

**JUNE 2020**

# **PRINCIPLES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONGRESS ON THE CLIMATE CRISIS**



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**PREPARED BY THE  
CONGRESSIONAL PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS**



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# GUIDING PRINCIPLES

## OUR VISION FOR URGENT, INCLUSIVE, AND TRANSFORMATIVE ACTION ON THE CLIMATE CRISIS

Our world is on the brink of disaster. Science tells us that we have only eleven years to avert an irreversible climate catastrophe. But in a moment that demands urgency and vision, the rich and powerful have offered neither. As years have become decades of inaction, our planet and its inhabitants have suffered. Families are fleeing rising sea levels and weathering record heat waves and historic storms. Unprecedented droughts, crop failures, and dwindling water supplies have fueled conflicts around the world, destabilizing communities and driving displacement and violence. One million animal and plant species are in danger of extinction. The climate crisis was created by a broken political and economic system that prioritizes

corporate profits over the health and safety of our communities. If we are to address the full scope and scale of our global climate emergency, we need a new approach — one that recognizes environmental justice and economic prosperity must go hand-in-hand. The Congressional Progressive Caucus is committed to confronting this crisis with a bold vision that achieves zero emissions, creates millions of high-quality and sustainable union jobs, and centers frontline communities. Our climate action framework takes a comprehensive approach to implement ambitious goals to avert a worldwide climate crisis. In this report, we have outlined the criteria that must be included in any serious congressional climate action plan.

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# KEY PILLARS FOR CLIMATE ACTION IN CONGRESS

- Make a climate emergency declaration, followed by a rapid mobilization of resources to meet the urgency of the climate crisis and achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions before 2050.
- Center environmental justice, inclusion, and equity for frontline communities who have borne the brunt of environmental, economic, and racial injustice.
- Ensure a just transition for workers and communities dependent upon and harmed by the fossil fuel industry.
- Create millions of new green jobs that provide living wages, strong labor protections, and safe working conditions, and ensure the inclusion of frontline communities in this new economic sector.
- Make public investments commensurate with the urgency and magnitude of the climate crisis.
- Shift our national investments away from militarism and into sustainable multilateral cooperation aimed at combating this existential threat to humankind.
- Protect individuals displaced by climate change.





## **MAKE A CLIMATE EMERGENCY DECLARATION, FOLLOWED BY A RAPID MOBILIZATION OF RESOURCES TO MEET THE URGENCY OF THE CLIMATE CRISIS AND ACHIEVE NET-ZERO GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS BEFORE 2050.**

This moment of crisis requires the Congress to embrace a legislative vision that results in a rapid mobilization of resources to decrease worldwide emissions as quickly as possible. We do not have the luxury of time. The report of the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change states that we must reach net-zero global emissions by 2050. Unfortunately, we are not on track to achieve this goal and therefore we must move more aggressively and rapidly by using immediate and short-term measures and impactful investments to meet the urgency of the climate crisis.

The United States has a moral duty and responsibility to reach net-zero emissions significantly before 2050. This duty derives from the fact that our country has been the largest cumulative emitter of greenhouse gases and contributed more than any other nation to the climate crisis.

At the same time, we have a powerful capacity for transformative action because of the significant wealth, technology, and resources that other nations lack. With the nations of the world, including the United States, continuing to fall behind in our collective efforts to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement, it is up to us to make up for this deficit in global action to avoid suffering, loss of life and property, and climate catastrophe for millions of our fellow global citizens.

This plan for Congressional Climate Action should also identify certain sectors that can achieve zero emissions, rather than net-zero emissions, in the next ten years to ensure that we remain on track to meet our 2050 targets and that frontline communities are protected from further health and economic damage. The United States should declare a climate emergency consistent with Rep. Blumenauer's H. Con. Res. 52.

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## **CLIMATE LEGISLATION SHOULD BE CENTERED ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, INCLUSION, AND EQUITY FOR FRONTLINE COMMUNITIES WHO HAVE BORNE THE BRUNT OF ENVIRONMENTAL, ECONOMIC, AND RACIAL INJUSTICE.**

Any national plan for climate action must be centered on justice. This means that we must first acknowledge the people and places who have been left out, left behind, and irrevocably harmed by fossil fuel polluters and by the failure of our government and our leaders to protect them. It means acknowledging that economic, environmental, and racial injustices have happened in the distant past; that injustices continue to happen each day; and there has been a cumulative impact from these injustices on frontline communities and our fellow citizens. Only then can our nation attempt to right the wrongs and provide a path towards transformative justice.

To ensure that any plan for Congressional Climate Action is just, it must be inclusive. Any legislation based on the National Plan for Congressional Climate Action must involve close consultation with the workers and communities most impacted by fossil fuel extraction, fossil fuel delivery, and fossil fuel emissions.

Frontline communities, indigenous peoples, labor, low-income communities, communities of color, LGBTQ+ communities, and the disability community must be at the table for the entire policy development and policy deployment process. This consultation must be deep, ongoing, collaborative, and follow environmental justice principles and the Jemez Principles for Democratic Organizing. Cultural, linguistic, geographic, and class-based barriers to participation should be accounted for. Every plan should include gender-based analysis and input.

