

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

DECEMBER 2020



AMERICA'S
PLEDGE

WE ARE
STILL IN

Bloomberg
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SCHOOL OF
PUBLIC POLICY
CENTER FOR GLOBAL
SUSTAINABILITY



WORLD
RESOURCES
INSTITUTE

AMERICA'S PLEDGE

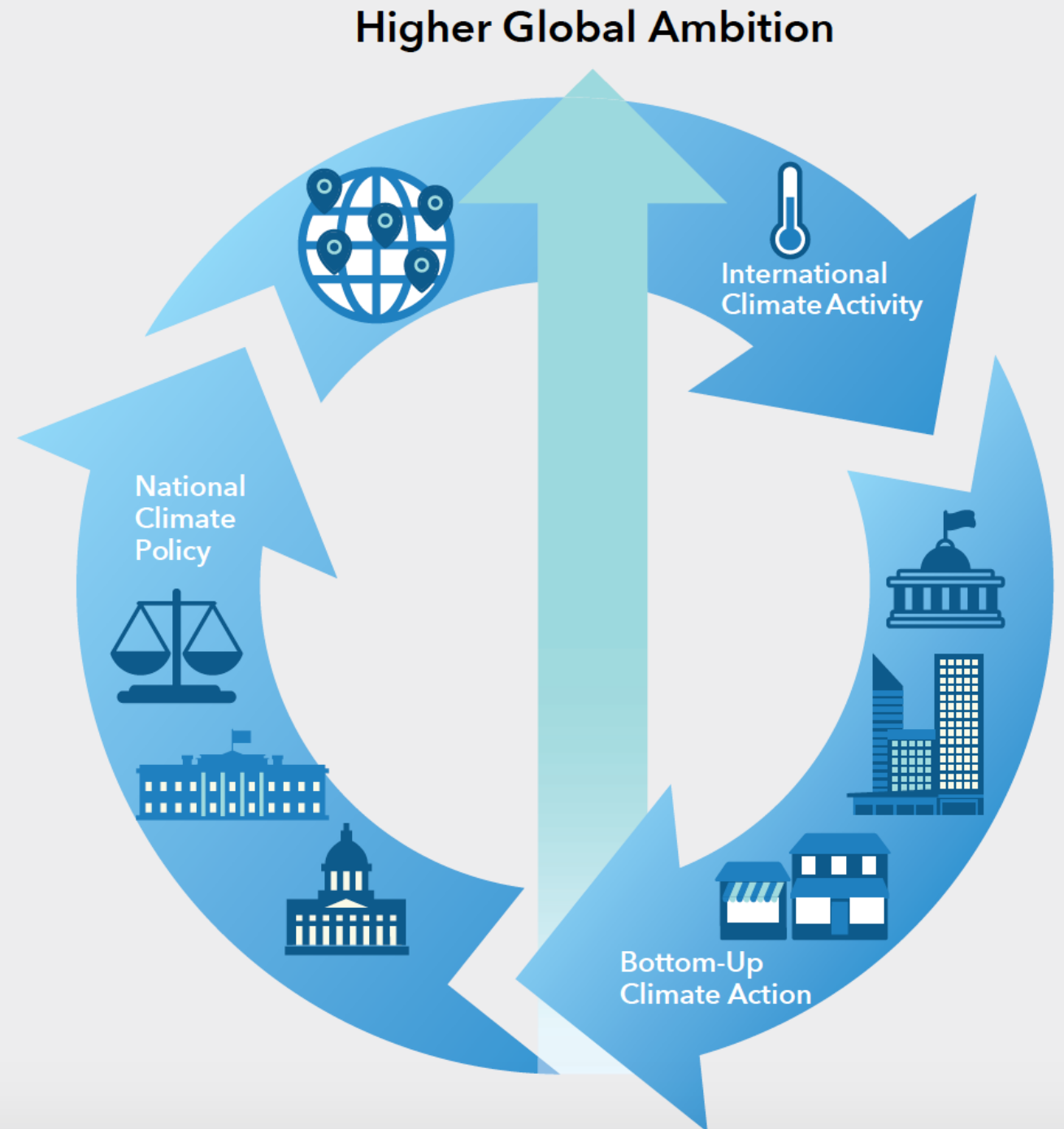
Innovative, field-leading analysis and engagement to understand impacts and support enhanced climate action in the U.S. and globally



