# 1. USA

## 1.1 Past Acts

(**Democrats**) Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990

**(Democrats) Senate approves U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change.** The process of designing a global agreement to tackle climate change began in the early 1990s. In 1992, President George H.W. Bush signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which committed all nations to act and laid the foundation for future agreements. At the time, President Bush declared, “The United States fully intends to be the world’s pre-eminent leader in protecting the global environment.” The U.S. Senate gave its advice and consent to the treaty in October 1992.

**(Democrats) 1992: Renewable energy gets a boost.** To help support the fledgling wind industry, Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA) added the renewable energy production tax credit to the 1992 Energy Policy Act, which has been critical in the rapid expansion of the wind energy industry. The tax credit has been extended in short stints – with occasional lapses

(**Republican**) **Energy Policy Act of 2005**: An investment tax credit for solar energy installations was later added to the tax code.

**(Republicans) 1997: Senate pre-empts Kyoto Protocol.** In June 1997, six months ahead of a U.N. climate conference in Kyoto, Japan, the Senate adopted a nonbinding resolution introduced by Sen. Robert C. Byrd (D-W.Va.), with Sen. Chuck Hagel (R-NE) and 44 other cosponsors, stating that the United States should not enter into any international climate agreement that did not include comparable emissions commitments by developing countries or that “would result in serious harm to the economy of the United States…” The Clinton Administration proceeded to negotiate and sign the Kyoto Protocol, which set emission targets for developed countries only. But the agreement was never submitted to the Senate for advice and consent, and in 2001, President George W. Bush declared that the United States would not join it.

**(Both) The Climate Stewardship Act of 2003** to institute a cap-and-trade program to reduce emissions from electricity, manufacturing, commercial, and transportation sectors of the economy (representing 85 percent of U.S. emissions).

**(Democrats) 2007: Congress mandates emissions reporting.** As part of the Fiscal Year 2008 Consolidated Appropriations Act, signed into law in 2007, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was ordered to publish a rule requiring public reporting of greenhouse gas emissions from large sources. The Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program database provides comprehensive nationwide greenhouse gas emissions data (electric power companies were already reporting their carbon dioxide emissions under the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990). Over 40 source categories are now covered by the reporting program.

**(Democratic) 2008–2010: Cap-and-trade legislation** **passes the House**. Shortly after being elected, President-elect Barack Obama declared a comprehensive climate and energy bill among his top legislative priorities. The U.S. House of Representatives passed the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 by a vote of 219 to 212 in June 2009. The legislation, written by Reps. Henry Waxman (D-Calif.) and Edward Markey (D-Mass.), would have established an economy-wide greenhouse gas cap-and-trade system and critical complementary measures.

**(Democratic)** **The American Clean Energy Leadership Act of 2009** would have established renewable energy standard and addressed several other energy-related issues. John Kerry (D-Mass.), Joseph Lieberman (I-Conn.), and Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) worked outside of the committee process to broaden the base of support for climate legislation within the Senate. Kerry and Lieberman released a draft discussion of their American Power Act in May 2010 that would have established a cap-and-trade system for utilities and industry, and a fee for transportation fuels. Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.) and Susan Collins (R-Maine) introduced a Carbon Limits and Energy for America’s Renewal Act, which would have capped carbon dioxide emissions while allowing very limited emissions trading, and rebating the revenue from this system directly back to the public on a per capita basis. Richard Lugar (R-Ind.) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) introduced the Practical Energy and Climate Plan, intended to reduce oil imports, improve and create new efficiency standards, and establish a clean energy standard.

**(Democratic) 2012: Shoring up flood protection.** Funding the National Flood Insurance Program, established in 1968, is important for the many communities likely to face increased flooding from sea level-rise and more frequent and extreme downpours. In May 2012, Congress passed the National Flood Insurance Program Extension Act reauthorizing the program for five years, ending a series of short-term extensions. The bill was a major step toward actuarial pricing and full accounting of climate risk, ensuring that climate impact projections are factored into future calculations of flood risk. Although the word “climate” does not appear in the text, the bill directed the Federal Emergency Management Agency to use “the best available science regarding future changes in sea levels, precipitation, and intensity of hurricanes” – likely projected impacts of climate change – as it updates flood maps and sets insurance premiums.

