We haven't seen at the national level what climate policy would look like under a government completely controlled by today's hard-right — one possible outcome of the 2024 election. Trump did have a Republican Congress at one point, but more moderate conservatives still held the balance of power there. Today's hard-right Republican Party has left more conventional conservatives like Mitch McConnell in the dust. So what would a GOP trifecta look like today?

We can get a better sense of how climate policy would fare nationally by looking at states under unchallenged Republican control. Given their populations and economies, Texas and Florida are probably better comparison cases than places like Mississippi and Arkansas. In both states, the executive branch leadership has dominated the legislature, leaving few constraints on their actions. And both states have fought climate initiatives tooth and claw.

In Florida, the legislature has eliminated consideration of climate change in energy policy. The same legislation banned offshore wind turbines, repealed state funding for renewables, and eliminated clean energy requirements on state government. The Governor applauded the legislation for keeping "windmills off our beaches, gas in our tanks, and China out of our state." He went on to say, "We're restoring sanity in our approach to energy and rejecting the agenda of the radical green zealots." Previously, the Governor rejected $346 million in federal funds to make homes more energy efficient. I guess wasting energy is the MAGA thing to do.

A week after Biden took office, Texas Governor Greg Abbott gave a major speech in the Texas oil patch. "I am in Midland," he proclaimed, "to make clear that Texas is going to protect the oil and gas industry from any type of hostile attack from Washington, D.C. " Falsely blaming renewable energy for winter blackouts — most of the failed generators used fossil fuels — he called the Green New Deal "a deadly deal" for the U.S. He also issued an executive order directing every state agency "to use all lawful powers and tools to challenge any federal action that threatens the Texas energy sector" (meaning oil and gas) in Texas.

Texas has had a thriving renewable energy sector, driven by free-market policies dating back to George Bush's time as governor. Bush, of course, is a RINO by today's standards. Fearful of the cost advantages of renewable energy and its alleged contribution to past blackouts, Texas Republicans pushed through a referendum giving new natural gas plants sweetheart loans from the state. So much for the free market.

This is not to say that unified control of the federal government by the hard right would entirely halt the progress of clean energy. Just that they would do their best to make that happen and to maximize use of what Trump has called the “liquid gold” under our feet.