



Candidate Climate Plan Summary

JOE BIDEN

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Green New Deal is an ambitious policy agenda to tackle the climate crisis, create quality jobs, and promote justice. It has become a core element of many Democrats' platforms in the 2020 Presidential race, with more than half of all candidates endorsing the Green New Deal and widespread, bipartisan support among American voters.

To determine the thoroughness of each candidate's climate platform in addressing the features of the Green New Deal and allow for some basis for comparison, Data For Progress created a Candidate Climate Plan Summary for the debate-eligible Democratic candidates' climate policy proposals to-date. We include on a rolling basis candidates with published presidential campaign plans, rather than public statements or legislative history. Using a rubric of 48 essential Green New Deal components, we identify where each candidate 1) addressed a component with a proposed federal policy or action, 2) acknowledged a component but lacked clear policy details, or 3) did not include a component. We assess only the presence of specific components, but do not evaluate the merits of any particular approach.

If you see something missing from our analysis, please contact Data For Progress via our website.

JOE BIDEN

Has called for a Green New Deal? **YES**

PROPOSALS

- ★ [Joe's Plan for a Clean Energy Revolution and Environmental Justice](#)
- ★ [The Biden Plan for Rural America](#)

Very thorough	JOE BIDEN'S POLICY AGENDA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Addresses 26 of 48 components in our GND rubric ● Acknowledges 9 components
Thorough	
Incomplete	
Very incomplete	

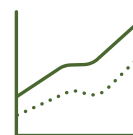
The Biden proposal consists of five policy objectives for domestic and global climate action in line with a 100% clean energy economy by 2050. Key mechanisms for decarbonization include clean procurement and standards for federal buildings, new fuel economy standards and aviation fuel research to reduce transportation emissions, investments in both renewable and non-renewable zero-emission technologies, and conservation of 30% of U.S. lands and waters by 2030. On the adaptation side, Biden promotes training for a new generation of workers to build resilient infrastructure. Biden says that he will push for a global moratorium on drilling in the Arctic, demand a worldwide ban on fossil fuel subsidies, and leverage trade agreements to create international pressure on countries to honor their climate commitments.



\$1.7 trillion
direct federal
investment



10 million jobs
in the clean energy
economy



10 years
to achieve spending
targets

COMMITMENT TO GREEN NEW DEAL PRINCIPLES

The Green New Deal is an ambitious plan for climate action, job creation, and justice.

Joe Biden's climate plan repeatedly invokes the language of environmental justice; two of its five primary objectives are to 1) hold corporate polluters accountable for their impacts, particularly on marginalized communities, and 2) provide a just transition for fossil fuel workers. He proposes a Task Force on Coal and Power Plant Communities, which aims to help these communities access investment, training opportunities, and quality union jobs. Biden promises that frontline communities most impacted by pollution and climate change will be the first to receive federal investments. He calls for increases in vehicle fuel economy standards to continue his Obama-era push, despite a mixed voting history on the issue.

The Biden energy agenda leaves room for fossil fuels alongside emerging technologies such as carbon capture, modular nuclear, and hydrogen. He does not propose a ban on fracking, instead stating his intent to limit methane emissions from natural gas infrastructure, without policy detail. He plans to ban new extraction permits on public lands, Arctic drilling, and fossil fuel subsidies.

USE OF EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY

Data For Progress looked at which components of the candidates' plans invoked the use of executive authority. Executive and legislative pathways each have their own advantages, so this is not meant as a value judgment on the strength of a climate plan.




Biden's climate plan states that, "On day one, Biden will use the full authority of the executive branch to make progress and significantly reduce emissions." In total, we find **13** components of a Green New Deal for which Biden is likely to leverage executive authority, as determined by explicit statements in his plan or Data For Progress analysis. Notable executive orders include:










- ▶ Implementing strict methane standards
- ▶ Requiring low-carbon federal buildings and vehicles
- ▶ Protection of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and other public lands
- ▶ Land and water conservation




















The full range of components addressed with executive authority can be found below.




















HAS JOE BIDEN OUTLINED A POLICY AGENDA THAT ADDRESSES THE KEY COMPONENTS OF THE GREEN NEW DEAL?

We took a look at Joe Biden's official climate plan(s) to determine which components of the Green New Deal he has **Addressed, Acknowledged, or Not Included**. Where obvious, we also reviewed non-climate policies and statements that outline a clear plan to address the Social Safety Net components of the Green New Deal.

-  Plan addresses component with federal policies and actions.
-  Plan acknowledges component but lacks clear policies or actions.
-  Plan does not include component.
- E** Plan leverages executive authority.

