

It's time to Power Up, Arizona

Arizona and our country have been living through particularly difficult times. As the incoming administration and Congress consider how to contain the coronavirus, get our economy back on track and address environmental injustice, they have a chance to make some big changes that are long overdue.

We can create good jobs in Arizona by addressing the nation's biggest sources of climate pollution. We can power up the economy and make our air safer to breathe by building clean trucks, buses, cars and clean energy.



Investing in clean power and a newer, cleaner transportation system will build up our manufacturing base, make American businesses more competitive, preserve our water resources and save thousands of lives through pollution reductions. With concerted outreach and coordination, cleaning up these sectors has the potential to bring significant public health benefits to frontline communities where the burden of pollution falls heaviest.

We need 100% clean electric power by 2035, all new cars to be zero polluting by 2035, and all new trucks and buses to be zero polluting by 2040.

We're seeing momentum for clean energy, clean transportation and climate action in Arizona:

- The predominantly Republican Arizona Corporation Commission [approved](#) clean-energy rules that will require utility companies to provide 100% carbon-free energy by 2050.
- Lucid Motors [built](#) an electric vehicle manufacturing facility outside Phoenix and will eventually total \$700 million in investments and hire up to [4,000 workers](#).
- The city of Tucson has received a [grant](#) to purchase and use electric buses.
- Before the pandemic, over [43,000 Arizonans worked in energy efficiency](#) and [over 7,500 in solar power](#).
- Microsoft [continues](#) to expand operations in the state with efficient, solar-powered data centers.
- Arizona Public Service (APS) [purchased](#) 200 megawatts of wind energy to help achieve their goal of [100% carbon-free](#) electricity by 2050.
- 78% of Arizona [voters](#) say passing legislation to address climate change should be a priority for the U.S

Climate change is not a distant threat. It's already impacting Arizona's economy, our forests, our infrastructure and our health. We're seeing **record-breaking heat**, with over 140 days above 100 degrees in Phoenix in 2020; **prolonged and worsening drought**, which the state has been in for half of the past 20 years and has been directly tied to climate change and directly impacts the state's water supply; and **three times more wildfires** annually than in the 1970s, with thousands more acres burned.

If we don't act, things will get much worse. By 2050 in Arizona the severity of summer drought is expected to triple; heatwaves will continue to increase, including in Phoenix which would see up to 147 days per year with a heat index over 105 degrees; nearly a third of the year is projected to be high wildfire potential days, which is over a month more than today, and air quality will decline, including in Maricopa County, where air quality [already receives](#) failing grades.

We can rebuild our economy and create healthier communities by modernizing our transportation and power sectors. But to reach our goals and transform these sectors we need Congress to act.