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# CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING

## 2020 Climate Action Update

Wednesday, December 09, 2020

# About EESI...



## **NON-PROFIT**

Founded in 1984 by a bipartisan Congressional caucus as an 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 a 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



## HILL BRIEFINGS

Video recordings and written summaries of Congressional briefings



## *CLIMATE CHANGE SOLUTIONS*

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



## SOCIAL MEDIA (@EESIONLINE)

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## FACT SHEETS

Timely, science-based coverage of climate and clean energy topics

# America's Pledge in 2020 and the “We Are Still In” Era

DECEMBER 2020



AMERICA'S  
PLEDGE

WE ARE  
STILL IN

Bloomberg  
Philanthropies



SCHOOL OF  
PUBLIC POLICY  
CENTER FOR GLOBAL  
SUSTAINABILITY



WORLD  
RESOURCES  
INSTITUTE

# AMERICA'S PLEDGE

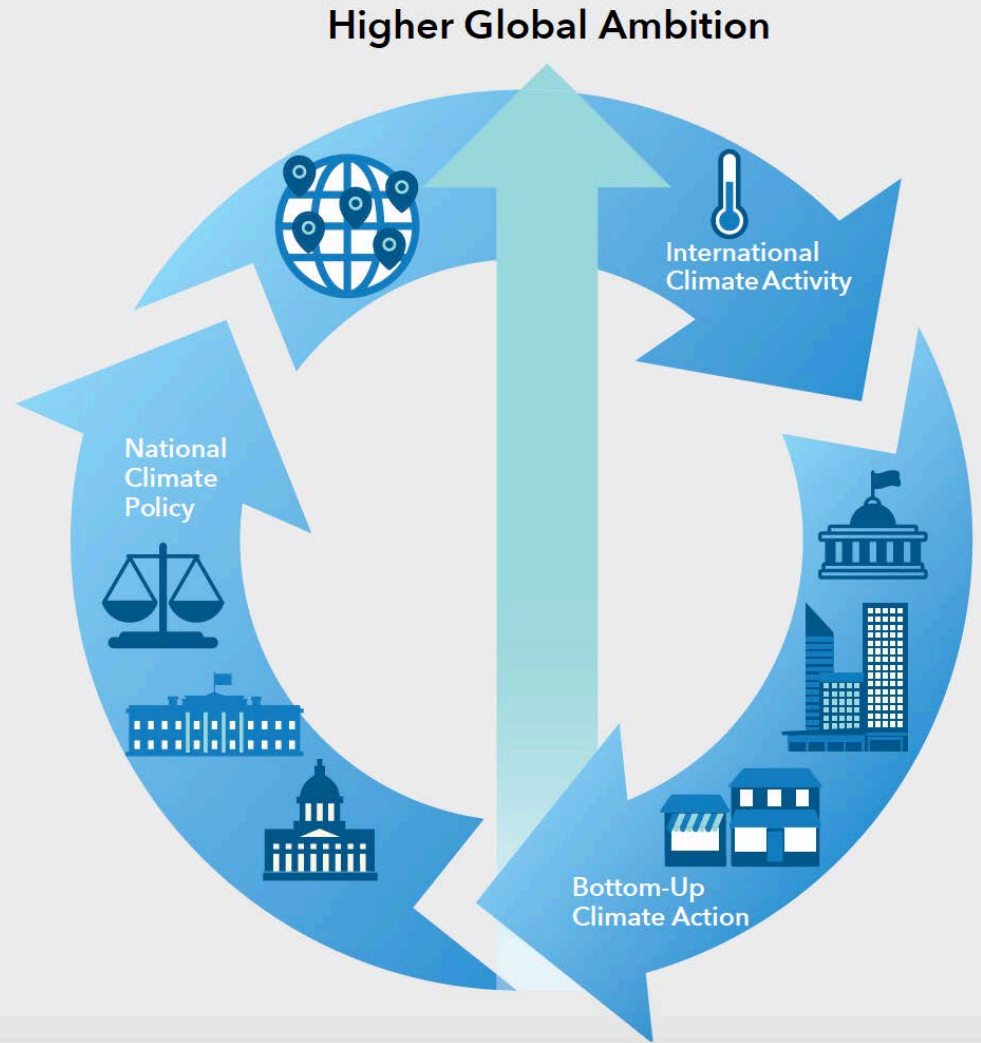
Innovative, field-leading analysis and engagement to understand impacts and support enhanced climate action in the U.S. and globally