Low Carbon Economy	ELECTRICITY SOURCES & EMISSIONS Eliminating emissions from the power sector in the 10-15 year time frame	
	ENERGY SECTOR SOURCES & EMISSIONS Eliminating emissions from the full energy sector in the next 20-30 years	
	ECONOMY-WIDE EMISSIONS TARGET Eliminating emissions from the full economy in the next 30 years, including land use, industry, and waste	
	NON-RENEWABLE CLEAN ENERGY SOURCES The development and use of nuclear, hydrogen, and carbon capture energy technologies	
	CARBON PRICING & SOCIAL COST OF POLLUTION Applying a price to carbon and other pollution either through tax, fee, or cap & trade system	
	ENERGY DEMOCRACY Increasing community ownership of energy generation through more distributed system and cooperatives	
	NATIONAL GRID IMPROVEMENTS Modernizing the national grid to allow for more storage and long-distance transmission of renewable energy	
	ENERGY EFFICIENCY Energy Efficiency through new building, power, and industrial standards, technology, and retrofits	
	ELECTRIC VEHICLES Rapid expansion of zero-emissions vehicles and charging infrastructure	

Low Carbon Economy	TRANSPORTATION EMISSIONS Eliminating emissions from full transportation sector, including aviation, rail, and waterborne	
	PUBLIC INVESTMENT IN INNOVATION & R&D Technology innovation research, development, demonstration, and distribution	
	MOBILIZE CLIMATE FINANCE Create a Green Bank or other fund to deploy public and private capital to achieve a low-carbon economy	
Clean Air and Clean Water	CLEAN AIR National clean air attainment	
	METHANE LEAKAGE & CAPTURE Eliminate emissions from existing oil and gas operations, and capture emissions from waste/wastewater systems	
	REFRIGERANTS AND HIGH-GWP POLLUTANTS Phase-out all remaining high-GWP and ozone-depleting pollutants	
	CARBON REMOVAL Direct air capture and other negative emissions technologies	
	WATER INFRASTRUCTURE National lead pipe removal and water treatment upgrades for universal clean water	
	CLEAN WATER ACCESS Affordable water access and national conservation	
	WATERWAYS PROTECTIONS Expanded protections to national waterways from agricultural and industrial pollution	
	POLLUTER LIABILITY Holding firms civilly or criminally accountable for their current or historical pollution	
Natural and Working Land Restoration	PUBLIC LANDS Moratorium on fossil fuel extraction on public lands	
	REFORESTATION & AFFORESTATION Forest and grassland restoration	
	SENSITIVE LANDS AND BIODIVERSITY Protection for crucial wildlife habitat, biodiversity hotspots, and ecosystem services in U.S. public lands and waters	
	ARCTIC PROTECTION Banning offshore drilling in the Arctic and the ANWR	
	WETLAND RESTORATION Expanded wetland protection and restoration	
	SUSTAINABLE FARMING Incentives and standards for sustainable farming practices with reduced chemical use and more diversification	
	SOIL SEQUESTRATION Incentives and standards to promote soil health for better food, water quality, and carbon storage	
	BROWNFIELDS & HAZARDOUS SITES Remediation of polluted sites to return to natural or economic use	

Sustainable and Resilient Communities	COMMUNITY RESILIENCE Infrastructure and education to improve community resilience to climate related hazards	
	PUBLIC SPACES Increase availability and access to community green spaces and outdoor recreation	
	PUBLIC HEALTH Improving quality of, and access to, health services to address the public health impacts of climate change	
	URBAN LAND USE & MOBILITY Reduce sprawl and vehicle travel by improving range, frequency, speed, safety, and affordability of mobility	
	ZERO WASTE Eliminate as much landfilling as possible through material waste reduction, reuse, and recycling	
Job Creation and Economic Development	JUST TRANSITION Targeting support to industries and communities affected by the transition away from fossil fuels	
	JOB GUARANTEE Ensuring anyone who wants a good job can have one supporting public projects	
	WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING Education, training, and certification for good jobs required in the economy	
	JOB QUALITY STANDARDS Labor protections, minimum wages, and collective bargaining rights for all jobs	
	LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT Targeted investment to grow jobs particularly in marginalized and frontline communities	
Social Safety Net*	ANTITRUST Returning fairness to the economy by breaking up monopolies across various industries	
	ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL JUSTICE STANDARDS Ensuring all government actions, programs, and project abide by standard of fairness and equity	
	SOVEREIGNTY RIGHTS & INDIGENOUS LANDS Respecting and strengthening the rights of indigenous peoples for the use of their historical lands	
	BASIC INCOME PROGRAMS Guaranteeing a basic level of income to provide for basic needs - food, housing, transportation	
	UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE Guaranteeing access to affordable healthcare for all and affirmation of health care as a human right	
	PUBLIC BANKS Using the US Postal Service or other entity to provide accessible and affordable banking to the economically vulnerable	
	AFFORDABLE HOUSING Solving the shortage of accessible, transit-connect, and affordable through financing, new construction, and policies	
International Leadership	EDUCATION AND SCHOOL INVESTMENT Funding infrastructure repair and upgrades for schools, investing in STEM education, climate and environment education programs	
	GLOBAL GREEN NEW DEAL Forming an international agreement or body to advance sustainable economy policy globally	
	INTERNATIONAL TRADE Using the power of trade to incentivize other countries to reduce carbon emissions and other pollution	