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Climate Change Report Gets Cold Reception on Capitol Hill

A new report that says climate change is a matter of national urgency is getting a cold reception from leaders of the House Energy and Commerce Committee. The National Climate Assessment and Development Advisory Committee says that the evidence of the earth's warming is becoming more apparent. But the odds of any federal legislation that would be enacted to combat such effects are nil. That's because the two political parties, generally, are sharply divided over whether man-made emissions are the central cause behind the gradual warming trend. Most Republicans and some Democrats say that the phenomenon can be attributed to natural causes in weather cycles. To that end, the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Republican-dominated leadership has said that it will not consider any proposal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. If technologies improve and they would become commercially available, then that would be the market-wise thing to do. Specifically, those leaders are saying that any resurrection of the carbon tax idea won't happen.

Similarly, President Obama is saying that his administration is not going to get bogged down in trying to enact a carbon tax. However, unlike the House Republicans, the president believes that government regulations can lead to fewer heat-trapping emissions and that such rules would accelerate those tools that could lower those releases. "Evidence for climate change abounds, from the top of the atmosphere to the depths of the oceans," says the 60-person federal advisory committee that authored the draft climate report. "Certain types of weather events have become more frequent and/or intense, including heat waves, heavy downpours, and in some regions, floods and droughts ... These changes are part of the pattern of climate change, which is primarily driven by human activity." Last year was the hottest year ever recorded in this country, according to those who track such things. It was also among the 10 hottest worldwide. The draft report issued by the federal advisory committee says that unless steps are taken to reduce heat-trapping emissions that global temperatures could rise by as much as 10 degrees Fahrenheit over the course of this century. Conservatives have the answer to our energy and climate challenge," adds Bob Inglis, head of the Energy and Enterprise Initiative and a former Republican lawmaker from South Carolina. "It's about correcting market distortions and setting the economics right. We need to stop retreating in denial and start stepping forward in the competition of ideas."

Electricity Pricing – Jan 22, 2012

	On-Peak	Off-Peak
2013	\$.03896	\$.02565
2014	\$.04115	\$.02731
2015	\$.04316	\$.02862

LMP Electric Price

Time Period	Average per Kwh
Jan, 2012	\$.03043
Feb, 2012	\$.02963
Mar, 2012	\$.02894
April, 2012	\$.02659
May, 2012	\$.02816
June, 2012	\$.03089
July, 2012	\$.04303
Aug, 2012	\$.03112
Sep, 2012	\$.03034
Oct, 2012	\$.02829
Nov, 2012	\$.03327
Dec, 2012	\$.03081
Jan1 – Jan 21, 2013	\$.02954

Extended Temperature Forecast:

Chicago Area

	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
High	13	27	22	28	27
Low	10	11	20	15	20

