

THE POINT OF NO RETURN

HOW THE 2024 U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION WILL RESHAPE GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY AND ENERGY POLICY

ONUR KOLCAK

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CONTENTS

SUMMARY	7
INTRODUCTION	8
TRUMP'S ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY POLICIES	9
KEY ACTIONS AND POLICIES	10
IMPACTS OF TRUMP'S ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES	10
KAMALA HARRIS' ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY POLICIES	11
KEY ACTIONS AS VICE PRESIDENT	11
GLOBAL IMPLICATIONS OF HARRIS'S CLIMATE AND ENERGY RECORD	11
KEY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN TRUMP AND HARRIS	12
GLOBAL AND GEOPOLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF DIFFERENCES AND CURRENT STANCE OF AMERICAN ENERGY	12
EFFECTS ON TÜRKİYE	17
CONCLUSION	17

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SUMMARY

The election outcomes between former President Donald J. Trump and current Vice President Kamala Harris represent divergent paths that will reshape domestic policies and international approaches to climate change, energy production, and sustainable development policymaking.

The 2024 United States presidential election marks a pivotal moment in global sustainability and energy policy leadership. With unprecedented stakes, the election outcomes between former President Donald J. Trump and current Vice President Kamala Harris represent divergent paths that will reshape domestic policies and international approaches to climate change, energy production, and sustainable development policymaking. This paper analyzes each candidate's energy and environmental policies, exploring their potential impacts on the global climate movement, global economic partnerships, and the future of the worldwide green energy transition in both developed and developing economies. Through a comprehensive examination of both candidates' policy positions, current and previous records, and policy promotions, this analysis highlights how the election will be a global turning point in sustainable development goals. As the world approaches critical environmental degradation and energy demand still increases, the U.S. leadership in this sphere will either drive further progress toward a green future or reinforce traditional energy paradigms with far-reaching consequences. Ultimately, the 2024 election is decisive in determining the trajectory of global efforts toward climate resilience, sustainable development, and energy transformation.

INTRODUCTION

As a leading world economy and a country with a population of over 350 million, the United States plays a key role in terms of climate change mitigation and developing sustainable development efforts in world politics. The 2024 election will determine whether the U.S. continues or reverses progress toward a future where sustainable development and climate change mitigations are vital or rank at the bottom of the lists of actions and interests.

Along with many other dynamics and energy policies, sustainability increasingly finds its space within economic growth and overall development goals. Wind, solar, and recently electric vehicles have gained momentum to increase numbers and promise to create new jobs while driving innovation. Depending on the election outcome, the U.S. could either accelerate its transition to a green economy or reinforce its reliance on fossil fuels to stay competitive in the global economy and fulfill its global ambitions.

The global energy landscape is shifting and global economies need to consider the importance of their leadership in groundbreaking changes while new technologies and innovations emerge. Renewable technologies and reducing dependence on volatile oil and gas markets have been the most current trends in this approach. To that end, the upcoming election will be strong enough to determine U.S. energy independence as well as global standing in the race for clean energy technologies. Therefore, we have titled this analysis ‘The Point of No Return’ to draw attention to the escalating tensions in U.S. politics and policymaking on key issues, most notably climate change and sustainability policymaking. The November 2024 election will significantly influence the path of global sustainable development efforts.

Donald Trump and Kamala Harris represent two sharply contrasting visions for energy and sustainability policymaking, each with global consequences. Between 2017 and 2021, Trump served as the 45th U.S. president and is running for a second term. His main movements, “America First” and “Make America Great Again,” are centered on deregulation, economic nationalism, and energy independence through increased domestic fossil fuel production. Under his leadership, the U.S. withdrew from the Paris Climate Accord, rolled back numerous environmental regulations, and promoted the expansion of oil, gas, and coal industries. President Trump emphasizes energy dominance and positions fossil fuels as critical for economic growth and independence. Such policies could lead to an additional retreat from global climate commitments around world economies and weaken international efforts to curb emissions and work toward sustainability. Policies of global role models such as the U.S. are strong enough to lead the global en-

ergy market's trajectory. This could also spark tension with allies focused on reducing carbon footprints and meeting climate goals, such as the European Union, and potentially disrupt global climate cooperation.