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- 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
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- Hultman, N., L. Clarke, C. Frisch, K. Kennedy, H. McJeon, T. Cyrs, 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+

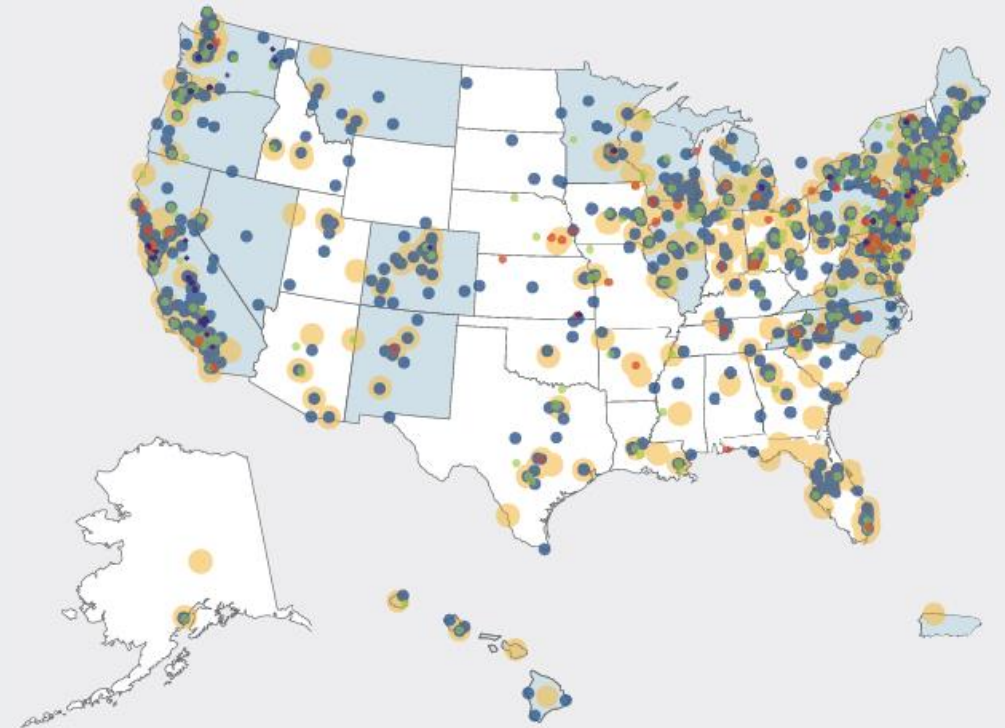
Faith groups

30+

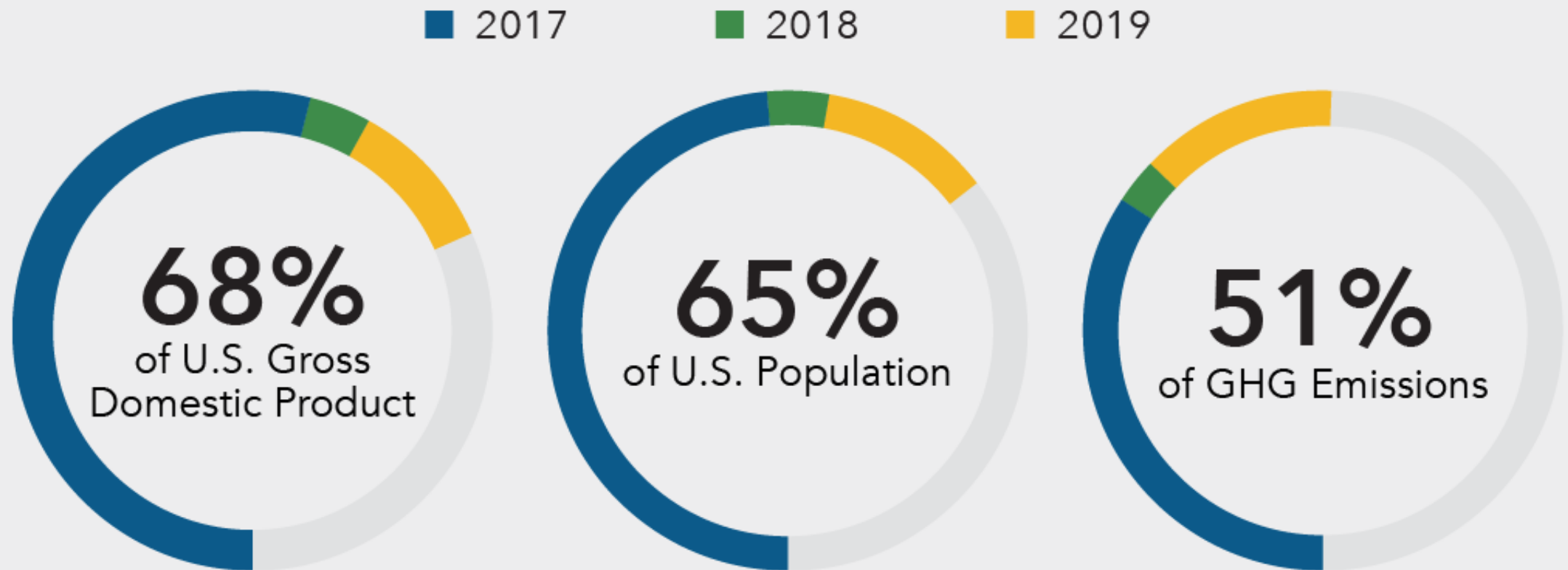
Health care organizations, representing 900+ hospitals

