

The Congressional Action Plan for a Clean Energy Economy and a Healthy, Resilient, and Just America

Action Plan Summary (2 pages):

https://bonamici.house.gov/sites/bonamici.house.gov/files/documents/SCCC_summary.pdf

Full Action Plan (547 pages):

https://bonamici.house.gov/sites/bonamici.house.gov/files/documents/Climate_Crisis_Action_Plan.pdf

ACTION PLAN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The climate crisis touches every part of the U.S. economy and therefore demands a comprehensive legislative response in partnership with a president committed to science, the health of the nation, and climate action. Around the world, people responded to the challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic in a shared mobilization to save lives. The climate crisis requires the same commitment over decades. The U.S. government has a moral, scientific, and economic duty to serve as the standard-bearer for this commitment. American leadership and ingenuity are central to solving the climate crisis. With the devastating health and economic consequences of climate change growing at home and abroad, the United States must act urgently, guided by science, and in concert with the international community to provide a livable climate for today's youth and future generations. We must harness the technological innovation of the moonshot, the creativity of our entrepreneurs, the strength of our workers, and the moral force of a nation endeavoring to establish justice for all. Working together, we will avert the worst impacts of the climate emergency and build a stronger, healthier, and fairer America for everyone. The Climate Crisis Action Plan outlined in this report provides a roadmap for Congress to build a prosperous, clean energy economy that values workers, advances environmental justice, and is prepared to meet the challenges of the climate crisis. As such, congressional climate action must equal the scale that science demands and adhere to core values of fairness, equity, and a shared sense of purpose.

12 Pillar Plan

Below is an outline of the primary sections of Congresses 12 pillar plan, further detail for each section and subsection can be found in the complete report. (Information summarized from pages 2 – 16)

Congress and the federal government shall:

Pillar 1: Invest in Infrastructure to Build a Just, Equitable, and Resilient Clean Energy Economy

- **Build a cleaner and more resilient electricity sector to achieve net-zero emissions from power generation by 2040**
 - Enact a Clean Energy Standard to achieve net-zero emissions in the electricity sector.
 - Enact an Energy Efficiency Resource Standard to smooth out rising electricity demand from electrification and save consumers money on their power bills.
 - Extend and expand clean energy tax incentives and grant programs, such as the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program, to maximize near-term deployment of energy efficiency, renewable energy, and zero-carbon electricity sources.
 - Invest in research and development across technologies, particularly in energy storage.
 - Ensure that low-income communities and communities of color have equitable access to and benefit from these clean energy resources.

- Direct the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to develop a long-term infrastructure strategy to site more interstate transmission lines in high-priority corridors.
- Direct FERC to remove roadblocks in power markets that slow the growth of electricity generation from clean sources.
- **Build a cleaner and more resilient transportation sector**
 - Expedite deployment of zero-emission technologies while making new gasoline- and diesel-powered vehicles as clean as possible.
 - Set strong greenhouse gas emissions standards for cars, heavy-duty trucks, and aviation.
 - Enact a national sales standard to achieve 100% sales of zero-emission cars by 2035 and heavy-duty trucks by 2040.
 - Provide incentives to build out zero-emission fueling infrastructure across the country.
 - Establish a Low Carbon Fuel Standard to reduce emissions from remaining gasoline-powered vehicles and transportation modes for which electrification may not be an option in the short to medium term, such as aviation, long-haul trucking, and shipping.
 - Invest in aggressive research to develop and demonstrate new zero-emission technologies and fuels for harder-to-decarbonize parts of the transportation sector.
 - Work with local communities and states to make housing, businesses, and critical services more accessible and double federal spending on public transit and other zero-carbon modes to provide households with more lower-carbon, convenient, and affordable transportation options.
 - Federal policy should ensure that all transportation systems are designed, maintained, and repaired to withstand climate impacts.
- **Build and upgrade homes and businesses to maximize energy efficiency and eliminate emissions**
 - Incentivize states and cities to adopt updated model building codes, including net-zero-emission building codes, and establish tax incentives for the construction of net-zero buildings, with the goal of making all new residential and commercial buildings net-zero emissions by 2030.
 - Require new federal buildings to achieve net-zero emissions by 2030.
 - Encourage cities and states to adopt performance-based standards for buildings, provide incentives for energy efficiency improvements, onsite renewable energy generation, and electrification of end uses in buildings.
 - Invest in large-scale weatherization and efficiency in low-income and frontline communities.
 - Require federal buildings to undergo energy retrofits, perform energy and emissions benchmarking, and meet ambitious energy use and emissions intensity targets.
 - Incentivize building reuse and require federal buildings to use lower-emission building materials.
- **Invest in water systems to provide clean water and prevent catastrophic flooding**
 - Establish new standards for water infrastructure resilience that account for climate impacts, including more frequent and damaging floods, droughts, and erosion.
 - Ensure robust public engagement in water infrastructure projects, particularly for environmental justice communities whose input should inform decisions about how to reduce climate impacts.
 - Integrate nature-based strategies and apply innovative finance approaches to ensure safe and clean water supplies, efficient wastewater treatment, and dams and levees that are appropriately sited, designed, and maintained to last under extreme conditions.