In contrast, Vice President Harris focuses on developing a highly progressive vision for the country that is embedded in sustainability and equity. While serving as a U.S. senator from California before becoming the vice president, Harris supported climate action, environmental justice, and renewable energy initiatives.¹ Her stance on energy and sustainability aligns closely with the current administration's strong, rather extreme push for a green economy, carbon neutrality, renewable energy, and an overall transition to a green economy that is aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Harris supports aggressive reductions in carbon emissions, re-entering and reinforcing international climate agreements, and increasing regulatory oversight on environmental protection. If elected, she would continue and likely heighten U.S. commitments to a green economy and decarbonization. Her proposed objectives for the green economy transition would make the U.S. one of the leading democracies strongly advocating climate diplomacy while reinforcing partnerships with other nations on global climate agreements and promoting innovation in clean energy technologies. Such repositioning can create more progressive global movements toward building green economies.

Trump's return would likely slow global progress on climate change and reinforce reliance on fossil fuels. The stakes of this election extend far beyond America's borders, as many

developing nations worldwide adjust their strategies based on global leadership, determining the future direction of global sustainability and energy policies.

This analysis explores the main differences between Trump's and Harris' energy and sustainability policies while examining their potential global impacts. Each candidate's political background, track record on climate change and energy-related issues, and how their respective visions for the U.S. energy policy will be mentioned, as these could shape international climate cooperation, transitioning to a green economy, and the global energy market.

Trump's return would likely slow global progress on climate change and reinforce reliance on fossil fuels.

TRUMP'S ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY POLICIES

Between 2017 and 2021, President Trump implemented energy and environmental policies that empowered deregulation, fossil fuel expansion, and prioritizing U.S. energy independence over global climate initiatives. The Trump administration focused on easing regulations perceived as burdensome to businesses, particularly in the energy sector while reversing his predecessor President Barack Obama's policies to address climate change.²

¹ Jessica Kutz, "Why environmental justice leaders see an ally in Kamala Harris", The 19th News, <https://19thnews.org/2024/08/environmental-justice-leaders-endorse-kamala-harris/>, (Retrieved: October 1st, 2024)

² Philip A. Wallach, Kelly Kennedy, "Examining some of Trump's deregulation efforts: Lessons from the Brookings Regulatory Tracker", The Brookings Institution, <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/examining-some-of-trumps-deregulation-efforts-lessons-from-the-brookings-regulatory-tracker/>, (Retrieved: October 1st, 2024)

KEY ACTIONS AND POLICIES

One of Trump's hallmark initiatives was expanding fossil fuel production. His "energy dominance" agenda sought to increase U.S. fossil fuel production – specifically coal, oil, and natural gas – under the belief that domestic energy independence would strengthen the economy and promote national wealth. The administration opened federal lands and waters to drilling, including the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), and promoted shale oil production.³ Additionally, Trump aimed to revive the coal industry by easing regulations on coal-fired power plants and withdrawing the Clean Power Plan, designed to reduce electricity sector emissions.⁴

Another significant action was the withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement. In June 2017, President Donald Trump announced that the United States would no longer be participating in limiting global temperature shifts to well below 2 degrees Celsius (35.6 degrees Fahrenheit). He argued that the agreement unfairly disadvantaged the U.S. economy and workers, particularly in industries like coal and manufacturing.⁵ This move was a significant step away from international climate cooperation and was widely criticized by environmental groups, global leaders, and strategic allies like the EU.

The Trump administration also focused on deregulating environmental protections. Under his leadership, the Environmental Protection

Agency (EPA) weakened or rolled back over 100 environmental regulations, many designed to reduce air and water pollution, protect wildlife, and curb greenhouse gas emissions.⁶ In line with his deregulation agenda, Trump pushed for less regulatory oversight in energy markets, arguing that deregulation would spur economic growth and job creation. His policies supported the idea of free markets determining energy production levels without government intervention, benefiting the coal, oil, and gas sectors at the expense of renewable energy incentives.