- W. Jaglom, C. Frisch, K. Kennedy, L. Clarke, N. Hultman, T. Cyr, J. Lund, D. Saha, J. Feldmann, C. Bowman, J. O'Neill, M. Campton, M. Herbert, L. Calle, A. Light, P. Bodnar (2020). **Delivering on America's Pledge: Achieving Climate Progress in 2020.** Published by Bloomberg Philanthropies with Rocky Mountain Institute, University of Maryland Center for Global Sustainability, and World Resources Institute. New York. Available at: [americaspledge.com/reports](https://americaspledge.com/reports)
- America's Pledge and We Are Still In (2020). **We Are Still In to Deliver America's Pledge.** Published by Bloomberg Philanthropies with Rocky Mountain Institute, University of Maryland Center for Global Sustainability, and World Resources Institute. New York. Available at: [americaspledge.com/reports](https://americaspledge.com/reports)
- Hultman, N., C. Frisch, L. Clarke, K. Kennedy, P. Bodnar, P. Hansel, T. Cyr, M. Manion, M. Edwards, J. Lund, C. Bowman, J. Jaeger, R. Cui, A. Clapper, A. Sen, D. Saha, M. Westphal, J.C. Altamirano, H. Hashimoto, M. Dennis, K. Hammoud, C. Henderson, G. Zwicker, M. Ryan, J. O'Neill, E. Goldfield (2019). **"Accelerating America's Pledge: Going All-In to Build a Prosperous, Sustainable Economy for the United States."** Published by Bloomberg Philanthropies with University of Maryland Center for Global Sustainability, Rocky Mountain Institute, and World Resources Institute.
- Hultman, N., K. Calhoun, P. Bodnar, K. Kennedy, M. Manion, P. Hansel, T. Crys, K. Igusky, C. Bowman, J. DeWeese, A. Sen, J. Lou, K. Chen, J.Y. Akopian, S. Russell, N. Keohane, D. Francis, D. Ribeiro, W. Berg, S. Smarripas, S. Vaidyanathan, P. Kiely, C. Jiang, M. Brownstein, M. Watson, J. Peress, D. Lyon, Mulligan, T. Clevenger, J. Thwaites, H. Hull, A. Benn, E. Franconi, E.J. Klock-McCook, M. Liebman, W. Krawczyk, J. Frech, F. Sanchez, A. Prada, A. Clapper, L. Cervantes Valdivieso, Z. Abdullah, I. van der Vlugt, J. Crowe, E. Waggoner, G. Stevens, M. Gordon, E. Messer, N. Veilleux, J. Koo. (2018). **Fulfilling America's Pledge: How States, Cities and Businesses are Leading the United States to a Low-Carbon Future.** New York: The America's Pledge Initiative on Climate Change and Bloomberg Philanthropies, with the University of Maryland Center for Global Sustainability, Rocky Mountain Institute, World Resources Institute, Environmental Defense Fund, American Council on an Energy Efficient Economy, CDP, and the Cadmus Group.
- Hultman, N., L. Clarke, C. Frisch, K. Kennedy, H. McJeon, T. Cyr, P. Hansel, P. Bodnar, M. Manion, M.R. Edwards, R. Cui, C. Bowman, J. Lund, M. Westphal, A. Clapper, J. Jaeger, A. Sen, J. Lou, D. Saha, W. Jaglom, K. Calhoun, K. Igusky, J. deWeese, K. Hammoud, J.C. Altamirano, M. Dennis, C. Henderson, G. Zwicker, J. O'Neill, **"Fusing national and sub-national climate action is central to rapid near-term decarbonization: The case of the United States."** *Nature Communications*. 11: 5255 (2020)

America's Pledge analysis demonstrates the power and potential of subnational action to drive emissions reduction.

