



## FACT SHEET:

# What Is a Clean Electricity Standard?

## The Problem

The U.S. must quickly and dramatically reduce the greenhouse gas pollution that is driving the climate crisis. Our electricity sector (i.e. coal and gas power plants) is the second-biggest contributor to U.S. greenhouse gas pollution, just behind the transportation sector.

But it's not just a climate imperative—cleaning up our electricity system provides an opportunity to recharge our economy and create millions of good-paying jobs. It is also an opportunity to address ongoing injustices, by transitioning away from polluting fossil fuel infrastructure that's poisoning our communities.

## The Solution

In order to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, our top priority has to be to clean up our electricity sector. And we have to do it fast. **A Clean Electricity Standard (CES) is the best way to do that.**

A CES essentially says, "We are going to have X% clean, carbon-free power by this date." It requires utilities—the companies that generate and sell electricity—to start making investment decisions that align with that goal.

During the 2020 presidential campaign, Jay Inslee and Elizabeth Warren ran on a 100% Clean Electricity Standard by the year 2035. And later, so did now-President Joe Biden. Biden's plan would totally eliminate carbon pollution from our electricity sector over the next 14 years.

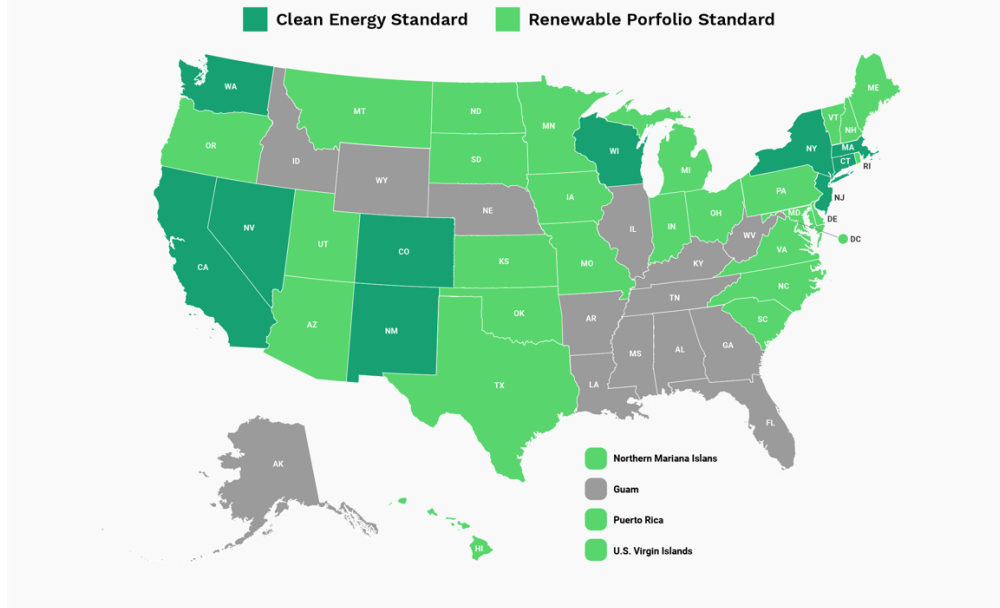
## It's More than Just Electricity, Too

A CES is a really transformative idea, especially once you realize it's not just about the electricity sector itself. We can power huge portions of our economy with clean electricity—transportation, our homes, even heavy industry. But that plan only works if the electricity we use to power it all is generated by clean electricity and not fossil fuels.

In that way, transitioning to 100% clean electricity is the key to decarbonizing the vast majority of our economy. In fact, it could help us cut between 70 and 80% of our carbon pollution. That's huge!

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# Renewable and Clean Energy Standards



## Proven, Popular, and Practical

- A CES has been **proven** in states—since the early 1980s, 30 states, Washington DC, and three U.S. territories have implemented CES-like policies that require utilities to increase their use of renewable or carbon-free electricity. And 16 states are now committed to 100% carbon pollution-free power. These state policies have been critical to our nation’s climate progress and have helped grow clean energy industries that now employ over three million Americans—more than three times more than work in fossil fuel industries.
- A CES is **popular**—according to polling from Data for Progress, two-thirds of voters in support of transforming the nation’s power grid by 2035 to reduce pollution and address the climate crisis.
- A CES is **practical**—driving huge job growth while removing deadly pollution from fossil fuels (especially in disadvantaged communities).

## Download the full report

We’ve laid out a specific roadmap for the Biden administration and Congress to pass a Clean Electricity Standard. We can achieve 100% carbon-free power by 2035.

[evergreenaction.com/100clean](https://evergreenaction.com/100clean)