



July 2019

## Committee Announces Bold Plan to Combat Climate Change 100 by 50: Plan to Achieve a 100 percent Clean Economy by 2050 COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & COMMERCE

**The Target:** Energy and Commerce Committee leaders announced a bold new plan to achieve a 100 percent clean economy by 2050. Reaching net zero carbon pollution by 2050 will protect the climate, public health, consumers, and the economy.

- Americans are already feeling [the effects of climate change](#) from extreme floods, raging wildfires, and widespread droughts. These effects will become more frequent and intense as temperatures continue to rise, and they will be felt in every corner of the country. By the end of the century, the skyrocketing costs of natural disasters and economic disruptions could total 10 percent of the U.S. economy.
- Rising temperatures pose an urgent threat to [public health and well-being](#). Reducing carbon pollution will protect human health while strengthening our communities.
- The costs of extreme weather are only increasing. In recent years, the average number of [billion-dollar weather and climate disasters](#) has more than doubled the long-term average. In 2018 alone, the United States experienced 14 separate “billion-dollar disaster events,” altogether costing more than [\\$91 billion](#).

**The Science:** There is broad consensus within the scientific community that we must achieve this target to avoid the most catastrophic effects of climate change.

- The [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) (IPCC) warns that global temperature rise must be limited to 1.5° Celsius to avoid the worst consequences of climate change. Exceeding that threshold would lock in a dangerous new normal – defined by more extreme weather events, food and water insecurity, sea level rise, and habitat loss.
- [According to Dr. Hoesung Lee, Chair of the IPCC, limiting warming to 1.5° Celsius](#) “requires very strong cuts in emissions of greenhouse gases ... so that emissions fall to net zero by 2050.” Hitting that target means balancing the amount of carbon pollution emitted with the amount removed from the atmosphere.
- [Research shows](#) that deep decarbonization is achievable. Many of today’s currently available technologies can take us a long way to meeting this goal, while others will need to be developed.
- The urgent need for climate action has pushed [a growing number of countries](#) to commit to net-zero emissions by 2050. To date, France, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Germany, Japan, and others have either adopted or are considering net-zero goals in response to the climate crisis.

**The Plan:** Committee leaders are launching a collaborative process to develop comprehensive climate legislation. Over the coming months, the Committee will hold a series of hearings and stakeholder meetings on the various components of a deep decarbonization strategy. This will help inform the Committee’s work in developing comprehensive legislation.

- The hearing series begins this week with an Environment and Climate Change Subcommittee hearing on [Pathways for Decarbonizing the U.S. Economy](#). In the coming months, hearings will continue in both the Environment and Climate Change and Energy Subcommittees. Upcoming hearings will include discussions on reducing industrial and transportation emissions, modernizing the electric grid, economy-wide solutions and others.
- The stakeholder meetings will be designed to ensure every affected community, industry and stakeholder has a seat at the table.

August 27, 2019 at 2:01:12 PM

**From:** House Energy & Commerce Committee  
**Subject:** Energy & Commerce Committee Requests Your Input

Greetings:

On July 23, 2019, Democratic leaders of the Committee on Energy and Commerce announced [a bold new plan](#) to achieve a 100 percent clean economy by 2050. Chairman Frank Pallone, Environment and Climate Change Subcommittee Chairman Paul Tonko, and Energy Subcommittee Chairman Bobby L. Rush announced that the Committee would adopt a target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by midcentury to avoid the worst effects of climate change, consistent with the consensus of the global scientific community. You can read more about the announcement [here](#).

To achieve that goal, the Committee will first hold a series of hearings and stakeholder meetings to identify the most promising approaches to deep decarbonization and to ensure that all voices are heard. As part of this process, we also invite the broader stakeholder community – including experts from industry, government, academia, research organizations, and nonprofits – to provide input on key considerations for U.S. climate policy. This process will inform the development of comprehensive climate legislation.

The Committee seeks and would appreciate your input on various questions (listed below) to help guide our process going forward. We ask that you submit responses to any questions of interest by **Friday, September 13, 2019**. Please let us know if you would recommend an alternate contact as the point-person for your organization, and we will update our records accordingly. **Please submit your responses via email to [CleanFuture@mail.house.gov](mailto:CleanFuture@mail.house.gov).**

1. **What are the key policy, regulatory, and market considerations that should inform the development of comprehensive climate legislation? Please provide specifics.**
2. **Please describe any innovative concepts for climate policy design, including both sector-specific and economywide measures, that you believe the Committee should consider.**
3. **If you work in, advise, or are familiar with sectors that are particularly challenging to decarbonize, have you identified any effective (and scalable) solutions that should be included in comprehensive climate legislation?**
4. **If your organization has adopted carbon pollution reduction goals, how have those goals – or your plans to meet those goals – evolved over the last decade?**
5. **If applicable, what actions has your organization already taken, or do you plan to take, to reduce carbon pollution?**
6. **What have been the challenges or barriers to making meaningful carbon pollution reductions, and how have you responded to those challenges or barriers?**
7. **How can the Federal Government assist you in reducing carbon pollution?**
8. **Are there any additional comments or feedback you would like to add?**

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions by email or phone at (202) 225-4407. Thank you very much for your time and input. We look forward to your feedback.

