



To: Interested Parties

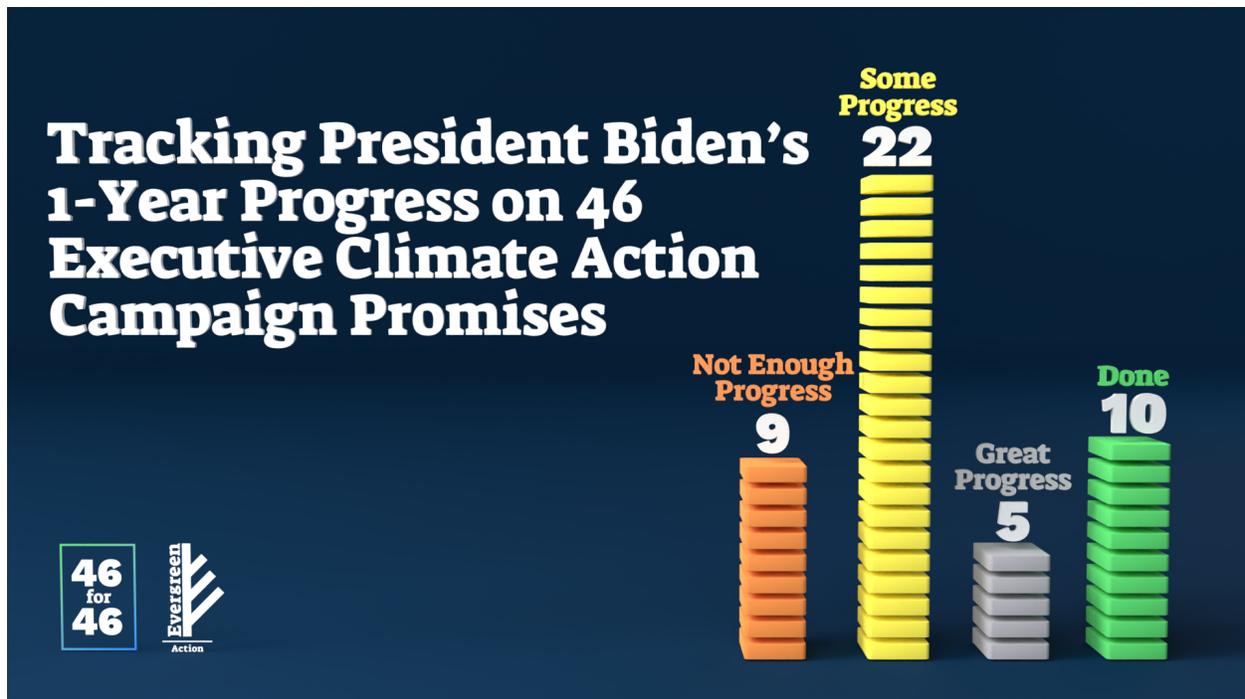
From: Lena Moffitt, Evergreen Actions Campaigns Director & Trevor Dolan, Evergreen Action Communications and Policy Research Manager

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**RE: One Year In: Tracking President Biden’s Progress on 46 Executive Climate Action Campaign Promises**

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President Joe Biden ran and won on the most comprehensive climate agenda of any presidential nominee in U.S. history—and pledged a suite of executive actions to leverage existing authorities to enact bold climate action. After Biden secured the presidency, Evergreen Action catalogued those [46 campaign climate commitments](#) and has been tracking the administration’s progress on each of them ever since.