IMPACTS OF TRUMP'S ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES

The structure of President Trump's energy policies was multilayered. His emphasis on fossil fuel production provided short-term benefits for the country while primarily depending on coal, oil, and gas. From an environmental perspective, his policies have been criticized as contributing to higher levels of environmental pollution, increased greenhouse gas emissions, and the potential for long-term environmental degradation. Besides, global climate leadership impacts are also significant; the withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement and the reversal of climate policies isolated the U.S. from international climate efforts. This isolation can also be seen as an obstacle to global progress, as other significant emitters were less pressured to meet their commitments without U.S. participation. President Trump's policies did have fruitful effects on the national economy as

³ Lisa Friedman, "Trump Moves to Open Nearly All Offshore Waters to Drilling", *The New York Times*, <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/01/04/climate/trump-offshore-drilling.html>, (Retrieved: October 1st, 2024)

⁴ Emily Holden, "Trump ditches sole climate rule that aimed to reduce coal plant pollution", *The Guardian*, <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/jun/19/trump-climate-crisis-coal-pollution-clean-power-plan>, (Retrieved: October 1st, 2024)

⁵ Matt McGrath, "Climate change: US formally withdraws from Paris agreement", *BBC*, <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-54797743>, (Retrieved: October 1st, 2024)

⁶ Nadja Popovich, Livia Albeck-Ripka, Kendra Pierre-Louis, "The Trump Administration Rolled Back More Than 100 Environmental Rules", *The New York Times*, <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/climate/trump-environment-rollbacks-list.html>, (Retrieved: October 1st, 2024)

the country became the world's biggest oil producer and a significant net exporter of oil and natural gas while strengthening its energy independence. However, it can be criticized that these advantages came at the cost of undermining investments in clean energy technologies, potentially weakening long-term competitiveness in the global green energy market.

KAMALA HARRIS' ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY POLICIES

Vice President Kamala Harris has been promoting climate action, clean energy initiatives, and environmental justice as a U.S. Senator from California and the vice president in the Joe Biden administration. Her main proposals aim at significantly greening the U.S. economy, aligning closely with the progressive wing of the Democratic Party, which also emphasizes ambitious goals for reducing carbon emissions, transitioning to renewable energy, and addressing the undesired effects of climate change on all communities.

KEY ACTIONS AS VICE PRESIDENT

During her vice presidency, Harris was crucial in advancing the Biden administration's ambitious climate and energy goals. These include the American Jobs Plan and the Inflation Reduction Act, which allocate significant funding for clean energy projects, electric vehicle infrastructure, and green technology development. The administration's assertive goals to achieve a carbon-neutral power sector by 2035 and a net-zero economy by 2050 are challenging and require a significant shift within the country.

Besides, during her vice presidency, Harris has actively participated in international climate efforts, representing the U.S. at various climate forums and reinforcing the country's leadership in global climate diplomacy. In her role, Harris has championed the Justice40 Initiative, which aims to direct 40% of the benefits from federal investments in climate change mitigation and renewable energy toward disadvantaged communities while reflecting her long-standing focus on making the clean energy transition equitable and ensuring that vulnerable populations benefit from inclusive climate policies.⁷ She also acted as the administration's frontier for explaining the assertive goal of building 500,000 EV charging stations and transitioning the federal government's vehicle fleet to electric as part of a commitment to decarbonize transportation and reduce reliance on fossil fuels.⁸

The withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement and the reversal of climate policies isolated the U.S. from international climate efforts.

GLOBAL IMPLICATIONS OF HARRIS'S CLIMATE AND ENERGY RECORD

President Joe Biden, his administration, and Vice President Kamala Harris show a solid commitment to domestic and international climate lead-

⁷ The White House, "Justice 40", <https://www.whitehouse.gov/environmentaljustice/justice40/>, (Retrieved: October 1st, 2024)

⁸ U.S. Department of Transportation, "Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$623 Million in Grants to Continue Building Out Electric Vehicle Charging Network". <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/biden-harris-administration-announces-623-million-grants-continue-building-out#:~:text=This%20is%20a%20critical%20part,in%20America%20with%20American%20workers>, (Retrieved: October 1st, 2024)

ership while continuously shifting the domestic economy from hydrocarbons to investments in renewable energy sources. If successful, such strong movements would enhance the United States' standing in climate diplomacy and promote groundbreaking renovations on global policymaking, encouraging other nations to adopt ambitious emissions reduction targets and invest more in green technology. Additionally, if these efforts provide a fairer global energy transition, this success would be an essential guide for developing nations in their upcoming efforts on climate change mitigation.

