

Sept. 4, 2019

Climate plans of the Democratic presidential candidates

On Sept. 4, leading Democratic presidential candidates will participate in a Climate Crisis Town Hall in New York City. So far, ten candidates have qualified for the town hall, reaching at least 2 percent in four polls approved by the Democratic National Committee. Each of the 10 candidates support a Green New Deal in some form, each has signed a pledge to reject campaign contributions from the fossil fuel industry and if elected, each would recommit to the Paris climate agreement. Most plans also provide support for low-income communities and those most affected by the shift away from fossil fuels.

Highlights from the candidates' climate plans

Countering global warming will be a heavy lift, requiring trillions of dollars, much of which would be supplied by fossil fuel industries, the primary contributers to anthropogenic greenhouse gases. In this graphic, program costs are proportional to the volumes of hot gases contained by the balloons.

The goal



Net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 would limit global warming to 1.5°C over preindustrial temperatures, avoiding the worst effects of climate change, such as extreme alterations to weather patterns, ecosystems, economies and societies, according to the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Price tag for the plan

The candidate's estimate for the amount of federal spending needed to reach "zero by 2050."



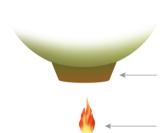
The Green New Deal



Candidate fully or strongly supports the Green New Deal.



Candidate sees GND as "a framework" (Biden), or "aspirational" (Klobuchar).



Who will pay?

Most plans put the burden on fossil fuel industries.

Plan includes carbon tax or carbon pricing.

Many of the proposals call for an end to subsidies and tax breaks for the fossil fuel industries: oil, gas and coal.

POLICIES



Greener buildings

Funding for improvements in energy efficiency.



Electric vehicles

Support for EVs and charging stations, with a general goal of zero emissions by 2030.



Agricultural improvements

Support for practices that increase storage of carbon in the soil.



Public transit

Increase funding for public transportation infrastructure.



Foreign aid

International climate aid to help reduce emissions (Sanders) or to help other countries buy American cleanenergy products (Warren).



Carbon capture

Support for technologies that capture and sequester carbon emissions.



Nuclear energy

Research and development of nextgeneration nuclear power.



Research funding

Extra funding for clean energy research at national labs.



Electric grid modernization

Preparation for a clean energy system.

Other policies

 Reinstate CAFE standards.

ELIMINATIONS

Policies that would phase out or discourage polluting activities by fossil fuel industries.



Fossil fuel activity on public lands

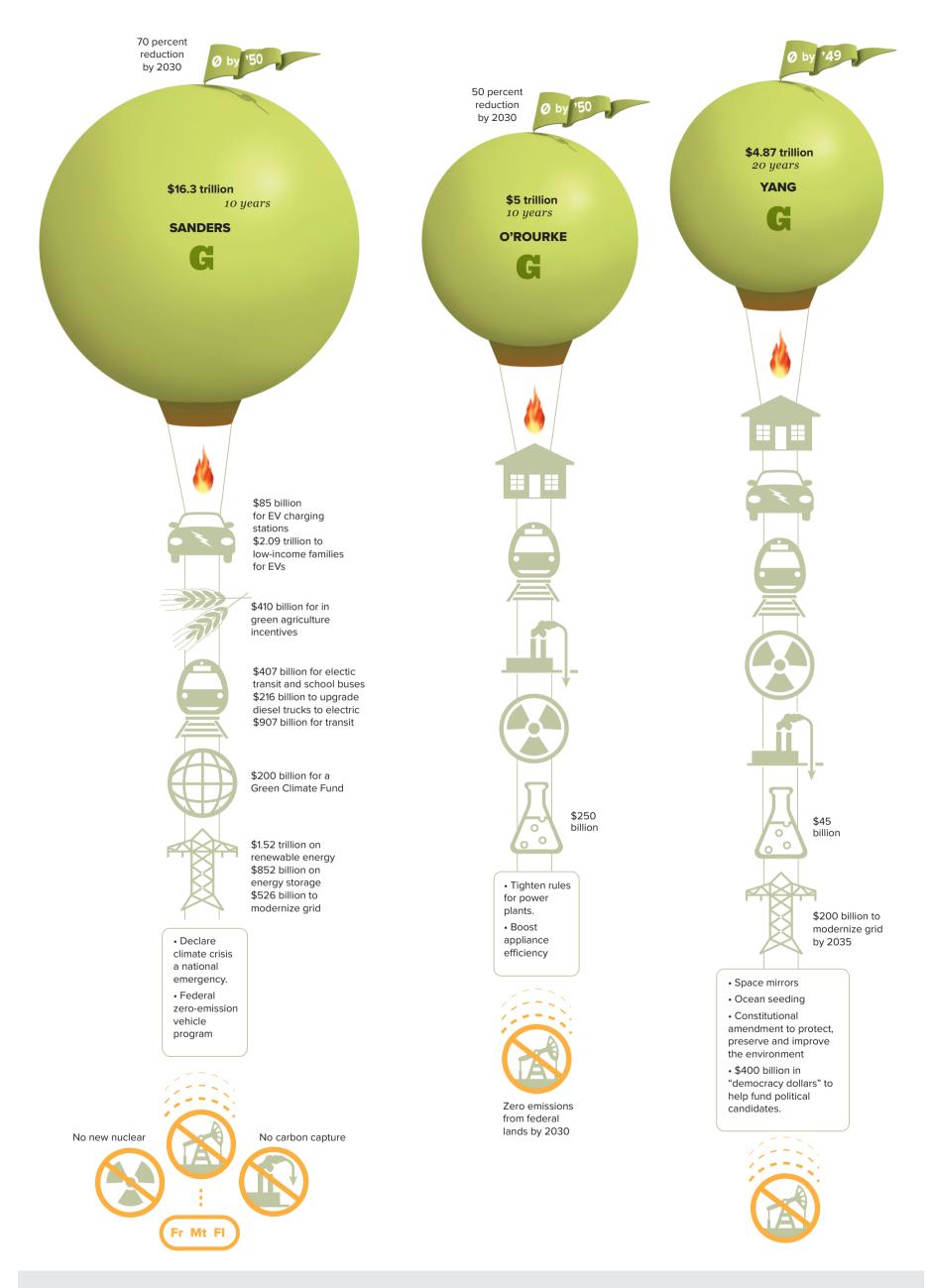
Eliminating, reducing or halting new leases for oil, gas or coal extraction on federal lands or in federal waters.

