

25 States Promised to Stay in the Paris Agreement, but Most are Behind Schedule for Emissions Cuts

After President Trump pulled out of the Paris Agreement four years ago, 24 states and one territory agreed to follow through with the Paris Agreement, forming the U.S. Climate Alliance.

The U.S. Climate Alliance has vowed to collectively cut emissions by 26 to 28 percent compared to 2005 levels, by the year 2025.

Despite the promises, and plans to electrify cars, and trucks, add more wind turbines, and reduce the number of pollutants in the air, the majority of the states are behind on their goals.

Some say the states are doing the best they can given policies put in place by the Trump Administration. People are hoping that with the Biden Administration in place, federal and state governments will be able to work together to combat the climate crisis. President Biden has rejoined the Paris Agreement since taking office.

The alliance also notes that its member states have performed well in comparison to the states that didn't commit to staying in the Paris Agreement. Between 2005 and 2018, states in the alliance cut their CO2 emissions by 14 percent; the other 26 states saw emissions fall by roughly 8 percent. These non-member states – which include oil-rich Texas, West Virginia, and Idaho – account for 60 percent of the country's CO2 emissions. If they stay on their current course, their emissions could end up increasing over the next five to 10 years, according to a U.S. Climate Alliance

report.

Climate change is one of the most pressing matters of today. The health of our planet and our own health are intertwined.