

Episode 57CS February 1 2025 Solar Panels from China in Africa and German vote with AfD help fails

In Episode 57CS 1 World Solar Panels from China in Africa would help grow a smart electrical grid 2A United States Our Health in the Hands of a Man Who'd Make Us Sick 2B Reset or Purge? Trump EPA Dismisses Agency Science Advisers Critics fear the unusual clean sweep of panels is meant to ease the planned rollback of climate and environmental policy 2C United States Health At His HHS Job Interview RFK Jr Stumbles Over Health Policy Basics 3 Germany German Opposition Gambles With Far Right on Immigration and Loses Friedrich Merz and his Christian Democrats broke a political taboo by working with the hard right Alternative for Germany to toughen rules on immigration It did not pay off Angela Merkel criticized the move Musk Says Germany Has Too Much of a Focus on Past Guilt Main Content 1 World World Solar Panels from China in Africa would help grow a smart electrical grid The climate solution that doesn't mention climate Editor's note Last week the United Nations' climate chief called the global transition away from fossil fuels unstoppable despite the United States' recent turn away from the fight against climate change under President Trump RAWSEP View Because Africa has access to solar panels and other renewable energy tools at low prices from China expanding electrical access in Africa is increasingly possible Funding for electrical expansion in Africa is being asked for without mentioning that using clean energy networks to power electrical grids will also slow climate change Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization Climate Forward New York Times January 31 2025 This week top officials from dozens of African countries convened with major international lenders to commit to the biggest rollout of renewable energy in the continent's history The \$35 billion in loans from The World Bank African Development Bank and other financial institutions at below market interest rates are aimed at getting electricity to half of the 600 million Africans without it About half the money will go toward village level solar grids the words climate change were barely uttered at the two day summit in Dar es Salaam Tanzania Because of the lack of power African women are cooking with charcoal inside their houses and they are dying! how solar power is becoming an unstoppable force in the global energy sector if you don't have electricity in Africa and are trying to run a business you most likely burn high emitting diesel to run a generator African leaders argue that they should be allowed to exploit the fossil fuels that they have in abundance And they are both producing and importing them Three quarters of grid electricity in Africa is derived from fossil fuels compared to 60 percent in the US Matipwili a community in rural Tanzania where around 200 houses and businesses briefly got power from a solar minigrid Expanding electricity access is one of the surest ways to start strengthening Africa exploited economies Africa's leaders know the developed world is not acting fast enough to enact durable solutions to the climate crisis Instead they want investment and development They want it affordably and they want it as soon as possible They want to avoid further instability as population growth remains high The solar energy industry China built over the past decade a sector China now completely dominates has enabled lenders like the World Bank to confidently say at summits like this week's in Tanzania that solar is what will bring Africans energy quickest and at least cost More climate fix news The year in investment Global investment in low carbon technology hit a record \$21 trillion last year That's an 11 percent increase over last year China dominated spending investing \$828 billion in overall up 23 percent over 2023 Electrified transport including electric vehicles was the biggest investment category with \$757 billion spent last year followed by renewable energy at \$728 billion Electrification Heat pumps are outselling gas furnaces in the United States again Renewables For the first time Europe generated more power from solar than from coal according to a |



