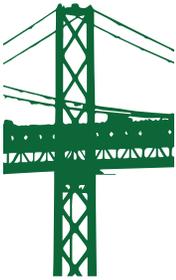


July 15, 2020

## Joe Biden's plan for clean energy and environmental justice

Joe Biden's "Build Back Better" plan would invest \$2 trillion to set the U.S. on a path to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, which Biden says will "create millions of good-paying jobs that provide workers with the choice to join a union and bargain collectively with their employers." The plan aims to first benefit communities that have suffered the most from pollution, including low-income rural and urban communities, communities of color and Native American communities.

### Key goals



#### INFRASTRUCTURE

*Rebuild and upgrade roads, bridges, green spaces, transit networks, rail, ports, water systems, electricity grids and make broadband accessible for all Americans.*

- Support transportation powered by electricity and clean fuels.
- Ensure that municipalities of more than 100,000 people have quality public transportation by 2030.
- Provide flexible federal investments with strong labor protections.
- Repair water pipelines and sewer systems, replace lead service pipes, upgrade sewage treatment plants, integrate efficiency and water quality monitoring.
- Clean up and redevelop brownfields, old power plants and industrial facilities, landfills and abandoned mines..



#### BUILDINGS

*Cut the carbon footprint of buildings in half by 2035.*

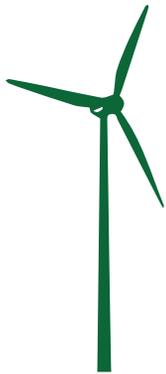
- Upgrade 4 million buildings; weatherize 2 million homes over 4 years.
- Establish cash rebates and low-cost financing to upgrade and electrify home appliances and install more efficient windows.
- Spur construction of 1.5 million sustainable housing units.
- Set building performance standards for existing buildings.
- Provide new funding mechanisms for states, cities and tribes to adopt strict building codes and labor standards.
- Modernize schools and early learning facilities, with resources weighted to lower-income rural and urban schools.
- Increase level of federal investment in new affordable, energy efficient, accessible housing.
- Incentivize regional planning that connects housing, transit and jobs, to cut commute times, reduce distance between living and leisure, and mitigate climate change.



#### AUTO INDUSTRY

*Become the global leader in manufacture of electric vehicles.*

- Buy clean vehicles for government, tribal and postal fleets.
- Establish consumer rebates for swapping old, less-efficient vehicles for new American vehicles.
- Provide incentives for manufacturers to assemble zero-emission vehicles, parts and associated infrastructure in the U.S.
- Construct 500,000 electric vehicle charging stations.
- Accelerate research on battery technology and production.
- Establish zero-emission goal for all new buses by 2030.
- Set ambitious fuel economy standards.



#### POWER SECTOR

*Achieve carbon pollution-free power sector by 2035.*

- Invest in energy efficiency, clean energy, new battery storage and electrical systems that make it easier to electrify transportation.
- Reform and extend the tax incentives for energy efficiency and clean energy jobs.
- Develop financing mechanisms that leverage private sector dollars to maximize investment in clean energy.
- Establish a technology-neutral Energy Efficiency and Clean Electricity Standard (EECES) for utilities and grid operators.
- Add renewable credits for developers following high labor standards.
- Install millions of solar panels, including utility-scale, rooftop and community solar systems.
- Add tens of thousands of wind turbines, onshore and offshore.
- Leverage existing non-carbon energy sources, such as nuclear and hydropower.
- Cut red tape to promote quicker permitting.
- Support investment and research into carbon capture and sequestration technologies.
- Ensure access to green hydrogen at the same cost as conventional hydrogen within a decade.



## INNOVATION

*Drive cost reductions in clean energy technologies: battery storage, negative emissions technology, next-generation building materials, renewable hydrogen and advanced nuclear.*

- Increase federal procurement of clean energy inputs, such as batteries and electric vehicles, by \$400 billion.
- Accelerate R&D investment to focus on clean energy, clean transportation, clean industrial processes and clean materials.
- Establish Advanced Research Projects Agency on Climate, a cross-agency ARPA-C exploring clean energy technologies.
- Promote grid-scale storage.
- Support smaller, safer and more efficient nuclear reactors.
- Develop refrigerants with no global warming potential.
- Pursue zero-net-energy buildings with breakthroughs in smart materials, appliances and systems management.
- Develop technologies using renewables to produce carbon-free hydrogen at a lower cost than hydrogen from shale gas.
- Support research in decarbonizing industrial, agricultural and construction processes.
- Accelerate innovation in clean energy supply chains, addressing issues such as reliance on rare earth minerals.
- Invest in national laboratories and their high-performance computing capabilities.
- Strengthen land-grant universities, historically black colleges and universities, and other minority serving institutions.



## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

*Make environmental justice a key consideration when developing communities.*

- Ensure that disadvantaged communities receive 40 percent of benefits when deploying clean energy, energy efficiency, clean transportation, affordable and sustainable housing, training and workforce development, remediation and reduction of legacy pollution and development of critical clean water infrastructure.
- Directly fund investments across federal agencies aimed at eliminating legacy pollution — especially in disadvantaged communities.
- Deploy a data-driven climate and economic justice screening tool to identify communities under environmental stress.
- Prioritize climate change strategies and technologies that reduce traditional air pollution in disadvantaged communities.
- Establish a new Environmental and Climate Justice Division within the Justice Department.
- Hold polluters accountable.



## AGRICULTURE AND CONSERVATION

*Promote climate-smart agriculture, resilience and conservation.*

- Invest in the next generation of agriculture, making it easier to pass farms and ranches onto the next generation.
- Provide low-cost finance for new technologies that increase agricultural productivity and profit.
- Establish a new voluntary carbon farming market that rewards farmers for carbon sequestration and emissions reductions.
- Repair irrigation systems to conserve water.
- Design smarter, pro-worker, pro-family-farmer trade policies.
- Leverage precision agriculture through regional demonstration projects to minimize the impacts of drought.
- End USDA historical discrimination against Black farmers in federal farm programs.
- Expand protections for farm workers; provide legal status based on prior farm work history; ensure labor and safety rules.
- Plug abandoned oil and natural gas wells; reclaim abandoned coal, hardrock and uranium mines.
- Resurrect the Civilian Climate Corps to conserve public lands, bolster community resilience and address a changing climate.
- Sustainably manage forests, making them more resilient to wildfire while enhancing their carbon intake and habitat integrity.
- Restore wetlands to protect clean water supplies and provide greater flood protection.
- Plant millions of trees to help reduce heat stress in urban areas.
- Protect and restore coastal ecosystems, such as wetlands, seagrasses, oyster reefs, mangroves and kelp forests, to protect vulnerable coastlines, sequester carbon, and support biodiversity and fisheries.
- Remove invasive species; improve wildlife corridors.
- Address backlog of remediation, reclamation and restoration needs left behind by negligent corporations.

Source: Biden campaign

By Patterson Clark, POLITICO Pro DataPoint