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

Majority Report from the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis

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EESI Congressional Briefing

"The Climate Crisis Report in Focus"

Union of Concerned Scientists


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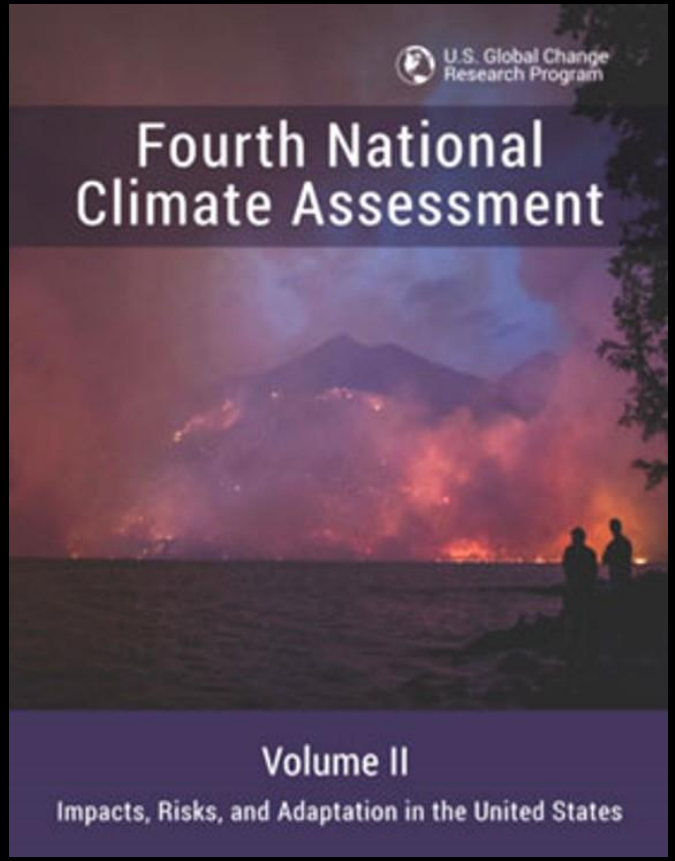
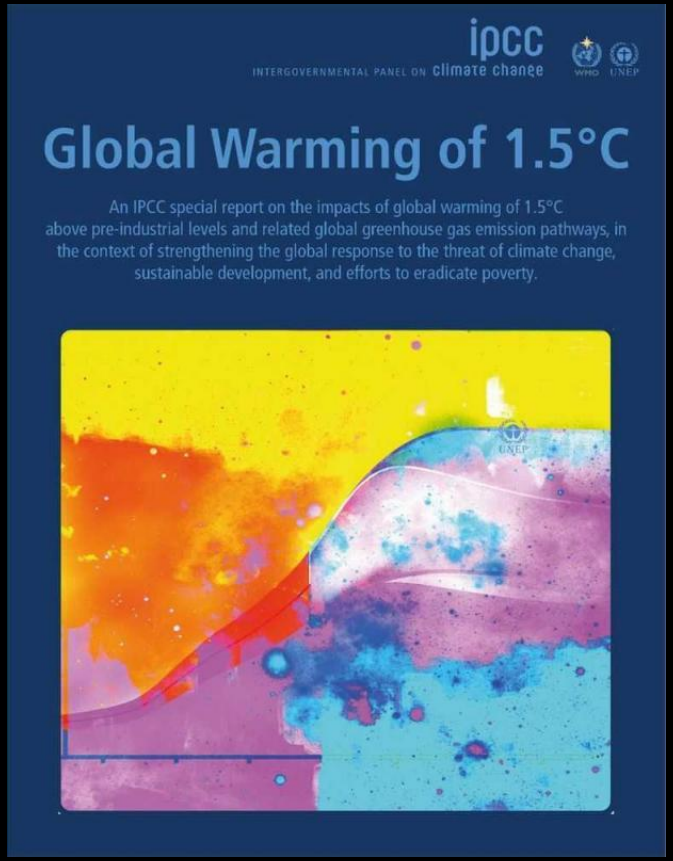
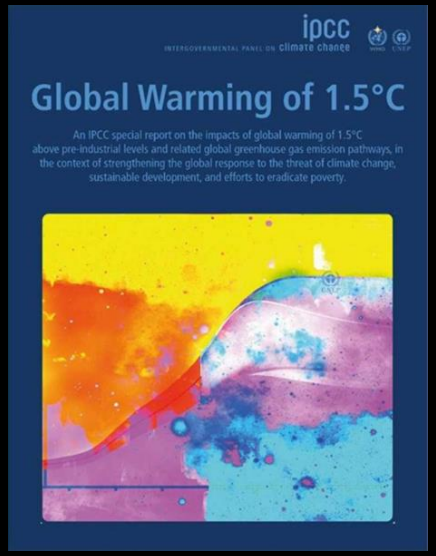
Science for a healthy planet and safer world.