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report from Ember an energy think tank EVs Battery powered cars are lasting as long as traditional gas and diesel fueled cars in the UK according to a study highlighted by The Guardian In a bid to compete with China the Europe Union is planning a subsidy for electric vehicles Energy projects New York State's biggest solar farm got \$950 million in funding It's expected to be finished in 2026 and could power 120000 homes 2A United States Our Health in the Hands of a Man Who'd Make Us Sick New York Times Opinion **RAWSEP View** Another view of the performance of Kennedy Junior in his Senate hearings this past week **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization** New York times February 1 2025 One of the biggest potential threats to this country is an avian flu pandemic for bird flu is mutating and spreading to cows and other mammals If there is a pandemic then vaccines will be essential Perhaps the single best thing that President Trump did in his first term was to start Operation Warp Speed a public private partnership that accelerated the development of Covid 19 vaccines and saved many lives What would happen if there were a need for another Operation Warp Speed but this time the point man on health was suspicious of vaccines including those that arrested the last pandemic? The coronavirus vaccine is the deadliest vaccine ever made Kennedy falsely claimed and in May 2021 he petitioned the government to revoke authorization for it even though by then the vaccine already had saved 140000 lives Kennedy has also claimed that the polio vaccine one of the great triumphs of the 20th century may have caused cancers that killed many many many many many more people than polio ever did Kennedy now insists to senators that he is not anti vaccine and would not discourage their use Really? In 2021 he said on a podcast that he actively discouraged parents from vaccinating children and urged others to do the same I see somebody on a hiking trail carrying a little baby and I say to him Better not get him vaccinated Kennedy has said that doctors butchered all these children by vaccinating them The nonprofit that he founded Children's Health Defense sells baby onesies with messages such as No Vax No Problem The White House science adviser isn't actually a scientist Trump is pulling out of the World Health Organization whose global flu surveillance network helps develop flu vaccines and the administration even directed employees from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention not to email contacts at the World Health Organization Kennedy's passion for many years has been hostility to vaccines bundled in certitude and nastiness It is a misguided and dangerous campaign to undermine confidence in vaccines A woman dies every two hours in the United States from cervical cancer which is almost entirely preventable with HPV vaccinations yet Kennedy has backed a lawsuit against the maker of the vaccine The problems go beyond vaccines of course Kennedy suggested darkly that Covid 19 was engineered to spare Chinese people and Ashkenazi Jews Kennedy doesn't understand our health care system In his hearings he muddled Medicare and Medicaid He represents the lowest point of the politicization of science he is our own Lysenko I hope senators will protect American kids from Robert F Kennedy Jr 2B Reset or Purge? Trump EPA Dismisses Agency Science Advisers Critics fear the unusual clean sweep of panels is meant to ease the planned rollback of climate and environmental policy **RAWSEP View** This article gives a comprehensive look at where rollbacks of climate and environment policy are aimed **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization** Inside Climate News January 29 2025 Federal Spending Freeze Could Have Widespread Impact on Environment Emergency Management All members of the Environmental Protection Agency's boards of outside advisers on science and clean air were dismissed in a letter emailed late Tuesday an unusual step the Trump administration said was aimed at




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We can't survive a minute without air, so why are we expecting our children—even the unborn—to breathe polluted air? For a mother, every breath her child takes should mean life, not danger. Yet, air pollution has turned this hope into a daily nightmare. ❤️

In this heartfelt collaboration with [WarriorMoms.IN](#), two mothers, Dr Carmin Uppal and Mehak Segan, open up about their heartbreaking journeys—sleepless nights, hospital visits, and the constant fear of what tomorrow holds for their children.

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depoliticizing the panels Trump in return was criticized for politicizing the process by eliminating the current independent advisers and clearing the way for them to be replaced with hand picked appointees A number of the now dismissed panel members had two to three years remaining in their terms It was not immediately clear who would be appointed as replacements on the advisory panels both of which are required under federal law Trump's choice to head up the Environmental Protection Agency former New York Congressman Lee Zeldin won Senate confirmation on Wednesday the day after the dismissals EPA is working to update the Science Advisory Board SAB and Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee CASAC to ensure that the agency receives scientific advice consistent with its legal obligations I was not appointed as a political appointee but as a scientist that studies air pollution and health said a professor at Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health who had only begun serving as chair of the CASAC in October He said the Clean Air Act passed on a bipartisan basis more than 50 years ago and implemented under administrations of both parties had been one of the most successful public policies that has ever been enacted globally in part because of procedures that require the agency to rely on the best science An engineering professor at Howard University who has served as chair of the Science Advisory Board since 2023 said she was disappointed in the administration's decision We should not be writing or interpreting science to meet anybody's objectives We should be independent doing our best job to evaluate the science as scientists EPA's 2024 decision to strengthen the National Ambient Air Quality Standard for fine particulate matter for example was bolstered because it was in line with the advice the agency received from the CASAC Biden's EPA chief Michael Regan installed a new slate at CASAC when he took office in 2021 based on the findings by the GAO and others that the selection process had become compromised the Trump administration seemed to be following the conservative policy platform Project 2025 which called for resetting science advisory boards at EPA The administration seems to be wanting to promote loyalty and compliance with its policy agenda but that's not the mission of a science advisory board it's an inappropriate interference in an external independent expert advisory board