KEY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN TRUMP AND HARRIS

Trump and Harris represent two fundamentally different visions for energy and sustainability, each with global implications. President Trump emphasizes fossil fuel expansion, advocating for global energy dominance through increased coal, oil, and natural gas production. During his presidency, he withdrew the U.S. from the Paris Climate Agreement, rolled back over 100 environmental regulations, and focused on deregulating industries to boost economic growth. His energy policies prioritized domestic fossil fuel production and saw climate change measures threatening jobs, national wealth, and American competitiveness, particularly in traditional energy sectors. The Trump administration opened federal lands to drilling and loosened environmental protections, aiming to make the U.S. a leading global exporter of fossil fuels.

In contrast, Harris champions a clean energy transition and decisive climate action. As vice president, she supported the U.S. rejoining the Paris Agreement and has backed the Biden

administration's goal of reaching net-zero emissions by 2050. She advocates for significant investment in renewable energy while supporting communities in need. She focuses on addressing the potential impact of climate change on vulnerable communities and promoting policies that prioritize clean energy development while ensuring that the benefits reach disadvantaged communities. Harris also supports international climate cooperation, positioning the U.S. as a leader in global efforts to combat climate change and adopt green technologies.

While President Trump seeks to expand fossil fuel production and limit environmental regulations to stimulate short-term, rapid economic growth, Harris is focused on creating long-term economic opportunities through green jobs and clean energy investments.

President Trump's policies mainly focus on deregulation and fossil fuel reliance. Harris, in the meanwhile, pushes for stronger environmental protections and regulations, investing in clean energy infrastructure, and adopting a sustainable economy for all. The outcome of the 2024 election will determine whether the U.S. continues on a path of fossil fuel dominance or accelerates its leadership in the global shift toward renewable energy and climate resilience.

GLOBAL AND GEOPOLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF DIFFERENCES AND CURRENT STANCE OF AMERICAN ENERGY

President Trump and Vice President Harris have significantly different views on energy and sustainability policies that will lead global efforts to-

wards different futures. Trump’s energy policies could significantly slow the global shift toward renewable energy. If elected, he might reinforce the world’s reliance on fossil fuels by prioritizing the “business as usual” approach through hydrocarbons, increasing carbon emissions and making it harder for countries to meet climate goals. His aversion and withdrawal from international climate agreements, could weaken global climate cooperation and encourage other countries to follow a similar path, potentially undermining the future of climate diplomacy and mitigation efforts. Geopolitically, Trump’s focus on fossil fuels could intensify resource competition, especially in oil-producing regions like the Middle East, leading to more significant energy-related tensions and conflicts.

In contrast, Harris’s policies emphasize the transition to clean energy and would likely accelerate global efforts for climate change mitigation. Continuous support for renewable energy policymaking can drive global markets toward greener technologies and innovations. If the U.S. starts leading on clean energy innovation, it could strengthen economic ties with countries committed to similar transitions. Re-engagement efforts with international climate initiatives would also boost global climate diplomacy, pressuring other major economies to adopt more ambitious emission targets. Further focus on climate change mitigation could influence global discussions on climate finance, particularly in ensuring that developing nations receive the necessary support to mitigate climate risks while providing the necessary means for building green infrastructure.

These contrasting policies have broader geopolitical ramifications. Under Trump, the U.S. would likely align more closely with fossil fuel-rich nations, creating a more deregulatory environment. In comparison, Harris’ policies could

forge stronger ties with nations working toward the renewable energy revolution, like the EU’s focus on regulation and assertive mitigation efforts. Thus, the outcome of the 2024 election will play a pivotal role in shaping global energy markets, international alliances, and the world’s ability to confront the climate crisis.

Under Trump, the U.S. would likely align more closely with fossil fuel-rich nations, creating a more deregulatory environment.

