CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING
2020 Climate Action Update

Materials will be available at: www.eesi.org/120920goals

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


- 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

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

[Map of the United States showing the distribution of participating organizations]
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

- 68% of U.S. Gross Domestic Product
- 65% of U.S. Population
- 51% of GHG Emissions

**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 states committed to HFC 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 STATE + Puerto Rico
33 CITIES

7 & 27 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
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**
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 retrofitting
- Efficiency and electrification for low-income housing
- Funding support for local jurisdictions and at-risk communities

**HFCs**
- Tax credits for HVAC installers
- Consumer efficiency incentives
- End-of-life HFC disposal
Thank you!

Analysis available at: www.americaspledge.com
What did you think of the briefing?

Please take 2 minutes to let us know at:
www.eesi.org/survey

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