



FACT SHEET:

What Is the Civilian Climate Corps?

The United States faces a series of overlapping crises—climate change, economic inequality, racial injustice, a pandemic, and more. Responding to big challenges requires bold governance.

The Civilian Climate Corps (CCC) is an ambitious and bold program that would put Americans to work tackling the biggest challenges to build a better future. The CCC that Evergreen envisions would deploy hundreds of thousands of members in communities around the country, handling projects reducing carbon pollution, restoring public lands, and empowering the communities most vulnerable to climate change.

The Moment: Why a Civilian Climate Corps?



The climate crisis threatens lives and livelihoods. But it also presents an opportunity to put millions of people to work building a just and sustainable clean energy economy. By deploying hundreds of thousands of Americans to engage in this critical work, an ambitious CCC would train a generation of climate leaders, kickstart the climate workforce mobilization, and devote resources to support historically underserved frontline communities.

According to [polling](#) from Data for Progress, 77% of all likely voters, across party lines, support the creation of a new Civilian Climate Corps, and the program has been central to progressive climate advocacy in 2021.

After Sunrise Movement members [trekked hundreds of miles](#) and [staged sit-ins](#) outside the White House to build national public support for a CCC, Senate Democrats' have included the creation of the Civilian Climate Corps in their \$3.5 trillion budget resolution.

The Work: What Will Corpsmembers Do?

Evergreen has laid out a plan to build the Civilian Climate Corps. This new CCC could be built through (1) grant programs to existing state and local corps programs, (2) re-orienting existing federal corps programs to focus more directly on climate, and (3) building a brand new, centralized, and highly visible federal government employment program.

The Corps should take an expansive approach to climate action, tackling projects including:

- Clearing brush and debris to mitigate wildfires
- Retrofitting homes for energy efficiency and climate resilience
- Collaborating with local governments to develop climate action plans
- Distributing aid in the wake of natural disasters
- Restoring coastal wetlands to buffer hurricanes and storm surges
- And much more

The new Civilian Climate Corps is about more than climate action: it would be a force for climate justice, and an entry point to lasting careers in the clean economy for hundreds of thousands of Americans.

The Impact: Why a Climate Corps Is Good for Communities

The new CCC must actively advance environmental and racial justice, dedicating unprecedented resources to the underserved communities most vulnerable to climate impacts. In particular, the Corps should direct 50% of its investments into frontline environmental justice communities, hire 50% of its applicants from those same places, and actively engage local stakeholders in project development.

Climate Corps members should also receive the financial support and benefits that allow them to thrive. They should be paid a living wage, receive healthcare and childcare support, and get training that sets them up for stable careers in the clean economy. Corps branches should forge relationships with unions and local employers to build pre-apprenticeship programs and create clear pathways to long-term employment. And corpsmembers who pursue postsecondary education at a public institution—whether a university, community college, technical school, or elsewhere—should also be eligible to receive full tuition reimbursement after their term of service.

Download the full report

We've laid out a specific roadmap for the Biden administration and Congress to create the Civilian Climate Corps and put hundreds of thousands of people to work building a thriving and just clean energy future.

evergreenaction.com/climatecorps