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# Congressional Briefing:





## “The Climate Crisis Report in Focus”

Tuesday, July 14, 2020

# About EESI...



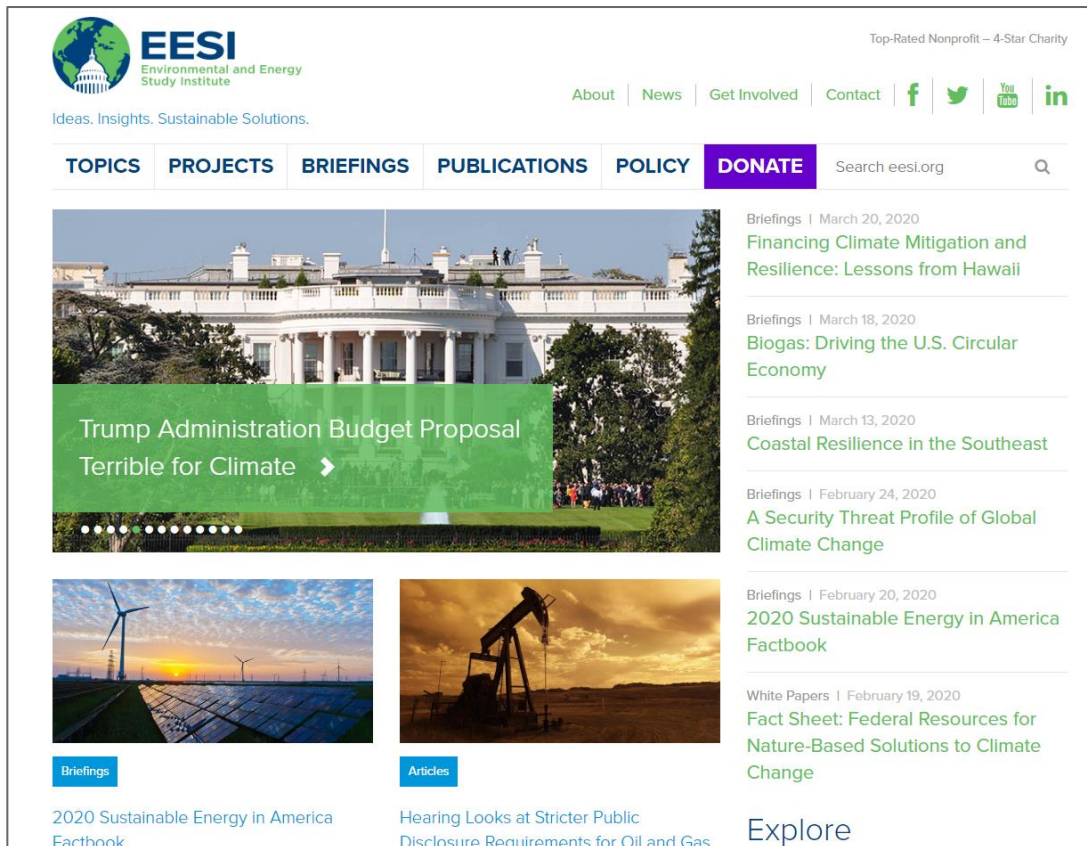
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-  **NON-PROFIT**  
Founded in 1984 by bipartisan Congressional caucus as independent (i.e., not federally-funded) non-profit organization
-  **NON-PARTISAN**  
Source of non-partisan information on environmental, energy, and climate policies
-  **DIRECT ASSISTANCE**  
In addition to full portfolio of federal policy work, EESI provides direct assistance to utilities to develop “on-bill financing” programs
-  **SUSTAINABLE SOCIETIES**  
Focused on win-win solutions to make our energy, buildings, and transportation sectors sustainable, resilient, and more equitable

# ...About EESI



3



## BRIEFING WEBCASTS

Live and archived video recordings of public briefings and written summaries



## CLIMATE CHANGE SOLUTIONS

Bi-weekly newsletter with all you need to know including a legislation tracker



## SOCIAL MEDIA (@EESIONLINE)

Follow us on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, and YouTube



## FACT SHEETS

Timely, objective coverage climate and clean energy topics

# The House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis...



HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE  
**CLIMATE CRISIS**

...

INVESTIGATIVE JURISDICTION.—The sole authority of the Select Committee shall be to investigate, study, make findings, and develop recommendations on policies, strategies, and innovations to achieve substantial and permanent reductions in pollution and other activities that contribute to the climate crisis which will honor our responsibility to be good stewards of the planet for future generations. The Select Committee may, at its discretion, hold public hearings in connection with any aspect of its investigative functions.

...

