The Climate Reality Project®

WE NEED A JUST RECOVERY

The Climate Reality Project COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Platform

COVID-19 is hurting American families and workers. We need a just recovery that puts people before powerful corporations, and helps build a truly equitable and sustainable future for us all.

With millions now struggling to support their families through the pandemic and inequality deepening by the day, we call on Congress to work for a just recovery for the nation and ensure that any stimulus bill meets these key criteria:

1. PUTS PEOPLE FIRST

Our first priority has to be addressing the health crisis still devastating much of the country, protecting workers on the frontlines, and helping disproportionately impacted communities by:

- Ramping up testing and ensuring healthcare workers have the supplies, training, and staff to perform contact tracing.
- Ensuring all medical professionals and essential public-facing employees have the personal protective equipment they need to safely do their jobs.
- Lowering air pollution, which is responsible for increasing health risks from COVID-19.
- Halting utility shut-offs until the public health crisis is over and families can get back on their feet.

2. NO FOSSIL FUEL BAIL OUTS

We need a recovery that speeds the transition to a clean energy economy and creates a sustainable economy for all communities. We know the Administration is planning a large oil industry bail out and it needs to be stopped so we can use these resources to build the future we want. Please consider co-sponsoring the *Resources for Workforce Investments, not Drilling Act* (ReWIND Act, H.R. 6707/ S.3611), which will prevent these bailouts.

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3. HELPS BUILD A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

We need to rebuild America to face the climate crisis head-on with a clean energy economy that creates opportunity nationwide, and a healthy and sustainable future for us all by:

- Emphasizing job creation in green careers with a future in frontline, underserved, and vulnerable communities.

- Supporting fast-growing, job-intensive industries that also lower climate emissions through key initiatives including:

  o *Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program* ($5 billion): *The Recovery Act* funded this program at over $3 billion for cities, municipalities, and counties to lower emissions. This created over 60,000 jobs, reduced emissions by over 25 million metric tons, and saved over five billion dollars in utility bills.[1]

  o *Weatherization Assistance Program* ($10 billion): This program weatherizes low-income homes, lowers energy bills, lowers climate pollution, and creates thousands of jobs. For every $1.00 invested in the program, WAP returns $4.50 in energy and non-energy benefits.[2] Energy efficiency is responsible for over two million direct and indirect jobs and the industry has been devastated by the COVID-19 crisis.[3]

  o *Clean Energy Tax Credits*: Before the global pandemic, solar and wind-related jobs were among the fastest growing in the country. COVID-19 has devastated the clean energy sector, and some analysts predict 50 percent job losses in the solar industry, 35,000 jobs lost in the wind sector, and a 43 percent drop in global electric vehicle sales. Congress needs to monetize clean energy tax credits to be effective during an economic downturn and push back and reform policies ramping down sector tax credits.

  o *Clean Energy Jobs Fund*: We should pass S.2057 / H.R.5416 to create a national clean energy jobs fund that can invest in emerging climate technologies and programs that create jobs and lower emissions in our most vulnerable communities.

4. PROTECTS OUR DEMOCRACY

We need to ensure all Americans can safely have a say in the future of our country and our government by:

- Requiring safe and accessible voting systems that include early voting and vote-by-mail programs. Congress should provide $4 billion in funding to help states implement these changes.

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1 https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2015/10/f27/EECBG_Report_Executive%20Summary_Final.pdf

2 https://www.energy.gov/eere/articles/weatherization-assistance-program-sets-gold-standard-home-performance-industry

3 https://www.utilitydive.com/news/energy-efficiency-efforts-are-shutting-down-due-to-covid-19-threatening-jo/575496/

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Climate Reality Policy Director Hal Connolly at Hal.Connolly@climatereality.com.