

How to Talk about Climate?

Facts to know when writing about the climate crisis

100% Clean Economy

Setting a national goal to achieve a 100% clean economy by 2050 will help us to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. While some climate change plans only address the utility sector, a 100% clean plan requires net-zero emissions across the whole U.S. economy—including transportation, manufacturing, and energy production. This ambitious goal is driven by science, and it gives businesses and regulators flexibility to deploy effective policies while recognizing that there isn't a single solution to solve one of the greatest threats we face.



To achieve a 100% clean economy, we must replace climate-polluting sources of energy with clean energy. But in addition to transforming our energy grid, we must also remove climate pollution from the atmosphere by incentivizing carbon capture and storage, restoring forests, and utilizing the latest carbon removal technologies. The goal is to produce no more climate pollution than we can remove by 2050 – and ambitious but achievable transition period.

Rep. Donald McEachin will introduce legislation this fall to push for a 100% clean economy. The cosponsors include business-oriented moderates, members of the Progressive Caucus, union allies, and Congressional Black Caucus members. The House Energy and Commerce Committee announced last month that they are prioritizing 100% clean as a top legislative priority moving forward, meaning they will focus their hearings and utilize their resources identifying the best pathways to achieve this bold goal. We believe this will set the stage for 100% clean to be a top priority for the next administration.

The U.S. has successfully engaged with the world's greatest threats before. Now it is time to take on the climate crisis with an ambitious and bipartisan solution. That starts with 100% clean – the energy that America needs.

Trump Rollbacks

Clean Power Plan – The Trump Administration is attempting to roll back America's landmark Clean Power Plan and replace it with a do-nothing rule that could result in more air pollution from coal-fired power plants in many states. President Trump is calling this the Affordable Clean Energy Rule but it is neither affordable or clean, which is why EDF and 10 other environmental organizations are suing the EPA for this disastrous action. The Clean

Power Plan established America's first and only nationwide limit on carbon pollution from existing power plants. It would reduce climate pollution to 36 percent below 2005 levels by 2030 and would reduce deadly soot and smog.



Clean Cars – The Trump Administration is actively fighting to roll back America's clean car standards and allow auto manufacturers to build less fuel-efficient, more-polluting vehicles. Despite these dangerous efforts from the Trump Administration, four major automakers and the state of California are working together to establish better standards. Their leadership puts us on the road to a world that's safer and healthier, with cleaner air and less climate pollution. Their push will help us transition to zero-emitting vehicles while saving Americans hard-earned money at the gas pump.

Paris Climate Agreement – After nations from around the world worked together on a bold climate goal, President Trump has said he will withdraw the United States from this historic accord. Not only did this decision by the President take a step backward on climate action, but it ceded the United States' climate leadership role in the world to other nations.

IPCC

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) – the world's leading climate scientists – have sounded the alarm: we must rapidly act to prevent the worst impacts of climate change.

Inaction is no longer an option. We are running out of time to accelerate the transition to a 100% clean economy that will help prevent the worst impacts of climate change.

The IPCC report identifies many ways that the climate crisis is already impacting communities across the world. It is exacerbating underlying vulnerabilities, causing economic damage to infrastructure and property, and disrupting social and commercial systems that are critical to our way of life. Without bold climate action, the world's food security is at risk, as well as access to clean drinking water.

Although mitigation and adaptation efforts have increased in recent years, the IPCC report indicates that we have not approached the scale of action needed to avoid permanent damage caused by climate change. The report creates the unambiguous imperative to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and build resilience to the climate impacts we cannot avoid, while also transitioning to clean sources of energy across all sectors of our economy.

What we do now will shape the planet we pass on to our children and future generations. Safeguarding the climate will take a major national and international commitment. That's why we urgently need policies that limit the pollution we add to the atmosphere while fostering technology and innovation.