## Committee Chair



**KATHY CASTOR**

Florida - 14

## Ranking Member



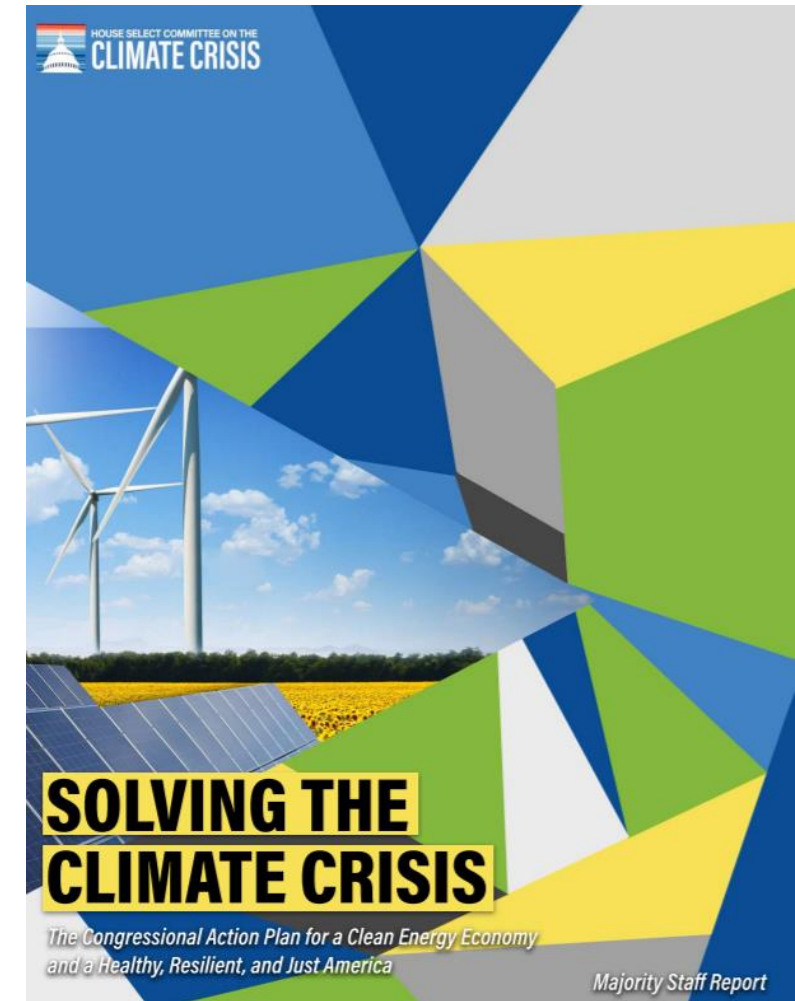
**GARRET GRAVES**

Louisiana - 06

# ...The House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis



Jan. 2019	➤ Established by House leadership
March 2019	➤ Convened as a committee for the first time
April 2019 to Feb. 2020	➤ Held 17 hearings and six policy roundtables
Nov. 2019	➤ Solicited feedback and suggestions from stakeholders
June 2020	➤ Released 538-page majority staff report

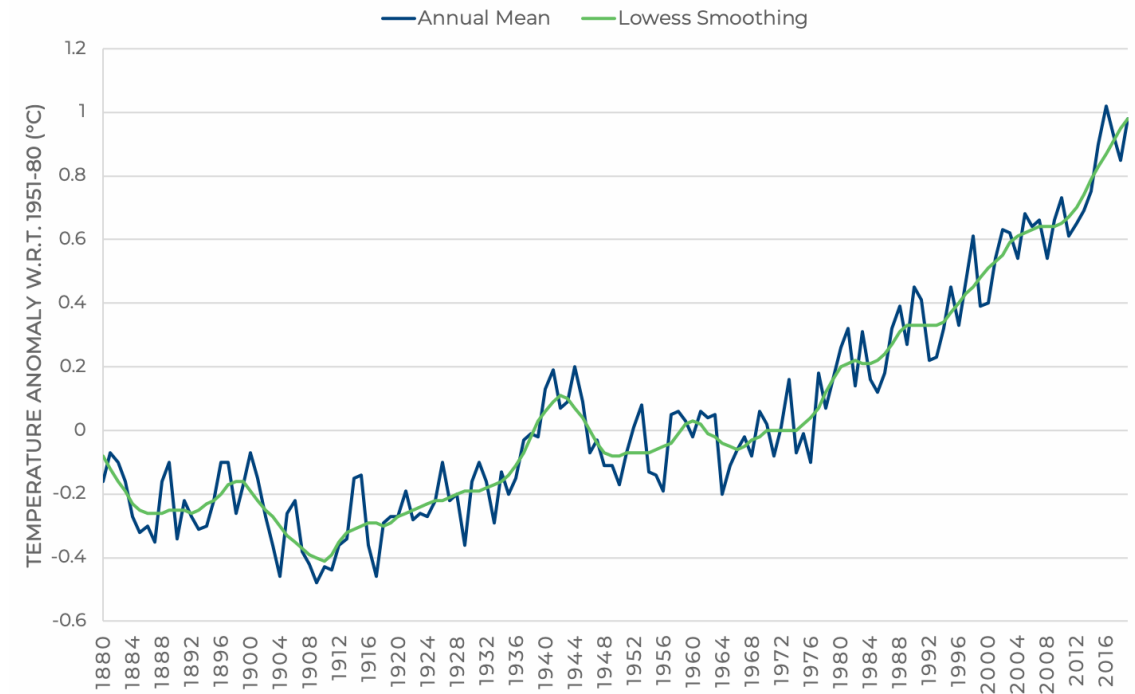


# EESI Climate Policy Principles...

## 1. The urgency of climate change demands near-term actions as longer-term policies are developed and implemented

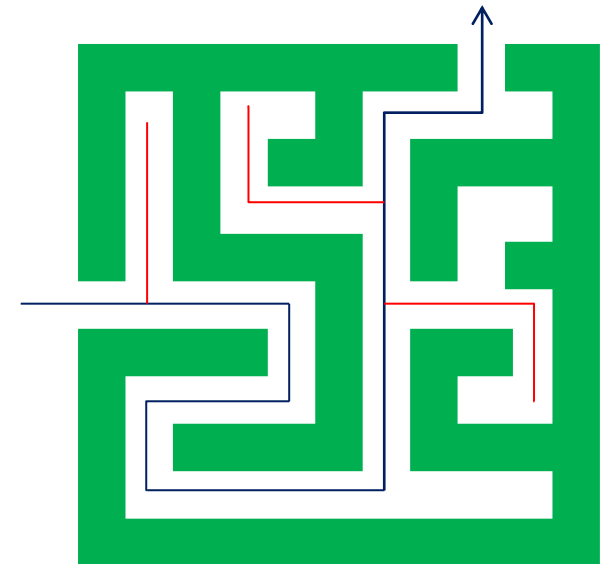
- No time to waste while crafting, enacting, and implementing new climate change policies, there are significant opportunities to:
  - Maximize energy efficiency and deploy renewable energy and storage systems
  - Invest in infrastructure, grid modernization, and resilience
  - Research, develop, and pilot new technology

GLOBAL ANNUAL MEAN SURFACE AIR TEMPERATURE CHANGE 1880-2019



# ...EESI Climate Policy Principles...

- 2. Reducing the risks of and adapting to the frequency, magnitude, and severity of the worst climate change outcomes will require a cohesive, coordinated set of policies that are complex and interconnected**
- With limited time and resources, worst approach would be haphazard—zigzagging, based on whims and influence of special interests
    - Prevent potential conflicts; avoid redundancies
    - Prioritize solutions that advance mitigation and adaptation, such as distributed energy resources and wetland restoration
  - Emissions reductions now will facilitate larger-scale, sector- and economy-wide policies to follow





