



Business Support for Climate Provisions in *Build Back Better* Budget Reconciliation Bill

As businesses deeply concerned about the immediate and long-term impacts of climate change, we strongly support the climate provisions currently outlined in the *Build Back Better* reconciliation package.

These science-based climate provisions will not only make domestic decarbonization possible and provide lower-cost energy to all Americans, they will also create millions of good-paying jobs and encourage more ambition by other nations at COP26, inspiring more aggressive climate policy and action around the world.

Our businesses are trusted brands for millions of consumers. We are committed to leading our industries and the global economy toward one that is compatible with a stable climate and a just future. We are taking bold steps to transform our industries, but without these investments, it will be more difficult — and expensive — for our businesses and the US to achieve our climate goals.

This legislation includes investments that are critical to initiate a decade of transformation to an equitable clean energy economy. These climate provisions represent the far-reaching approach needed to tackle the climate crisis, addressing both sources and sinks of carbon—from electricity to land use—all while supporting the economy, job creation, and justice. **We have the solutions to address the climate crisis, but we must pass policy to make these solutions a reality.**

As prominent business leaders, we urge Congress to:

1. **Create a Clean Electricity Payment Program (CEPP) and clean energy tax incentives** to achieve 80% carbon-free electricity by 2030 and 100% by 2035. Incentivizing private sector investment in clean energy, efficiency, electrification, and climate justice will create high-paying jobs and strengthen U.S. competitiveness in the global energy market. Over the next decade, the CEPP would create 8 million new jobs and \$1 trillion in

economic growth.¹ Expanding clean energy tax credits and providing clean electricity performance payments would also improve air quality and public health: reaching 80% carbon-free electricity by 2030 could result in a 90% reduction in co-pollutants²—which is especially critical for communities of color and low income communities who are often most impacted by the climate crisis and poor air quality.³

- 2. Establish the Civilian Climate Corps (CCC)** to implement much needed conservation and restoration work around the country, supporting critical carbon sinks while also creating jobs and increasing economic opportunities, especially for historically marginalized and underserved communities. The CCC could add at least 200,000 new jobs.⁴ By focusing on racial and gender equity, and including guaranteed living wages and full benefits, this federal funding would also help create the long term economic conditions necessary for climate career pathways, ensuring a sustainable and resilient workforce for generations.
- 3. Direct 40% of investments to frontline communities**—those who are often the most impacted by the climate crisis. Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color, as well as low income communities, disproportionately suffer from the consequences of climate change,⁵ such as increased risk of natural disasters and heatwaves. To address these disparities, the benefits of climate investments must serve frontline communities in mitigating and adapting to climate change, providing renewable energy, public transit, affordable housing, clean water, and more.
- 4. End subsidies for fossil fuel corporations.** The U.S. provides \$20 billion in direct subsidies to the fossil fuel industry each year—which increases to \$649 billion if accounting for the indirect subsidies and environmental costs shouldered by everyday Americans. Eliminating these oil and gas subsidies would provide a viable source of funding for the climate provisions in the reconciliation package. Further, the U.S. has the opportunity to lead the way internationally, by eliminating the remaining economic barriers to carbon-free energy for all. Globally, fossil fuel subsidies amount to \$4.7 trillion dollars (6.3% of global GDP). According to Project Drawdown, we need to invest almost exactly that amount, \$4-5 trillion per year, toward climate solutions to stay below 2° Celsius of warming.

This is the most important climate legislation of our generation. We urge Congress to act in accordance with the scope and scale of the climate crisis. There is no time to lose.

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¹ <https://www.evergreenaction.com/policy-hub/The-CEPP-Delivers-Massive-Job-Creation-and-Economic-Growth.pdf>

² <https://gspp.berkeley.edu/faculty-and-impact/centers/cepp/projects/2030-report-powering-americas-clean-economy>

³ <https://collaborative.evergreenaction.com/policy-hub/100-clean>

⁴ <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/the-avenue/2021/09/15/biden-and-congress-should-go-big-on-a-civilian-climate-corps-to-restore-the-environment-and-provide-good-jobs/>

⁵ <https://psci.princeton.edu/tips/2020/8/15/racial-disparities-and-climate-change>