Previous studies have consistently shown that humanity’s relentless pursuit of economic growth is one of the most significant barriers to sustainability. Countries measure success mainly through economic advancement and growth. Global competition and natural resources still play an essential role in economic policymaking. This mindset makes it increasingly more difficult for governments to prioritize sustainability, as their focus remains on maintaining or expanding their financial standing in a competitive global landscape. Addressing this challenge requires a unified, collective approach from developed and developing economies. However, such widespread consensus remains unattainable, particularly when the world’s largest economies are deeply invested in preserving their economic dominance and stability.⁹

While local sustainability efforts show promise – especially in developing countries adopting advanced technologies and receiving support from international organizations and NGOs – these initiatives only address a small

⁹ Onur Kolcak, Internal and External Determinants of the Adoption Levels of Sustainable Development Policies in the Energy, Industry and Agricultural Sectors of Turkey, the United States, the Russian Federation, and the People’s Republic of China, (Southern Methodist University, Dallas: 2020), p. 160

part of the problem. The main challenge remains globally, where the largest polluters and most influential economies remain hesitant to step back from their potential growth and development-driven strategies. Convincing these key players to prioritize sustainability over economic expansion is a critical obstacle, as it often conflicts with their immediate financial goals. Although there is an ongoing enthusiasm for a significant shift to renewable energy options to meet long-term sustainability goals, implementing these policies is far more complex.

The U.S., as a major global player, faces significant obstacles, such as economic dependence on rooted industrial sectors running on hydrocarbons, such as oil and gas, as well as current economic challenges like inflation and rising living costs. A total transition to new energy policies, like heavily investing in renewable energy, also requires substantial investments in new infrastructure, and balancing this shift with the need to maintain economic productivity and stability is challenging. Moreover, along with the need for substantial financial planning, strong commitments to adopt renewable energy policies on a large scale require careful management of both environmental benefits and economic impacts, particularly on jobs and industries. Despite the enthusiasm for change, executing such a significant transformation in energy policy will take time, resources, and planning. Ultimately, the most pressing challenge is for nations to step back from global economic competition and embrace a sustainability-first mindset.

In today's world, where a multipolar power structure in international relations is emerging, replacing the old bipolar dynamics in international politics, a key question hovers over Kamala Harris' ambitious plans to reshape U.S. energy policies: How much compromise is the United States willing to make? With inflation playing

a dominant role in domestic policies and voter decisions, this tension between economic stability and environmental leadership will ultimately shape the future of U.S. influence and capability in the global shift toward sustainability.

Besides, it is also important to mention that oil production under both, expectedly, the Donald Trump and, surprisingly, Joe Biden administrations has significantly increased despite the differences in proposed policies. This is an expected outcome for Trump and his energy policies. However, it shows how contradicting Harris' proposed policies and goals differ from the actions of today's Biden administration. She has been serving as its vice president and it's fair to question what motivation they had to increase domestic oil production while preaching a robust progressive movement against hydrocarbons.

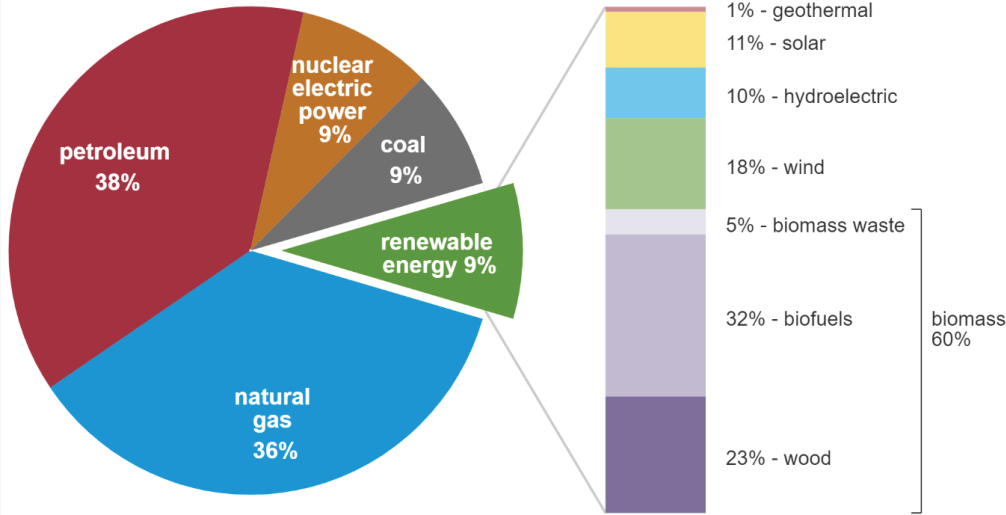
Despite the proposed sustainability policies, the U.S. still produces more oil and natural gas than ever, surpassing every other nation. This provokes a closer look at the Biden-Harris administration's roles in this production boom. Surprisingly, despite their contrasting rhetoric – Trump openly supporting fossil fuels, and Biden-Harris pushing for reductions to combat climate change – both administrations led increases in total U.S. oil and gas output. In fact, during the last three presidencies, including the Obama-Biden era, oil and gas production in the U.S. consistently rose by the end of each term compared to the start.¹⁰ This production has advantages, such as bolstering energy security and stabilizing, especially domestic energy prices, but it also has significant drawbacks, as burning oil and gas releases carbon dioxide, a major contributor to climate change. This track

