

Climate Change - Pennsylvania is on the Frontlines

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

Climate change is not a distant threat. It's impacting Pennsylvania's economy, business infrastructure, and health. Compared to 1970, the state is more than 2 degrees Fahrenheit **hotter** on average. Philadelphia has experienced a **360% increase in heavy downpours** since 1950, the 3rd most of any U.S. city. Pittsburgh experiences more than five additional days above 90 degrees compared to 1970.

If we don't act, things will get much worse. By mid-century:

- The number of extremely dangerous **heat days observed in Pennsylvania is projected to triple** and the **number of heat wave days may increase 5x**.
- The inland flood threat may increase by roughly 40%, one of the 10 greatest in the U.S.
- The coastal flood risk is expected to **almost double**, putting an additional 6,000 people at risk of a 100-year flood.
- Air quality will decline, including in Allegheny, Bucks, and Montgomery counties whose air already received a failing grade in 2019.



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.**

Across the United States, we're already making progress. Solar power in the U.S. is nearly 90% cheaper than it was a decade ago. Wind power is almost 70% cheaper. Electricity from renewables is now cheaper than power from 75% of U.S. coal plants. Strategies to remove climate pollution are gaining ground. More than 4 million Americans already work in wind, solar, energy efficiency and other clean energy jobs. More Americans work in solar alone than in coal and oil and gas powered electricity generation combined.

We're seeing clean energy success in Pennsylvania:

- More than 90,000 Pennsylvanians currently work in clean energy, 60% increase since 2014. The state now ranks 11th in the U.S. for clean energy jobs.
- Philadelphia has committed to moving to 100% clean energy by 2050. Pittsburgh has committed to 100% clean energy by 2035.
- The Philadelphia Energy Authority -- an independent city authority -- has pledged \$1 billion over 10 years to drive clean energy and energy efficiency projects and create 10,000 jobs.
- Pennsylvania is a leader in wind energy-related manufacturing, with at least 30 manufacturing facilities producing components for the wind industry. Right now, there are also 24 wind projects operating in the state, providing enough energy to power almost 350,000 homes.

But Pennsylvania, and America, have a long way to go. As climate pollution continues to increase, we need bold action from Congress to create a 100% clean economy.

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

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

Join Defend Our Future at defendourfuture.org: 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.

Hold an event: Get your friends together and spread the word. Check out this guide to learn more.