Frontline communities should benefit first from these new national investments. Adaptation and disaster response plans should protect both human and natural environments and prioritize the most vulnerable. In short, justice must be a feature of successful policy and every part of this Congressional Climate Action plan should be crafted with this in mind.



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## WE MUST ENSURE A JUST TRANSITION FOR WORKERS AND COMMUNITIES DEPENDENT UPON AND HARMED BY THE FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY.



Congress must ensure that the transition to a clean energy economy leaves no worker or community behind. As such, Congress must ensure both fossil fuel workers and communities harmed by fossil fuel industries are provided with equitable investments needed to successfully transition to this new economy.

A just transition for fossil fuel workers means ensuring that years of hard work and the toll of pollution on families and communities is honored with a significant improvement in their standard of living. The plan for Congressional Climate Action must provide a comprehensive social safety net for these workers, including wage support (to ensure no loss of purchasing power during the job transition), a right to health care, housing, education and retraining, and a secure and dignified retirement. We should also provide local budget support for transitioning fossil fuel communities.

A successful green industrial policy will ensure that the communities most dependent and impacted by the

fossil fuel industry will be the first to benefit from new jobs and industries. Through local hire and equitable hiring procedures, frontline residents, and former fossil fuel workers should be prioritized for hiring. It will also ensure that legacy fossil fuel infrastructure is removed, and communities are restored to their original pre-fossil fuel state.

Finally, our communities should not be asked to bear the costs of climate adaption and recovery alone. Communities across the country are taking the fossil fuel industry to court to recover these costs. The industry is pushing back with calls for immunity from climate lawsuits as a condition of supporting actions to mitigate climate change. Congress must protect access to the courts by rejecting any legislation that includes a liability waiver for the fossil fuel industry and those whose conduct significantly contributed to the climate crisis. In addition, climate legislation must include a savings clause for those seeking compensation for climate damages.

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**CLIMATE LEGISLATION SHOULD CREATE MILLIONS OF NEW GREEN JOBS THAT PROVIDE LIVING WAGES, STRONG LABOR PROTECTIONS AND SAFE WORKING CONDITIONS, AND ENSURE THE INCLUSION OF FRONTLINE COMMUNITIES IN THIS NEW ECONOMIC SECTOR.**

In addition to providing a just transition, Congressional climate action provides us with an opportunity to create millions of good, safe, family sustaining jobs throughout our country. With smart, targeted investments, we can put Americans to work in their communities replacing lead pipes, building a smart grid, constructing clean and affordable light rail, weatherizing buildings, manufacturing clean energy goods, restoring wetlands and forests, and farming with regenerative agriculture practices.

Congress should ensure that the massive investment made by our country is used to create a national floor for workers' rights – living wages, strong labor protections, a right to unionize, and the right to work in a safe environment – and create new markets by leading the way on climate-sensitive procurement and domestic content policies. The climate plan of action is an opportunity to codify national fair scheduling practices, more generous prevailing wage policies, and enhancing the right to bargain in both the public and private sector. Any federal dollars or incentives should include bold Buy Clean, Buy Fair, Buy Local, and Buy American policies.

We believe that green jobs contribute to increased climate resilience, reduced emissions, clean energy, and clean air and water. Any jobs inconsistent with this definition should not be eligible for federal support.



## **WE MUST MAKE PUBLIC INVESTMENTS COMMENSURATE WITH THE URGENCY AND MAGNITUDE OF THE CLIMATE CRISIS.**

A national mobilization aimed at achieving global net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 will require bold policymaking, investments, and collective action on the scale of the military-industrial buildup during the second World War or the New Deal's national economic response to the Great Depression in the 1930s.

While advocates may differ on the details, there is broad agreement that such an undertaking will require trillions of dollars in new national investments.

It is critical that the Select Committee's proposal reflects this reality.

Additionally, we should ensure that the investments we make today are financially sustainable and democratically accountable in the years to come. As such, where at all possible, Congress should prioritize public investments that support the public good and avoid the use of privatization schemes or "public private partnerships" that can lead to profiteering and rent seeking from those dependent on climate infrastructure.



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## **WE MUST SHIFT OUR NATIONAL INVESTMENTS AWAY FROM MILITARISM AND INTO SUSTAINABLE MULTILATERAL COOPERATION AIMED AT COMBATING THIS EXISTENTIAL THREAT TO HUMANKIND.**

The United States is in the midst of an unprecedented, decades-long build up of our capacity to direct military force around the world. Much of that investment is in the name of protecting “vital national security interests” directly related to access to fossil fuel energy for America and its allies. As an example, a recent report noted that the United States spends \$81 billion annually protecting global oil supplies and shipping lanes.

Our worldwide network of military bases, naval forces, and airpower has made a significant negative contribution to the climate crisis. The United States military maintains this worldwide presence by consuming more fossil fuels than any other institutional actor in the world. In fact, the United States has emitted over \$1.2 billion metric tons of greenhouse gases since the beginning of the War on Terror.

If we are serious about leading a worldwide effort to combat climate change, then we must lead by example by embracing a new vision of national security that acknowledges the counterproductive impact of our global military force posture.

While this plan for congressional climate action must find new revenues to fund our investments, it would be foolish not to redirect a portion of our \$700 billion annual investment in carbon-intensive military into more productive multilateral cooperation.