¹⁰ Valerie Thomas, "Under both Trump and Biden-Harris, US oil and gas production surged, despite different energy goals", Alaska Beacon, <https://alaskabeacon.com/2024/09/11/under-both-trump-and-biden-harris-us-oil-and-gas-production-surged-despite-different-energy-goals/>, (Retrieved: October 1st, 2024)

U.S. primary energy consumption by energy source, 2023

total = 93.59 quadrillion British thermal units

total = 8.24 quadrillion British thermal units



Data source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, *Monthly Energy Review*, Table 1.3 and 10.1, April 2024, preliminary data
 Note: Sum of components may not equal 100% because of independent rounding.

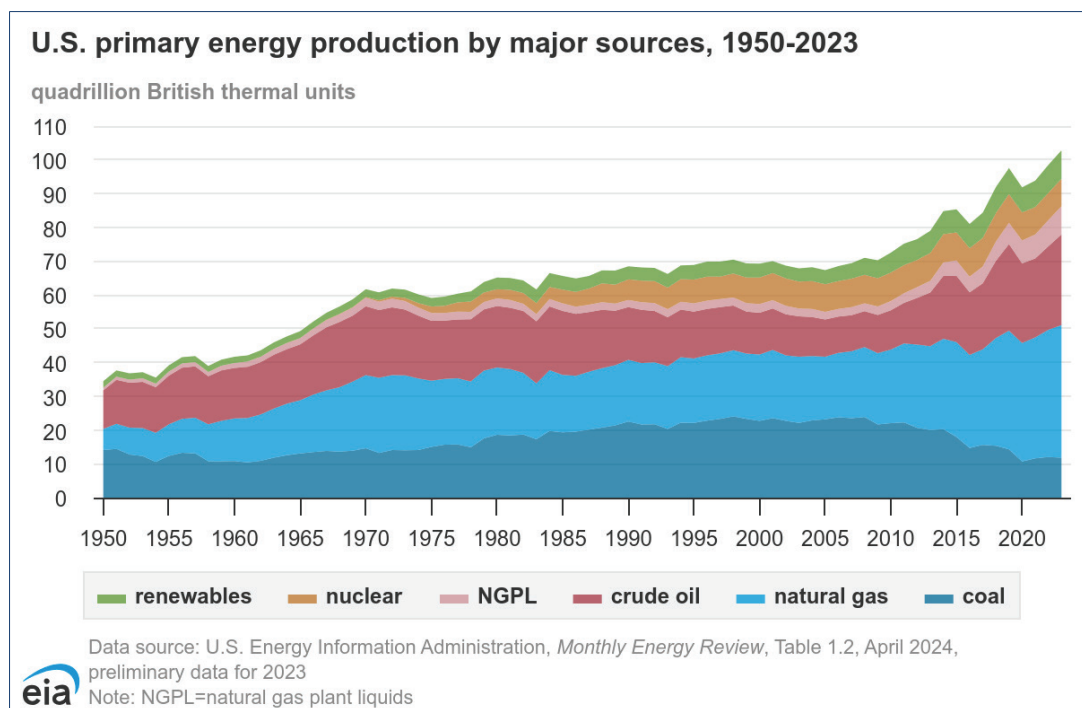
record contradicts the Biden administration’s previously stated climate goals and, similarly, against Kamala Harris’ progressive green economy agenda as a presidential candidate. Both the Biden administration and Harris, as the Democratic presidential candidate, emphasized reducing emissions and combating climate change by reducing fossil fuel dependency and excessively promoting renewables and electric vehicles. However, the steady increase in U.S. oil and gas production fails to show sincerity in such policies and promotions.