2C United States Health At His HHS Job Interview RFK Jr Stumbles Over Health Policy Basics KFF Newsletter from San Francisco California [RAWSEP View](#) KFF which was formerly known as The Kaiser Family Foundation or The Henry J Kaiser Family Foundation is an American non profit organization headquartered in San Francisco California It prefers KFF which is its business operating name to reduce confusion because it is not affiliated with Kaiser Permanente and it is no longer a foundation KFF states that it is a non partisan organization focused on health policy It conducts its own research polling journalism and specialized public health information campaigns Its website has been praised for having the most up to date and accurate information on health policy and as a must read for healthcare devotees [Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization](#) KFF Health news newsletter January 31 2025 At His HHS Job Interview RFK Jr Stumbles Over Health Policy Basics Robert F Kennedy Jr the anti vaccine activist President Donald Trump nominated to lead the nation's top health agency did little to win over his critics at two Senate confirmation hearings this week Democrats argued he's not qualified for the job And by botching answers to basic questions about health policy Kennedy supplied some evidence that he is unqualified It's uncertain whether Kennedy will get enough votes in the Senate to be confirmed as the secretary of Health and Human Services Every Democrat and independent is expected to vote against him meaning he can afford to lose only three GOP votes Sen Bill Cassidy R La a physician who



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Frank O'Bear ▸ Fire & Biodiversity Western Australia (FaBWA)

January 18 at 12:13 AM · 🌐

🧯 Keep the funding ❤️
🚒 For fire-fighting 🌿
🔥 Not for fire lighting 🔥

sits on the Finance Committee and chairs the Senate Health Education Labor and Pensions Committee known as HELP is seen as the crucial vote He made a point of highlighting the successes of vaccination and questioned whether Kennedy as HHS secretary would champion the lifesaving medicines he has spent years attacking Over 3½ hours at Finance Kennedy confused Medicare and Medicaid the two largest government health insurance programs which together cover more than a third of Americans but operate very differently He also mistakenly said that Medicaid is funded solely by the federal government In fact nearly a third of costs are paid by the states Kennedy said he didn't think HHS had a law enforcement branch The agency can issue fines and penalties against health providers who break the law He didn't do much better Thursday at HELP where he couldn't correctly answer a question from Sen Maggie Hassan D NH about how Medicare works Kennedy got kid glove treatment from most Republicans on both Senate panels But Cassidy was an exception At the Finance hearing he unsuccessfully pressed Kennedy to say how he would improve care for people enrolled in Medicare and Medicaid often called dual eligibles Opening the HELP hearing Cassidy made clear to Kennedy that he supports vaccines and that he expects the US health secretary to support them as well yet he couldn't persuade the nominee to disavow debunked conspiracies that childhood vaccines cause autism The Finance Committee plans a vote next week HELP does not vote on HHS nominees At the close of Thursday's hearing Cassidy said he would take the weekend to consider his vote Will you continue what you have been or will you overturn a new leaf at age 70? Cassidy said The Trump administration's second week has been even more disruptive than its first with an on again off again funding freeze that left many scrambling to understand what was going on A sweeping Trump administration order threw the nation's health system into disarray Tuesday as states and the health industry tried to make sense of what looked like a freeze on federal Medicaid funding Public Health Trump Administration's Halt of CDC's Weekly Scientific Report Stalls Bird Flu Studies An unprecedented freeze on the agency's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report sparks new concerns about political meddling in science Led by RFK Jr Conservatives Embrace Raw Milk Regulators Say It's Dangerous For now the CDC still recommends against consuming raw milk and the FDA bans its interstate sale Children's Health Schools Aren't as Plugged In as They Should Be to Kids' Diabetes Tech Parents Say With continuous glucose monitors students with Type 1 diabetes no longer have to visit the school nurse for a finger prick But some parents say it falls to them to keep an eye on blood sugar levels from home or work even though they may not be able to quickly reach their child when something's wrong Stable housing is scarce for a rapidly increasing number of homeless seniors and insurers sometimes deny coverage for prosthetic limbs by deeming them experimental or not medically necessary Reporter Assesses Rise in Vaccine Exemptions Letters to the Editor Readers Offer Their Takes on the Family Doctor Shortage and Vaccine Policies KFF Health News gives readers a chance to comment on a recent batch of stories Would you like to comment on a story? Please visit our Letter to the Editor form 3 Germany German Opposition Gambles With Far Right on Immigration and Loses Friedrich Merz and his Christian Democrats broke a political taboo by working with the hard right Alternative for Germany to toughen rules on immigration It did not pay off Angela Merkel criticized the move Musk Says Germany Has Too Much of a Focus on Past Guilt **RAWSEP View** The German neo-Nazi party AfD in Germany broke a firewall and was included in an alliance vote attempt which failed with the German conservative Christian Democratic Union CDU by CDU head Friedrich Merz ahead of the German February 2025 Snap Elections which Friedrich Merz hopes to win The failed vote after allowing the firewall against neo Nazis to fall slightly weakens Merz chances for winning The AfD exchanged hugs after participating with the CDU



