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”
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
• 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 CO₂e (left), % change from 2005 (right)

Source: Rhodium Climate Service

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