



THE CLIMATE CRISIS ACTION PLAN: THE COLORADO CLIMATE WAY

According to the world's climate scientists, to limit the most severe impacts of climate change, human-caused carbon dioxide emissions must reach net-zero by 2050. The Climate Crisis Action Plan would not only achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, it also calls on Congress to develop a strategy to reach net-negative emissions in the second half of the century.

In July 2019, the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis traveled to Boulder, Colorado to speak with world-class scientists researching climate and clean energy, including visits to NOAA's Earth Systems Research Laboratory (ESRL), the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES), the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), and the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR). The Committee also held a field hearing on Colorado's climate leadership, which included testimony from Governor Jared Polis, Fort Collins Mayor Wade Troxell and Boulder Mayor Suzanne Jones.

This plan highlights a number of Colorado-focused policy proposals that accomplish the following priorities:

MAKING INVESTMENTS IN CLEAN ENERGY AND TRANSPORTATION

- The ***Zero Emission Vehicles Act*** (HR 2764), introduced by Reps. Joe Neguse and Mike Levin, which requires that 50% of sales for new passenger vehicles be ZEVs by 2030;
- The ***Solar EDGE Act***, introduced by Rep. Neguse, and the ***Growing Renewable Energy and Efficiency Now (GREEN) Act*** (HR 7330), co-led by Rep. Neguse, which provide historic tax benefits for renewable energy and efficiency projects;
- The ***100% Clean Economy Act*** (HR 5221), originally co-sponsored by Rep. Neguse, which sets a nationwide goal of achieving net-zero climate pollution across all sectors of the U.S. economy by 2050, in line with Colorado state-level goals to eliminate all emissions by 2050 and reach 100% clean electricity by 2040;

PROTECTING OUR TREASURED PUBLIC LANDS AND STIMULATING THE OUTDOOR RECREATION ECONOMY

- The ***Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act*** (HR 823), legislation led by Rep. Joe Neguse, which passed the U.S. House in October 2019 to protect 400,000 acres of public lands across Colorado and safeguard outdoor recreation opportunities.

- The *21st Century Conservation Corps for Our Health and Jobs Act* (HR 7264), legislation introduced by Rep. Neguse which would invest \$9 billion in a modern conservation corps to provide workforce training and create hundreds of thousands of jobs; \$7 billion to establish an Outfitter & Guide Relief Program to provide financial assistance to the outdoor recreation industry suffering seasonal closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and \$12 billion to address the growing public lands maintenance backlog.
- The *30 by 30 for Nature Resolution* (H.Res. 835), co-led by Rep. Joe Neguse, a commitment to conserve at least 30 percent of our land and oceans by 2030.
- The *Great American Outdoors Act* (HR 7092), which Rep. Neguse is a co-sponsor of, to permanently fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund, a program that has funded over 1,000 conservation projects in Colorado.

PLANNING FOR WILDFIRE MITIGATION AND RESTORING FOREST HEALTH

- The *21st Century Conservation Corps for Our Health and Our Jobs Act* (HR 7264), introduced by Rep. Neguse, and makes major investments in:
 - Forest health, including \$150 million for the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) which funds large-scale, community-driven restoration projects, including a current project along the Front Range;
 - Wildfire mitigation, including \$200 million for the National Fire Capacity program which administers the Firewise program to assist State and local communities in the prevention, control, and suppression of wildfires;
 - and supplies \$100 million for equipping firefighters with PPE amidst the COVID-19 pandemic;
- An emphasis on providing emergency responders and essential workers, such as wildland fire fighters, with proper protection to do their jobs during the COVID-19 pandemic, as outlined in a **letter led by Rep. Neguse to the White House Coronavirus Task Force**, requesting increased transparency on personal protective equipment shipments and FEMA's supply chain management process.
- The importance for federal agencies to plan for increased climate disasters, such as the confluence of COVID-19 and wildfire season, as is addressed in the **Wildfire and Community Health Response Act** (HR 6546) introduced by Rep. Neguse, to require federal land management departments to report their plans to keep both firefighters and communities safe from not only the hazards of wildfire season, but also COVID-19.

PROTECTING AND STRENGTHENING CLIMATE SCIENCE

- The *Federal Labs Modernization Act of 2019* (HR 5356), led by Rep. Neguse, to increase investments and provide improvements in the infrastructure of the nation's federal research facilities and universities.
- The *Stop Climate Censorship Act of 2019* (HR 5355), led by Rep. Neguse, which seeks to address the issue of political censorship of science by requiring political appointees at federal agencies seeking to publicly disclose when they wish to alter or remove any federal scientific data, research, or website content.
- A focus on expanding federal climate change research on the impacts of natural and human systems, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. Rep. Neguse wrote a **letter to the**

White House Office of Science and Technology Policy requesting that they pursue further research on how climate change may impact the transmission of future viruses.

INVESTING IN AGRICULTURE AS A CLIMATE SOLUTION

- The ***Sustainable Agriculture Research Act*** (HR 4134), bipartisan legislation introduced by Rep. Neguse, which supports federal research into the potential for long-term carbon sequestration in agricultural lands as well as making practices economically and practically feasible for farmers.
- The ***Study on Improving Our Lands Act*** (HR 4133), bipartisan legislation introduced by Rep. Neguse, which directs the National Academies of Science to study the state of soil health on public lands and explore options to increase carbon sequestration.

ADDRESSING RESILIENCY AND NATIONAL SECURITY THREATS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

- The ***Climate Readiness Act*** (HR 6119), a bill introduced by Rep. Neguse, to require the Secretary of Defense to report to Congress national security threats as a result of climate change, and recommended strategies for responding to them.
- The ***Climate Resilient Communities Act*** (HR 5709), bipartisan legislation led by Congressman Neguse to analyze FEMA's standards and codes for buildings to ensure communities have the flexibility to rebuild resiliently after climate-related disasters
- The ***21st Century Conservation Corps for Our Health and Our Jobs Act*** (HR 7264), led by Rep. Neguse, would provide \$100 million for FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program, to provide funds to state and local governments as they undertake hazard mitigation projects to reduce the risk and lower the cost of responses to natural disasters.

BRINGING COLORADO'S COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

- The ***Green Government Resolution*** (H.Con.Res. 74), introduced by Rep. Neguse, follows the lead of 14 Colorado cities and counties that have set renewable energy goals and establishes a goal for the Capitol and surrounding office buildings to reach 100% renewable electricity by 2032 in compliance with the District of Columbia's city-wide mandate.
- Just as Colorado continues to implement standards to decrease unnecessary waste and consumption, in December 2019, Rep. Neguse **sent a letter** requesting that the House Administration Committee enact a policy change to preclude the use of disposable plastic bottles in all House of Representatives committee rooms and proceedings.