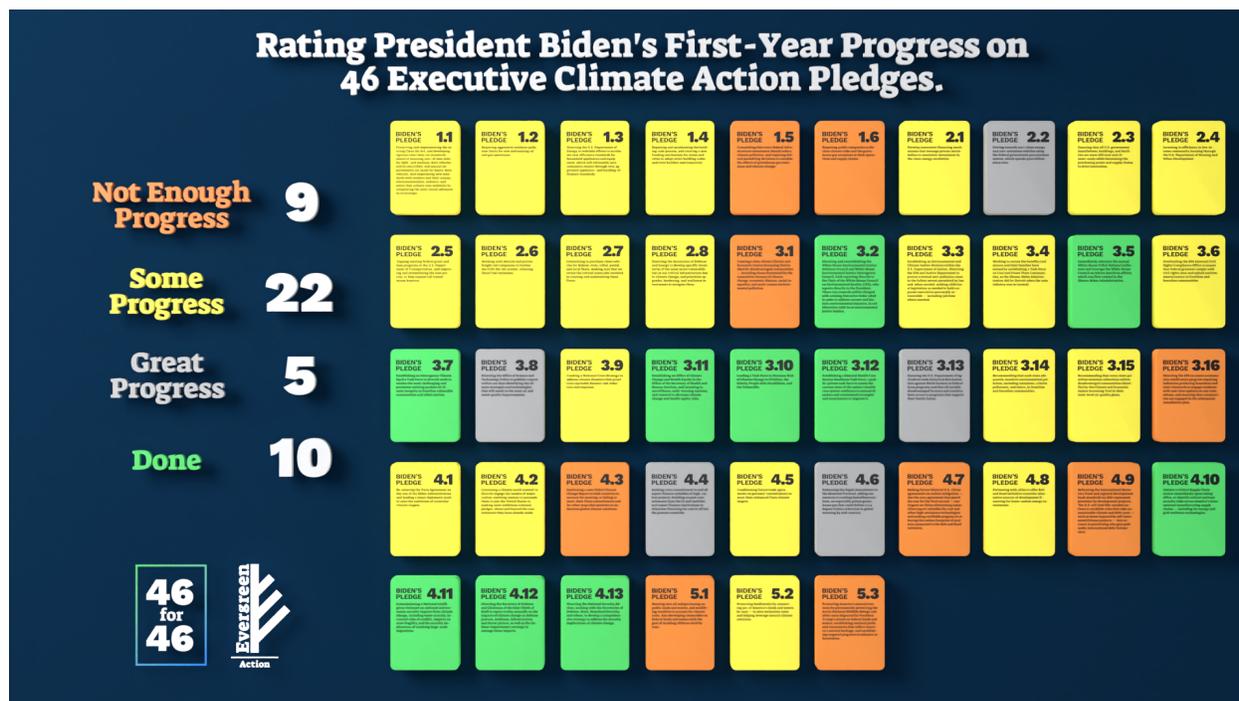


**One year into the Biden presidency, we ran the numbers. While the administration has made visible progress on these 46 campaign commitments, the White House has not gone far enough fast enough to tackle the mounting climate crisis.** To truly fulfill his visionary climate goals, President Biden *must* ramp up his climate executive action ambition in the second year of his presidency—above and beyond the commitments laid out here, which are only the foundation of a bold presidential climate

agenda—and secure passage of the transformational climate investments in the Build Back Better Act.

The first year of the Biden presidency has been marked by unprecedented climate disasters. [More than 40% of Americans](#) live in counties hit by climate disasters in 2021, and the cost of climate-fueled extreme weather events is [taking a greater economic toll than ever before](#). Defeating the climate crisis has never been more urgent—and the American people are [demanding bold action](#). And as he enters the second year of his presidency, Joe Biden must be prepared to accelerate climate progress through executive action and deliver historic climate investments through legislation. Without both, it won't be possible to deliver on the bold climate agenda for which a historic 81 million Americans voted in 2020.

## By The Numbers: Climate Executive Action In Year One



President Biden [pledged](#) an all-of-government response to the climate crisis. His first year has shown a commitment to that vision, but his administration has not gone far enough fast enough. There have been notable successes, like the White House's embrace of the all-of-government approach, which has been backed up by strong steps like the [Federal Sustainability Executive Order](#) that empowers federal agencies



to lead by example and leverage their purchasing power to drive the clean energy transition. The administration has also taken important regulatory action including rules to [drive down emissions from hydrofluorocarbons](#) and [boost fuel economy standards](#). But the White House has suffered too many delays and disappointments, like holding [the largest offshore oil and gas lease sale in U.S. history](#) after pledging to ban new lease sales on public lands and waters.

In his first year in office, President Biden made “great progress” on 5 of his campaign climate executive action commitments, where his administration moved quickly to take ambitious executive action on his pledges. He made “some progress” on 22 commitments, where the White House has taken some notable and promising steps toward fulfilling the commitment, but is still falling well short of completion. There are 9 commitments rated “not enough progress”—where work has begun, but we have not seen nearly enough from the administration to consider them on track to fulfill this commitment.

The administration has also fulfilled its campaign promises on 10 climate executive action commitments, but the completed commitments are largely discrete actions like forming a commission or issuing a report. While these steps do achieve a “done” rating in our analysis, the true potential for impact will come from the remaining work of these task forces and committees, which will require ongoing attention over the coming years.

The most important climate commitment that President Biden made in 2021 was that the U.S. would reduce its greenhouse gas pollution by 50% below 2005 levels by 2030. This commitment is an essential contribution to the global effort to limit planetary warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius, in order to avoid the worst impacts of the climate crisis. Importantly, this commitment requires the Biden Administration to take actions that go beyond the 46 commitments catalogued in this list. And 2022 will be a pivotal year for executive action on climate.

# Evergreen's Analysis: Tracking Climate Executive Action Point-By-Point

## Setting Standards to Cut Greenhouse Gas Pollution



- 1. Preserving and implementing the existing Clean Air Act, and developing rigorous new clean car standards aimed at ensuring 100% of new sales for light- and medium-duty vehicles will be electrified, and annual improvements are made for heavy-duty vehicles. And negotiating new standards with workers and their unions, environmentalists, industry, and states that achieve new ambition by integrating the most recent advances in technology.**

### ● **Some Progress**

Biden made his biggest clean car play at the end of 2021, with new [fuel economy and vehicle emissions standards](#) that would raise mileage standards to reach a projected industry-wide target of 40 miles per gallon by 2026. That's 25% higher than the Trump standard, and even more ambitious than EPA's initial proposal in August. But it's just the start. This year, the Biden Administration must use post-2026 rules to advance

toward the goal of 100% electrification for new light- and medium-duty vehicles, and the administration can do more to support workers in the transition to EVs. Build Back Better's EV tax credits, which push manufacturers to create good union jobs, will be critical to that final piece. Finally, the Biden administration must promulgate rigorous new standards that reduce pollution from heavy-duty vehicles, and the White House must utilize the Clean Air Act to make progress reducing greenhouse gas pollution in other sectors of the economy—notably the power sector, in particular.