### **PROTECTING CLIMATE REFUGEES**

Congress must ensure the protection of climate displaced persons (CDPs). According to the World Bank, as many as 140 million people will migrate as a direct result of climate change by 2050. It is also likely that low-income communities, indigenous communities, communities of color, and politically marginalized populations will be impacted first by climate change. As a disproportionate cause of this climate-based migration, the United States should open its doors and establish a resettlement program for these refugees and internally displaced persons and establish a global climate resilience plan that accounts for migration.

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# POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONGRESSIONAL CLIMATE ACTION

Below, the Progressive Caucus has identified specific policy recommendations for congressional climate action in 22 key areas:

- Green Jobs
- A Just Transition & Green Industrial Policy
- Environmental Justice
- Transit
- Public Options
- Tribal Lands
- Public Lands
- Financing the Green New Deal
- Carbon Capture & Sequestration
- Zero Waste
- Investing in Clean Energy Production
- Financial Services
- Trade
- International Agreements & Foreign Policy
- Sustainable Agriculture
- Just Climate Resilience & Adaptation Investments
- Housing & Green Buildings
- Infrastructure
- US Army Corps of Engineers Projects
- Oceans Policy
- Education
- Congressional Process Reforms



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# GREEN JOBS

The CPC supports the following policies aimed at creating millions of green jobs with high-road labor standards:

- Require the Department of Labor to conduct a survey and catalog green jobs in every economic sector/industry by region, forecast demand, identify the skills and training needed for such jobs, and support states in preparing an adequately trained and skilled workforce to meet future demand. Green jobs should be broadly defined to include the construction and design of water, energy, and transportation infrastructure and systems that supports climate resilience and emissions reductions; the retrofitting and construction of buildings for electrification, energy efficiency, and climate resilience; the restoration of wetlands, forests, and other natural resources that reduce climate risks; agricultural jobs that use regenerative agricultural practices; care economy jobs; and the manufacture of all materials used for all of the above purposes.
- Strong “high road” labor and procurement standards.
- The National Plan of Action should support efforts to expand the right to collectively bargain in the workplace. The threshold should be lowered from \$25 million to \$10 million for federal investments and be subject to the standards included in President Obama’s Executive Order 13502—Use of Project Labor Agreements for Federal Construction Projects.
- Congress should also reestablish and codify the Fair Pay for Safe Workplaces Executive Order to ensure that workplace safety and compliance with federal labor law are prioritized for projects that use federal funds.
- Service Contract Act labor standards should apply to the operation and maintenance of any project or infrastructure constructed with federal funds.
- Congress should strengthen the Department of Labor’s process for determining the prevailing wage for each classification of worker.
- Congress should also place restrictions on funding mechanisms designed to circumvent prevailing wage standards like federal fund swapping.
- Section 13(c) transit labor protections should apply to all investments in public transportation.
- Certified payroll records should be available for public inspection without a formal FOIA request, so long as the personally identifying information of employees, such as names and home addresses, are not disclosed.
- Funding for enforcement activities and staff at the Department of Labor should be increased to ensure effective oversight of wage and hour regulations and federal contracting and procurement standards.

## RELATED CPC BILLS

- H.Res. 109, Green New Deal Resolution | Ocasio-Cortez
- H.R. 3668, the Asuncion Valdivia Heat Illness and Fatality Prevention Act | Chu
- H.R. 4101, the Build Local, Hire Local Act | Bass
- H.R. 2474, the Protecting the Right to Organize Act | Scott
- The Workplace Democracy Act | Pocan

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# A JUST TRANSITION AND GREEN INDUSTRIAL POLICY

- Any just transition policy should be established via a joint process between workers, impacted communities, and environmental stakeholders, consistent with the Jemez Principles for Democratic Organizing.
- Identify areas of the country where jobs dependent on the fossil fuel industry will be lost. Prioritize these areas for federal investments that support states and local government efforts to engage workers and community economic transition planning. Provide resources sufficient to meet such community-defined needs for job creation and economic transition, in addition to budget support for local governments that face fiscal shortfalls from the phase out of fossil fuels.
- Any new jobs and industries created through a green industrial policy should be in non-extractive industries and should contribute to sustainably managing natural resources, lowering GHG emissions and toxic pollution and improving resilience and remediation in impacted communities. To effectively deploy a green industrial policy, the federal government should leverage a range of tools, such as financial regulation that incentivizes the shifting of capital from financial speculation and extractive industries toward productive, sustainable investments, green industrial development banks, procurement, public venture capital, green bonds, research, development and deployment programs and workforce development programs.
- The federal government should create a strong safety net to ensure impacted workers see improved standards of living, including guarantees of pensions, wage support, training, education, housing, and affordable health care.
- Establish “Buy Clean” program that sets increasing emissions standards for public procurement, coupled with investments to reduce the emissions associated with U.S. manufacturing. This program should work hand-in-hand with national Buy American, Buy Local, and Buy Fair provisions to leverage federal procurement dollars to create a cohesive green manufacturing industry. These procurement policies should apply grantmaking programs at agencies like USDA, Department of the Interior, and the Economic Development Administration.
- Establish domestic content standards as conditions for incentives for clean energy, clean transportation, clean buildings, and climate-resilient infrastructure, to support job growth in manufacturing the goods needed for a clean energy economy.
- Establish regulations under the Clean Air Act to reduce industrial emissions, coupled with public investments in emissions-reducing technology and retrofits for these sectors.
- Ramp up investments in research, development, and demonstration to advance clean manufacturing for high-emitting industrial sectors and develop sustainable alternatives to high-emitting, resource-intensive materials and products.
- Reject any legislation that includes a liability waiver for the fossil fuel industry and those whose conduct significantly contributed to the climate crisis.
- Including a savings clause to protect access to the courts for those seeking compensation for climate damages.