**(Democratic) 2012: Clean Energy Standard.** Following the failure of Congress to act on climate, Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-N.M.) introduced the Clean Energy Standard Act to enact a tradeable energy standard to reduce emissions in the power sector.

**(Republicans) 2015: Extension/phasedown of renewable energy tax credits.** After more than 20 years of regular extensions of the production tax credit for wind power and investment tax credit for solar power, Congress agreed in late 2015 on a multi-year extension and ultimate phase-out of the incentives. The tax credits have been critical in making renewable energy cost-competitive and continue to help reduce carbon emissions from power sector in the absence of federal regulations.

**(both) 2016: Formation of the Climate Solutions Caucus.** In February 2016, Reps. Carlos Curbelo (R-Fla.) and Ted Deutch (D-Fla.) launched the bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucus in the House of Representatives. The caucus describes its mission as educating members on “economically-viable options to reduce climate risk and protect our nation’s economy, security, infrastructure, agriculture, water supply and public safety.” The caucus has been adding dozens of members in Republican-Democratic pairs

**(both) 2018: Tax credits and carbon pricing.** In February 2018, Congress enacted a two-year budget deal which extended and expanded key financial incentives for investments in several advanced low-carbon technologies. The budget deal included a bipartisan proposal to reform and extend the Sections 45Q tax credit to boost carbon capture. In addition, the first Republican-led carbon pricing proposal and bipartisan carbon pricing proposals were introduced in nearly eight years.

**(both) 2019: Renewed interest in Climate Change.** Climate change has become a priority since Democrats regained control of the House of Representatives. While most activities have been led by Democrats, Republicans have become more responsive to climate issues and some bipartisan efforts have emerged. Some significant developments include:

* (**democrats**)The introduction of a Green New Deal resolution in the House and the Senate.
* (**democrats?**) The formation of a Select Committee on the Climate Crisis in the House, which is tasked with coming up with policy recommendations to address climate change.
* (**both**) The formation of a bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucus in the Senate.
* (**both**)The continued introduction of market-based climate measures (e.g., carbon taxes and clean energy standards).

## 1.2. future acts

### 1.2.1 democrats

**make major public investments in automobile infrastructure — including in 500,000 electric vehicle charging stations — to create good jobs in industries supporting vehicle electrification**. These investments are a key part of Biden’s commitment to reinvent the American transportation system from the factory line to the electric vehicle charging station, while promoting strong labor, training, and installation standards. This includes ensuring the workforce is trained in high quality training programs like the [Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Training Program](https://evitp.org/) (EVITP).

**Accelerate research on battery technology and support the development of domestic production capabilities**. The Chinese government, along with other countries, has used state subsidies and industrial strategies to advance its interests. America must accelerate its own R&D with a focus on developing the domestic supply chain for electric vehicles. A specific focus of Biden’s historic R&D and procurement commitments will be on battery technology – for use in electric vehicles and on our grid, as a complement to technologies like solar and wind – increasing durability, reducing waste, and lowering costs, all while advancing new chemistries and approaches. And Biden will ensure that these batteries are built in the United States by American workers in good, union jobs.

**Set a goal that all new American-built buses be zero-emissions by 2030,** which will create significant demand for the manufacturing of new, clean American-built buses utilizing American-manufactured inputs – and accelerate the progress by converting all 500,000 school buses in our country — including diesel — to zero emissions. Biden will ensure that the existing — and future — workforce is trained and able to operate and maintain this 21st century infrastructure.

**Marshal an historic investment in energy efficiency, clean energy, electrical systems and line infrastructure that makes it easier to electrify transportation, and new battery storage and transmission infrastructure that will address bottlenecks and unlock America’s full clean energy potential** **– built by American workers, using American-made materials.** This revolution in the way we power our economy will leverage the breakthroughs we have already seen in distributed and large-scale renewables, onshore and offshore. And it will put welders, electricians, and other skilled labor to work in good union jobs installing the electrical systems and line infrastructure that helps the power sector – the electricity we generate at our power plants, on our roofs, and in our communities – reach a bigger market of customers and, at the same time, makes it easier for us to electrify in buildings, certain industrial processes, and transportation.