- **Prepare the nation's telecommunications networks for climate impacts**
 - Invest in Next Generation 9-1-1 and direct the Federal Communications Commission to ensure the reliability of wireless communications networks during disasters.
 - Expand broadband networks to achieve reliable and universal access of internet services for education, telemedicine, and other essential needs during disasters.
- **Plug leaks and cut pollution from America's oil and gas infrastructure**
 - Set a national methane pollution reduction goal for the oil and gas sector of 65% to 70% by 2025 and 90% by 2030, relative to 2012 levels, and phase out routine flaring of methane.
 - Direct regulators to set new standards for pipeline operators to detect and repair methane leaks.
 - Provide financial support for cities and states to eliminate methane leaks from natural gas distribution lines within 10 years.
 - Update the Federal Power Act to ensure FERC considers climate science and public input when siting new natural gas infrastructure.
 - Close exemptions for the oil and gas industry in the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and Resource Recovery and Conservation Act.

Pillar 2: Drive Innovation and Deployment of Clean Energy and Deep Decarbonization Technologies

- Boost funding for federal clean energy research, development, and demonstration.
- Prioritize climate in the Department of Energy's (DOE's) mission and reorganizing DOE to meet this goal.
- Create a national climate bank and expanding the DOE loan guarantee program to leverage private investment for deployment of decarbonization technologies and climate-resilient infrastructure.
- Start a DOE Energy Justice and Democracy program to ensure environmental justice communities have access to innovations in energy efficiency and renewable energy and to reduce energy poverty.
- Require corporate disclosure and federal analysis of climate-related financial risks.

Pillar 3: Transform U.S. Industry and Expand Domestic Manufacturing of Clean Energy and Zero-Emission Technologies

- **Rebuild U.S. industry for global climate leadership**
 - Establish performance standards to guarantee emissions reductions from industrial facilities and pair them with border adjustment mechanisms to level the playing field with foreign goods made with higher-polluting processes.
 - Support research, development, and demonstration of breakthrough and platform technologies for industrial decarbonization, including carbon capture, utilization, and storage.
 - Provide firms in the industrial sector with access to revolving loan funds, grants, and tax incentives for efficiency upgrades, process changes, and retooling.
 - Develop infrastructure for key decarbonization technologies, including low- and zero-carbon hydrogen.
 - Create markets for low-emission goods through a federal Buy Clean program.
 - Facilitate the transition to a circular economy that eliminates waste and pollution by supporting research and development, infrastructure, and standards for materials efficiency, substitution, and recycling.

- **Invest in domestic manufacturing of clean energy, clean vehicle, and zero-emission technologies**
 - Create a tax credit to retool, expand, or establish domestic clean energy and grid technology manufacturing facilities.
 - Establish a production tax credit for clean energy, energy efficiency, and decarbonization technologies and products.
 - Expand DOE grant programs and loan guarantees to construct new or retool existing U.S. facilities to manufacture zero-emission vehicles.
 - Develop national strategies for clean technology manufacturing and critical mineral supply chains.
 - Tie federal funding for innovation to domestic manufacturing of resulting technologies.
 - Leverage federal procurement policies to build demand for domestic clean energy and zero-emission technologies and products.
- **Develop, manufacture, and deploy cutting-edge carbon removal technology**
 - Increase federal investment in carbon removal research and development.
 - Improve financial incentives for direct air capture technology; expand demonstration projects to safely store carbon below ground.
 - Create markets for fuels made from carbon captured from the atmosphere.

Pillar 4: Break Down Barriers for Clean Energy Technologies

- Repeal tax breaks for large oil and gas companies as a first step toward building a fairer tax code that supports reaching net-zero emissions by 2050 at the latest.
- Price on carbon to correct the failure of the market to account for the costs of unmitigated pollution. Pair a price with policies to achieve measurable pollution reductions from facilities located in environmental justice communities and policies to ensure energy-intensive, trade-exposed industries do not face unfair competition from foreign competitors using dirty technologies.