# ...EESI Climate Policy Principles...

## 3. The federal government should recognize and support efforts by state and local governments to reduce GHG emissions and implement measures for climate change adaptation

- Not every available policy is federal—state and local governments must also be part of overall strategy to avoid worst outcomes of climate change, especially in communities:
  - On front lines of drought, extreme heat, wildfires, flooding, and sea level rise
  - That have endured detrimental planning and underinvestment in affordable housing, transportation, and other infrastructure



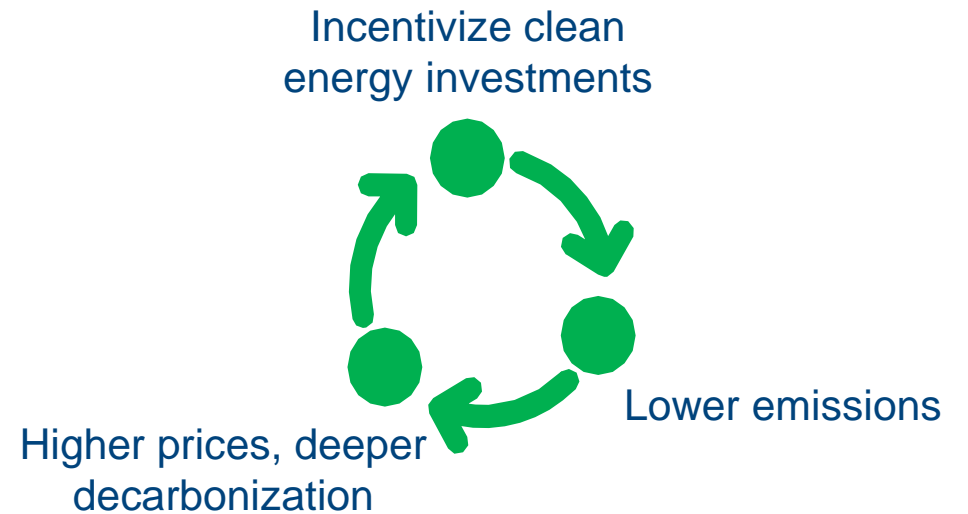


# EESI Climate Policy Priorities...

**Cross-cutting policies to transform the economy...starting with the energy sector...**

**...Complemented by sector-specific policies to incentivize and remove barriers to investment...**

**...And science-based, community-supported adaptation and resilience initiatives**



# Select Committee Report...

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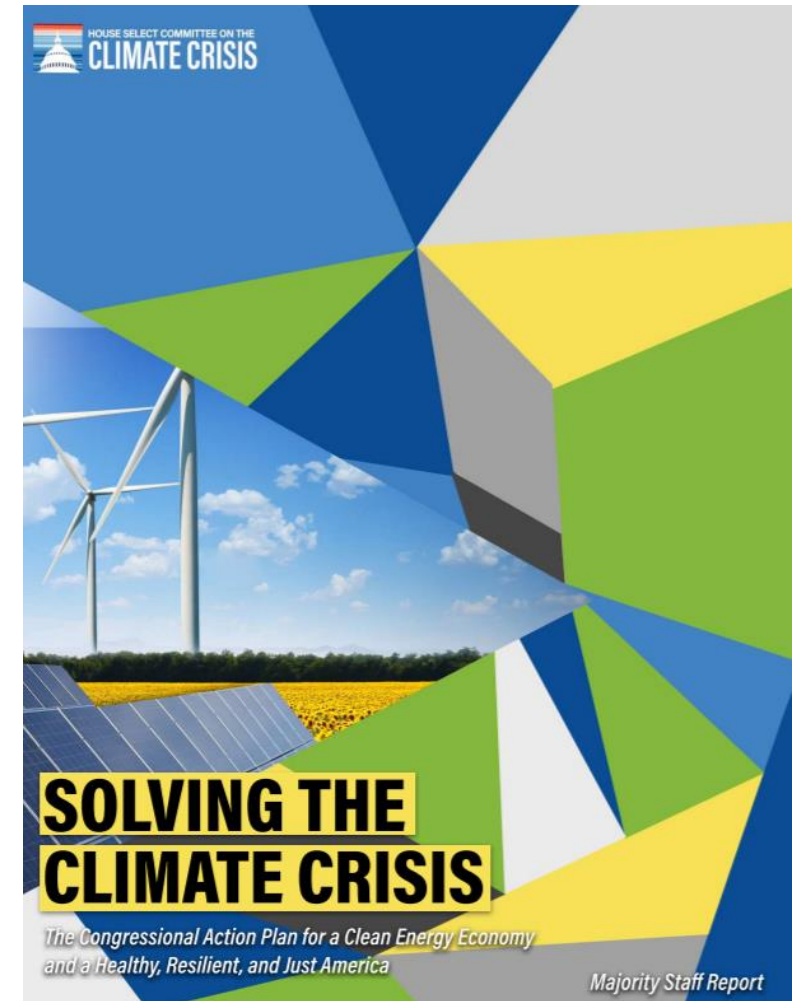
## **Organized policy recommendations and commentary around 12 “pillars”**

1. Invest in Infrastructure to Build a Just, Equitable, and Resilient Clean Energy Economy
2. Drive Innovation and Deployment of Clean Energy and Deep Decarbonization Technologies
3. Transform U.S. Industry and Expand Domestic Manufacturing of Clean Energy and Zero-Emission Technologies
4. Break Down Barriers for Clean Energy Technologies
5. Invest in America’s Workers and Build a Fairer Economy
6. Invest in Disproportionately Exposed Communities to Cut Pollution and Advance Environmental Justice
7. Improve Public Health and Manage Climate Risks to Health Infrastructure
8. Invest in American Agriculture for Climate Solutions
9. Make U.S. Communities More Resilient to the Impacts of Climate Change
10. Protect and Restore America’s Lands, Waters, Ocean, and Wildlife
11. Confront Climate Risks to America’s National Security and Restore America’s Leadership on the International Stage
12. Strengthen America’s Core Institutions to Facilitate Climate Action

# ...Select Committee Report

## Key questions for today:

- What are the key policy recommendations pertaining to climate change mitigation, adaptation, public health, and environmental justice?
- How are these policy recommendations complementary?
- How will the staff report be used?
- What comes next for the Select Committee?