Sincerely,

The House Committee on Energy and Commerce

# REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

The climate crisis already is harming communities across America. The costs and impacts to the United States in the coming decades could exceed hundreds of billions of dollars annually. To limit global warming to no more than 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, global net carbon pollution must fall by roughly 45% below 2010 levels by 2030 and must ultimately reach net zero by mid-century. Developed countries may need to reach this target even sooner.

To meet this aggressive goal, the U.S. government needs to lead an ambitious transition to clean energy and resilience that puts Americans to work, builds a just economy, unleashes American ingenuity, and prepares communities for the impacts of climate change. This transition must involve local, state, and tribal governments, businesses, academic institutions, non-profits, and all residents of the United States, including a rising generation of young people who are demanding climate action now.

The U.S. House of Representatives created the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis to “investigate, study, make findings, and develop recommendations on policies, strategies, and innovations to achieve substantial and permanent reductions in pollution and other activities that contribute to the climate crisis, which will honor our responsibility to be good stewards of the planet for future generations.”

The Select Committee has received recommendations from young climate leaders, policy specialists, business leaders, and state and local officials at meetings and hearings held in Washington, D.C. and around the country. To supplement our ongoing work, the Select Committee is seeking additional detailed input from a broad range of stakeholders.

**To inform the policy recommendations of the Select Committee, please provide responses to the questions below by November 22, 2019 by emailing [ClimateCrisisRFI@mail.house.gov](mailto:ClimateCrisisRFI@mail.house.gov).** *\*This request is optional, and you need only reply to the questions that are relevant to your organization or expertise. Please submit your response as both a Word document and PDF.\**

## Sector-Specific Policies

1. What policies should Congress adopt to decarbonize the following sectors consistent with meeting or exceeding net-zero emissions by mid-century? Where possible, please provide analytical support that demonstrates that the recommended policies achieve the goal.
  - a. Transportation
  - b. Electric power. The Select Committee would like policy ideas across the electricity sector but requests specific comment on two areas:
    - i. If you recommend a Clean Energy Standard, how should it be designed?
    - ii. How can Congress expedite the permitting and siting of high-voltage interstate transmission lines to carry renewable energy to load centers.
  - c. Industry
  - d. Buildings
2. What policies should Congress adopt to ensure that the United States is a leader in innovative manufacturing clean technologies; creating new, family-sustaining jobs in these sectors; and supporting workers during the decarbonization transition?
3. What policies should Congress adopt to ensure that environmental justice is integral to any plan to decarbonize these sectors?

## Cross-Cutting Policies

4. Carbon Pricing:
  - a. What role should carbon pricing play in any national climate action plan to meet or exceed net zero by mid-century, while also minimizing impacts to low- and middle-income families, creating family-sustaining jobs, and advancing

environmental justice? Where possible, please provide analytical support to show that the recommended policies achieve these goals.

b. How could sectoral-specific policies, outlined in questions 1-3, complement a carbon pricing program?

5. Innovation:

a. Where should Congress focus an innovation agenda for climate solutions? Please identify specific areas for federal investment and, where possible, recommend the scale of investment needed to achieve results in research, development and deployment.

b. How can Congress incentivize more public-private partnerships and encourage more private investment in clean energy innovation?

### **Agriculture**

6. What policies should Congress adopt to reduce carbon pollution and other greenhouse gas emissions and maximize carbon storage in agriculture?

7. What policies should Congress adopt to help farmers, ranchers, and natural resource managers adapt to the impacts of climate change?

### **Oceans, Forestry and Public Lands**

8. How should Congress update the laws governing management of federal lands, forests, and oceans to accelerate climate adaptation, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and maximize carbon storage?

### **Non-CO2 Greenhouse Gases**

9. What policies should Congress adopt to reduce emissions of non-CO2 greenhouse gases, including methane, nitrous oxide, and fluorinated gases?

### **Carbon Removal**

10. How can Congress accelerate development and deployment of carbon removal technology to help achieve negative emissions?

### **Resilience and Adaptation**

11. What policies should Congress adopt to help communities become more resilient in response to climate change? The Select Committee welcomes all ideas on resilience and adaptation but requests comments on three specific questions:

a. What adjustments to federal disaster policies should Congress consider to reduce the risks and costs of extreme weather and other effects of climate change that can no longer be avoided?

b. How can Congress better identify and reduce climate risks for front-line communities, including ensuring that low and moderate-income populations and communities that suffer from racial discrimination can effectively grapple with climate change?

c. What standards and codes should Congress consider for the built environment to ensure federally-supported buildings and infrastructure are built to withstand the current and projected effects of climate change?

### **Climate Information Support**

12. Our understanding and response to the climate crisis has relied on U.S. climate observations, monitoring and research, including regular assessment reports such as the National Climate Assessment. What policies should Congress adopt to maintain and expand these efforts in order to support solutions to the climate crisis and provide decisionmakers – and the American people – with the information they need? Where possible, recommend the scale of investment needed to achieve results.

### **International**

13. The climate crisis requires a global response. U.S. leadership is critical for successful global solutions. What policies should Congress adopt to support international action on the climate crisis?

In addition to your responses to any of these questions, please include any other specific policies that you think Congress should adopt to solve the climate crisis and adapt to the impacts of climate change.