Pillar 5: Invest in America's Workers and Build a Fairer Economy

- Secure workers' right to organize a union and negotiate for higher wages, safer working conditions, and better benefits.
- Commit federal funding only to projects that meet strong labor standards in reauthorizing and considerations of new investments in clean infrastructure.
- Establish a National Economic Transition Office to coordinate, scale up, and target federal economic and workforce development assistance to communities and workers, including those of the coal industry.

Pillar 6: Invest in Disproportionately Exposed Communities to Cut Pollution and Advance Environmental Justice

- Environmental justice must be center of federal climate and environmental policy.
- Direct the Environmental Protection Agency to consider the cumulative pollution impacts of the facilities it permits.
- Support research of the cumulative and distributional impacts of federal climate, health, and environmental policy on environmental justice communities.
- Prioritize environmental justice communities for new federal spending and projects to deploy clean energy and replace aging infrastructure.
- Collaborate with USDA, tribes, environmental justice communities, and NGOs to address food insecurity.

- Ensure meaningful federal engagement and consultation with environmental justice communities.
- Increase the capacity of environmental justice communities to participate in the policymaking process.

Pillar 7: Improve Public Health and Manage Climate Risks to Health Infrastructure

- Direct the Department of Health and Human Services to develop a national strategic action plan to assist communities and health departments in preparing for and responding to climate-related health risks, including the health-related needs of frontline communities and vulnerable populations that are disproportionately harmed by extreme weather, pollution, food insecurity, and other effects of climate change.
- Increase U.S. support for global surveillance and response to potential health threats.
- Strengthen supply chains for health commodities.
- Expand the capacity of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to support state, local, tribal, and territorial health departments in their climate-related work.
- Boost funding for programs to make health systems more resilient to climate impacts.
- Support to address the mental and emotional health effects of the climate crisis.

Pillar 8: Invest in American Agriculture for Climate Solutions

- Increase investments to support the efforts of America's farmers and ranchers to employ climate stewardship practices.
- Include more funding for Farm Bill conservation programs and expanded financial and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers, with a focus on climate mitigation and resilience.
- Set climate stewardship practice goals across all U.S. farmland and expand Department of Agriculture resources, research, and partnerships to increase federal capacity to encourage widespread adoption of climate stewardship practices.
- Embed climate mitigation and adaptation into programs for new, beginning, and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and increase investments in these programs.
- Incentivize farmers and ranchers to incorporate energy efficiency and renewable energy on-farm and protect their farmland from development and other non-agricultural uses.
- Support local and regional food systems and develop initiatives to combat food waste.

Pillar 9: Make U.S. Communities More Resilient to the Impacts of Climate Change

- **Support community leadership in climate resilience and equity**
 - Establish a National Climate Adaptation Program to deliver technical assistance to states, local governments, tribes, and territories (SLTT), support SLTT planning, and invest in community adaptation and resilience projects with meaningful public participation, especially for environmental justice communities.
 - Establish a Tribal Government Task Force to coordinate across the federal government to overcome barriers to assistance, build or augment tribal technical capability, and ensure equitable baseline funding.
 - Plan and invest for climate resilience should build local workforce capabilities and provide good jobs for vibrant regional economies.
- **Build—and rebuild—based on actionable science, codes, and standards**
 - Establish a Climate Risk Information Service to develop localized climate risk information and embed climate risk projections in development of resilience codes, specifications, and standards.

- Establish federal flood and wildfire resilience standards for federally supported activities, including investments in climate resilience and disaster recovery.
- Revise the federal tax code to incentivize state, local, and private investments in resilience.
- **Reduce climate disaster risks and accelerate disaster recover**
 - Increase and provide stable federal investment in pre-disaster mitigation and resilient disaster recovery to strengthen infrastructure, support affordable and resilient housing, and help families, businesses, and communities that are seeking federal assistance to move out of the riskiest areas.
 - Reform federal flood mapping and insurance programs to deliver forward-looking projections, help low-income households afford flood insurance, and expand coverage to reduce uninsured flood losses.
 - Call for a national wildfire mitigation strategy and increase federal investment in wildfire resilience to reduce the risk of loss of life, property, and natural resources to wildfires.
 - Prioritize investments to assure no one repeatedly suffers the impacts of climate change, including frontline communities, rural communities, and small businesses.
- **Make climate resilience planning an essential element of federal agency operations**
 - Require climate adaptation planning and coordination to address the ways that the climate crisis can disrupt federal agencies and their missions and operations. Agency adaptation plans need to identify opportunities to address climate impacts on environmental justice communities and vulnerable populations.
 - Require major government suppliers to disclose greenhouse gas emissions and climate risks to their supply chains and operations as a consideration for the award of federal contracts.

