of Commonwealth Court judges is the latest confirmation of the far-reaching impact of Sunoco's public utility status, which the **Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission** granted in 2014. The PUC determined that the project, which carries gas liquids such as propane from the Marcellus Shale region to a terminal in Marcus Hook, provides "significant public benefits." — *Andy Maykuth*

SOLAR PROJECTS

Why Is Microsoft Getting Into Rooftop Solar?

Procuring 60 megawatts of distributed solar could be less risky than developing a centralized plant.

Jason Deign **GREENTECH MEDIA** March 15, 2018

https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/why-is-microsoft-getting-into-rooftop-solar#gs.y_fkbzo

Why Corporate America Loves Renewable Energy

Companies keep signing wind and solar contracts around the world because it just makes good business sense.

Travis Hoium ([TMFFlushDraw](#)) The Motley Fool Mar 18, 2018 at 12:01PM

<https://www.fool.com/investing/2018/03/18/why-corporate-america-loves-renewable-energy.aspx>

ENERGY STORAGE

Solar and Energy Storage Go Corporate

Travis Hoium, The Motley Fool, March 4, 2018

<https://verizon.yahoo.com/finance/news/solar-energy-storage-corporate-190200035.html>

ELECTRIC VEHICLES & TRANSPORTATION

Protected bike lanes coming to Center City

Pilot program on Market Street and JFK Boulevard aims to improve street safety, would reduce number of traffic lanes.

By Anna Orso Staff Writer The Philadelphia Inquirer Sunday March 18, 2018, pB1

Your Electric Vehicle Is Getting Cleaner

A full 75 percent of U.S. drivers now live in areas where it's cleaner to drive an EV than a traditional car that gets 50 miles per gallon.

Emma Foehringer Merchant **GREENTECH MEDIA** March 21, 2018

<https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/your-electric-vehicle-is-getting-cleaner>

CONSERVATION

New parks, trails reconnect Camden to rivers

Kevin Riordan @Inqkriordan The Philadelphia Inquirer Sunday March 11, 2018, pB3

Top bottled water brands contaminated with plastic particles: report

Kerry Sheridan, AFP March 15, 2018

<https://verizon.yahoo.com/lifestyle/top-bottled-water-brands-contaminated-plastic-particles-report-013209098.html>

Gray wolves may get a new home in Mich.

20 to 30 could be relocated to Isle Royale park to replenish a severely affected population.

By John Flesher Associated Press The Philadelphia Inquirer Sunday March 18, 2018, pA11

PowerPost · Analysis Follow @powerpost

The Energy 202: Wyoming considers grizzly hunt after Trump team took bear off endangered list

By Dino Grandoni The Washington Post March 20, 2018 at 9:04 AM

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/paloma/the-energy-202/2018/03/20/the-energy-202-wyoming-considers-grizzly-hunt-after-trump-team-took-bear-off-endangered-list/5ab0339b30fb045e48d05a90/?utm_term=.282e99271871

WATER POLLUTION

Mixed-up pipes send sewage into river

By Frank Kummer Staff Writer The Philadelphia Inquirer Monday March 26, 2018, pA1

Pa. high in excessive pollution discharges

The report by an environmental group looks at waterways using state and federal data.

By Frank Kummer Staff Writer The Philadelphia Inquirer Wednesday March 28, 2018, pA2

Drumpfs of the Month:

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

EPA staffers get talking points playing down human role in climate change

By Brady Dennis and Juliet Eilperin The Washington Post March 28, 2018 at 6:19 PM

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2018/03/28/epa-staffers-get-talking-points-downplaying-human-role-in-climate-change/?utm_term=.c3d1380f2257&wpisrc=nl_az_most&wpmk=1

In the Trump era, Republicans get even dumber on climate change

Republicans no longer just deny that climate change is real — now they deny that scientists agree it's real

Sophia Tesfaye **salon** 03.30.2018 • 4:59 AM

<https://www.salon.com/2018/03/30/in-the-trump-era-republicans-get-even-dumber-on-climate-change/>

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