# **SOLVING THE CLIMATE CRISIS**

## ***The Environmental and Energy Study Institute***

### ***House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis: Health Recommendations***

***Washington, DC  
July 14, 2020***

Georges C. Benjamin, MD, MACP, FACEP (E), FNAPA  
Executive Director  
American Public Health Association



## CLIMATE AND HEALTH



### EXPOSURES

- 🔥 Longer and hotter warm season
- 🔥 Heat waves



### THREATS TO HEALTH

- 🔥 Heat-related illness
- 🔥 Respiratory and heart diseases
- 🔥 Death
- 🔥 Burns from wild fires

# EXTREME RAINFALL AND DROUGHT

## EXPOSURES

- Severe storms
- Flooding
- Wildfires
- Mold



## THREATS TO HEALTH

- Injuries
- Asthma
- Heart disease
- Mental health



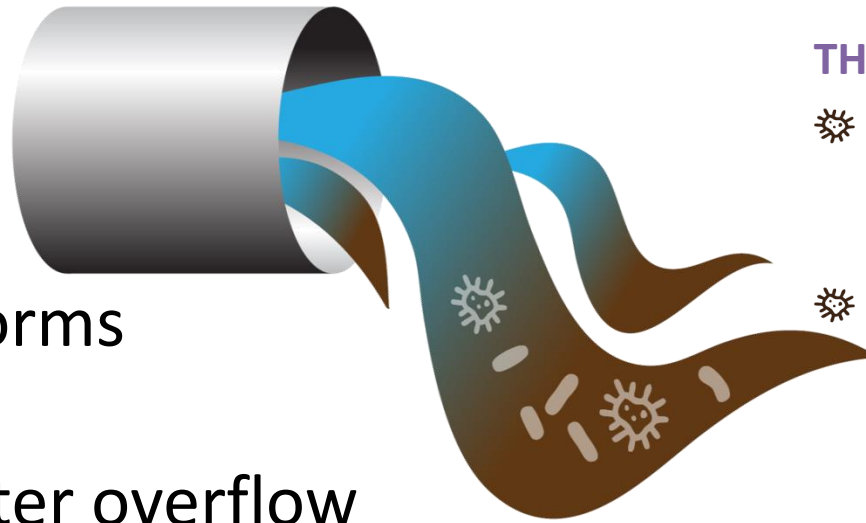
## CLIMATE AND HEALTH

### WARMER WATER AND **FLOODING**

INCREASE THE RISK OF ILLNESS AND INJURY

#### EXPOSURES

- ☼ Severe storms
- ☼ Flooding
- ☼ Storm water overflow



#### THREATS TO HEALTH







- ☼ Gastrointestinal illness
- ☼ Injury

## CLIMATE AND HEALTH

# CLIMATE CHANGE INCREASES THE NUMBER AND GEOGRAPHIC RANGE OF DISEASE-CARRYING INSECTS AND TICKS






### EXPOSURES

-  Increased vectors
-  Warmer weather
-  Expanded territory
-  Shorter winters
-  Standing water
-  Deforestation



### THREATS TO HEALTH





-  Lyme disease
-  West Nile virus
-  Zika virus

## CLIMATE AND HEALTH

### CLIMATE CHANGE DECREASES THE QUALITY OF THE **AIR WE BREATHE**







#### EXPOSURES

-  Ambient air pollutants
-  Pollen
-  Wildfire smoke
-  Mold



#### THREATS TO HEALTH

-  Asthma
-  Allergies
-  Heart diseases
-  Death



# ***Health Recommendations***

- Strengthen planning to address climate risks to public health
  - Federal health agencies
  - State, local, territorial, and tribal health departments
- Improve data collection on climate-related health impacts
  - Including disproportionate impacts on frontline communities
  - Enhance programs to reduce these health burdens



# Health Recommendations

- Ensure resilient public health supply chains
  - Increase supply chain planning and strengthen national shipping and distribution networks
- Enhance U.S. global leadership on climate and health
  - Strengthen U.S. participation in the World Health Organization & the Global Health Security Agenda





# ***Health Recommendations***

- Support community preparedness for the health impacts of disasters
  - Increase funding for federal health preparedness programs
  - Help medically vulnerable populations
- Increase the planning and preparedness of hospitals and health infrastructure
  - Require the use of climate-informed building codes and standards
  - Support resilience planning and construction

# ***Health Recommendations***

- Strengthen the resilience of veterans health systems
  - Hospitals, housing, and supply chains
- Address the mental health implications of climate change
  - Expand access to mental health services for acute needs after disasters, for students and youth worried about the climate crisis
  - Expand access for communities facing chronic pollution and climate impacts

# About APHA

APHA is a global community of public health professionals and the collective voice for the health of the public. APHA is the only organization that combines 140 years of perspective, a broad-based constituency and the ability to influence federal policy to advocate for and improve the public's health.