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# ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

The following policies will help promote and ensure the Congressional Climate Action Plan advances environmental justice:

- There should be a national effort to map frontline communities to ensure that they are prioritized for investment.
- Any federal programs or investments must include authority for the administering Secretary to waive federal matching requirements so that no community is left out of national efforts.
- Food security for communities impacted by climate change must be addressed.
- Government investments must redress the cumulative health and environmental impacts of frontline communities' disproportionate exposure to toxic pollution and climate risks.
- The plan should codify EO 12898, which requires federal agencies to "identify and address the disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their actions on minority and low-income populations, to the greatest extent practicable and permitted by law."
- Congress should amend Title VI of the Civil Rights Act to overturn *Alexander v. Sandoval*, which held that individuals do not have a private right of action to allow lawsuits based on evidence of disparate impact.
- Funding should be included to clean up every Brownfields and Superfund site in the country.
- Congress should reject proposals that do not guarantee reduced emissions or that do so at the expense of the wellbeing of frontline communities.
- The National Plan of Action must urge swift action to reduce emissions, transform our economy, build climate resilience and lead with equity in all sectors to:
  - ensure that the vulnerable communities that are already being harmed first and worst by the climate crisis are helped and protected first
  - minimize further harm to communities at greatest risk
  - address the underlying social, political and economic structures that cause people of color, low-income people and other vulnerable groups to face disproportionate harm, suffering and injustice
- Congressional action should prioritize frontline communities for green job training and hiring.
- Every investment and public policy pursued by the Congress should be viewed as an opportunity to address the cumulative impact of environmental and social injustice on impacted communities.
- The Clean Air Act should be amended to require the EPA to set cumulative standards, such as long term health impacts from combined exposure of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, and particulate matter for combinations of these pollutants based on scientific studies in the same process that they use to set individual standards.

## RELATED CPC BILLS

- H.R. 1243, the Climate Change Health Protection and Promotion Act | Cartwright
- H.R. 1880, the Women and Climate Change Act of 2019 | Lee
- H.R. 4732, the Climate Displaced Persons Act of 2019 | Velazquez
- H.R. 5986, the Environmental Justice For All Act | Grijalva & McEachin
- H.R. 5845, Break Free from Plastic Pollution Act | Lowenthal
- The Climate Equity Act | Ocasio-Cortez

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# TRANSIT

The CPC believes that equitable transit policies should be at the heart of Congress' efforts to limit carbon emissions. Congress should enact policies that will allow the United States to cut oil use in half by 2030 and completely decarbonize ground transportation by 2050. The CPC supports the following sustainable transit policies:

- The United States should build on California's efforts and set a zero-emissions vehicle standard.
- Transit investments should reduce emissions while promoting equity and access to communities and work.
- We support the establishment of a national electric vehicle charging station network.
- The plan should include robust trade-in incentives for switching to electric vehicles.
- We support the build-out of a robust rail network that reduces emissions while equitably boosting access to affordable transportation options, including the expansion of light rail in urban areas, and improving the reach, efficiency, and affordability of our national intercity rail network.
- We support policies that encourage bikeable and walkable communities, including land use planning that supports dense, affordable housing and equitable access to low-emissions and affordable transportation options.



## RELATED CPC BILLS

- H.R. 5354, the GREEN Streets Act | Huffman
- H.R. 2256, the Driving America Forward Act | Kildee
- H. Con. Res. 65, a resolution on state authority under the Clean Air Act | DeSaulnier
- H.R. 978, the Clean and Efficient Cars Act of 2019 | Matsui
- H.R. 3973, the Clean School Bus Act | Hayes
- H.R. 2337, the Federal Leadership in Energy Efficient Transportation (FLEET) Act | Huffman
- H.R. 2510, the American Cars, American Jobs Act of 2019 | Tlaib
- H.R. 5570, the EV Freedom Act | A. Levin
- H.R. 5751, the Electric Vehicles for Underserved Communities Act | Clarke
- Clean Cars for America Plan | Schumer



## PUBLIC OPTIONS

The CPC encourages the Select Committee to think creatively about encouraging the deployment of public options as a key part of our national climate response. Publicly-owned market participants can play an important role in deploying resources where there is a lack of private sector investment, creating new markets, and providing market discipline to private firms that fail to maximize their potential. A powerful example of the potential of public options exists in clean energy production space. The federal government should build on the successful model deployed by the Tennessee Valley Authority and other Power Marketing Administrations (PMAs) to produce and deploy, and store clean wind, solar, and geothermal energy.

## TRIBAL LANDS

North America's sovereign tribal nations must be engaged as partners by Congress. The following policies will support this effort.

