

Clean Air

To protect health from climate change, Congress must make transformative investments in clean energy, clean transportation and environmental justice.



Climate change is a health emergency. With record-breaking temperatures sweeping across the country, predictions of stronger wildfires and a more active hurricane season, acting on climate is an opportunity the country can't afford to miss.

More than 4 in 10 Americans live with unhealthy air quality, and climate change is making air pollution worse. People of color are 3 times as likely to live in the most polluted areas. Air pollution can trigger asthma attacks, cause cardiovascular, developmental and mental health harm and even lead to premature death.

Climate action is an opportunity to not only reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but also clean up dangerous air pollution and address social determinants of health.

Legislative action on the American Jobs Plan and American Families Plan must prioritize bold, ambitious and swift measures to tackle the climate crisis and right environmental injustices. Specifically, our priorities include:

Invest in clean, non-combustion renewable energy.

Together with strong EPA standards, a 100% clean electric grid by 2035 will ensure that all communities have access to clean air and a healthy environment.

- 10-year tax incentives for clean electricity, storage and transmission.
- A clean electricity standard that drives a nationwide transition to electricity from sources that don't pollute – like wind, solar, geothermal and tidal – and doesn't worsen existing inequities by allowing offset credits.
- Investments to modernize the electric grid, promoting resiliency and growth.



Rapidly transition to zero-emission vehicles and ports.

Historic investments in electric vehicles, electric transit and school buses and the necessary charging infrastructure will shift the nation towards a pollution-free transportation sector.

- Offer consumers refundable tax credits or rebates for new and used electric vehicles.
- Expand the electric vehicle charging infrastructure, specifically within low-income communities and communities of color.
- Fund at least \$20 billion to transition the nation's school bus fleet to electric school buses and invest in electric transit buses.
- Provide incentives to cut emissions from the nation's ports.

Commit to environmental justice by ensuring 40% of the investments in clean air go to frontline communities.

To ensure healthy, equitable, just and pollution-free communities, those living with compounding negative social determinants of health should receive a portion of the benefits of emissions reductions and the economic impact that transitioning to a cleaner economy will bring.

For more information

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