- Founded – April 18, 1872
- 501C(3) & Nonpartisan
- Over 50,000 individual & affiliate members



# The Role of Climate Mitigation in *Solving the Climate Crisis*

Majority Report from the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis



Rachel Cleetus

*July 14, 2020*

EESI Congressional Briefing  
*"The Climate Crisis Report in Focus"*

**[ Union of  
Concerned Scientists**

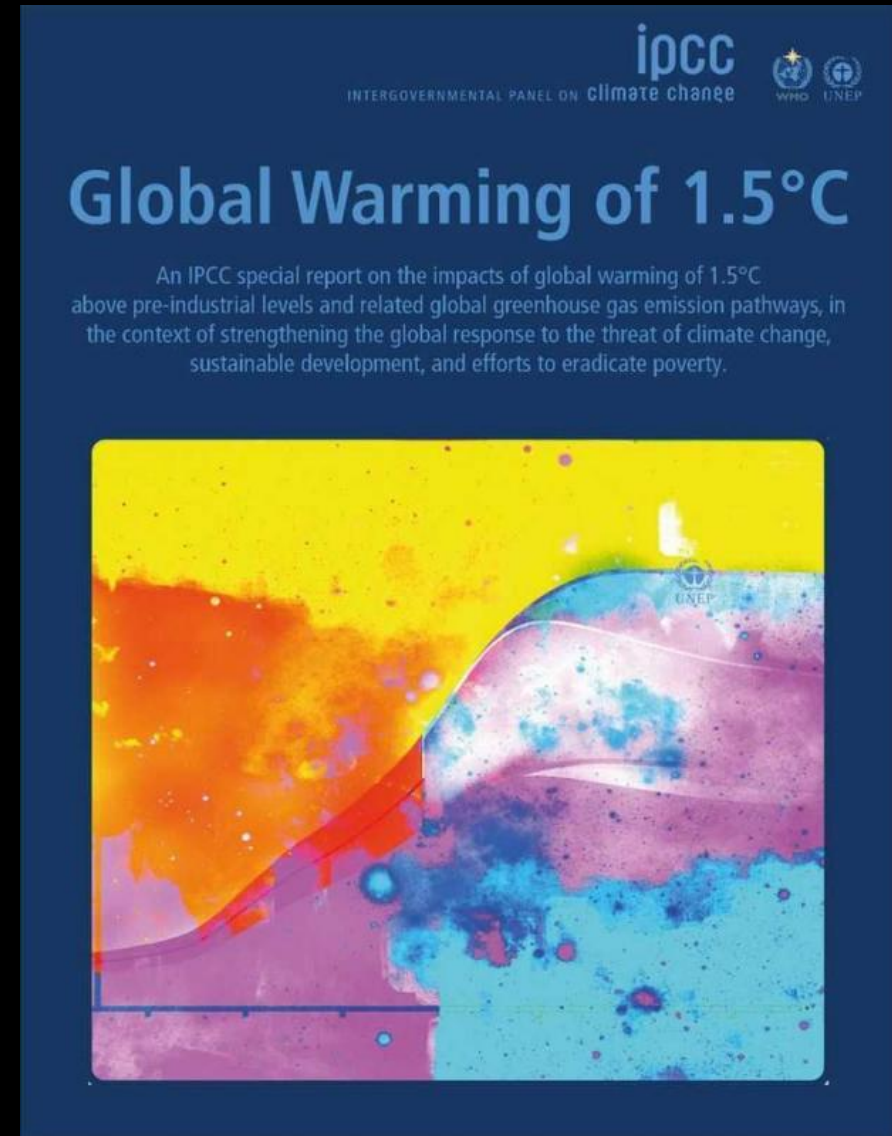
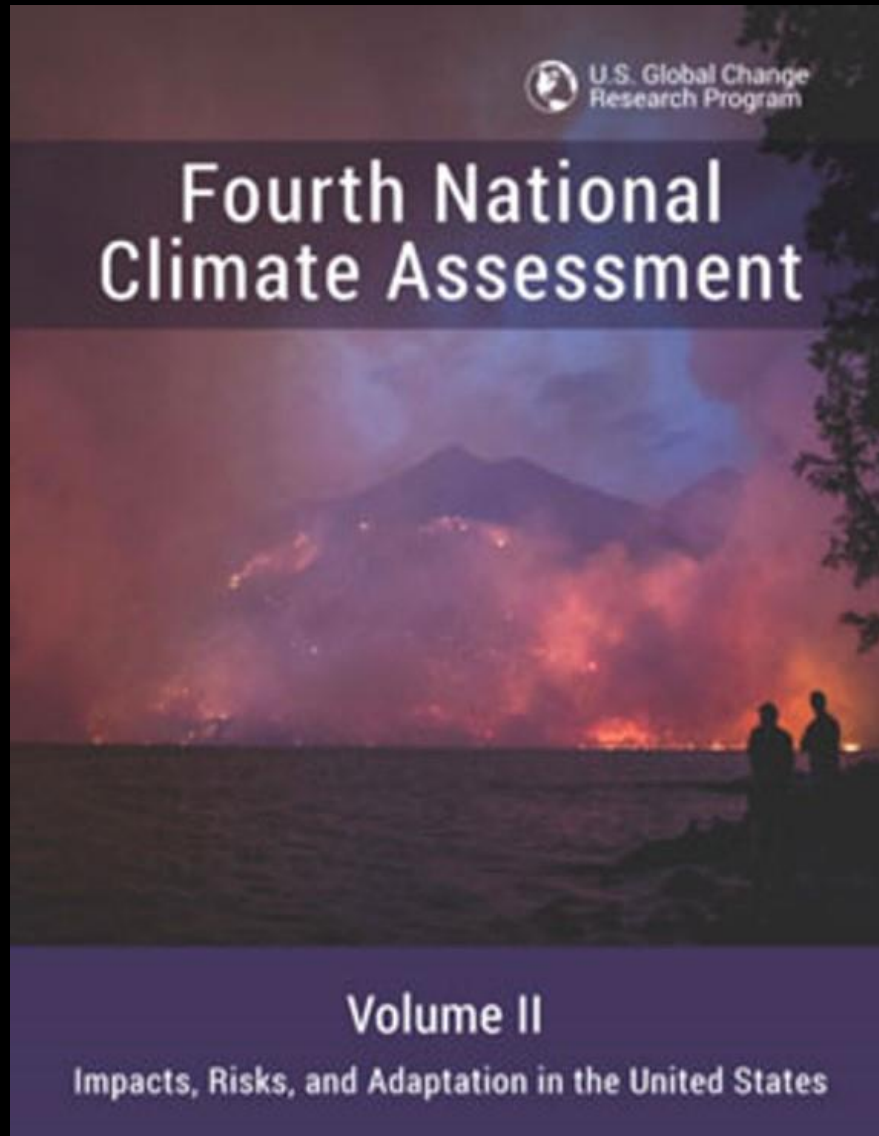
[Union of  
Concerned Scientists]

Science for a  
healthy planet  
and safer world.