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Pledge for Canada

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This petition is intended as an invitation to Canadians to reflect on the current challenges Can...

Greg Sargent @GregTSargent · 8h
A willingness to say things like this is the only qualification for the job that Trump cared about, and everyone covering this story knows it

Aaron Rugar @atrupar · 8h
Sean Duffy: "I would just note, the president's leadership has been remarkable during this crisis."

albeit for a failed vote attempt **RAWSEP top excerpts from the article below** It left Mr Merz facing **fierce criticism from political opponents religious leaders Holocaust survivors and former Chancellor Angela Merkel who remains a member of Mr Merz's party** **Tens of thousands demonstrated** outside of conservative Christian Democrats' party offices across the country The following day Ms Merkel made a rare public comment decrying Mr Merz's reliance on a party that winks at Nazi slogans and which many including the domestic intelligence services consider a threat to the country's Constitution **I believe it is wrong Ms Merkel said in a statement to knowingly enable a majority in the German Bundestag to vote with the AfD for the first time** Others did too Albrecht Weinberg a **99 year old Holocaust survivor** **announced that he would be returning a medal bestowed on him in 2017** For years mainstream parties had refused to work with the far right Even as the AfD won a growing share of votes in national elections mainstream party leaders assured Germans that the party would be kept out of government Mr Merz's political maneuver was designed to recapture voters who have drifted to the hard right But for now it appears to have backfired with the **AfD seeming to be the only clear winner in the affair** When the measure passed on Wednesday by a razor thin victory with several members of Mr Merz's party abstaining **AfD party leaders cheered They exchanged hugs and took a group selfie on the Parliament floor** Mr Merz sat just feet away looking glum A gloating Alice Weidel the AfD's chancellor candidate told reporters afterward that Wednesday's vote showed it was possible that the elections could produce a governing majority in Parliament if the far right and the conservatives worked together **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization** New York Times Jan 31 2025 The man who has been heavily favored to become Germany's next chancellor took an extraordinary gamble this week both for his political future and his country's longstanding firewall against political extremism It did not go as he hoped In an effort to portray himself and his party as tough on immigration Friedrich Merz the leader of the poll leading Christian Democrats pushed a series of measures tightening borders and accelerating deportations through Parliament this week He did so with help from the hard right Alternative for Germany party or AfD parts of which have been classified as extremist by German intelligence agencies **On Friday the gambit ended in a crushing legislative defeat for Mr Merz dissent in his own party and jubilant claims of new legitimacy from the AfD a chain reaction that could rattle Mr Merz's comfortable seat at the top of the polls** Mr Merz's willingness to rely on support from the AfD broke a taboo in German politics that had endured since the end of World War II **Mr Merz insisted on a vote** which he lost by a narrow margin of 11 votes In effect he doubled down stepping back from a call he had made in November after Mr Scholz's three party coalition collapsed for mainstream parties to avoid working with the far right to pass legislation One question now is whether Mr Merz can reunite his fractured coalition Another is whether if he becomes chancellor he might go even further in allowing collaboration between conservatives and far right **Several lawmakers this week evoked Austria** where a governing coalition between the hard right Freedom Party and the center right Austrian People's party now looks likely It would be the first time the far right ran a governing coalition though it had been a minority partner before **Mr Merz continues to say he will not entertain such a coalition** Germany's Election Campaign Germany's Likely Leader Flirts With a Taboo Working With the Far Right Jan 27 2025



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