

Civilian Climate Corps Act
**Senators Chris Coons (D-DE), Martin Heinrich (D-NM), Ben Ray Luján (D-NM), and
Representatives Joe Neguse (D-CO) and Abigail Spanberger (D-VA)**
One-Page Summary

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in the deaths of more than 545,000 Americans and created economic hardships for millions of people across the country. At the same time, the worsening impacts of climate change pose serious threats to our nation and the world. The *Civilian Climate Corps Act* draws on our country's history of using national service programs to address challenges by establishing a Civilian Climate Corps to put Americans to work in helping communities respond to the impacts of climate change. The *Civilian Climate Corps Act* codifies President Biden's vision for a climate-focused national service program as described in his [*Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad*](#).

The bill authorizes the Biden administration to utilize a range of effective, existing national service programs to create the Civilian Climate Corps. It also emphasizes opportunities for Corps members to assist with adaptation initiatives to help vulnerable communities build resilience to climate change. Corps projects may promote natural climate solutions and green infrastructure, prepare communities for natural disasters, or support resilient agriculture—among other objectives. The bill also directs the Corps to prioritize assistance for disadvantaged communities, which often experience disproportionate harm from climate change and may have reduced capacity to respond to climate vulnerabilities and environmental degradation.

The *Civilian Climate Corps Act*:

- **Establishes a Civilian Climate Corps** to be operated by the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior in coordination with other federal agencies and nongovernmental organizations via existing national service programs and in accordance with the National and Community Service Act of 1990, Youth Conservation Corps Act of 1970, Public Lands Corps Act of 1993, National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993, and the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973.
- **Directs the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior to report to Congress** on their proposals for the number of members to be included in the Corps and recommended appropriations for fiscal years 2022 through 2025.
- **Details the key climate priorities for Corps projects**, including conservation and restoration on public lands, assistance for frontline communities adapting to climate change, natural climate solutions, replacement of vulnerable infrastructure, protection of biodiversity and ecological resilience.
- **Prioritizes Corps projects that direct resources to disadvantaged communities** that are often disproportionately harmed by climate change and environmental degradation, and may have fewer resources build community resilience.
- **Reserves 5 percent of annual appropriations for Indian Tribes and indigenous communities** to carry out Corps projects.
- **Waives matching fund requirements** for projects that receive program funding.