## **2. Requiring aggressive methane pollution limits for new and existing oil and gas operations.**

### ● ***Some Progress***

The administration has taken important steps here: in November 2021, the EPA [proposed a rule](#) that would cut 41 million tons of methane pollution from new and existing oil and gas operations from 2023 to 2035, after President Biden [signed a repeal](#) of Trump-era methane regulation rollbacks. The US also [launched](#) the Global Methane Pledge, with over 100 partner nations committing to cut economy-wide methane pollution by 30% by 2030. However, we're still waiting on DOI's updated standard limiting methane waste from oil and gas extraction on public lands, and it will be months before EPA finalizes its newly proposed rule. Meanwhile, the administration's [hands-off response](#) to the liquefied natural gas (LNG) boom is antithetical to deep methane emissions cuts, and the president must do more to limit the growth of these fossil fuel exports and the correlated increase in domestic gas production.

## **3. Directing the U.S. Department of Energy to redouble efforts to accelerate new efficiency standards for fossil-fuel and electrical appliances, including lighting equipment. These updates will ultimately save consumers money, lower carbon emissions, and make achieving a 100% clean energy easier.**

### ● ***Some Progress***

DOE is [proactively working](#) on new efficiency standards, but it is not moving quickly enough. Though the agency [has filed](#) more than 50 notices for standards updates in the Federal Register, the administration [missed](#) important year-end deadlines to roll back Trump-era efficiency standards, and DOE has yet to finalize a key Process Rule that would move the new standards along.



**4. Repairing and accelerating the building code process, and creating a new funding mechanism for states and cities to adopt strict building codes and train builders and inspectors.**

● ***Some Progress***

DOE has made some moves toward implementing more ambitious building codes, [including](#) new building energy code determinations, increased technical assistance, and workforce training. The Build Back Better Act will support that work with \$300 million in funding to help states and counties adopt the latest building energy code and zero-energy building codes. When funding is approved, DOE should prioritize issuing funding to states and county governments.

**5. Committing that every federal infrastructure investment should reduce climate pollution, and requiring federal permitting decisions to consider the effects of greenhouse gas emissions and climate change.**

● ***Not Enough Progress***

The administration is lagging on this point. While the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) has [reversed](#) the Trump Administration's efforts to weaken the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA), new draft rules must be finalized, and a stronger directive must be provided to federal agencies to fully consider climate change in their environmental review processes. And, although the Bureau of Land Management now [includes](#) an emissions analysis and the social cost of greenhouse gases in its fossil fuel permitting decisions, advocates [have criticized](#) its lax methodology. The Biden administration has tentatively set the social cost of carbon at \$51/ton—a number [widely criticized](#) as seriously underestimating carbon pollution's true cost—but [has yet to](#) make a final determination. And the administration's [massive](#) Gulf lease sale, and [support](#) for the Line 3 tar sands pipeline and numerous other fossil fuel projects, demonstrate a concerning disregard for the significant impacts of these projects.

**6. Requiring public companies to disclose climate risks and the greenhouse gas emissions in their operations and supply chains.**

● ***Not Enough Progress***

The Financial Stability and Oversight Council released a [notable report](#) calling for climate disclosure rules, and the Treasury Department has [begun to investigate](#)

sector-specific disclosures. But the SEC overshot a year-end deadline for a [promised disclosure rule](#), and we have yet to see anything beyond nonbinding recommendations from financial regulators in the Biden administration.

## Investing in the Clean Energy Economy



### 7. Develop innovative financing mechanisms that leverage private sector dollars to maximize investment in the clean energy revolution.

#### ● **Some Progress**

DOE's new Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations, [funded](#) with \$20 billion from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, presents a promising opportunity for action on this pledge. DOE's Loan Programs Office has also been [making strides](#) to finance innovative clean energy projects. But the climate investments in the Build Back Better Act are the critical missing piece here; Biden can't fully make good on this pledge without BBBA's [Clean Energy Accelerator](#), which would provide new financing for a wide range of clean infrastructure projects.



## **8. Driving towards 100% clean energy and zero-emissions vehicles using the federal government procurement system, which spends \$500 billion every year.**

### ● **Great Progress**

The Biden administration has consistently prioritized clean energy and zero-emissions vehicles in federal procurement. The president's [recent executive order](#) laid out ambitious goals for clean procurement, including moving all federal operations to run on carbon-free electricity by 2030, and ending the purchase of gas-powered vehicles by 2035. DOE is now [providing resources](#) to other agencies interested in building out their EV fleet. The General Services Administration has reported [solid progress](#) on federal EV purchasing to date, and issued a [request for comment](#) on a rule dealing with climate considerations in federal procurement. However, in order to fully realize this vision, President Biden and Congress must finalize the bold clean energy procurement funding in the Build Back Better Act.