**eform and extend the tax incentives we know generate energy efficiency and clean energy jobs; develop innovative financing mechanisms that leverage private sector dollars to maximize investment in the clean energy revolution; and establish a technology-neutral *Energy Efficiency and Clean Electricity Standard* (*EECES*) for utilities and grid operators**. Paired with his historic, front-loaded investments in the power sector, Biden’s *EECES*will cut electricity bills and cut electricity pollution, increase competition in the market and incentivize higher utilization of assets – and achieve carbon-pollution free energy in electricity generation by 2035. Biden will scale up best practices from state-level clean energy standards, which are being implemented in a way that provides renewable credits to developers that follow high labor standards, including through Project Labor and Community Labor Agreements and paying prevailing wages. Together, these steps will unleash a clean energy revolution in America, create good paying union jobs that cannot be outsourced, and spur the installation of millions of solar panels – including utility-scale, rooftop, and community solar systems – and tens of thousands of wind turbines – including thousands of turbines off our coasts – in Biden’s first term. It would also mean continuing to leverage the carbon-pollution free energy provided by existing sources like nuclear and hydropower, while ensuring those facilities meet robust and rigorous standards for worker, public, environmental safety, and environmental justice.

**Create a new Advanced Research Projects Agency on Climate**, a new, cross-agency ARPA-C to target affordable, game-changing technologies to help America achieve our 100% clean energy target, including:

* grid-scale storage at one-tenth the cost of lithium-ion batteries;
* advanced nuclear reactors, that are smaller, safer, and more efficient at half the construction cost of today’s reactors;
* refrigeration and air conditioning using refrigerants with no global warming potential;
* zero net energy buildings at zero net cost, including through breakthroughs in smart materials, appliances, and systems management;
* using renewables to produce carbon-free hydrogen at a lower cost than hydrogen from shale gas through innovation in technologies like next generation electrolyzers;
* decarbonizing industrial heat needed to make steel, concrete, and chemicals and reimagining carbon-neutral construction materials;
* decarbonizing the food and agriculture sector, and leveraging research in soil management, plant biologies, and agricultural techniques to remove carbon dioxide from the air and store it in the ground; and
* capturing carbon dioxide through direct air capture systems and retrofits to existing industrial and power plant exhausts, followed by permanently sequestering it deep underground or using it to make alternative products like cement.

### 1.2.2 republican

Trump says his [priorities](https://www.donaldjtrump.com/media/trump-campaign-announces-president-trumps-2nd-term-agenda-fighting-for-you/) are clean water and air, but he's also sought to [boost](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/remarks-president-trump-environmental-accomplishments-people-florida-jupiter-fl/) U.S. production of oil and natural gas — objectives that often work against each other.

The president has touted the country's record clean air, but that's part of a [longer-term trend](https://apnews.com/article/ap-fact-check-politics-air-pollution-elections-environment-a9aa4ad6990714936cb797f81cd2ba88).

Trump has supported legislation that removes garbage from oceans, allocated additional funding for national parks and public lands, and put $38 billion toward "clean water infrastructure."

The president has denied the scientific consensus on climate change, and his administration has worked to scrub mentions of climate change from government websites and [reversed many of the climate policies](https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-finalizes-affordable-clean-energy-rule-ensuring-reliable-diversified-energy) put in place during the Obama administration. Trump has attempted to push policies that back the coal industry, though that sector has continued to its longer-term decline.

He also pulled the U.S. out of the international Paris climate deal.

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Very nice article which expose the gap between the democrats and republicans on climate change issues:

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Very good article:

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EPP (very bad score):

<https://www.epp.eu/papers/united-states-withdrawal-from-the-paris-agreement-on-climate-change/>

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Renew:

<https://www.renewparty.org.uk/investment>

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EFA (highest score):

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GUE/NGL (manifesto) – high score:

<https://www.guengl.eu/a-climate-emergency-manifesto-to-avert-climate-catastrophe/>

S&D (high score):

<https://www.socialistsanddemocrats.eu/newsroom/sds-successfully-push-raising-eu-climate-target-2030-55-goal>

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ECR (worst score):

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