Bottom-up actions from states, cities, businesses, and other entities provide a stepped-up basis for enhancing federal re-engagement from Executive Branch and Congress





## Widespread Participation

25

Governors

500+

Cities and counties

80+

Cultural institutions

350+

Colleges and  
universities

2,275

Businesses  
and investors

850+

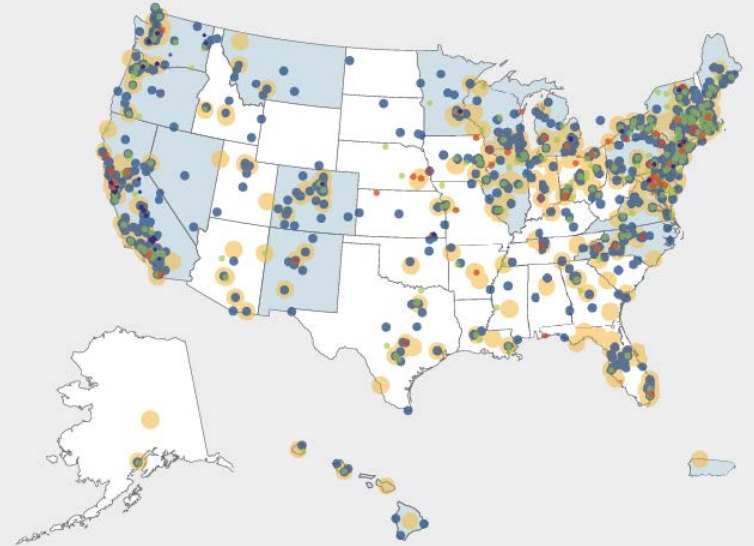
Faith  
groups

30+

Health care organizations,  
representing 900+ hospitals

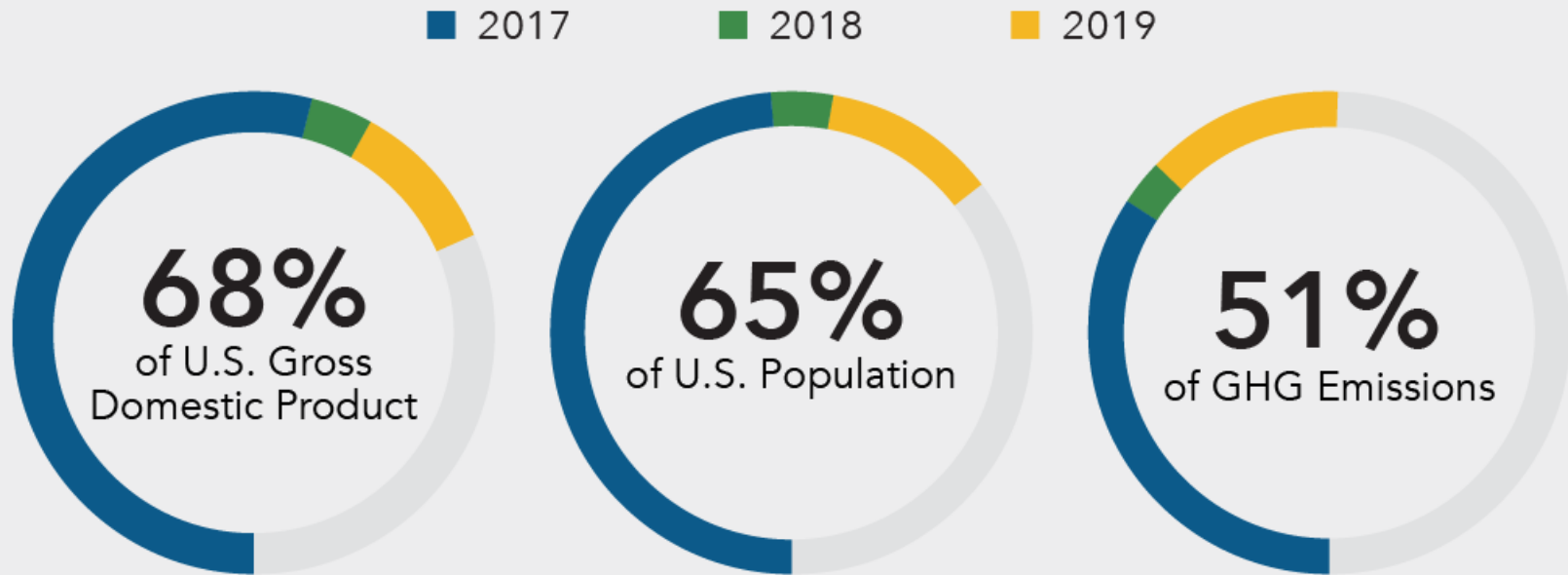
Tribal associations

Representing  
hundreds of tribes



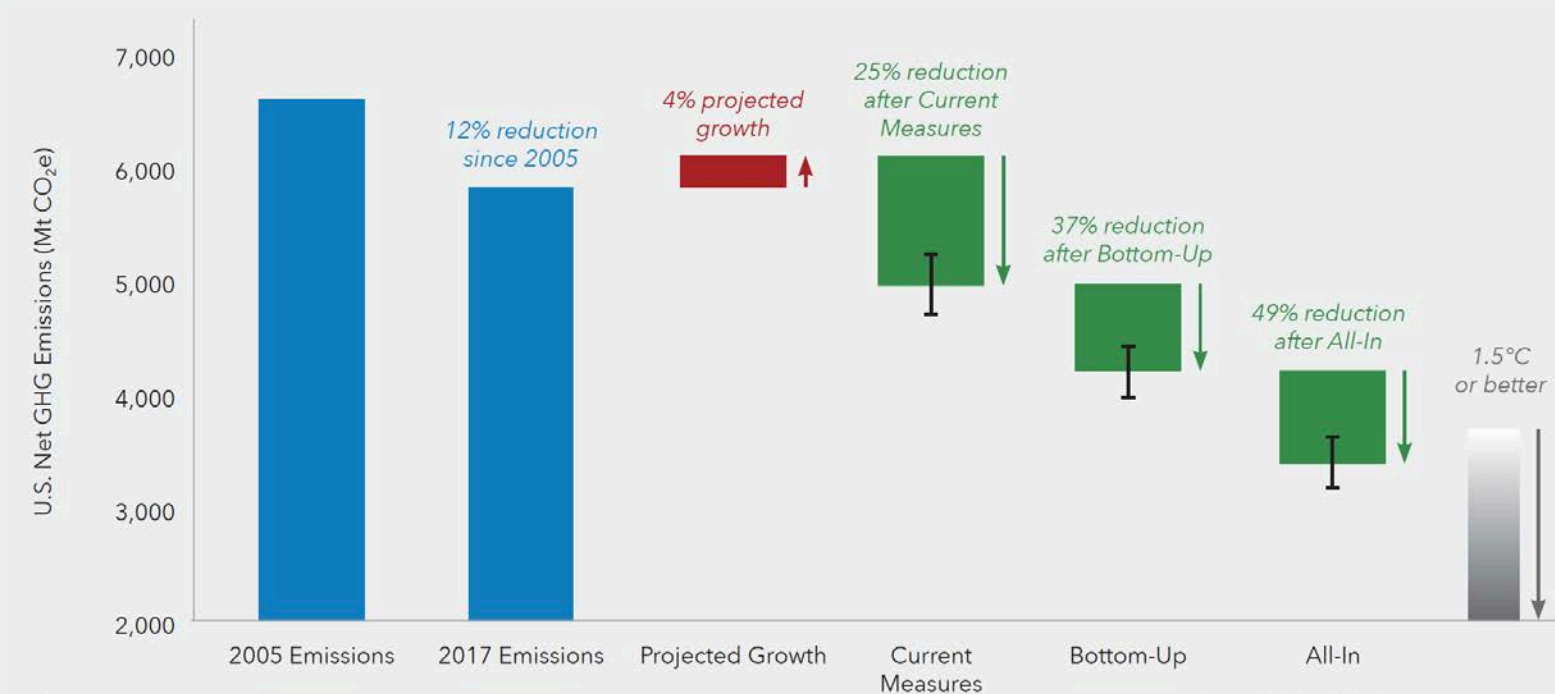


# Coalitions of U.S. actors committed to the goals of the Paris Agmt are **Globally Significant and Growing:** **Equivalent to the World's Second Largest Economy**



**AMERICA'S PLEDGE**

Last year, *Accelerating America's Pledge* modeled 2030 emissions reductions with action, as well as with federal re-engagement from states, cities, and businesses alone starting in 2021.



## Dramatic Progress since 2017

**2X** increase in  
**EVs**

**16** committed to  
**HFC**  
STATES phase down

**79%**  
of Americans

think the country should  
prioritize its energy  
supply toward  
developing  
renewable  
energy

## Dramatic Progress since 2017

100% Clean Energy  
Commitments

1 → 13 STATES  
+Puerto Rico

33 → 170 CITIES

7 & 27 STATES  
GAS COMPANIES

committed to  
**methane leak  
reduction**

6 MILLION people  
live in cities with

**all-electric**  
new construction

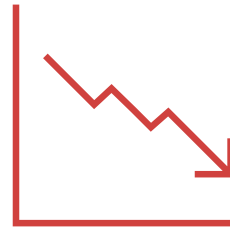
# We are living in unprecedented times



**Climate  
Change**



**Global  
Pandemic**



**Economic  
Recession**



**Racial  
Justice**

# AMERICA'S PLEDGE

DEC 2019



Colorado adopts updated and strengthened controls on emissions from oil and gas industry

