

# US should take steps to manage costly climate risks: report

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A giant balloon of the Earth with a haircut alluding to US President Donald Trump is seen during a protest in June 2017

The US government should manage risks posed by climate change that could cost it tens of billions of dollars more per year by mid-century, a congressional report published Tuesday said.

But such steps seem in doubt under President Donald Trump, who has dismissed climate change as a "hoax," moved to pull the US out of a global climate agreement and rolled back [environmental regulations](#).

The executive "should use information on the potential economic effects of climate change to help identify significant climate risks facing the [federal government](#) and craft appropriate federal responses," the report from the independent Government Accountability Office said.

"The federal government does not have government-wide strategic planning efforts in place to help set clear priorities for managing significant climate risks before they become federal fiscal exposures," it said.

The report cited figures from a November 2016 government assessment, which found that "recurring costs that the federal government incurred as a result of [climate change](#)" could increase by between \$12 to \$35 billion per year by 2050, and \$34 to \$112 billion toward the century's end.

The United States has spent more than \$350 billion as a result of "extreme weather and fire events" over the past decade, the report says, while a statement from the senators who requested it said the economic cost of disasters from 2017 alone are "expected to exceed \$300 billion."

"Our government cannot afford to spend more than \$300 billion each year in response to [severe weather events](#)," said Senator Susan Collins, one of the lawmakers who requested the report.

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