## **9. Ensuring that all U.S. government installations, buildings, and facilities are more efficient and climate-ready while harnessing the purchasing power and supply chains to drive innovation.**

### ● **Some Progress**

The administration took a promising step forward on this commitment in May 2021, when CEQ [announced](#) that they were developing a performance standards system for federal buildings that "will establish metrics, targets, and tracking methods to reach federal carbon emissions goals." But 7 months after CEQ's first announcement, the White House has yet to release a draft of the standards. Beyond the proposed building performance standard, President Biden made progress towards this goal in his December 2021 [executive order](#) that directed all federal buildings to reach net-zero emissions by 2045 and established the goal of reducing greenhouse gas pollution by 50% by 2032. To achieve this long term goal, President Biden and Congress must ensure the \$500 million in funding dedicated to federal building improvements is included in the final version of the Build Back Better Act.

## **10. Investing in efficiency in low-income community housing through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).**

### ● **Some Progress**



HUD's climate adaptation plan includes [some measures](#) for investing in efficiency in low-income community housing, and their \$5 million lead hazard reduction and weatherization [demonstration program](#) is a small, but notable, sign that efficiency and resilience in low-income housing are on the Department's agenda. But this progress is only preliminary, and HUD needs to dedicate more resources toward retrofitting low-income community housing for efficiency and resilience. In order to fully realize this vision, President Biden and Congress must secure the [more than](#) \$2 billion allocated to electrify and improve the efficiency of HUD housing in the Build Back Better Act.

**11. Tapping existing federal grant and loan programs at the U.S. Department of Transportation, and improving and streamlining the loan process, to help expand rail transit across America.**

● ***Some Progress***

The Department of Transportation (USDOT) has taken a few steps forward here, including [financing significant loans](#) for rail projects and [releasing guidance](#) for transit-oriented development project financing. The [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#) signed by President Biden also commits historic funding, \$66 and \$108 billion respectively, for [rail](#) and [transit infrastructure](#).

**12. Working with Amtrak and private freight rail companies to further electrify the rail system, reducing diesel fuel emissions.**

● ***Some Progress***

From 2021 to 2024, Amtrak [is adding](#) 75 new hybrid diesel-electric locomotives to its fleet, a step forward for its electrification goals. The \$66 billion in [rail funding](#) in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will also prove critical here, and USDOT must prioritize electrification as it disburses rail investments. Secretary Buttigieg's [commitment](#) to electrification and emissions reductions is a promising signal on this front.

**13. Committing to purchase clean vehicles for federal, state, tribal, postal, and local fleets, making sure that we retain the critical union jobs involved in running and maintaining these fleets.**

● ***Some Progress***



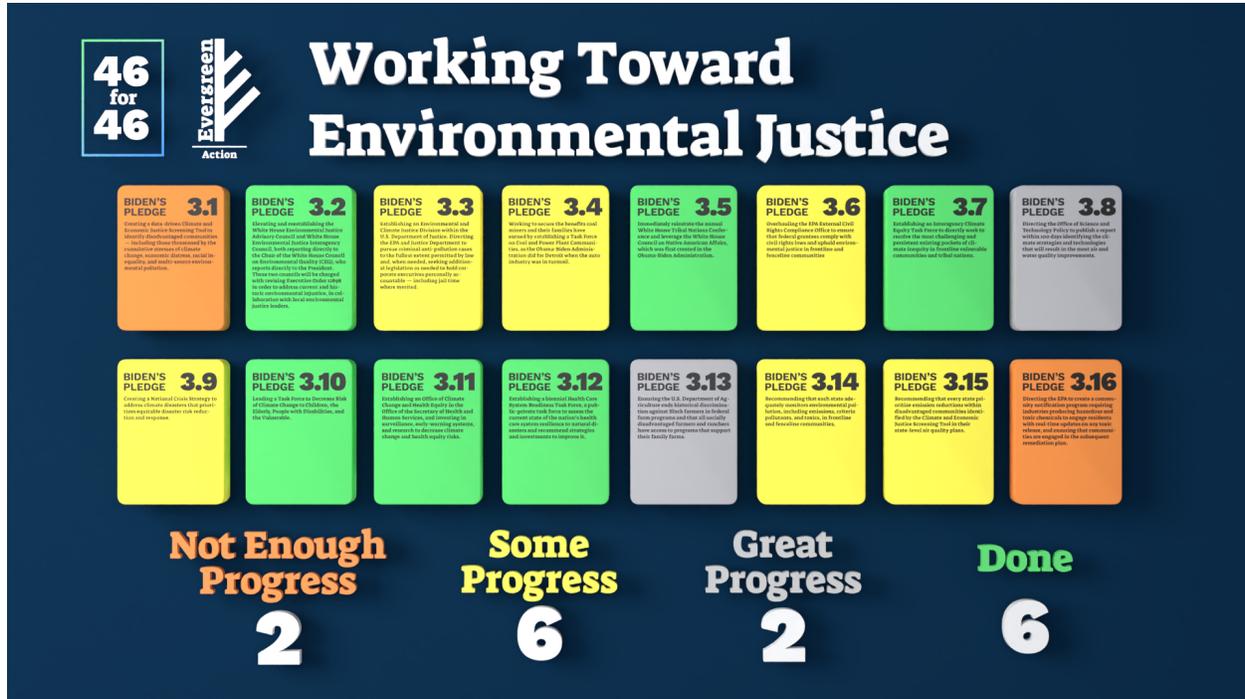
President Biden has prioritized clean vehicle procurement for the federal fleet. His [December 2021 executive order](#) put the federal government on track to end the purchase of gas-powered vehicles by 2035. DOE is now [providing resources](#) to other agencies interested in building out their EV fleet, and the General Services Administration has reported [solid progress](#) on federal EV purchasing to date. But there remains room for improvement, most notably with the [new postal fleet](#) that should be entirely converted to operate with electric drivetrains, and the pressing need for the climate investments in the Build Back Better Act that will allow President Biden to make good on these targets.