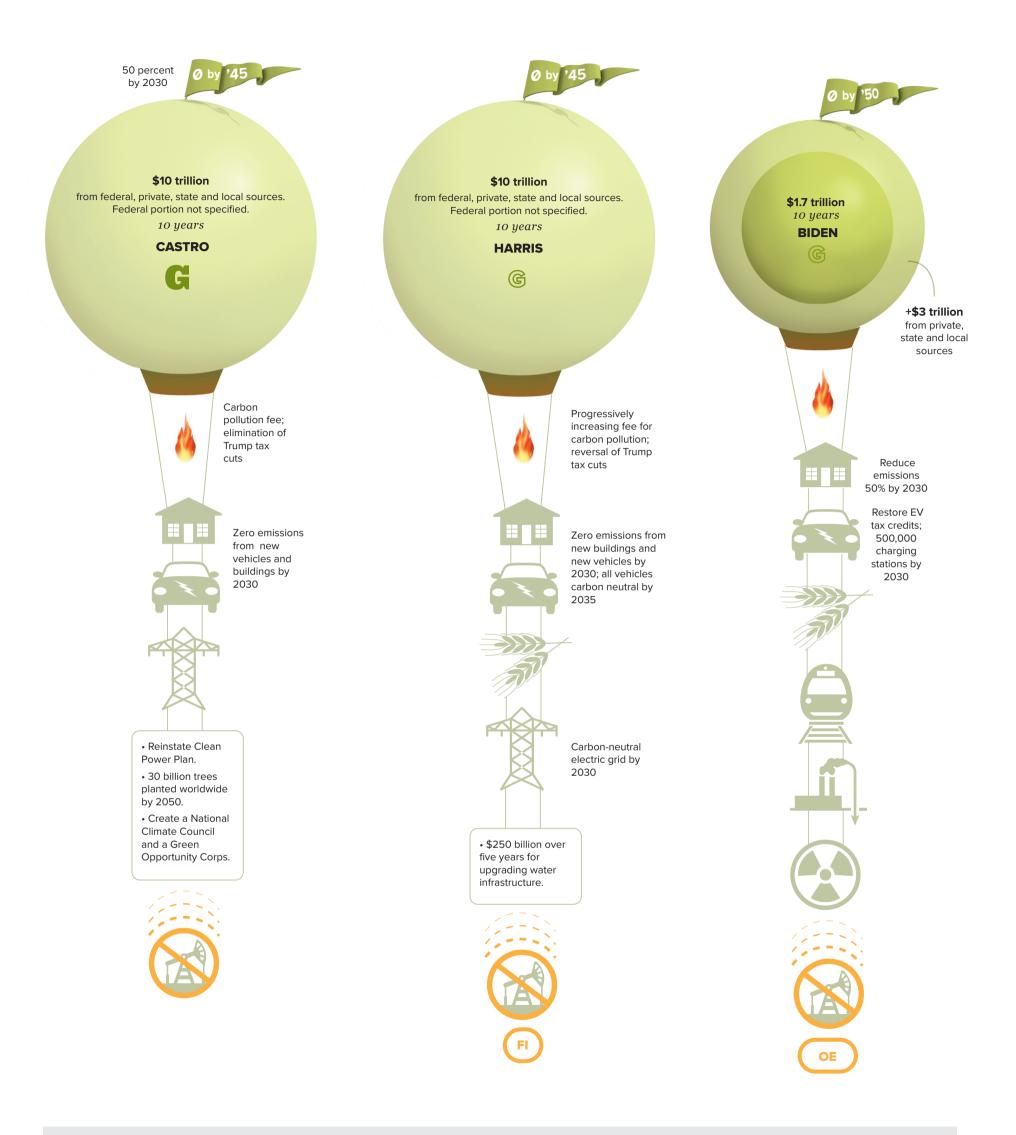


Prohibitions

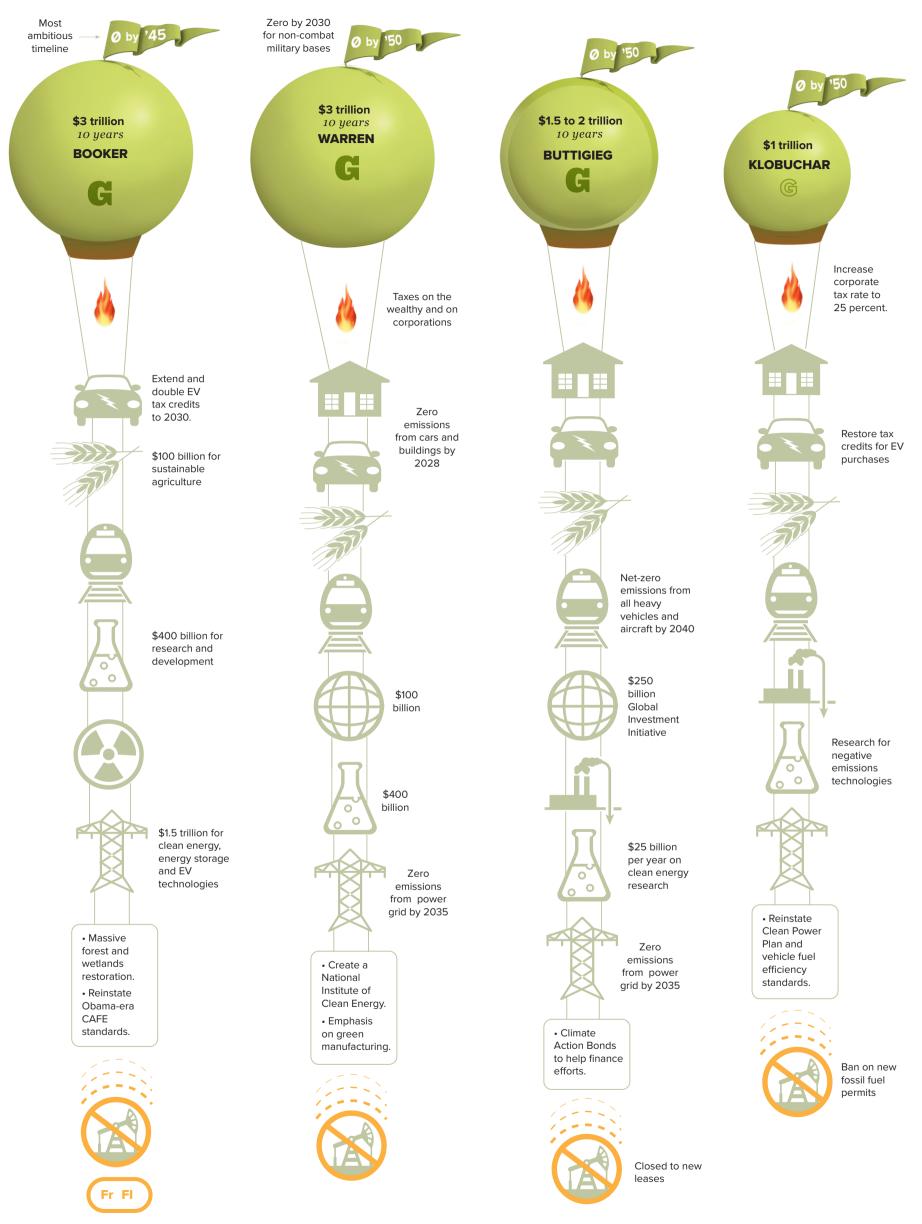
Bans on fracking (Fr), mountaintop removal (Mt), crude oil exports (OE) and new fossil fuel infrastructure if clean alternatives exist (FI).

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Sources: POLITICO Pro reports by Anthony Adragna, Gavin Bade, Zack Colman, Eric Wolff; candidate campaign websites; news reports By Patterson Clark, POLITICO Pro DataPoint