- Congress will ensure that federal climate action does not impair any treaties and respects tribal sovereignty.
- Tribal partners must be consulted in the drafting and implementation of national legislation.
- Tribal partners must be eligible for all relevant national investments.
- Upholding the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including Free, Prior and Informed Consent, in all climate policy development and implementation.

## PUBLIC LANDS & RELATED CPC BILLS

Congress should pursue the following policies to maximize the role of public lands in combating the climate crisis:

- Fully and permanently funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund.
- Re-establish a 21st century version of the Civilian Conservation Corps, which would create a pathway to good union jobs, especially for disadvantaged youth, in revitalizing our wetlands, forests, and parks and maximizing the ability of our public lands to sequester carbon and reduce the climate risks that communities face. This proposal should prioritize hiring for people of color, women, and the residents of communities that have not traditionally benefited from conservation efforts. This system would work in partnership with existing workforce training structures like the federally registered apprenticeship model.
- H.R. 2491, the Roadless Areas Conservation Act | Gallego
- H.R. 999, the Devil's Staircase Wilderness Act | DeFazio
- H.R. 823, the Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act | Neguse
- H.R. 5435, the American Public Lands and Waters Climate Solution Act | Grijalva
- H. Res. 835, the Thirty by Thirty Resolution to Save Nature | Haaland
- H.R. 1050, the ANTIQUITIES (America's Natural Treasures of Immeasurable Quality Unite, Inspire, and Together Improve the Economies of States) Act | Haaland
- H.R. 4269, the Climate Stewardship Act | Haaland

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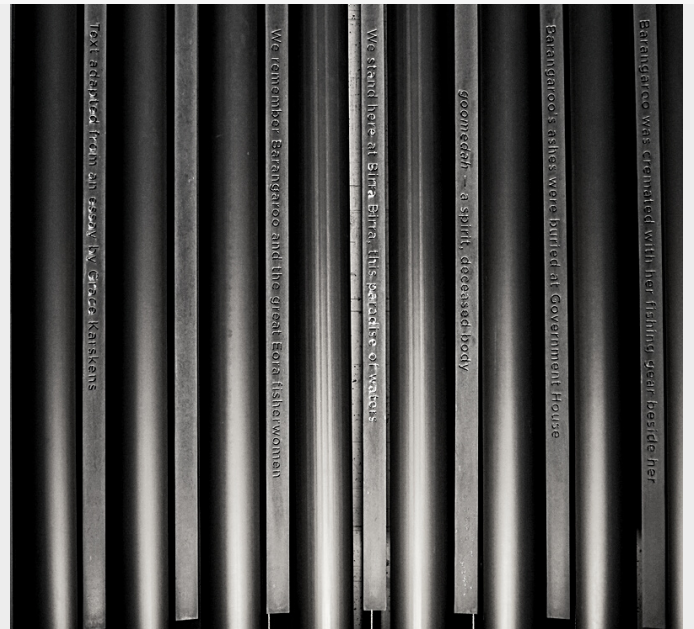
## FINANCING THE GREEN NEW DEAL

The CPC supports the following policies for financing our national climate response:

- Congress should eliminate all tax breaks, financial assistance, royalty relief, direct federal research and development and many loopholes that benefit the fossil fuel industry. Under current law, more than \$113 billion in federal subsidies would go to oil, coal and gas industries in the coming decade.
- To match the scale and urgency of the climate crisis, the federal government needs to invest trillions of dollars in the economic transformation outlined in this document. Inadequate investments now will incur higher costs later, as the financial and societal burdens of climate change and inequity continue to rise. Where at all possible, Congress should prioritize public investments that support the public good and avoid the use of privatization schemes or “public private partnerships” that can lead to profiteering and rent seeking from those dependent on climate infrastructure.
- To fund this economic transformation, Congress should tax those that have contributed most to climate change and inequality, including corporate polluters and Wall Street firms that have supported them. Taxes on the super wealthy and tax-dodging corporations could also serve as needed revenue, as could transfers of funds from our bloated and climate-polluting military budget. At a time of very low interest rates, deficit spending can also be used to fund the public investments outlined here. No new taxes on the middle class or low-income families are needed – nor should they be used in any scenario – to finance this economic transformation.

### CARBON CAPTURE & SEQUESTRATION

The CPC believes that our scarce natural resources should be spent making investments in proven zero emission clean energy technologies rather than expensive and untested carbon capture technology. The CPC strongly opposes any effort to use carbon capture technology to facilitate additional fossil fuel production (i.e., enhanced oil recovery). Congress should prioritize natural means of sequestering carbon through reforestation, support for healthy soil, wetlands restoration, and regenerative agriculture.



### ZERO WASTE & RELATED CPC BILLS

The CPC believes that Congress should support efforts to ban all waste incineration and build a circular economy. The national plan of action should also include federal efforts to limit food waste.

Legislation consistent with the CPC’s climate principles:

- H.R. 4050, the Zero Waste Act | Omar



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# FINANCIAL SERVICES



Large banks, asset managers, insurance companies, and other systemically important financial services actors play an outsized role in financing fossil fuel extraction and carbon production around the world. These investments have injected significant risk into our financial system. Congress can play an important role in limiting risk and carbon emissions from this sector by:

- Building on the existing authority found in Section 165 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act to empower financial regulators to utilize macroprudential regulation to address and mitigate the systemic risk associated with carbon-intensive investments that threaten the stability of the financial system.
- Providing tools to investors to help them understand and respond to the carbon-related decisions of public companies.
- Giving public and private pensions the necessary legal authority to divest from fossil fuel investments.

