

Executive Order 14008: Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad

****Signed:**** January 27, 2021

****Federal Register Number:**** 86 FR 7619

****Status:**** Active

Overview

This executive order places the climate crisis at the center of United States foreign policy and national security. It establishes a government-wide approach to combating the climate crisis through clean energy deployment, conservation, and environmental justice.

Key Provisions

Section 1: Policy

It is the policy of my Administration to organize and deploy the full capacity of its agencies to combat the climate crisis to implement a Government-wide approach that reduces climate pollution in every sector of the economy; increases resilience to the impacts of climate change; protects public health; conserves our lands, waters, and biodiversity; delivers environmental justice; and spurs well-paying union jobs and economic growth.

Section 2: Climate Action Across All Government Operations

All agencies shall immediately commence work to:

1. ****Assess Climate-Related Risks****: Evaluate and address the climate-related financial risk to federal programs and operations
2. ****Greenhouse Gas Emissions****: Achieve net-zero emissions from federal operations by 2050, including a 65% reduction by 2030
3. ****Clean Energy****: Transition to 100% carbon pollution-free electricity by 2030
4. ****Sustainable Buildings****: Prioritize investments in sustainable, resilient infrastructure

Section 3: Climate Considerations in Grant Programs

Federal agencies that administer grant programs shall:

- Prioritize projects that incorporate climate resilience and adaptation measures
- Give preference to projects utilizing renewable energy sources

- Require climate risk assessments for major infrastructure projects
- Consider environmental justice implications in grant evaluations
- Ensure equitable distribution of climate benefits to disadvantaged communities

Compliance Requirements for Grant Applicants

Mandatory Elements:

1. ****Climate Risk Assessment****

- Identify climate-related risks to the proposed project
- Document adaptation strategies
- Assess vulnerability to extreme weather events

2. ****Greenhouse Gas Emissions Analysis****

- Calculate projected emissions from project operations
- Develop emissions reduction plan
- Set measurable emissions reduction targets

3. ****Renewable Energy Integration****

- Demonstrate incorporation of renewable energy where feasible
- Document energy efficiency measures
- Provide justification if renewables are not included

4. ****Environmental Justice Considerations****

- Assess impacts on disadvantaged communities
- Demonstrate equitable distribution of benefits
- Include community engagement documentation

Preferred Characteristics:

- Projects that create clean energy jobs
- Initiatives supporting climate resilience in vulnerable communities
- Programs that reduce dependence on fossil fuels
- Infrastructure incorporating green building standards

- Conservation and ecosystem restoration components

Grant Evaluation Criteria

Projects will be evaluated based on:

1. **Climate Impact** (30%): Contribution to emissions reduction and climate resilience
2. **Feasibility** (25%): Technical and financial viability of climate measures
3. **Equity** (20%): Benefits to disadvantaged and frontline communities
4. **Innovation** (15%): Novel approaches to climate solutions
5. **Co-benefits** (10%): Additional environmental, health, and economic benefits

Documentation Requirements

Applicants must submit:

- Climate risk and resilience assessment report
- Greenhouse gas emissions calculations and reduction plan
- Renewable energy feasibility study (if applicable)
- Environmental justice impact analysis
- Community consultation records
- Sustainability plan beyond grant period

Definitions

Climate Pollution: Greenhouse gas emissions contributing to climate change, including carbon dioxide, methane, and other heat-trapping gases.

Environmental Justice: The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development and implementation of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

Renewable Energy: Energy from sources that are naturally replenishing, including solar, wind, geothermal, and sustainable biomass.

Related Orders and Regulations

- Executive Order 14030: Climate-Related Financial Risk
- Executive Order 13990: Protecting Public Health and Environment

- Presidential Memorandum on Modernizing Regulatory Review

Contact Information

For questions about climate compliance in grant applications:

- Office of Federal Sustainability
- Council on Environmental Quality
- Agency-specific climate officers

****Implementation Date****: February 1, 2021

****Review Date****: Ongoing

****Sunset Clause****: None (ongoing requirement)

This executive order remains in full force and effect. Grant programs implemented after this date must incorporate these climate considerations into their review processes.