Tribal associations

Representing hundreds of tribes



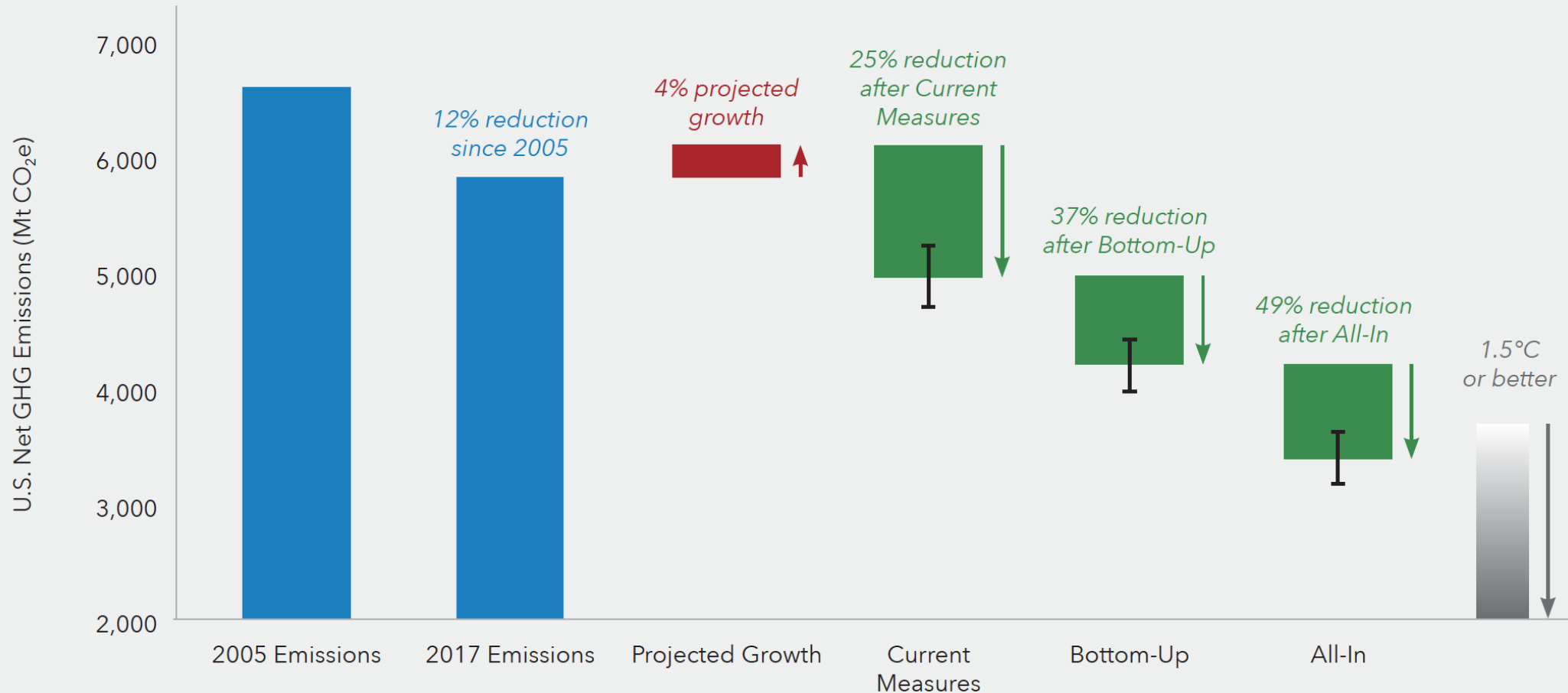
Coalitions of U.S. actors committed to the goals of the Paris Agmt
are **Globally Significant and Growing:**
Equivalent to the World's Second Largest Economy