## RELATED CPC BILLS

- S. 1460, the Retirement Investments for a Sustainable Economy (RISE) Act of 2019 | Merkley
- H.R. 3623, the Climate Risk Disclosure Act | Casten
- S. 2903, the Climate Change Financial Risk Act of 2019 | Schatz
- H.R. 4329, the ESG Disclosure Simplification Act | Vargas
- The Systemic Risk Mitigation Act | C. Garcia

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## INVESTING IN CLEAN ENERGY PRODUCTION

The Congressional Progressive Caucus believes that we must transition to 100 percent clean renewable energy as quickly as possible. This means dramatically increasing the deployment of renewable energy and establishing an aggressive Clean Electricity Standard (CES) that includes performance standards that measure carbon intensity from electricity sources. The Congressional Plan of Action should:

- Establish a Renewable Electricity Standard (RES) that establishes a renewable production baseline in each state and requires each state to add renewable generation each year.
- Require that electricity produced from coal, natural gas, biomass, or the burning of trees should not be considered clean energy for the purposes of setting federal standards in electricity generation.
- Set a goal of zero emissions from electricity between 2030 and 2035.
- Establish an intra-agency Clean Electricity Industrial Policy to ensure that federal tax incentives, federal research, and federal investments are structured to maximize the efficient deployment of new clean energy technology and limit corporate waste and profiteering.
- Make no new federal investments in natural gas or nuclear energy production. Moving forward, we must build out of new fossil fuel infrastructure and keep fossil fuels in the ground.
- Ensure that new federal investment is made in renewable energy like solar, wind, geothermal, and tidal power.
- The CPC supports placing a price on carbon under the following conditions:
  - Any carbon pricing scheme is consistent with environmental and economic justice principles.
  - Carbon pricing augments binding environmental regulations and zero carbon performance.
  - Standards to ensure that air, water, and land pollution is stopped at the source.
  - Investments financed by a price on carbon must benefit frontline communities and workers before expanding to other areas of the country.
  - No community or population should bear an unfair burden, whether economic or environmental, from the effects of a carbon price. Any population facing disproportionate or regressive economic impacts from a price on carbon must be made whole and provided with additional economic opportunity.
  - Any carbon pricing scheme is crafted and implemented with input from frontline communities, workers, and other stakeholders.

### RELATED CPC BILLS

- H.R. 2096, the Energy Storage Tax Incentive and Deployment Act of 2019 | Doyle
- H.R. 4887, the Incentivizing Offshore Wind Power Act | Pascrell
- H.R. 3961, the Renewable Energy Extension Act of 2019 | Thompson
- H.R. 3473, the Offshore Wind Incentives for New Development Act | Langevin
- H.R. 3240, the Public Engagement at FERC Act | Schakowsky
- H.R. 2704, the Renewable Energy Transferability Act | Blumenauer
- H.R. 4014, the Fracturing Responsibility and Awareness of Chemicals Act | Degette
- H.R. 585, the Bringing Reductions to Energy's Airborne Toxic Health Effects Act | Clarke
- H.R. 4007, the Focused Reduction of Effluence and Stormwater runoff through Hydrofracking Environmental Regulation (FRESHER) Act | Cartwright
- H.R. 4006, the Closing Loopholes and Ending Arbitrary and Needless Evasion of Regulations (CLEANER) Act | Cartwright
- H.R. 5511, the Interregional Transmission Planning Improvement Act | Haaland
- H.R. 2495, Energy Technology Maturation Act | Haaland
- H.R. 5221, the 100% Clean Economy Act | McEachin

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# TRADE

Multilateral trade agreements to date have undermined climate action by helping corporations shift climate pollution to countries with lower standards, challenge climate policies, and expand production of fossil fuels. Instead, a new model of trade agreements could reinforce domestic climate policies while facilitating increased climate action among trading partners to address the shared threat of climate change. We support the following pro-climate, pro-trade policies:

- Eliminating investor state dispute settlement (ISDS), in all sectors and in all forms, in all current and future trade agreements, in addition to any rules that allow corporations to challenge proposed public interest policies.
- All current and future trade agreements should include tough environmental standards and binding climate standards with independent enforcement. This includes requiring countries to adopt, maintain, and implement policies to fulfill their commitments to the Paris Climate Agreement. An independent and binding enforcement system for climate and environmental standards in trade deals should be created, including the formation of an independent body to investigate potential abuses and directly bring cases, without government interference, to an independent dispute settlement panel. Trade sanctions should be used to penalize and curb violations of trade deals' climate and environmental standards.
- Eliminating terms in all current and future trade agreements that grant trade preferences or expedited treatment for trade in fossil fuels.
- Trade deals should allow participating countries to utilize procurement preferences like Buy American, Buy Local, and Buy Clean programs.
- Reinstating the crude oil export ban and ban all fossil fuel exports.
- The United States should require all future trade deals to include mandatory use of climate-friendly and other public interest labels to ensure that consumers know if they are purchasing carbon-producing/carbon-intensive goods.
- All future trade deals should require signatory countries with a legacy of high historical greenhouse emissions to help finance mitigation and adaptation efforts in countries with a history of low emissions.
- All future trade deals should require signatories to prohibit the use of fossil fuel subsidies in support of their domestic industries. Developing countries should have additional time to mitigate the impact of high energy prices on low-income citizens.
- The United States should commit to sharing renewable energy intellectual property with the developing world by explicitly allowing for compulsory licensing of breakthrough green technology in future trade agreements.
- The US should place a fee on imported carbon-pollution intensive goods to halt the outsourcing of climate pollution while supporting US jobs. This fee should be prorated based on the degree to which the embedded carbon content of the imported goods exceeds US levels for that sector, with exemptions for developing countries with negligible historical emissions. An independent panel should regularly review the embedded carbon levels of exporting countries and adjust the fees accordingly, to encourage trade partners to reduce industrial emissions.

