



Environmental Data and Governance Initiative

envirodatagov.org

Changes to EPA's Page on Federal Collaborations on Climate Change

Links to and descriptions of environmental programs collaborating with international, federal interagency, and tribal groups are removed from EPA's climate collaboration page.

Description

There were several potentially significant changes in the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Climate Change section on the Federal Partner Collaboration page, including a title change from "Federal Partner Collaboration" to "EPA Adaptation Collaboration." New text on the page checked on January 22nd about the US Global Change Research Program highlights adaptation research as a core function of the EPA rather than climate change mitigation, preparedness or resilience, as described on the same page on January 16th.

The most significant change to this web site is the number of program descriptions and links that have been removed:

1. Discussion of and reference to several plans, including the Climate Action Plan, the National Action Plan, the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan, and the National Fish, Wildlife, and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy.
2. Discussion of and reference to several committees, including the Interagency Council on Climate Preparedness and Resilience, and State, Local, and Tribal Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience, both of which were established by Executive Order in 2013. Language changed from requisite federal collaboration to the notion that EPA would support some local efforts.
3. Information about and links to the Council on Environmental Quality, the Tribal Environmental General Assistance Program, and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's (OECD) Environmental Policy Committee, which are federal, tribal, and international programs, respectively. More information about each of these is included toward the end of the document.

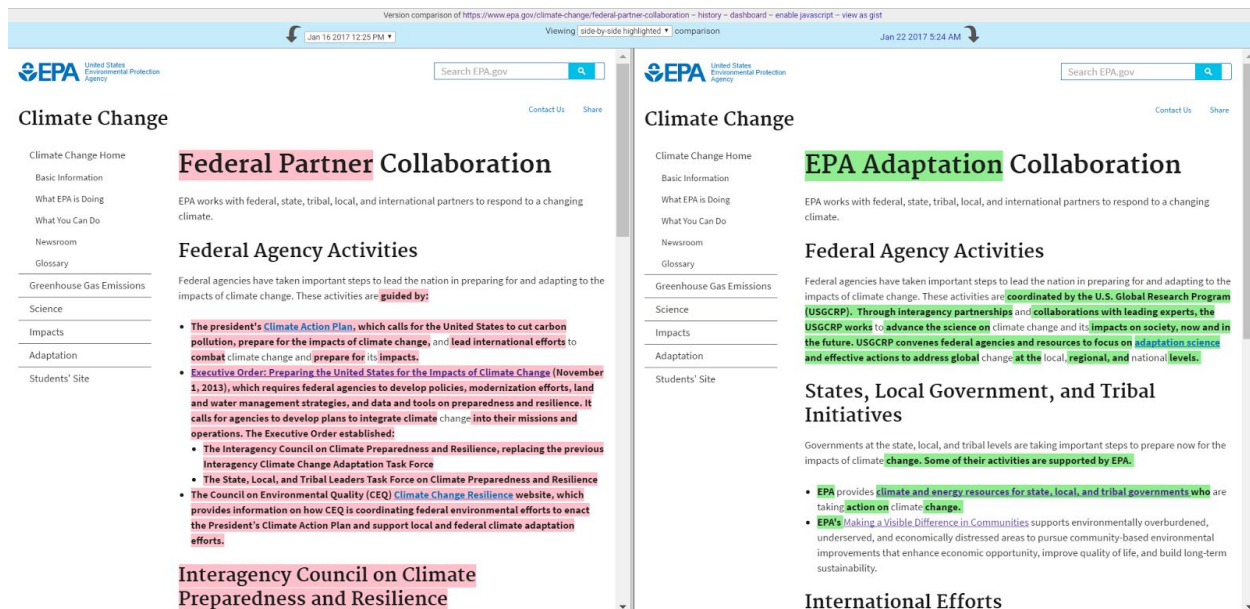
Screenshots

Screenshot 1: Federal Partner Collaboration

- URL: <https://www.epa.gov/climatechange/epa-adaptation-collaboration>
- Side-by-side View: 1/16/17 - 1/22/17

(1a) Name change from “Federal Partner Collaboration” to “EPA Adaptation Collaboration” and removal of reference to Climate Action Plan.

(1b) Removal of reference to federal task forces established in Executive Order 13653 and replacement with information about US Global Change Research Program (USGCRP), shifting focus to adaptation rather than prevention or resilience.



Screenshot 2: Federal Partner Collaboration

- URL: <https://www.epa.gov/climatechange/epa-adaptation-collaboration>
- Side-by-side View: 1/16/17 - 1/22/17

(2) Removal of reference to federal plans (and task forces therein).