JAN



New York state announces \$2 billion in utility electrification programs, including \$434 million for heat pumps

California issues \$45 million for heat pump water heater incentives, including \$4 million for low-income customers

FEB



EPA reports that ALDI installed climate-friendly refrigerants in 110 additional stores in 2019

MAR



Washington state adopts zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) program

APR



NRDC wins legal battle, forcing EPA to reinstate limits on HFC use



US Senate holds socially distanced hearing on HFC legislation



Virginia commits to 100% zero-carbon electricity



Houston commits to 100% renewable energy to power all municipal operations

MAY



Kansas City commits to carbon neutrality by 2040



Pennsylvania releases draft rules to reduce emissions from existing oil and gas infrastructure



Colorado and Virginia enact policies to phase out super-polluting HFCs

JUN



Lyft commits to achieve 100% EVs on its platform by 2030

Electrify America completes the first cross-country EV charging route

California passes Advanced Clean Trucks (ACT) rule



Xcel proposes \$3 billion in new efficiency programs and rebates



City of Jacksonville Electric Authority and Florida Power & Light Company agree to close one unit of largest US coal plant



New Mexico approves 100% renewables and storage to replace retiring coal capacity



Wisconsin-based WEC Energy Group announces carbon neutral electric generation by 2050 target

JUL



15 states and DC commit to 100% zero-emission medium- and heavy-duty vehicles by mid-century

New York launches \$701 million EV Charging Infrastructure program



New Mexico releases draft rules to reduce emissions from oil and gas industry

North Dakota begins using CARES Act funding to plug abandoned oil and gas wells



New Mexico approves 100% renewables and storage to replace retiring coal capacity



Wisconsin-based WEC Energy Group announces carbon neutral electric generation by 2050 target

AUG



Membership in ONE Future coalition committed to industry-wide methane emissions reduction increases to 27 companies



California finalizes clean car agreements with six major automakers



Maryland Department of the Environment proposes HFC regulations

SEP



California announces phase out the sale of all gas-powered vehicles by 2035



Ameren, Entergy, and Vistra announce net-zero emissions targets



Michigan commits to carbon-neutrality by 2050



Vermont passes The Global Warming Solutions Act requiring the state to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050

OCT



Orlando Utilities Commission, Portland General Electric, and Alliant Energy announce coal retirements



General Electric exits the coal power plant manufacturing business and announces carbon-neutral



Arizona passes rule that requires 100% carbon-free power by 2050

NOV



Nevada increases its Renewable Portfolio Standard to 50% by 2030



San Francisco requires new buildings starting in 2021 to be all-electric

Despite immense challenges, states, cities, and businesses have continued to drive ahead toward a fully decarbonized economy.

This year, we conducted a sector-by-sector assessment to understand the impact of recent trends.

- 1 identified the **key drivers affecting emissions** since the last report
- 2 characterized the **direction and extent of recent trends**
- 3 assessed their **potential to affect emissions reductions in 2030**



## ELECTRICITY

Coal Generation Has Declined Sharply, and Coal Retirements Have Accelerated  
Long-term Drivers of Renewable Energy Investment Remain Strong  
Economics of Gas Generation Face Headwinds, and Gas Buildout Holds Steady  
Progress on State, City, and Business Clean Electricity is Mixed



## TRANSPORTATION

People Are Driving Less  
Public Transit Is Facing an Existential Budget Shortfall  
EV Prospects Appear Steady  
Political Will Is Growing to Address Emissions from Heavy-Duty Transportation



## METHANE

Prospects for Growth in US Oil and Gas Production Are Dimming  
Methane Leaks from Existing Infrastructure Are Rising  
Regulatory Landscape Continues to Shift



## BUILDINGS

Trends in Efficiency Programs Are Mixed  
Efforts to Electrify Are Progressing Despite Growing Signs of Opposition



