

Musk abandons Trump after U.S. dumps Paris Agreement

5th June, 2017



World-renowned CEO, inventor and entrepreneur Elon Musk has decided to leave his position on the Trump business advisory council. This comes after he recently defended his role as advisor to U.S. President Donald Trump. His decision

was prompted by Trump's announcement on Friday that the U.S. will pull out of the Paris Agreement – the climate deal established to deal with greenhouse gas emissions from 2020, signed by 195 countries. Mr Musk tweeted: "Climate change is real. Leaving [the] Paris [Agreement] is not good for America or the world." Musk isn't the only prominent figure to walk away from the advisory council. Disney CEO Bob Iger will also step down for similar reasons.

President Trump has long campaigned in support of the coal and fossil fuel industries. He believes that leaving the Paris Agreement will loosen business restrictions and promote growth. Advocates of Trump's decision believe leaving the agreement will help to revitalize the U.S. coal industry and bring back much-needed jobs and revenue to a previously lucrative industry. World leaders condemned the U.S. withdrawal. France's president said: "There is no plan B on climate, because there is no planet B." With or without U.S. support, the world is on an irreversible trend towards cleaner energy. Leaving the Paris Agreement may be a significant blow to the USA's global influence and leadership in environmental issues.

Sources: space.com / the-guardian.com / latimes.com

Writing

What are the best three ways to deal with climate change? Explain your reasons.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

CEO / inventor / entrepreneur / decision / announcement / climate / emissions / support / fossil fuel / coal / growth / revenue / plan B / planet / trend / cleaner energy

True / False

- Elon Musk is a world-renowned inventor and entrepreneur. T / F
- The Paris Agreement is set to start in 2018. T / F
- The Paris Agreement was signed by 195 countries. T / F
- The CEO of Disney will also quit the business advisory council. T / F
- Donald Trump has supported fossil fuel industries for a long time. T / F
- Leaving the Paris Agreement will mean lost jobs in the coal industry. T / F
- France's President said the world should now look at Plan B. T / F
- The article said the US is now stronger to lead on environmental issues. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| 1. renowned | a. limitations |
| 2. position | b. caused |
| 3. prompted | c. backers |
| 4. established | d. post |
| 5. prominent | e. serious |
| 6. campaigned | f. leading |
| 7. restrictions | g. famous |
| 8. advocates | h. profitable |
| 9. lucrative | i. set up |
| 10. significant | j. fought |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you know about climate change?
- What do you know about the Paris Agreement?
- What do you think of the USA's decision?
- What does your country think of Mr Trump's decision?
- What is your country doing to help reduce emissions?
- What are you doing to help reduce emissions?
- What more can you do to help reduce emissions?
- Can the other 194 countries reduce emissions without the USA?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. World-renowned CEO, inventor | a. figure to walk away |
| 2. the U.S. will pull | b. promote growth |
| 3. deal with greenhouse gas | c. for similar reasons |
| 4. the only prominent | d. towards cleaner energy |
| 5. Disney CEO Bob Iger will also step down | e. emissions |
| 6. fossil | f. industry |
| 7. loosen business restrictions and | g. and entrepreneur |
| 8. lucrative | h. fuel |
| 9. There is no plan | i. out of the Paris Agreement |
| 10. an irreversible trend | j. B |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you think of fossil fuels?
- Is it OK to use more fossil fuels if it protects jobs?
- What does Mr Trump think of climate change?
- What advice do you have for Donald Trump?
- Will clean energies eventually mean very few carbon emissions?
- What three adjectives best describe this news story?
- What questions would you like to ask Donald Trump about the climate?

Spelling

- CEO, toeinrny and entrepreneur
- he recently eenfddde his role
- omdtpper by Trump's announcement
- the climate deal bedliaetssh
- greenhouse gas emssiiosn
- the only tormeinnp figure to walk away
- cenmgpdaia in support
- osifls fuel
- loosen business riteirnsctso
- a previously teavlcriu industry
- the world is on an rsbriievleer trend
- the USA's global feilnenuc

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. d	3. b	4. i	5. f
6. j	7. a	8. c	9. h	10. e

Role Play

Role A – Solar Power

You think solar power is the best form of energy. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their forms of energy. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): tidal power, nuclear power or hydroelectricity.

Role B – Tidal Power

You think tidal power is the best form of energy. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their forms of energy. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): solar power, nuclear power or hydroelectricity.

Role C – Nuclear Power

You think nuclear power is the best form of energy. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their forms of energy. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): tidal power, solar power or hydroelectricity.

Role D – Hydroelectricity

You think hydroelectricity is the best form of energy. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their forms of energy. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): tidal power, nuclear power or solar power.

Speaking – Cleaner energy

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| • nuclear energy | • solar power |
| • wind power | • hydroelectricity |
| • geothermal power | • biofuels |
| • body movement power | • tidal power |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.