**14. Directing the Secretaries of Defense and Energy to develop specific inventories of the most acute vulnerabilities in our critical infrastructure due to climate change, and prioritize upgrades, hardening, and resilience investments to mitigate them.**

● ***Some Progress***

Though the administration hasn't released these specific inventories, they have made progress in identifying acute climate vulnerabilities. Defense Secretary Austin [said](#) that the military will "include the security implications of climate change in our risk analyses, strategy development, and planning guidance." The Pentagon will also incorporate climate analysis into its National Defense Strategy, and, in October, DOD [released](#) a formal Climate Risk Analysis. However, it's unclear whether the Department's [focus on resiliency](#) includes critical non-military infrastructure, and whether it has engaged at all with DOE analysts.

## Working toward Environmental Justice



**15. Creating a data-driven Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool to identify disadvantaged communities — including those threatened by the cumulative stresses of climate change, economic distress, racial inequality, and multi-source environmental pollution.**

**● Not Enough Progress**

After meaningful progress over the spring and summer, the administration’s efforts to create the Screening Tool have stalled. In May, the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council [issued recommendations](#) for the Screening Tool; in July, OMB’s [interim guidance](#) on the administration’s Justice40 commitment noted that the tool was a work in progress. But the White House [has now missed](#) their end-of-year deadline for 2021, and it is unclear when the Screening Tool will be released. In addition, funding proposed in the Build Back Better Act for the tool still needs to get over the finish line.

**16. Elevating and reestablishing the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council and White House Environmental Justice Interagency Council, both reporting directly to the Chair of the White House Council on Environmental**

**Quality (CEQ), who reports directly to the President. These two councils will be charged with revising Executive Order 12898 in order to address current and historic environmental injustice, in collaboration with local environmental justice leaders.**

● **Done**

President Biden’s Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad, signed his first week in office, [established](#) both of these bodies.

**17. Establishing an Environmental and Climate Justice Division within the U.S. Department of Justice. Directing the EPA and Justice Department to pursue criminal anti-pollution cases to the fullest extent permitted by law and, when needed, seeking additional legislation as needed to hold corporate executives personally accountable — including jail time where merited.**

● **Some Progress**

President Biden’s Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad [directed](#) the Department of Justice (DOJ) to develop a “comprehensive environmental justice enforcement strategy,” and to consider adding an office within its Environmental and Natural Resources Division to coordinate EJ-related activities in the DOJ and States Attorneys’ Offices. Though DOJ [has yet](#) to create that office or release a comprehensive strategy, it has made real progress on EJ enforcement, including a [landmark EJ investigation](#) in Alabama, [new resources](#) for victims of environmental crimes, and [withdrawing](#) a Trump-era document that limited enforcement against polluters. But on some key issues, DOJ has failed to advance environmental justice—most notably in [throwing its support](#) behind Enbridge, against the protest of Indigenous groups, in the Line 3 pipeline fight.

**18. Working to secure the benefits coal miners and their families have earned by establishing a Task Force on Coal and Power Plant Communities, as the Obama-Biden Administration did for Detroit when the auto industry was in turmoil.**

● **Some Progress**

President Biden’s Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad [established](#) the Interagency Working Group on Coal and Power Plant Communities and Economic Revitalization, an important first step in the effort to secure benefits for



coal miners and their families. The Working Group released an [initial report](#) indicating that the administration has already begun mobilizing federal dollars for energy communities, including [\\$33.5 million](#) through the Department of Commerce's Assistance to Coal Communities program, [\\$19.5 million](#) for sustainable critical mineral extraction from coal and associated waste streams, [\\$152 million](#) for abandoned mine reclamation, and [\\$55 million](#) through the Appalachian Regional Commission. The Build Back Better Act's climate provisions would deliver further critical funding for former fossil fuel communities, [including](#) \$2 billion for Dislocated Worker State Grants, \$480 million for the Department of Commerce to provide assistance to energy and industrial transition communities, and a key revenue-generating excise tax to [support](#) the Black Lung Disability Trust Fund.

**19. Immediately reinstate the annual White House Tribal Nations Conference and leverage the White House Council on Native American Affairs, which was first created in the Obama-Biden Administration.**

● **Done**

DOI [resumed](#) the White House Council on Native American Affairs, and the White House [reinstated](#) the annual Tribal Nations Conference.

**20. Overhauling the EPA External Civil Rights Compliance Office to ensure that federal grantees comply with civil rights laws and uphold environmental justice in frontline and fenceline communities**

● **Some Progress**

EPA recently [announced](#) an ongoing "revamp" of the External Civil Rights Compliance Office that will make investigations and enforcement "more rigorous." EPA also brought on a [leading critic](#) of their Title VI enforcement as a deputy general counsel, a good sign of the agency's interest in internal reforms.

