

Climate Change - Colorado is on the Frontlines

We need a 100% clean economy and that starts right here in Colorado.

Climate change is not a distant threat. It's impacting Colorado's economy, our forests and our health. The number of fires burning annually in Colorado has **more than quadrupled**, with **30 times more acres burned** in the last decade, compared to the 1970s. The number of summer days above 95 degrees in Denver has **doubled** since the 1970s. Low snowfall years are [already costing](#) the state economy hundreds of millions of dollars.



If we don't act, things will get [much worse](#). By 2050 in Colorado the number of **dangerous heat days** is projected to increase by 50% and **drought**, including from a continued decline in snowpack, is **expected to triple in severity** compared to today. **Air quality will decline**, including in the [five Colorado counties](#) whose air already received a failing grade in 2019. Across the Southwest U.S. the **frequency of large fires could triple**.

100% Clean is 100% Achievable. If we're serious about beating climate change, we need to be fully committed to a **100% clean economy**. The U.S. must stop adding climate pollution to the atmosphere -- producing no more climate pollution than we can remove by 2050. **It's an ambitious goal. But it's achievable if we start now. There's no time to waste.**

Colorado legislation is a model for the country toward a clean and equitable future. In 2019 the state passed historic economy-wide legislation requiring the development of regulations to reduce carbon emissions 26% below 2005 levels by 2025, 50% by 2030, and 90% by 2050-- with a goal of achieving net-zero emissions by midcentury. The new statute also specified that state officials should seek to equitably share benefits from these policies, and related legislation also included requirements for transition plans for electric generation plants that close to help assure those workers aren't left behind.

We're already seeing clean energy success on the ground across Colorado:

- The state produces enough wind energy to power [over 900,000 homes](#)
- Colorado was the first state to set comprehensive rules to reduce oil and gas methane pollution and has cut emissions while the economy continued to thrive.
- The cleantech industry in the state, which includes National Renewable Energy Laboratory and many private companies, provides an [estimated \\$4 billion](#) in economic impact to Colorado's economy.

But Colorado can't solve climate change on its own. We bold action from Congress to create a 100% clean economy across the country.

Here's what you can do to help grow a 100% clean economy:

Contact your elected officials: They need to know you support a 100% clean economy.

Join EDF at edf.org/signup: We'll help you get involved.

Talk to your employer: Check out Defend Our Future's [guide](#) to corporate engagement to find out how your voice can be the tipping point that helps companies raise their ambition on climate.

Host an event: Get your friends together and spread the word. Check out this [guide](#)