Pillar 10: Protect and Restore America's Lands, Waters, Ocean, and Wildlife

- **Capture the full potential of natural climate solutions**
 - Establish a national goal of protecting at least 30% of all U.S. lands and ocean areas by 2030, prioritizing federal and nonfederal lands and waters with high ecological, biodiversity, and carbon sequestration value.
 - Conserve and restore landscapes, natural spaces, and America's treasured public lands through high-value protection designation and direct federal land management agencies to work collaboratively with tribes, state governments, private landowners, and local communities.
 - Develop and fund initiatives to ensure equitable access to these natural spaces for individuals in environmental justice communities.
 - Protect mature and old growth forests.
 - Invest in forest restoration, reforestation, and afforestation on public and private lands, including urban areas to improve urban tree canopy.
 - Manage wildfire for community safety and ecological health.
 - Ensure forest management activities focus on climate and biodiversity benefits
 - Protect and restore native grasslands.
 - Re-establish the Civilian Conservation Corps.
 - Protect, conserve, and restore "blue carbon systems" to capture carbon and protect shorelines from flooding and storms.
 - Scale up responsibly-sited ocean-based renewable energy.
 - Address ocean acidification and biodiversity decline
 - Incorporate climate adaptation into fisheries management.

- Prioritize natural infrastructure for coastal resilience.
- Create wildlife corridors to facilitate migration, range expansion, and mating.
- Direct federal natural resources agencies to develop a coordinated landscape-scale conservation strategy to help species adapt to a changing climate.
- Support efforts by private landowners to protect wildlife habitat on their land
- Improve implementation of the Endangered Species Act in the context of climate change.
- **Make public lands and waters a part of the climate solution**
 - Direct federal land management agencies to develop a comprehensive public lands climate plan to achieve net-zero emissions on public lands and waters by 2040 at the latest.
 - Impose a moratorium on all new fossil fuel leases on public lands while ensuring robust economic development and worker transition assistance for communities dependent on fossil fuel extraction.
 - Prohibit new offshore oil and gas leasing in all areas of the Outer Continental Shelf.
 - Reduce methane pollution from oil and gas extraction.
 - Increase renewable energy production.
 - Protect wild and special places and make them off-limits to drilling and mining activities, including America's last remaining wild landscapes, irreplaceable cultural sites, national parks and monuments, and important wildlife habitat and corridors.
 - Eliminate unfair and expensive government subsidies for oil and gas drilling on public lands.
 - Establish and maintain robust environmental review of and bonding requirements for all proposed projects on public lands.
 - Reclaim orphaned wells that pose a safety and environmental threat.

Pillar 11: Confront Climate Risks to America's National Security and Restore America's Leadership on the International Stage

- Require consideration of climate risks in defense procurement, logistics, and supply chains and ensure collaboration in climate adaptation and resilience planning among military installations and neighboring communities.
- Direct agencies with national defense, homeland security, and science missions to identify and confront climate security threats to the homeland to safeguard critical infrastructure, protect public health, and prepare for climate-driven internal and cross-border migration.
- Deliver on U.S. financial commitments to the Green Climate Fund and should advance clean energy and climate resilience in international missions and aid, including supporting greater participation of women in economic development planning and climate solutions.
- Expand support for stopping deforestation and reducing black carbon pollution, two important drivers of climate change.
- Arctic engagement and diplomacy given the rapid environmental changes in the region.

