

Billionaire investor Jim Coulter says Trump is making ‘large mistake’ with climate change

As President Donald Trump continues to alter how the United States addresses climate change, billionaire businessman and co-founder of the private equity firm TPG Inc., Jim Coulter, said in a press conference Monday the 47th president isn’t putting enough emphasis on the crisis.

“I think it’s a large mistake,” Coulter said.

On Inauguration Day, Trump withdrew the U.S. from the Paris Climate Agreement, the international treaty intended to combat climate change. Since then, he’s frozen Congress-appropriated funds for clean energy projects and declared an energy emergency, which led to 15 states suing the administration for a [“fake” proclamation](#), and made many other decisions to derail the country’s fight against climate change.

[Historical analysis](#) shows the U.S. is substantially the country with the largest cumulative emissions. On May 23, the Department of Energy issued an [order](#) demanding an expensive and polluting Michigan power plant halt its scheduled closure and continue operations, a move Tyson Slocum, director of Public Citizen’s Energy Program, said in an [issued statement](#) will have “significant, expensive complications” and “will force ratepayers to shell out money to cover expensive maintenance and overpay for expensive power.”

[A Pew Research Survey](#) conducted in October showed 80% of Americans were frustrated with the political division from climate change, and 73% said climate news made them sad about

what's happening to the Earth. The changes since made by the U.S. could cause further domestic disagreement and damage to the planet.

Coulter's company is "deeply involved in" the environment, he said, citing how TPG is one of the world's largest investors in clean power solutions and has been the largest private equity player in climate since [TPG Rise Climate's launch in 2021](#).

Coulter finds the thought of using fossil fuels 100 years from now questionable; hence why he's looking toward renewable energy solutions, something he said the U.S. is currently lagging behind other countries in, which concerns him.

"I am very worried that (the U.S. is) gonna miss it," he said. "But I'm not worried only as someone who's worried about climate change — I'm worried as a U.S. investor that we're gonna miss one of the most important energy supply chain changes since we had this idea that we were going to light the world with well water."

To not miss it, Coulter said increased attention is paramount; the same attention China, whose [economic growth in 2023](#) was driven by clean energy and whose clean-energy investments were almost as large as global fossil fuel investments the same year, has given renewable energy. Same with India, which, according to [Invest India](#), has increased its non-fossil fuel capacity by 396% in the last 8½ years.

Coulter again stressed the U.S. has made a mistake of not further investing in renewable energy in the past before sharing whether he thinks the country is in too deep with nonrenewables to alter course yet again.

“The U.S., I think, probably made a pretty large mistake not supporting solar and renewables earlier,” Coulter said. “But I don’t think we need to compound that now.”