**21. Establishing an Interagency Climate Equity Task Force to directly work to resolve the most challenging and persistent existing pockets of climate inequity in frontline vulnerable communities and tribal nations.**

● **Done**

President Biden's Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad [established](#) this Task Force.

**22. Directing the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) to publish a report within 100 days identifying the climate strategies and technologies that will result in the most air and water quality improvements.**

● **Great Progress**

Though the OSTP has not yet published this report, it has made climate a central focus over the first year of President Biden's term. The Office dramatically built out its climate policymaking capacity with two new climate-focused Divisions—the [Climate and Environment Division](#) and the [Energy Division](#). It has also made several other climate-related moves, including [releasing](#) a plan to address Arctic climate warming, [elevating](#) Indigenous knowledge in federal policy making decisions, and [publishing](#) a report on climate science communications.

**23. Creating a National Crisis Strategy to address climate disasters that prioritizes equitable disaster risk reduction and response.**

● **Some Progress**

While no such strategy has been made publicly available, the Biden administration has taken some steps to prioritize equitable climate disaster response. Those include [changes](#) to FEMA policy on aid eligibility, [billions of dollars](#) for new resilience investments, and [resources](#) dedicated to the intersection of climate change and natural disaster.

**24. Leading a Task Force to Decrease Risk of Climate Change to Children, the Elderly, People with Disabilities, and the Vulnerable.**

● **Done**

President Biden's Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad [established](#) this Task Force.

**25. Establishing an Office of Climate Change and Health Equity in the Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and investing in surveillance, early-warning systems, and research to decrease climate change and health equity risks.**

● **Done**



President Biden’s Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad [established](#) this Office.

**26. Establishing a biennial Health Care System Readiness Task Force, a public-private task force to assess the current state of the nation’s health care system resilience to natural disasters and recommend strategies and investments to improve it.**

● **Done**

President Biden’s Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad [established](#) this Task Force.

**27. Ensuring the U.S. Department of Agriculture ends historical discrimination against Black farmers in federal farm programs and that all socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers have access to programs that support their family farms.**

● **Great Progress**

The American Rescue Plan [included](#) \$4 billion in debt forgiveness for socially disadvantaged farmers—the “[most significant legislation for Black farmers](#)” since the Civil Rights Act. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack [expressed](#) a strong interest in getting that relief to Black farmers as quickly as possible, but lawsuits from white farmers have [so far](#) prevented that progress. USDA has pursued other means of providing support to underserved farmers, including [programs](#) meant to break down historic barriers to aid, but those efforts cannot replace direct relief to Black farmers. The Build Back Better Act [includes](#) a USDA grant program that would provide additional assistance of up to \$500,000 for farmers who have experienced past USDA discrimination; as court battles over ARP funding drag on, it is critical that Congress pass that funding into law as soon as possible.

**28. Recommending that each state adequately monitors environmental pollution, including emissions, criteria pollutants, and toxics, in frontline and fenceline communities.**

● **Some Progress**

EPA has proactively addressed this need with [two buckets](#) of funding from the American Rescue Plan, totaling \$70 million, for community air pollution monitoring. The agency is also making [resources](#) available to help grantees access these dollars. But that funding level cannot ensure that states adequately monitor environmental



pollution in vulnerable communities. The Build Back Better Act can and must fill this gap with [an additional](#) \$265 million toward pollution monitoring, and EPA must follow through with guidance and funding oversight to ensure those funds directly serve vulnerable frontline communities.

**29. Recommending that every state prioritize emission reductions within disadvantaged communities identified by the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool in their state-level air quality plans.**

● ***Some Progress***

This commitment hinges on the completion of the Screening Tool, which [remains in development](#)—after missing the end-of-year deadline set by the White House. The administration has made [some progress](#) on the tool, but Biden cannot make good on this pledge until his administration fully deploys its analytical resources for disadvantaged communities across the country.

**30. Directing the EPA to create a community notification program requiring industries producing hazardous and toxic chemicals to engage residents with real-time updates on any toxic release, and ensuring that communities are engaged in the subsequent remediation plan.**

● ***Not Enough Progress***

President Biden's Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad [directed](#) EPA to "create a community notification program to monitor and provide real-time data to the public on current environmental pollution, including emissions, criteria pollutants, and toxins, in frontline and fenceline communities." That order would rely on a national monitoring system informed by the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool, which [remains in progress](#)—after missing the end-of-year deadline set by the White House. Without visible progress on a new community notification program, and delayed progress on the Screening Tool, this pledge remains largely unfulfilled.

## Elevating Climate Action in International Policy



### 31. Re-entering the Paris Agreement on day one of the Biden Administration and leading a major diplomatic push to raise the ambitions of countries' climate targets.

#### ● Some Progress

President Biden [rejoined](#) the Paris Agreement in early 2021, reviving America's presence on the international climate stage. Ahead of the international climate talks in Glasgow, the US [committed](#) to slashing its greenhouse gas pollution in half by 2030 below 2005 levels and hitting net-zero emissions by mid-century. At COP26, the US joined major economies in the diplomatic push to raise the ambition of climate targets, co-leading, for example, the [Global Methane Pledge](#). Now, Congress must show the world that we can meet our own greenhouse gas reductions target—by passing the Build Back Better Act—and use this legitimacy to encourage other countries to also increase their climate target ambition.