The screenshot displays a side-by-side comparison of the EPA website's 'Climate Change' page. The left pane shows the original version from January 16, 2017, while the right pane shows the updated version from January 22, 2017. The updated version features a new main heading, 'EPA Adaptation Collaboration', and a revised 'Federal Agency Activities' section. The 'Federal Agency Activities' section now states: 'Federal agencies have taken important steps to lead the nation in preparing for and adapting to the impacts of climate change. These activities are coordinated by the U.S. Global Research Program (USGCRP). Through interagency partnerships and collaborations with leading experts, the USGCRP works to advance the science on climate change and its impacts on society, now and in the future. USGCRP convenes federal agencies and resources to focus on adaptation science and effective actions to address global change at the local, regional, and national levels.' The 'States, Local Government, and Tribal Initiatives' section remains largely unchanged, mentioning that governments at these levels are taking important steps to prepare for the impacts of climate change, with some activities supported by EPA. The 'International Efforts' section is also present. The EPA logo and navigation menu are visible at the top of the right pane.

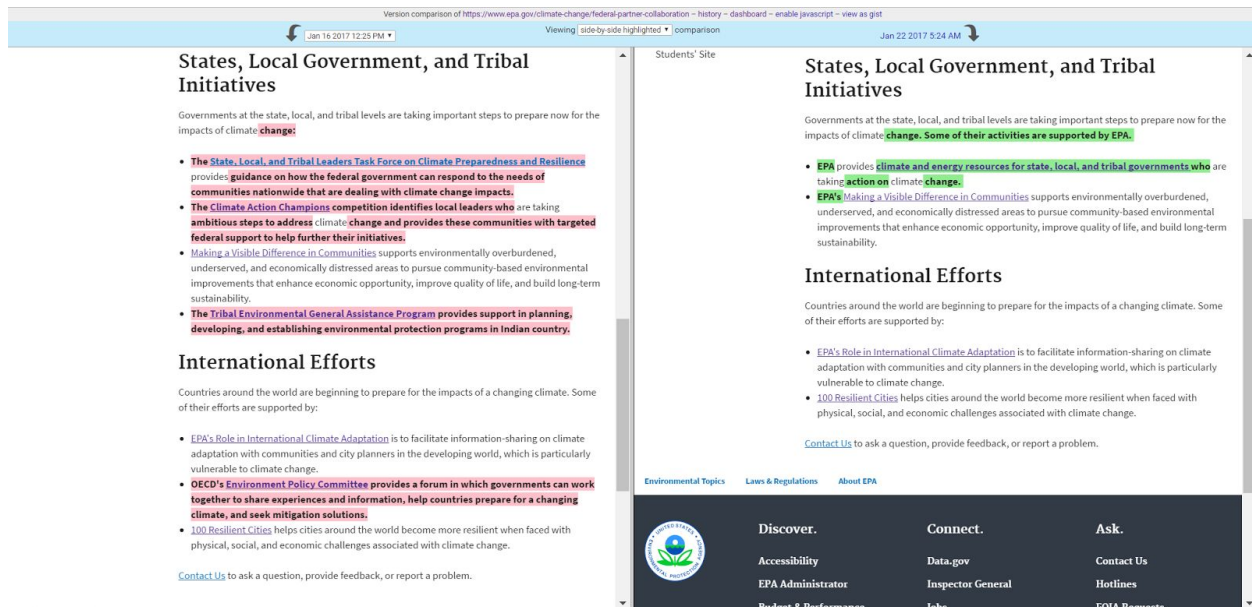
Screenshot 3: Federal Partner Collaboration

- URL: <https://www.epa.gov/climatechange/epa-adaptation-collaboration>
- Side-by-side View: 1/16/17 - 1/22/17

(3a) Removal of State, Local, and Tribal task force and community Climate Action Champions program. Changed language about federal EPA supporting “some” state, local, and tribal activities.

(3b) Removal of information about the Tribal Environmental General Assistance Program.

(3c) Removal of description and reference to international OECD’s Environment Policy Committee.



Internet Archive Page Status:

- Page is still up on January 13, 2017 at 07:36 - <https://web.archive.org/web/20170113073652/https://www.epa.gov/climatechange/federal-partner-collaboration>
- Page redirects to “EPA Adaptation Collaboration” on January 26, 2017 at 14:58 - <https://web.archive.org/web/20170126145822/https://www.epa.gov/climatechange/epa-adaptation-collaboration>

Status of Links Removed from Jan 16th Page:

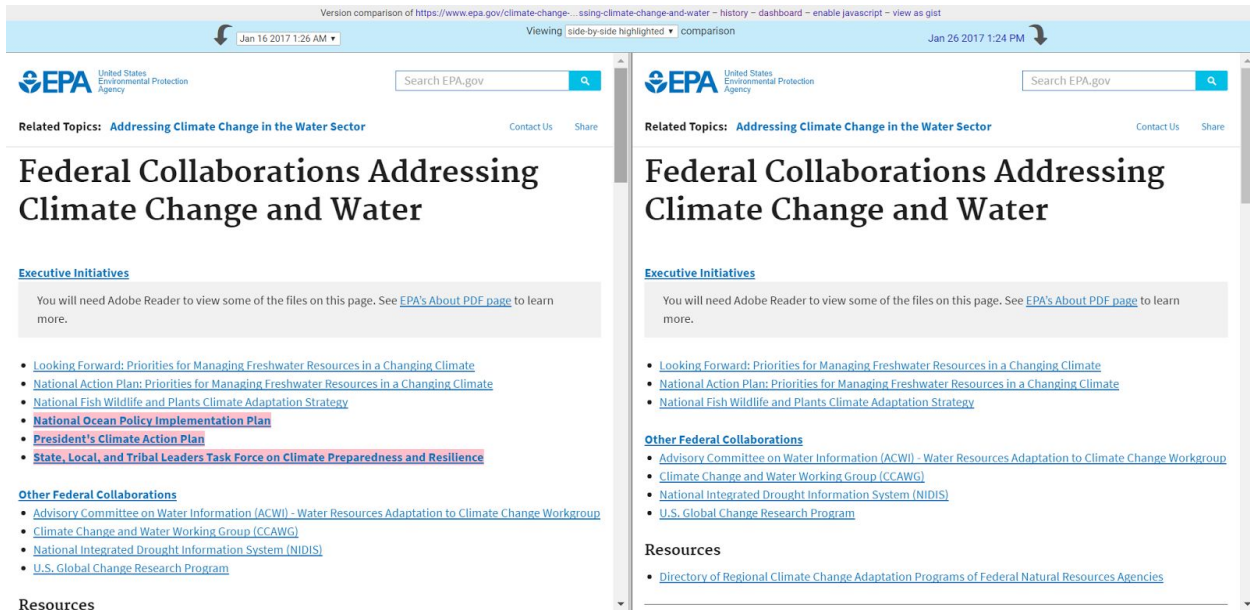
- **Broken Links** (*Disclaimer: These whitehouse.gov links were expected to change with the Administration change.*)
 - <https://www.whitehouse.gov/share/climate-action-plan>
 - <https://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/initiatives/resilience>
 - <https://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq>
 - https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/us_national_action_plan_final_2.pdf
 - <https://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/oceans/implementationplan>
- **Links Redirecting to Archived Sites**
 - <https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/administration/eop/oceans/policy>
 - <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2013/11/01/executive-order-preparing-united-states-impacts-climate-change>
 - <https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2014/12/03/announcing-first-class-climate-action-champions>
- **Working Links**
 - <https://www.wildlifeadaptationstrategy.gov/>
 - <https://www.epa.gov/tribal/indian-environmental-general-assistance-program-gap>
 - <http://www.oecd.org/env/epoc.htm>

Another page where some of the same links have been removed:

Screenshot 4: Federal Collaborations Addressing Climate Change and Water

- URL: <https://www.epa.gov/climate-change-water-sector/federal-collaborations-addressing-climate-change-and-water>
- Side-by-side View: 1/16/17 - 1/26/17

(4) “Federal Collaborations Addressing Climate Change and Water” - Removed three of the same links and preserved one.



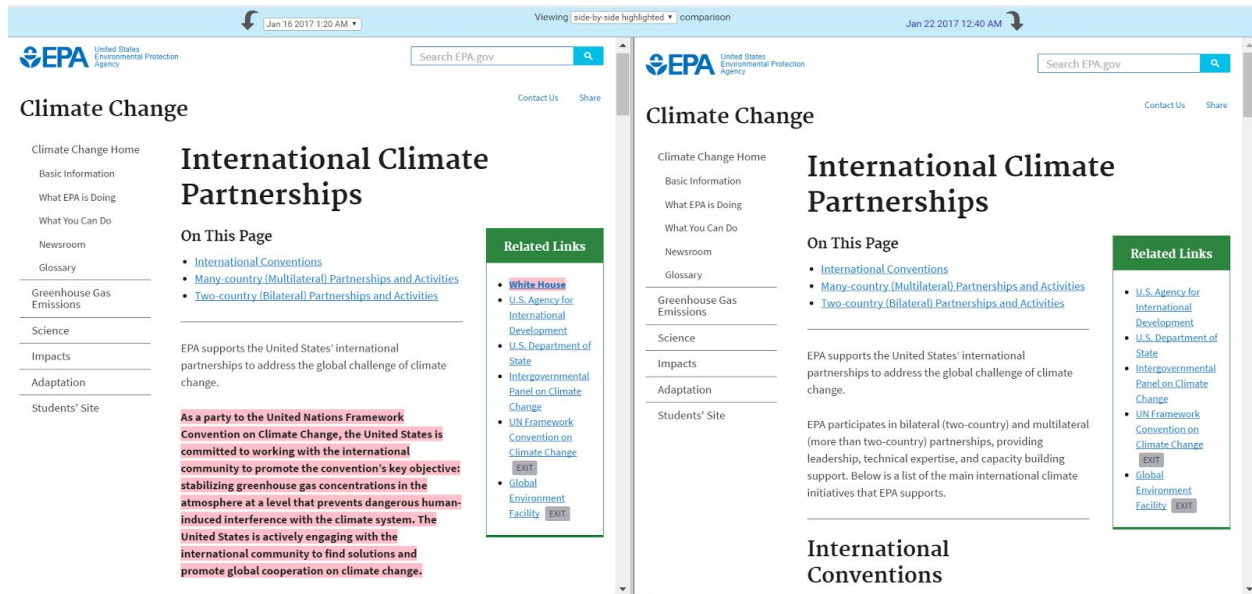
Another page with information about federal collaboration removed:

Screenshot 5: International Climate Partnerships

- URL: <https://www.epa.gov/climatechange/international-climate-partnerships>
- Side-by-side View: 1/16/17 - 1/22/17

(5a) Removal of paragraph affirming the United States’ commitment to international collaboration on climate change.

(5b) Removal of “White House” link directing to the whitehouse.gov climate change page.



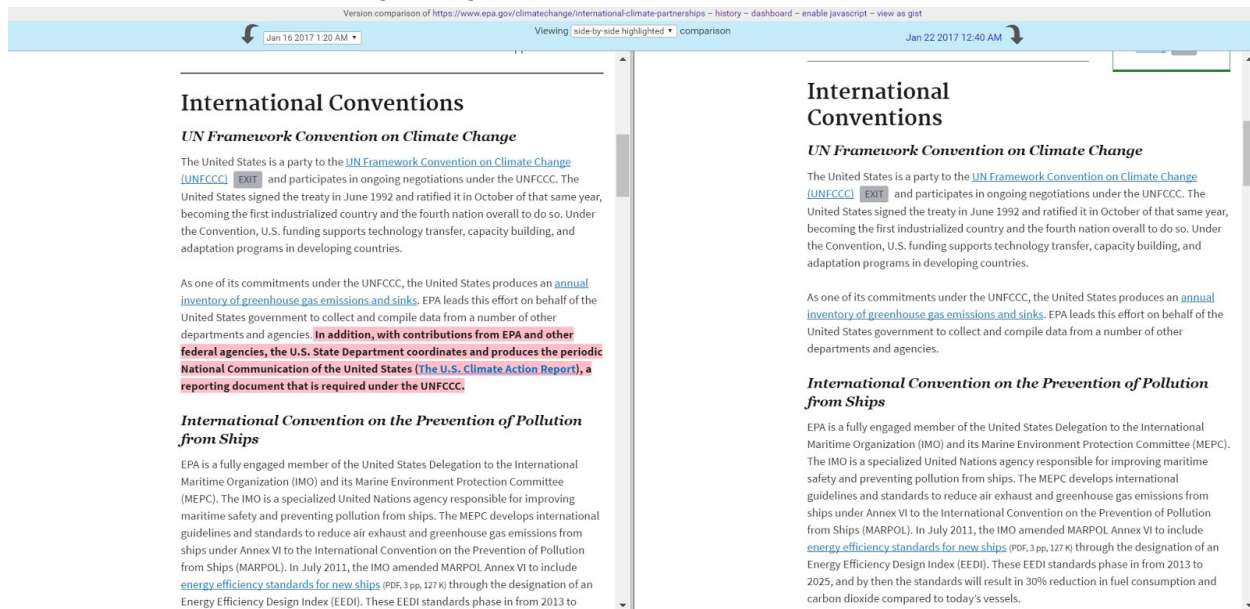
Status of Links Removed from Jan 16th Page:

- **Broken Links**
 - “White House”: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/energy/climate-change>

Screenshot 6: International Climate Partnerships

- URL: <https://www.epa.gov/climatechange/international-climate-partnerships>
- Side-by-side View: 1/16/17 - 1/22/17

(6) Removal of sentence highlighting EPA's participation in developing the US Climate Action Report, produced by the State Department. Note that "The U.S. Climate Action Report" link forwards to a removed state.gov page.

**Internet Archive**

- IA version from January 10th:
<http://web.archive.org/web/20170110201820/https://www.epa.gov/climatechange/international-climate-partnerships>
- IA version from January 22nd:
<http://web.archive.org/web/20170121095208/https://www.epa.gov/climatechange/international-climate-partnerships>

Status of Links Removed from Jan 16th Page:

- **Broken Links**
 - "The U.S. Climate Action Report":
https://www.state.gov/e/oes/rls/rpts/car6/index.htm?utm_content=bufferab672