## RELATED CPC BILLS

- Strong Environmental Standards for Fair Trade Deals Act | Grijalva

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# INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND FOREIGN POLICY



The first step to reasserting U.S. leadership on climate is rejoining and recommitting to the Paris Agreement. The plan for Congressional Climate Action should go beyond that baseline by:

- Investing the funds necessary to ensure that the United Nations' Green Climate Fund is assisting developing countries meet our global emission goals.
- Using the United States' influence in international financial institutions (e.g., the International Monetary Fund and World Bank) to shift investment in fossil fuels to renewables, green manufacturing, and green infrastructure.
- Ensuring that U.S.-based international financing entities (e.g. U.S. International Development Finance Corporation and U.S. Export-Import Bank) shift investment in fossil fuels to renewables, green manufacturing, and green infrastructure.

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# SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

With our agricultural sector producing a quarter of our total carbon emissions, the Congress has a tremendous opportunity to make investments in this sector to reduce emissions through ecologically regenerative farming practices that help preserve family farms and hold large agribusinesses accountable. The plan for Congressional Climate Action can invest in climate-friendly agriculture practices by:

- Incentivizing the use of regenerative agricultural practices, including eliminating the use of nitrogen fertilizers, eliminating overgrazing, industrial composting, and preventing soil erosion. Grants and loans must incorporate the needs of frontline communities, urban farmers, and communities that have been historically disadvantaged and excluded from our agricultural support programs.
- Ending the federal support for energy production at large concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs).
- Employing price parity programs that ensure a fair price for farmers that covers the costs of production and provides a family-sustaining living wage. Core elements of a parity-based supply management system must include:
  - Scale-appropriate price floors and ceilings (adjusted for inflation) targeting family farmers living and working on the land.
  - Farmer-owned public grain reserves to reduce market fluctuations.
  - Acreage set asides (combined with soil conservation requirements).
  - Managed imports and exports to prevent undercutting farmer incomes in the U.S. and limit dependency on foreign markets.
  - Strong antitrust enforcement, to limit vertical integration and corporate capture.
- Requiring wealthy farmers and agribusiness to participate in carbon sequestration and sustainable farming practices. Eligibility for agricultural subsidies should be contingent on participation in these programs.
- Empowering the DoJ to enforce antitrust authorities and break up agribusiness monopolies and oligopolies destroying family farms.
- Including strong labor and safety standards for farm workers. This includes dramatically strengthening the H-2A work visa program to require the payment of living wages, give workers the freedom to select the employer of their choice, and provide the option of a pathway to citizenship.
- Incentivizing school systems to procure sustainably produced local food.
- Increasing resources to expand the number of farmers of color.

## RELATED CPC BILLS

- H.R. 3844, the Farmer Fairness Act | Khanna
- H.R. 2933, the Food and Agribusiness Merger Moratorium and Antitrust Review Act | Pocan
- H.R. 5861, the Agriculture Resilience Act | Pingree
- H.Con. Res. 88, the Farmers Bill of Rights | Haaland
- H.R. 4269, the Climate Stewardship Act | Haaland

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# JUST CLIMATE RESILIENCE & ADAPTATION INVESTMENTS

Our nation is already experiencing the impacts of climate change, which will only increase with time. As such, we must develop a comprehensive approach to building the resilience of communities through the following policies.

- Congress should establish a federal climate resilience plan, as well as make the necessary investments in the workforce to carry out the activities needed to strengthen the resilience of our nation. As national climate threats vary by region, there is a need to take a decentralized, localized approach.
- Congress should ensure that some of the most vulnerable groups in our society, namely undocumented workers and returning citizens, are included in workforce plans for climate resiliency.
- Any resilience workforce plan that creates a climate resilience workforce must create new jobs, set high labor standards and living wages, protect workers' right to organize and support workers in entering and progressing along career paths that provide long-term job security. Robust training programs are a key part of building this workforce, as is the removal existing barriers to employment that exist for the vulnerable populations already serving our nation on the frontlines of the climate resilience fight. We must provide a roadmap to citizenship for undocumented resilience workers and remove stigma and legal barriers to employment in resilience industries for individuals reentering society through expungement and ban the box measures.
- The National Flood Insurance Program should be reformed to address affordability for low and working-class families. This could include the use of targeted vouchers, targeted federal grants and programs, and low-interest loans to assist with flood risk mitigation.
- The CPC supports giving FEMA that authority to buy out individuals living in floodplains who wish to relocate.
- The federal government should engage in a comprehensive national survey to identify areas with high climate impact vulnerabilities.