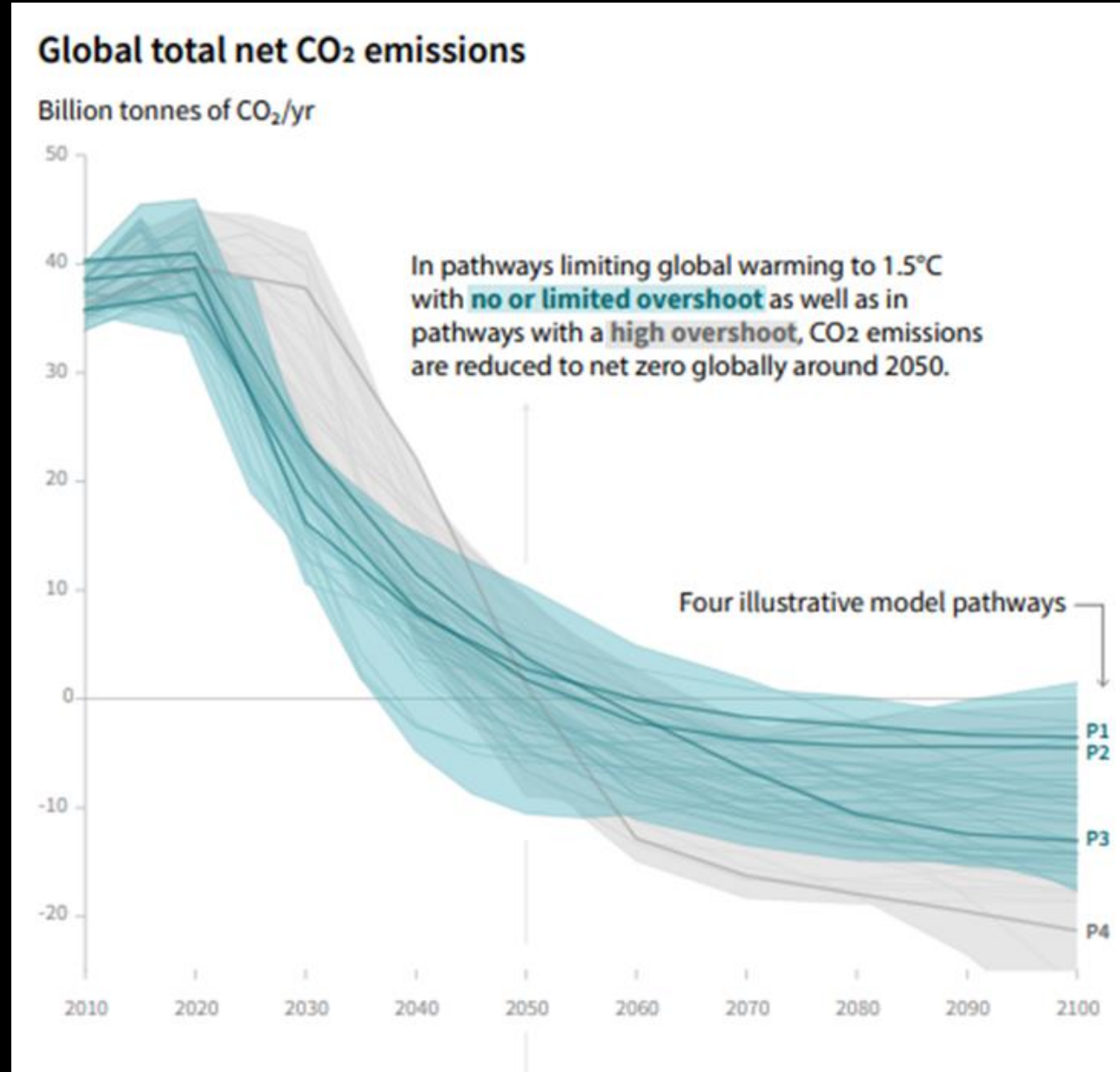
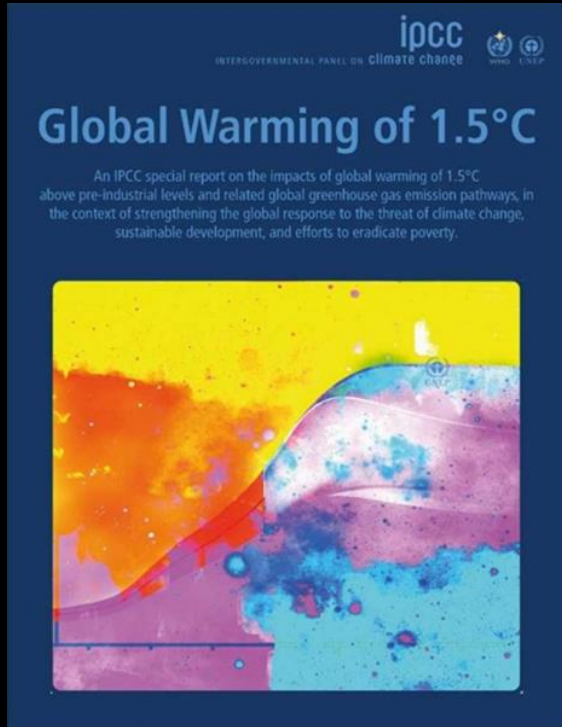


# [ Latest science underscores urgency





# [IPCC 1.5°C-compatible illustrative emissions pathways



# [Overall Goals: Mitigation

- Reaching a 100% clean, net zero emissions economy-wide in the U.S. by no later than 2050, net negative emissions during the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the century.
- Establishing ambitious interim targets to assess progress and reduce pollution in environmental justice(EJ) communities.
- Investing in job creation and worker rights