AMERICA'S PLEDGE

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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
phase down
STATES

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 STATES & 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**

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

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 of 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 power plant retirements



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



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 




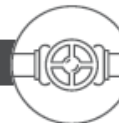
TRANSPORTATION

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 



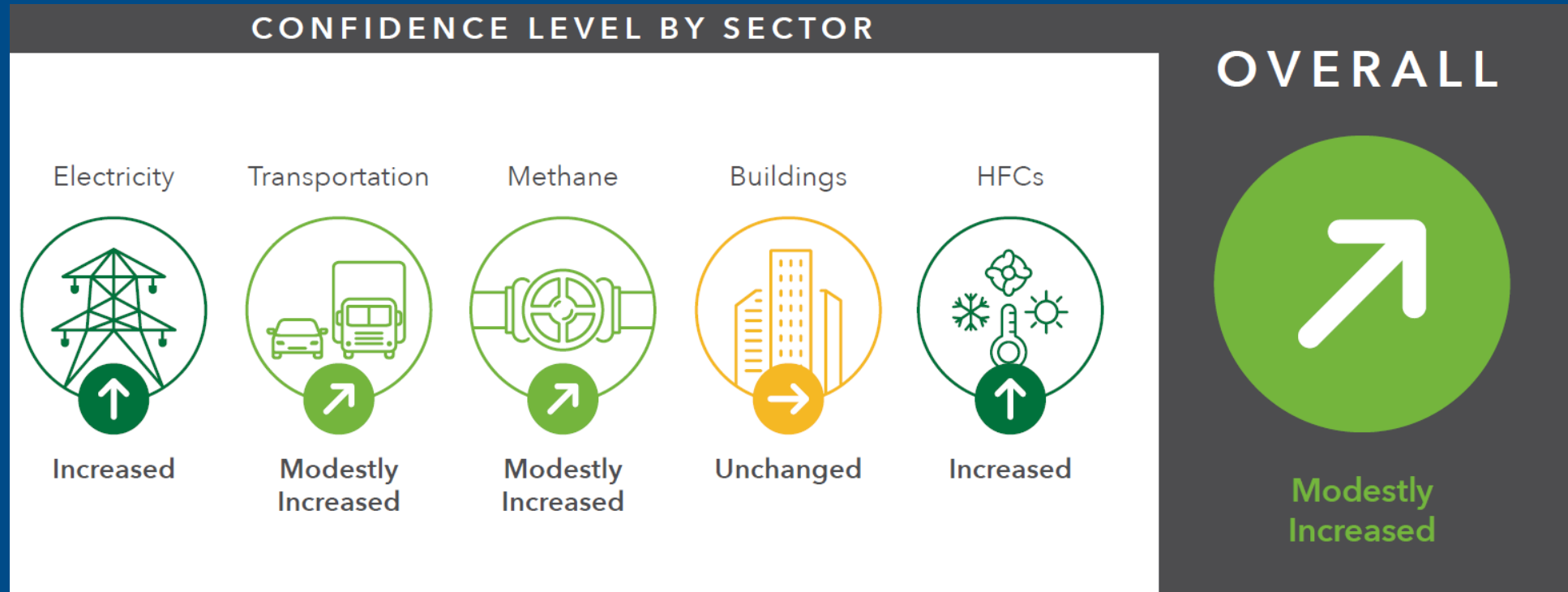
HFCs

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.



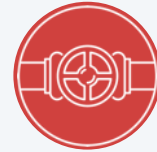
Electricity

- 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

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



Analysis available at: www.americaspledge.com