### 32. Convening a climate world summit to directly engage the leaders of major carbon-emitting nations to persuade them to join the United States in making

**more ambitious national pledges, above and beyond the commitments they have already made.**

● **Some Progress**

President Biden convened 40 world leaders during a virtual [Leaders Summit on Climate](#) in April 2021, during which the president unveiled America's ambitious new climate targets. But more progress must be made to raise the ambition of national pledges across the globe. Current policies in place today will amount to [2.7C degrees of catastrophic heating](#) by 2100. And even if countries achieve the national pledges they made at COP26 for the near-term target of 2030, we can still expect [2.4C degrees](#) of life-altering climate change. Ahead of COP27, the US must continue to encourage major economies to raise the ambition of their national pledges.

**33. Instituting a new Global Climate Change Report to hold countries to account for meeting, or failing to meet, their Paris commitments and for other steps that promote or undermine global climate solutions.**

● **Not Enough Progress**

The Biden administration hasn't publicly released a Global Climate Change Report, and there's no indication that the White House is otherwise formally tracking other countries' emissions. But President Biden has begun to make good on the spirit of this pledge by launching the [Global Climate Ambition Initiative](#) and the [Greening Government Initiative](#), both of which will help ensure international accountability to the Paris Agreement. The initiatives are only just getting underway—USAID [recently](#) set new targets to support the Global climate Ambition Initiative, and the Greening Government Initiative [released](#) a list of inaugural member countries in November—but they are promising steps toward international U.S. leadership on climate. The true test of that leadership rests on whether the Administration can successfully push Congress to pass the climate investments in the Build Back Better Act, which are key to meeting our climate commitments.

**34. Seeking a G20 commitment to end all export finance subsidies of high-carbon projects, building on past commitments from the G7 and multilateral export finance institutions to eliminate financing for coal in all but the poorest countries.**

● **Great Progress**



At COP26, the Biden administration [committed](#) "to stop financing fossil fuel projects abroad by the end of next year." They earned some support from G20 countries though, [per E&E News](#), they "failed to attract every nation in the Group of 20, meaning some of the biggest financiers of fossil fuels, including Japan, South Korea and China, could continue building oil and gas infrastructure abroad."

### **35. Conditioning future trade agreements on partners' commitments to meet their enhanced Paris climate targets.**

#### **● Some Progress**

US Trade Representative Katherine Tai [expressed early interest](#) in incorporating climate considerations in trade policy and trade agreements. And, in one transformative example of this commitment in practice, the US and EU [negotiated](#) a historic carbon-based sectoral trade arrangement on steel and aluminum trade. Nonetheless, more progress is needed here, including incorporation of enhanced Paris climate commitments as a condition in US bilateral and multilateral trade agreements.

### **36. Embracing the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, adding momentum to curbing hydrofluorocarbons, an especially potent greenhouse gas that could deliver a 0.5 degree Celsius reduction in global warming by mid-century.**

#### **● Great Progress**

The Biden administration deserves credit for early and decisive action in confronting hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) climate super-pollutants, which hold [hundreds to thousands](#) of times greater global warming potential than carbon dioxide. At home, the EPA has finalized [strong rules](#) to reduce HFCs, and are now going further in a [phasedown](#) of these pollutants. President Biden has also [directed](#) the State Department to initiate the process of ratifying the Kigali Amendment. In November, President Biden [submitted](#) the treaty amendment to the Senate.

### **37. Making future bilateral U.S.-China agreements on carbon mitigation — like the 2014 agreement that paved the way for the Paris accord — contingent on China eliminating unjustified export subsidies for coal and other high-emissions technologies and making verifiable progress in reducing the carbon footprint of projects connected to the Belt and Road Initiative.**

#### **● Not Enough Progress**

The US signed a largely symbolic [joint declaration](#) with China at COP26 in Glasgow with the aim of working “individually, jointly, and with other countries” to enhance climate action this decade. Although China committed to “[phasing down coal consumption](#),” this climate declaration was not contingent on China eliminating unjustified export subsidies for coal and other high-emissions technologies – or making verifiable progress in cutting the carbon footprint of projects tied to the Belt and Road Initiative.

### **38. Partnering with allies to offer Belt and Road Initiative countries alternative sources of development financing for lower-carbon energy investments.**

#### **● Some Progress**

The Belt and Road Initiative, an infrastructure development strategy by the Chinese government, [raised concern](#) among climate advocates for its use of polluting energy sources like coal. Now, G7 countries [are partnering](#) on the early stages of a US-led [alternative](#) to the Belt and Road Initiative. This alternative would “involve raising hundreds of billions in public and private money to help close a [\\$40tn infrastructure gap](#) in needy countries by 2035.”

### **39. Reforming the International Monetary Fund and regional development bank standards on debt repayment priorities for development projects. The U.S. will lead an effort to establish rules that take unsustainable climate and debt costs into account in prioritizing who gets paid under international debt forbearance.**

#### **● Not Enough Progress**

In the leadup to President Biden’s April 2021 international climate summit, the [New York Times](#) noted that his administration “said it would use its voice in international financial institutions, like the World Bank, to align debt relief with the goals of the Paris climate agreement, though it hasn’t yet detailed what that means.” The White House’s [International Climate Finance Plan](#) notably omits any mention of debt forbearance. It is unclear whether the administration has made progress on this pledge beyond reaffirming their commitment to climate-oriented debt relief.