Pillar 12: Strengthen America's Core Institutions to Facilitate Climate Action

- **Strengthen climate science**
 - Strengthen and sustain federal support for climate science, including national and international climate assessments, foundational Earth system science research, studies

- of climate impacts on human and natural systems, and governance approaches for the risks of atmospheric climate intervention.
 - Strengthen federal scientific integrity policies and ensure that federal agencies act on the best available science.
 - Expand and sustain federal support for climate literacy and STEM education, with an emphasis on removing barriers and broadening participation for underrepresented groups.
 - Revive the Office of Technology Assessment to provide Members of Congress with nonpartisan scientific and technology expertise.
- **Assess the true value of federal climate action**
 - Expand CBO's capacity to analyze the fiscal and economic impacts of proposed legislation related to climate risk.
 - Establish an interagency working group to update the "Social Cost of Carbon" to reflect the best available climate science and direct OMB to work with the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine to improve agencies' ability to assess the costs and benefits of projects to improve community climate resilience.
- **Strengthen the country's democratic institutions**
 - H.R. 1, the For the People Act, tackles three core issues: campaign finance reform, voting rights, and federal ethics laws.
 - H.R. 4, the Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2019, restores the full protections of the bipartisan Voting Rights Act to block state and local voter discrimination policies.

OCEAN SPECIFIC ACTIONS:

Ocean issues are primarily called out in Pillar 10 of the Climate Action Plan. Specific Ocean steps that Congress and the federal government shall take include:

- **Page 431** - Emphasize Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) such as marine reserves, fully protected marine reserves, marine preserves, and Marine National Monuments.
- **Page 465** – Reauthorize and increase funding for North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA).
- **Page 465** – Codify the National Fish Habitat Partnerships as established as the National Fish Habitat Action Plan.
- **Page 465** – Codify a strong federal “no net blue carbon loss” policy.
- **Page 465** – Direct NOAA to establish and identify Coastal Carbon Areas of Significance.
- **Page 465** – Fully fund Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP).
- **Page 465** – Increase federal investments and prioritizing including NOAA's Office of Habitat Conservation, NOAA's National Estuarine Research Reserve Program, and EPA's National Estuary Program, and FWS's Coastal Program.
- **Page 465** – Direct NOAA to submit an annual report to Congress on wetland conditions and climate change in the territories.
- **Page 468** - Codify a National Ocean Policy, building on Executive Order 13547, which includes strong interagency and tribal coordination in the form of the White House-level Ocean Policy Committee.
- **Page 471** - Designate NOAA as the lead federal agency for implementing a government-wide response to ocean and coastal acidification, establish an Advisory Board to strengthen our understanding of the socio-economic effects of ocean acidification, direct the NAS to conduct a

study on the effects of ocean acidification on estuaries, require NOAA to conduct and update vulnerability assessments, and incentivize innovative research on ocean acidification.

- **Page 472** - Reauthorize the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research Control Act to increase authorizations for NOAA and add specific authorizations for EPA and other agencies.
- **Page 472** - Clarify that scientific assessments of marine and freshwater harmful algal blooms required under current law should have a regional focus.
- **Page 472** - Establish pilot programs to improve forecasting and monitoring of HABs and hypoxia with the Integrated Ocean Observing System.
- **Page 472** - Create a separate authorization for research on hypoxia to recognize the distinct effects on our marine ecosystems.
- **Page 472** - Increase grant funding available to coastal states, tribes, and communities to reduce the risk of harmful algal blooms and respond to harmful algal blooms when they occur.
- **Page 475** - Establish a Natural Infrastructure Resilient Communities Revolving Loan Fund, which would provide low- or no-interest loans for communities to protect themselves from the impacts of climate change through the use of natural infrastructure, including a mechanism to ensure access to the program for lower-income communities;
- **Page 475** - Codify the Coastal Resilience Grants Program and increase funding for that program.
- **Page 475** - Increase funding for the National Coastal Resilience Fund.
- **Page 475** - Direct NOAA to provide increased education, outreach, and technical assistance to state and local governments and property owners to increase awareness of nature-based infrastructure opportunities and assistance to implement them.
- **Page 477** - Direct NOAA and the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine to assess the potential for an Advanced Research Project Agency-Oceans.
- **Page 477** - Codify NOAA's Digital Coast program.
- **Page 477** - Direct an interagency working group to research and map coastal wetlands, maintain data relating to blue carbon ecosystems, and better understand how to maximize their carbon sequestration and climate benefit potential.
- **Page 477** - Reauthorize the National Oceanographic Partnership Program as a mechanism for funding critical ocean research and supporting public-private partnerships.
- **Page 478** - Increase funding for NOAA to expand research on the ocean carbon cycle, including the effects of declining marine mammal and fish populations on blue carbon sequestration.
- **Page 524** - Direct USGCRP to ensure that the full range of climate change impacts on natural and human systems are considered in National Climate Assessments (NCAs), including national and regional impacts not explicitly mentioned in the Global Change Research Act (GCRA) but included in recent assessments, as well as emerging climate change impacts like ocean acidification.