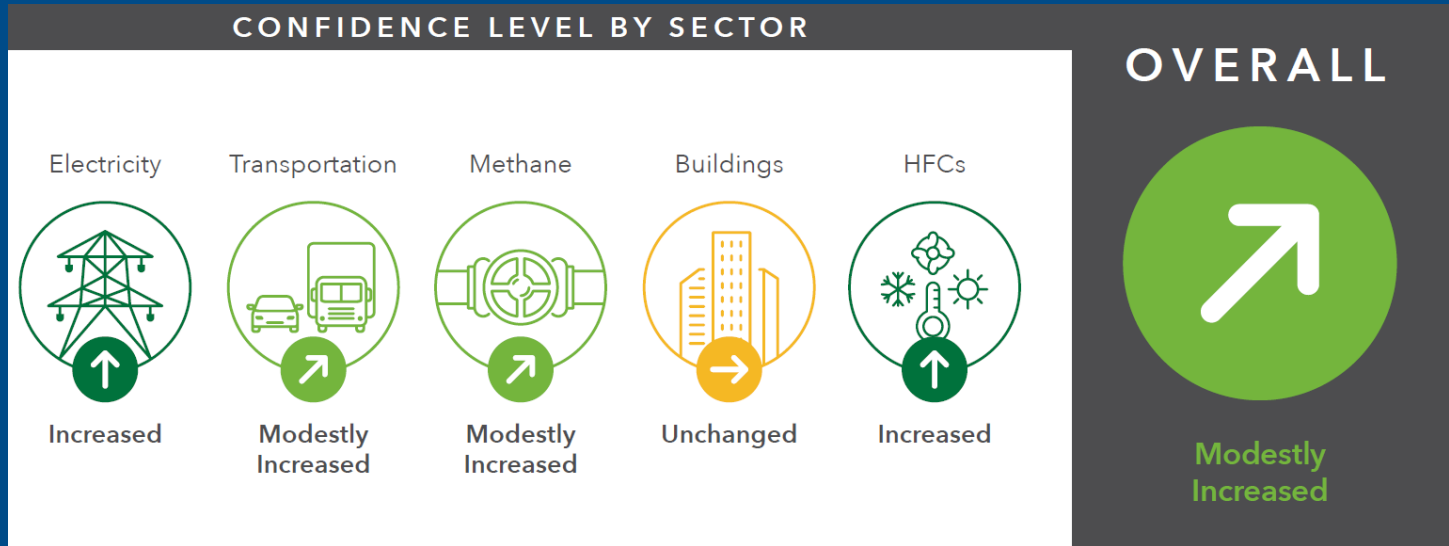
## HFCs

State HFC Action Is Expanding  
Federal Regulatory Rollback Is Countering State-Level Action





Overall, our assessment modestly increases our confidence in the ability of states, cities, and businesses to deliver on the bottom-up action modeled in our 2019 analysis.



Robust public attitudes and institutional commitments to clean energy progress, despite recent challenges, are a strong validator of public opinion and market forces underlying the *America's Pledge* analyses.

*As of summer 2020,*

~70%

of Americans  
support

- 100% clean economy by 2050
- prioritizing the clean energy industry over fossil fuel industry in pandemic stimulus responses
- protecting communities of color from climate impacts
- carbon tax
- requiring utilities to generate 100% of electricity from clean sources by 2040
- stronger fuel efficiency standards for cars and trucks

Federal economic recovery and stimulus packages provide a **critical opportunity** to maintain momentum and further spur needed climate action.



## Electricity

- Financial incentives for renewable energy and storage
- 
- Investment in grid modernization
- 
- Support for a just transition



## Transportation

- Funding for public transit
- 
- EV funding (manufacturing, purchase incentives, charging)
- 
- Workforce training
- 
- Complete streets



## Methane

- Clean up idle and abandoned infrastructure
- 
- Advanced monitoring and efficiency
- 
- Funding support for local jurisdictions and at-risk communities



## Buildings

- Zero-emissions buildings and appliances incentives
- 
- Expansion of weatherization and efficiency retrofiting
- 
- Efficiency and electrification for low-income housing



## HFCs

- Tax credits for HVAC installers
- 
- Consumer efficiency incentives
- 
- End-of-life HFC disposal

# Thank you!

Delivering on

## AMERICA'S PLEDGE

Achieving Climate Progress  
in 2020



AMERICA'S  
PLEDGE

WE ARE  
STILL IN

We Are Still In to Deliver on  
America's Pledge: A Retrospective



Analysis available at: [www.americaspledge.com](http://www.americaspledge.com)



**EESI**  
Environmental and  
Energy Study Institute

# What did you think of the briefing?

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