As the chart above shows, in 2023, U.S. primary energy consumption totaled 93.59 quadrillion British thermal units (BTUs), with fossil fuels, such as petroleum and natural gas, dominating the energy mix. Petroleum accounted for 38% of total consumption, primarily used in transportation, while natural gas made up

36%, serving key roles in electricity generation, heating, and industry.¹¹ Renewable energy contributed 9%, consisting of sources like the wind (18% of renewables), solar (11%), hydroelectric (10%), and biomass (60%), which includes biofuels, such as wood and waste. Nuclear, electric power, and coal each represented 9% of the total. Despite growth in renewables, fossil fuels (petroleum and natural gas) remain the dominant energy sources in the U.S.

This chart highlights the steady growth of U.S. primary energy production from 1950 to 2023, with a notable surge in fossil fuel production, particularly oil and gas, since the mid-2000s. The important part to focus on in this chart is the time frame between 2020 and

¹¹ U.S. Energy Information Administration, “Monthly Energy Review, Energy consumption by sector”, <https://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/us-energy-facts/>, (Retrieved: October 1st, 2024)



2024 when the Biden-Harris Administration was in government. Despite the Biden administration's green energy goals and climate-focused policies, between 2020 and 2024, U.S. energy production saw a notable rise in fossil fuel output, particularly in oil and gas. During this period, natural gas continued to dominate U.S. energy production, with both oil and gas increasing due to the need to meet high domestic and global energy demands. This increase occurred despite political promises to curb fossil fuel reliance and transition to renewable energy sources. While renewable energy sources like wind and solar saw some growth, these sources could not match the pace of fossil fuel production.

Efforts to advance sustainability, such as ambitious proposals to reduce carbon emissions and promote clean energy infrastructure, faced challenges in balancing immediate energy security and the economic realities tied to fossil

fuels, as shown in a previous study.¹² The U.S. economy's strong dependence on fossil fuels persisted throughout this period of the Biden-Harris administration. Although coal production continued its gradual decline, fossil fuels still maintained a central role, underscoring the tension between environmental goals and the energy needs of developed economies. Even with increasing investments in renewable energy, the country remains heavily reliant on fossil fuels as a significant energy source. The ongoing struggle between implementing climate action, maintaining stable energy production, and providing for the domestic economy while transitioning to greener alternatives, along with Harris' four years in the White House, should be the primary consideration when discussing and elaborating on

¹² Onur Kolcak, *Internal and External Determinants of the Adoption Levels of Sustainable Development Policies in the Energy, Industry and Agricultural Sectors of Turkey, the United States, the Russian Federation, and the People's Republic of China*, (Southern Methodist University, Dallas: 2020), p. 161

the green economy initiatives proposed by her presidential campaign.

EFFECTS ON TÜRKİYE

The policy differences between former President Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris could significantly impact Türkiye's goals for sustainable development and energy ambitions as the country navigates between traditional energy sources and a growing focus on renewable energy. If Trump's policies of expanding fossil fuel production and deregulation are reinstated, this could influence Türkiye's energy landscape in several ways. Trump's pro-fossil fuel stance might boost global oil and gas production, potentially lowering energy prices. This scenario could make Türkiye more reliant on fossil fuels in the short term, as it is a significant importer of oil, gas, and natural gas. Lower prices might slow the country's transition to renewables by making fossil fuels more economically attractive.

Furthermore, under a potential second term of President Trump, the U.S. will likely step away from international climate leadership again, reducing the pressure on essential allies like Türkiye to ramp up their climate action and transition to clean energy. This could delay Türkiye's progress in potentially meeting its 2030 climate goals and 2050 net-zero emissions target under the Paris Agreement as global coordination weakens. Additionally, Trump's policies could reinforce Türkiye's ties to alternate fossil fuel-rich nations like Russia and the Middle East to remain competitive in the global market, increasing its geopolitical dependence on traditional energy suppliers and delaying its shift toward a more sustainable energy mix and independence.