# [Drive a Transition away from fossil fuels



# [Benefits of the Climate Action Plan

- Avoid an estimated 62,000 premature deaths annually by 2050, primarily by reducing fine particulate matter pollution
- By 2050, cumulative net present value of the estimated monetized annual health and climate benefits equal to almost \$8 trillion (real 2018 U.S. dollars) at a 3% discount rate.
- In 2050 alone, the estimated monetized annual health and climate benefits of the policies exceed \$1 trillion (real 2018 U.S. dollars).
- Create roughly 530,000 jobs annually through the CES

# [The Pillars of Economywide Deep Decarbonization

- Energy Efficiency
- Decarbonizing electricity by switching to renewable, zero-carbon electricity
- Electrification of energy end-uses economywide (Transportation, Buildings, Industry)

+ Carbon capture and storage

+ Carbon dioxide removal (natural and technological)





# [Energy Efficiency



- Energy Efficiency Resource Standard
- Tax incentives and grants for EE investments, with a focus on EJ communities
- Robust EE appliance and equipment standards



# [Clean Energy Standard



- Net zero power sector by 2040
- Maximize near-term emissions reductions.
- Include zero-emission technologies (wind, solar, energy storage, nuclear, hydropower, fossil energy with CCS)
- Consider upstream emissions
- No preemption of state, tribal authorities
- Address potential and risks of nuclear power

# [Expand and Modernize Transmission

- National transmission policy
- Direct FERC, working with DOE and the National Labs, to develop a comprehensive, long-range electric infrastructure strategy that would achieve 100% clean electricity generation by 2040
- Federal funding and technical assistance for state, local, and tribal authorities for transmission planning and siting
- Improve transmission planning and cost allocation
- Create a high voltage DC backbone

# [Clean Transportation



- National sales standard to achieve 100% sales of zero emission cars by 2035 and heavy-duty trucks by 2040
- Strong GHG standards for cars and trucks
- Cut emissions from buses, planes, ships
- Low carbon fuel standard
- Invest in mass transit, rail and smart growth
- Spur domestic manufacturing of ZEVs
- Invest in electrification infrastructure and climate-resilient transportation infrastructure
- Clean up pollution at ports



# [Buildings and Industry



- Goal of making all new residential, commercial and federal buildings net-zero emissions by 2030
- Investments in weatherization and efficiency for low income and EJ communities
- Incentives for energy benchmarking and performance standards for existing commercial and residential buildings
- Drive electrification and efficiency in industrial processes
- RD&D in CCS for industrial applications



# [Climate-smart Agriculture

- Increase funding for climate-smart agricultural activities in working lands programs, including the Conservation Stewardship Program, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, and the Regional Conservation Partnership Program
- Financial and technical resources for climate-smart agriculture and agroforestry
- National goals for soil health and farmland preservation practices, restoration of lost soil carbon, and reduction of farmland and grassland conversion
  - Support organic farming
  - Invest in climate resilience
    - Reduce GHG emissions from the agricultural sector and increase carbon sequestration



# [Equitable Clean Energy Investments

- Help rural, tribal and EJ communities to access, and directly benefit from, clean energy
- Expand low-income and community solar programs
- New Solar Communities Initiative with a national goal of generating 10% of electricity through distributed solar energy by 2040
- Expand on-bill financing for clean energy and clean vehicles technology
- Investments in EE in low-income and frontline communities

# [Fair Workforce Investments

- Secure workers' rights to form unions and secure good paying jobs, safe working conditions, and fair benefits.
- Guarantee strong labor standards for federal investments
- High road labor standards for clean energy and clean vehicles tax incentives
- Establish a National Economic Transition Office to help coordinate community-driven, place-based solutions for workers and communities in transition
- Strengthen and diversify the clean energy economy workforce
- Support health care needs of coal miners
- Create jobs through clean-up and remediation of legacy pollution sites





# [Climate-resilient Energy Infrastructure



- Invest in a climate-resilient electric grid
- Establish federal resilience standards for federally funded and permitted energy infrastructure
- Expand deployment of distributed energy resources
- Allow disaster aid funds to be used for clean, resilient energy resources

# [Additional Recommendations

- R&D investments in zero carbon technologies
- National goals and standards to reduce methane emissions from the oil and gas sector
- Tax incentives for domestic manufacturing of clean energy technologies
- Robust investments in federal climate science