## RELATED CPC BILLS

- H.R. 4823, the FEMA Climate Change Preparedness Act | Clarke
- H.R. 5176, the Climate Resiliency Service Corps Act | Chu
- H.R. 2748, the Safeguarding America's Future and Environment Act | Cartwright

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# HOUSING AND GREEN BUILDINGS

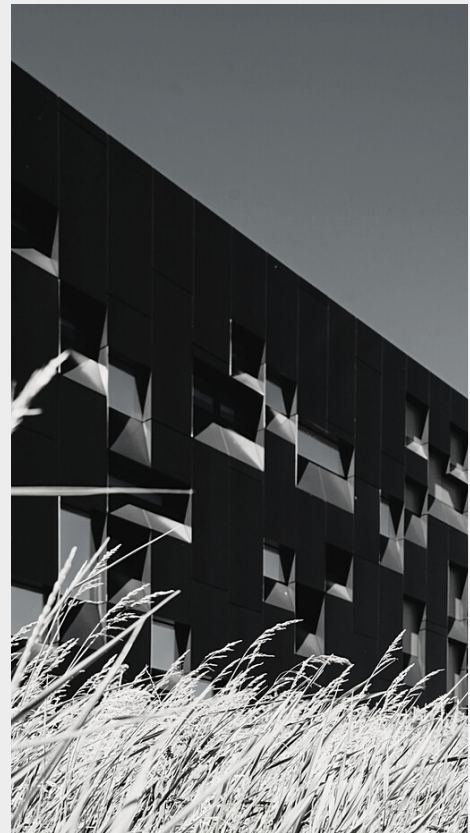
The CPC believes that strengthening standards for the construction of new buildings and investing in weatherization and retrofitting of existing commercial and residential properties can play a significant role in addressing the threat of climate change, while also lowering electricity bills for all Americans. We believe Congress should set a goal of transforming the entire U.S. building stock to 100 percent clean electric power, retrofitting all existing buildings to ensure a high degree of energy efficiency and climate resilience, and removing public health threats (such as lead pipes) in all buildings.

In particular, Congress should support these building goals by:

- Eliminating natural gas in new building construction, replacing it with electric heating, residential solar and wind power, and battery storage.
- Retrofitting the entire U.S. building stock to increase energy efficiency and climate resilience; frontline communities should be the first recipients of weatherization and energy efficient building investments.
- Eliminating lead pipes as quickly as possible.
- Establishing building-based resilience planning based on the unique climate threats facing different communities.

## RELATED CPC BILLS

- H.R. 3322, the Renew America's Schools Act of 2019 | Loeb sack
- H.R. 5159, the Empowering Homeowners Energy Efficiency Act of 2019 | Moore
- H.R. 2759, DoD Resiliency and Readiness Act | Escobar
- H.R. 5185, the Green New Deal for Public Housing Act | Ocasio-Cortez





## INFRASTRUCTURE

The CPC, in consultation with grassroots allies, has proposed a groundbreaking \$2 trillion infrastructure proposal, which includes game-changing investments in addressing the climate crisis.

Our proposal would put 2.5 million Americans to work in its first year to rebuild our transportation, water, energy, and information systems, while massively overhauling our country's unsafe and inefficient schools, homes, and public buildings. We encourage the Select Committee to consider our framework in crafting its legislative proposals.

### RELATED CPC BILLS

- H. Con. Res. 36 | Lieu
- H.R. 1417, Water Affordability, Transparency, Equity, and Reliability (WATER) Act of 2019 | Lawrence
- H.R. 4101, the Build Local, Hire Local Act | Bass

## US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS PROJECTS

The US Army Corps of Engineers should incorporate sea level changes into future project planning models.

## OCEANS POLICY & RELATED CPC BILLS

- H.R. 1146, the Arctic Cultural and Coastal Plain Protection Act | Huffman
- H.R. 3548, The Bolstering Long-Term Understanding and Exploration of the Great Lakes, Oceans, Bays, and Estuaries (BLUE GLOBE) Act | Bonamici





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# EDUCATION



The CPC supports the following policies aimed at increasing educational opportunities related to climate change:

- Congress should support grant programs that allow more young people, especially students of color, to pursue certain degrees focused on climate change at universities, colleges, and minority-serving institutions (MSI), and also developing and strengthening internship or fellowship opportunities at MSIs for those pursuing such degrees.
- Congress should develop grant programs to build institutional capacity at schools, post-secondary institutions, and MSIs to teach climate change and environmental justice.
- Congress should create grant programs that support nonprofits, particularly those that engage communities of color, to develop region-specific climate change action plans and communications; grant program would be modeled after DHS UASI programs.
- Congress should support grants that help U.S. territories develop resources to mitigate the worst effects of climate change.
- Congress should support the development of youth councils to advise policymakers on solutions to combat climate change.



## RELATED CPC BILLS

- H. Res. 574, the Resolution Supporting the Teaching of Climate Change in Schools | Lee

## CONGRESSIONAL PROCESS REFORMS

We support amending the Congressional Budget Act to require the Congressional Budget Office to analyze and “score” the climate impacts of proposed legislation along with traditional budget scoring analysis.