

THE SUSTAINABILITY REPORT | Oct. 23rd, 2025

Keeping corporate leaders up to date on how policy decisions in DC are impacting sustainability efforts across the country.

US Shuts Down Global Shipping Carbon Tax

The International Maritime Organization (IMO), the global shipping regulator, has been talking for years about how to tax vessel emissions. Last week, nations met in London to vote on the proposal. The U.S. is opposed, calling it a global carbon tax on Americans.

President Trump posted on Truth Social the following: I am outraged that the International Maritime Organization is voting in London this week to pass a global Carbon Tax. The United States will NOT stand for this Global Green New Scam Tax on Shipping, and will not adhere to it in any way, shape, or form. We will not tolerate increased prices on American Consumers OR, the creation of a Green New Scam Bureaucracy to spend YOUR money on their Green dreams. Stand with the United States, and vote NO in London tomorrow!”

As a result, the IMO voted to delay the adoption of a carbon pricing system until next year’s session.

Washington, DC Update

The White House announced that it will begin laying off federal employees earlier this month. The first tranche included agency staff from the EPA’s Resource Conservation and Sustainability Division, the Department of Homeland Security’s Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), IRS, and Housing and Urban Development. A judge halted firings, which will halt future layoffs for the time being. As the shutdown goes into its fifth week, tensions are high and there continues to be no offramp. House and Senate Republican leadership continue to assert that Democrats must reopen the government before they negotiate Affordable Care Act tax credits. Speaker Johnson has also warned that more rescissions will be coming to pull back existing federal dollars. This will only serve to escalate tensions between the two parties.

Want to Learn More?

- Read about the outcomes in this [Washington Examiner article](#).
- You can read the draft IMO regulations [here](#).

Engagement Opportunities

- The Senate Agriculture, Forestry, and Nutrition Committee passed the Fix Our Forests Act with bipartisan support. This is a wide-ranging forestry bill intended to improve forest management and streamline approvals for forest-related projects.
 - *The bill will now move to the Senate floor. There is still an opportunity for amendments if you haven’t yet engaged on the bill.*