In contrast, under Vice President Harris' policies, which emphasize clean energy and strong climate action, Türkiye's sustainable de-

velopment goals could be more directly supported. Harris' support for renewable energy would likely lead to more significant international investments in clean energy technologies. Türkiye, which has been investing in solar, wind, and geothermal energy, could benefit from partnerships with U.S. companies and access to green technology and utilizing more incentives and support to enhance its sustainability efforts, such as green finance initiatives and global decarbonization projects. As Harris' policies aim to reduce global demand for fossil fuels, Türkiye might be encouraged to reduce its dependence on imported oil and gas, accelerating its investment in local renewable energy sources, utilizing solar and wind potentials while benefiting from U.S.-backed international climate finance, technology transfers, and climate partnerships that would enable Türkiye to advance its position as a critical player in the global clean energy transition. The energy policies of both Trump and Harris will significantly impact Türkiye's energy future. The differences between the two candidates should be thoroughly analyzed as potential wins for the Turkish economy, and the country should strategically align itself by considering all possible near-future scenarios while being open to cooperation.

CONCLUSION

As the 2024 U.S. presidential election approaches, the future of its energy and sustainability policies remains in question. In 2025, these policies can see significant alterations in short – and long-term goals – based on whether Donald Trump or Kamala Harris secures the presidency. If Trump is re-elected, the U.S. could see a continuation of policies favoring hydrocarbons and deregulation, increasing domestic energy output and potentially lowering energy costs in

the short term but delaying the transition to renewable energy sources. In the long term, such a path could hinder the country's ability to meet its climate commitments and jeopardize global efforts to combat climate change. With a focus on energy independence through hydrocarbons, the U.S. may also experience stronger relationships with the EU in advocating for climate action, leading to a fractured global climate agenda and diminished American leadership in international climate negotiations.

Conversely, a Harris presidency would likely catalyze a significant shift toward renewable energy and sustainability. Her policies could drive substantial investments in clean energy technologies, creating jobs and fostering innovation in the green economy. This proactive approach would enhance the U.S.' energy security and position the country as a global leader in the fight against climate change. A commitment to international climate agreements and cooperation would strengthen alliances with other nations pursuing similar sustainability goals, ultimately enhancing global climate action. The

outcome of the 2024 U.S. presidential election will have far-reaching consequences, not only within the country but across the globe, as it marks a critical turning point for U.S. energy and sustainability policies.

The decision between continuing a fossil fuel-driven economy or embracing a transition toward sustainable energy will have profound implications for the nation's long-term role in addressing climate change. The path chosen will further influence how the U.S. engages with global climate initiatives, affecting international collaborations and effectively shaping the world's ability to combat environmental challenges. This election represents more than just a policy difference – it offers a pivotal opportunity to break from a “business as usual” approach and initiate a transformative but risky paradigm shift in American leadership on energy and environmental issues. Whether the nation chooses to prioritize short-term economic gains or take the risk of experiencing a paradigm shift will ultimately determine its position in the global effort, leadership, and competition.

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SETA | ANALYSIS

The 2024 United States presidential election marks a pivotal moment in global sustainability and energy policy leadership. With unprecedented stakes, the election outcomes between former President Donald J. Trump and current Vice President Kamala Harris represent divergent paths that will reshape domestic policies and international approaches to climate change, energy production, and sustainable development policymaking. This paper analyzes each candidate's energy and environmental policies, exploring their potential impacts on the global climate movement, global economic partnerships, and the future of the worldwide green energy transition in both developed and developing economies. Through a comprehensive examination of both candidates' policy positions, current and previous records, and policy promotions, this analysis highlights how the election will be a global turning point in sustainable development goals. As the world approaches critical environmental degradation and energy demand still increases, the U.S. leadership in this sphere will either drive further progress toward a green future or reinforce traditional energy paradigms with far-reaching consequences. Ultimately, the 2024 election is decisive in determining the trajectory of global efforts toward climate resilience, sustainable development, and energy transformation.

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