### **40. Initiating a Critical Supply Chain review immediately upon taking office, to identify critical national security risks across America’s international manufacturing supply chains — including for energy and grid resilience technologies.**

#### **● Done**

The administration has [released the results](#) of a critical supply chain review that directly addresses supply chains for clean technology, including advanced batteries, grid storage, and electric vehicles.

**41. Commissioning a National Intelligence Estimate on national and economic security impacts from climate change, including water scarcity, increased risks of conflict, impacts on state fragility, and the security implications of resulting large-scale migrations**

● **Done**

The White House [released](#) this National Intelligence Estimate in October 2021.

**42. Directing the Secretary of Defense and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to report to him annually on the impacts of climate change on defense posture, readiness, infrastructure, and threat picture, as well as the Defense Department's strategy to manage those impacts.**

● **Done**

President Biden [issued](#) the directive for this annual report, starting in January 2022, in his Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad.

**43. Directing the National Security Advisor, working with the Secretaries of Defense, State, Homeland Security, and others, to develop a comprehensive strategy to address the security implications of climate change.**

● **Done**

Though President Biden's Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad [didn't single out](#) the National Security Advisor to develop a comprehensive strategy, it did direct the National Security Council to take the lead in addressing the security implications of climate change. Members of the NSC have since [released a suite](#) of strategy documents on the subject, including the [National Intelligence Estimate](#), a Department of Defense [Climate Risk Analysis](#), and a [strategic framework](#) from the Department of Homeland Security.

## Focusing on Conservation



#### 44. Banning new oil and gas leasing on public lands and waters, and modifying royalties to account for climate costs. Also developing renewables on federal lands and waters with the goal of doubling offshore wind by 2030.

##### ● *Not Enough Progress*

The Biden administration needs to do more here. When the White House announced a [temporary pause](#) in new federal oil and gas leasing, it was swiftly challenged by a Louisiana court. Now, the administration is [appealing](#) the preliminary injunction – while still greenlighting “[carbon bomb](#)” leases.

The Department of Interior’s long-awaited [report](#) on oil and gas leasing on public lands and waters, [commissioned](#) in President Biden’s Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad, has also fallen short. While the report endorsed increasing royalty rates for competitive leases, it stopped short of recommending a rate that would reflect the true toll of climate change. It also stopped far short of endorsing even the end goal of ramping down fossil fuel extraction from public lands and waters, despite earlier ambition to this effect. The Bureau of Ocean Energy



Management (BOEM) deserves recognition, though, for promising progress [with plans](#) to hold seven offshore wind lease sales by 2025.

#### **45. Protecting biodiversity by conserving 30% of America’s lands and waters by 2030 – to slow extinction rates and helping leverage natural climate solutions**

##### **● Some Progress**

Having signed a “[30 by 30](#)” pledge his first week in office, President Biden has committed to prioritizing conservation and restoration. Most notably, his administration [restored protections](#) to Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante and [moved to protect Chaco Canyon](#) in New Mexico. The administration also released the [Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful](#) report, which was developed in conjunction with Departments of Interior, Agriculture and Commerce and the White House Council on Environmental Quality. However, while these reports and withdrawals indicate strong intention, the continued expansion of oil and gas extraction on public lands will significantly hinder progress towards protecting 30% of lands and waters by 2030.

#### **46. Protecting America’s natural treasures by permanently protecting the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and other areas impacted by President Trump’s attack on federal lands and waters, establishing national parks and monuments that reflect America’s natural heritage, and establishing targeted programs to enhance reforestation.**

##### **● Not Enough Progress**

Sustained organizing by Indigenous, frontline, and grassroots activists has won some movement on this point. In addition to [temporarily halting oil activity](#) in Alaska’s Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the Biden administration has proposed [additional protections](#) for the Tongass National Forest. Biden also rolled back Trump-era downsizing for [Bears Ears](#) and [Grand Staircase-Escalante](#), [restored](#) Northeast Canyons and Seamounts as national monuments, and [initiated protections](#) for Chaco Canyon in New Mexico.

But grave problems persist. On the heels of COP26, the Biden administration [greenlit](#) the largest lease sale ever in federal waters, unleashing fossil fuel extraction that is [clearly incompatible](#) with a safe and liveable climate. Meanwhile, Alaska’s Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Chaco Canyon, and others must be permanently



protected—the Build Back Better Act [includes critical funding](#) necessary for President Biden to make good on this pledge.

## What's Next

Even while more aggressive executive action is essential, executive action alone will not adequately address the climate crisis—the U.S. [cannot meet](#) its emissions reductions targets without the \$555 billion for climate in the Build Back Better Act. Many of those investments are also prerequisites for making good on the president's commitments to executive action; the White House cannot fully leverage private sector investment in clean energy without BBBA's clean energy tax credits, for example. For a successful all-of-government mobilization against the climate crisis, we will need both executive and legislative action working in concert.

This is President Biden's moment to lead. He has laid out a vision for bold climate action; to achieve it, he must pass the climate investments in the Build Back Better Act and use every presidential tool at his disposal—above and beyond the commitments laid out here. The American people, and the planet, cannot afford further delay.