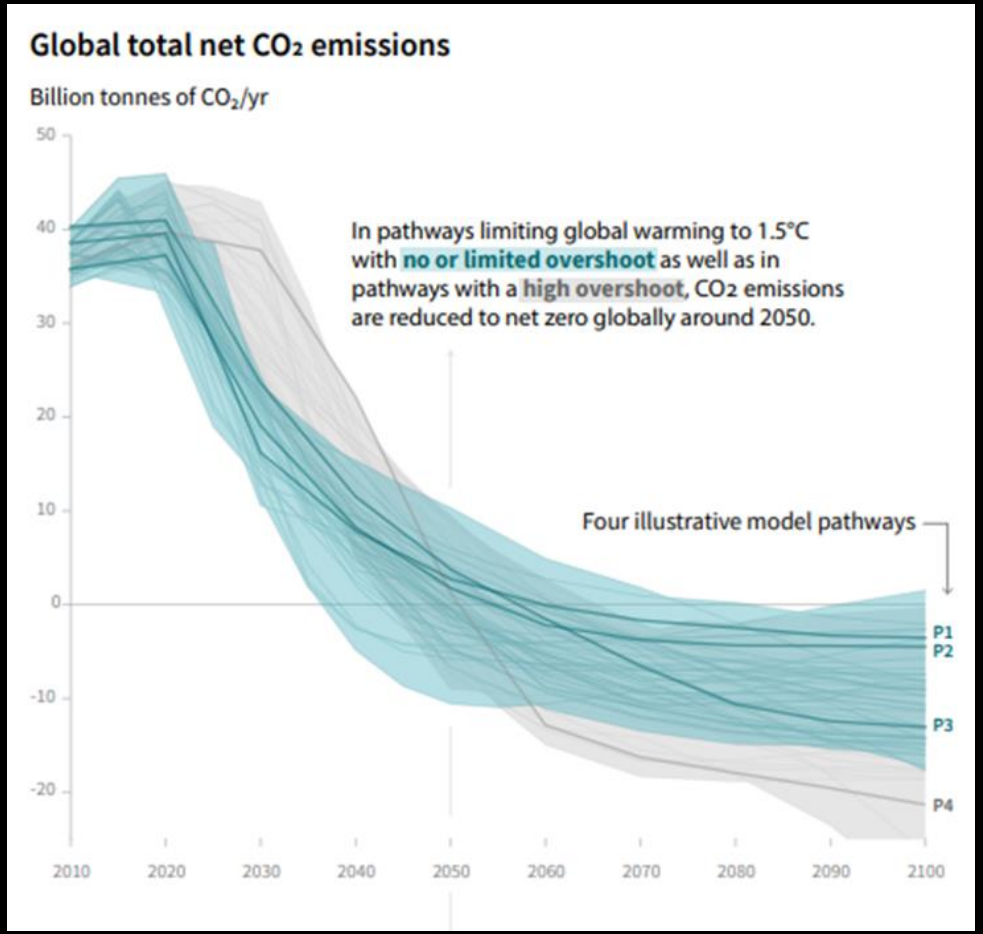
Latest science underscores urgency





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 2nd 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

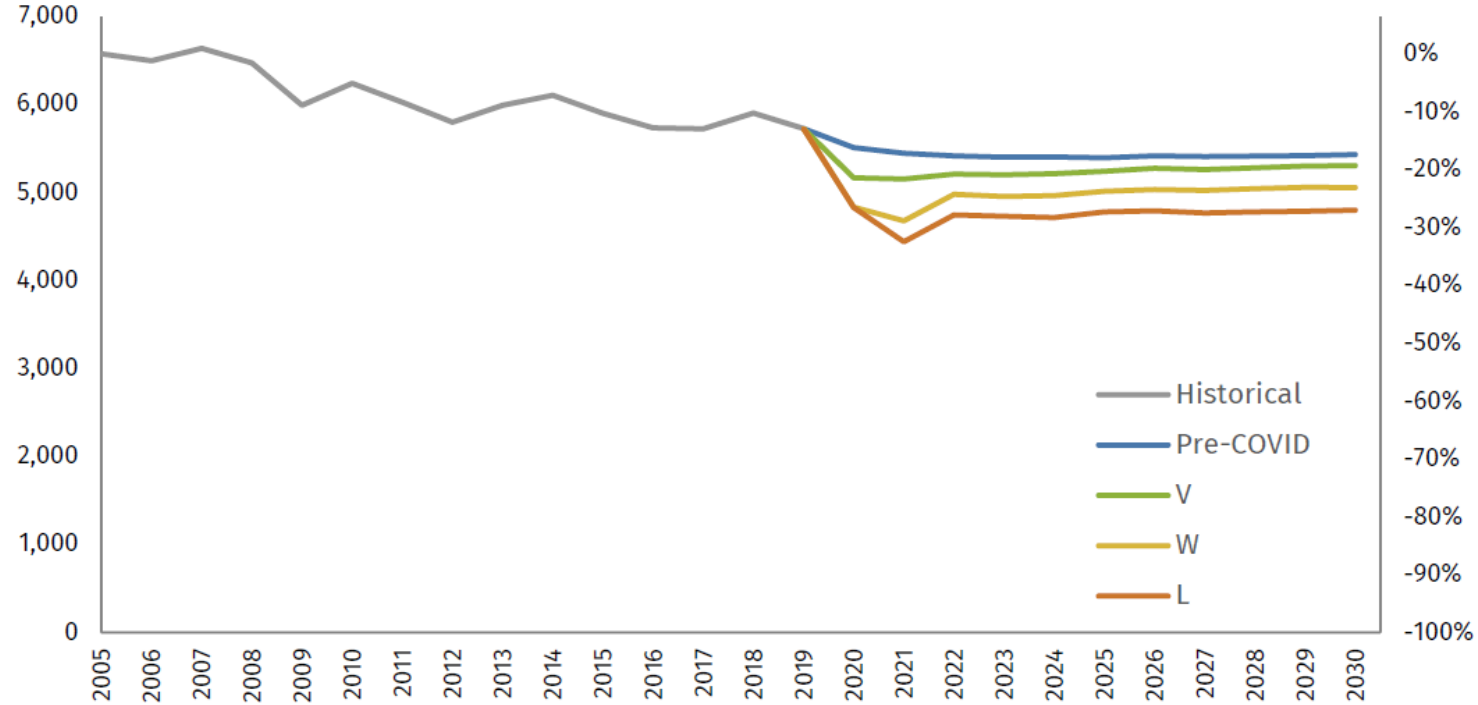
International Climate Action

- 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_2e (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*

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