# [International Climate Action

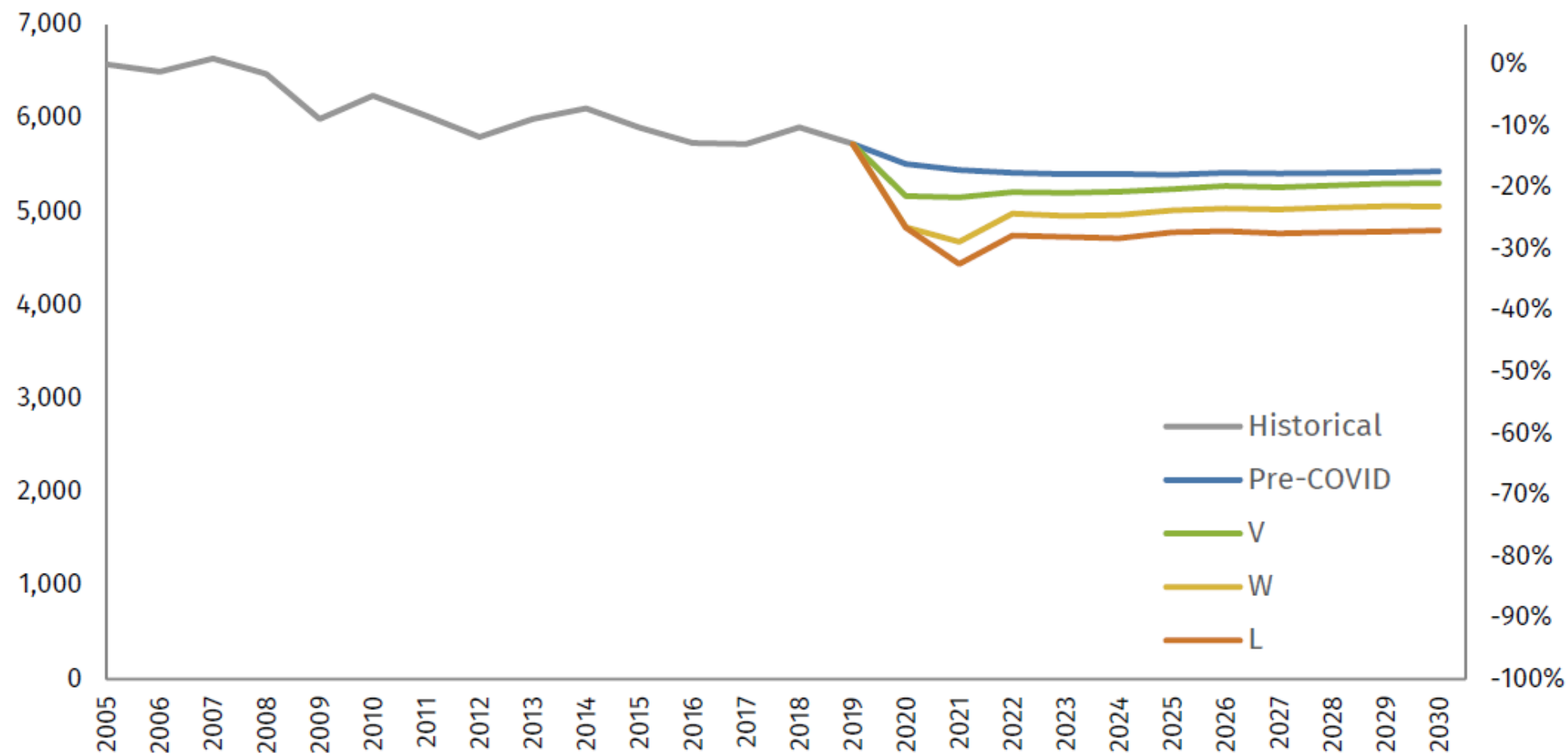


- Bolster U.S. contributions to the Green Climate Fund
- International opportunities to reduce black carbon
- Increased funding to stop international deforestation
- Improve Arctic diplomacy

FIGURE 1

## US greenhouse gas emissions under current federal and state policy

Net million metric tons CO<sub>2</sub>e (left), % change from 2005 (right)



Source: Rhodium Climate Service

Source: Rhodium Group, Taking Stock 2020—The COVID-19 Edition.

<https://rhg.com/research/taking-stock-2020/>



# [Our Choices and Challenges: What Should a Post-Pandemic Economy Look Like?



Will Congress invest in economic recovery plans that prioritize clean energy, climate-resilience and a just and equitable recovery?

OR

Will Congress default to business-as-usual thinking that reinforces fossil fuel dependence, current racial and socioeconomic inequities, and threatens our children's future well-being?

# [ Intersectional solutions for compound crises

- Climate resilience
- Clean Energy
- Good paying jobs
- Universal Healthcare Access
- Affordable Housing
- Adequate Nutrition
- Anti-poverty measures
- Addressing the cumulative burden of legacy pollution
- Addressing long-standing racial and socioeconomic inequities





[ Thank you. Any questions? [rcleetus@ucsusa.org](mailto:rcleetus@ucsusa.org)

[ Union of  
Concerned Scientists





# The Climate Crisis Report in Focus: Adaptation and Resilience

JESSIE RITTER

DIRECTOR, WATER RESOURCES AND COASTAL POLICY



*It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent that survives. It is the one that is most adaptable to change.*

**-Charles Darwin**





**Resilience** - The capability to anticipate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from significant multi-hazard threats with minimum damage to social well-being, health, the economy, and the environment.

**Adaptation** - Adjustment in natural or human systems to a new or changing environment that exploits beneficial opportunities or moderates negative effects.





## Key Concepts

- All investments and actions should be climate resilient
- Nature itself a key part of the solution
- Climate vulnerability is not evenly distributed – adaptation solutions should be targeted accordingly





## Making U.S. Communities More Resilient to the Impacts of Climate Change (Pillar 9)



# Develop and Deploy Actionable Climate Risk Information

- Establish the National Climate Risk Information Service
- Expand Real-Time Earth Monitoring and Data Collection for Public Safety and Climate Risk Modeling
- Provide Federal Guidance on Climate-Informed Codes and Standards





# Support Community Leadership in Climate Resilience and Equity

- Establish a National Climate Adaptation Program and Commission
- Require Climate Resilience Plans and Establish Climate Adaptation Grants and Loans
- Provide Skilled Technical Assistance to Support State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Planning





## Reduce Disaster Costs and Accelerate Resilient Recovery

- Increase Pre-disaster Mitigation Investment
- Ensure Access to Affordable and Climate-Resilient Housing and Relocation Assistance
- Strengthen the National Flood Insurance Program
- Reduce Wildfire Risks
- Reestablish Climate Resilience Planning Efforts at Federal Agencies







## Protect and Restore America's Lands, Waters, Oceans, and Wildlife (Pillar 10)



# Capture the Full Potential of Natural Carbon Solutions

- **Protect 30% U.S. Lands and Oceans by 2030**
- **Fully Fund LWCF and Invest in National Parks**
- **Protect and Restore Ocean and Wetland Ecosystems for Climate Mitigation and Resilience**
- **Increase Investments in Natural Infrastructure for Coastal and Riverine Resilience**
- **Establish a Civilian Conservation Corps**



# Address the Biodiversity Crisis

- **Establish a Wildlife Corridor and Connectivity System**
- **Increase funding for States, Tribes, and Territories to Increase Wildlife Conservation Efforts**
- **Maintain Strong Environmental Protections and Review**





# Adaptation = Opportunity

*“By addressing the causes of climate change now, we can at once minimize risks and emerge stronger. Today we have the unique chance to create a future where things not only stabilize but actually get better...Achieving the mindset needed to attain this improved environment would signal a maturation of humanity.”*

– Christiana Figueres, Former Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change



Thank you!

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**EESI**  
Environmental and  
Energy Study Institute

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