

DAYS IN OFFICE

A FOUNDATION FOR TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE

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CHANGE



photo: Adam Schultz

A record number of voters overcame historic barriers to elect President Joe Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris, and pro-climate majorities in Congress — and these voters made it clear that our federal government has a mandate to act on climate and environmental justice.

Now, just 100 days into their tenure, the administration and Congress have already made considerable progress. As we remain in a moment of great consequence, they have set the stage for the transformational change our country needs to tackle the pandemic, confront racial injustice, strengthen our democracy, and establish our country as a world leader fighting climate change.

To start, the Biden-Harris administration selected a visionary cabinet and expert personnel, appointing some of our country's greatest problem solvers and leaders who bring diverse identities, expertise, skills, and experiences to our country's decision-making table. This team is the foundation from which bold federal policies will be built, and with a cabinet of historic firsts — including the first Native American cabinet secretary and the first openly LGBTQ+ cabinet secretary — this is a pivotal step toward ensuring that communities who have long been excluded from our country's governance can see themselves and their ideas reflected in its policies.

Personnel is policy, and the Biden-Harris administration has wasted no time, quickly reorienting the executive branch to prioritize the interwoven crises we currently face — the pandemic, economic inequity, racial injustice, and climate change. After four years of the Trump administration prioritizing polluters over people, on day one of the Biden-Harris administration, the president signed a set of executive orders reversing harmful Trump-era anti-environmental policies, halting the xenophobic and racist border wall, advancing equity and environmental justice throughout the executive branch, and moving to protect lands and waters that are sacred to communities across our country. And since day one, the administration has continued to build their whole-of-government approach to climate and justice with a continual stream of important executive orders and other administrative actions.



Ahead of President Biden's speech announcing the American Jobs Plan in Pittsburgh, Conservation Voters of Pennsylvania partnered with artist Erica Anderson-Lubera to create a chalk art activation overlooking downtown Pittsburgh and highlighting the need to prioritize clean energy, racial justice, and good-paying jobs in the administration's plan.

As we begin to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic — with immediate relief from the American Rescue Plan underway — our attention has turned to the long-term economic fallout of the pandemic, which cannot be disentangled from the deeply rooted racial injustice in this country and the ever-worsening climate crisis. Fortunately, the pro-environment administration and congressional majorities are ready to seize this moment with historic investments that meet the scale of the crises we face.

President Biden has proposed the American Jobs Plan, a package that would revitalize our country's crumbling infrastructure, getting millions of people back to work in new good-paying, union jobs in the clean energy economy while tackling climate change and environmental racism. As the administration, Congress, and communities across the country work together to ensure this plan meets the scale of the crises we face, it is clear that clean energy, justice, and jobs will be critical to its success.

Not only do voters believe this administration has a mandate to act on climate and environmental justice, they overwhelmingly support transformational clean energy investments

as a part of the American Jobs Plan. In March, our polling showed that 7 in 10 voters believe that Congress should pass a plan to build back better, and further research shows that 58% of Republicans agree that ambitious infrastructure investments are needed to create an equitable, sustainable, and stronger nation.

In the first 100 Days, the administration and Congress have laid a solid foundation from which we can build back better, and now is the time for our country to come together to make it happen. Our communities, our country, and our world cannot wait any longer.

CLIMATE + DEMOCRACY LEADERSHIP TEAM



When a racially diverse coalition of 80 million voters selected Joe Biden and Kamala Harris to lead the executive branch,

they voted for the ticket with the most ambitious climate action and environmental justice plan in history. Now, 100 days into their tenure, it is clear that the Biden-Harris administration is taking voters' climate mandate seriously, laying the foundation for a whole-of-government approach with a historic, visionary team of leaders. With prominent climate, clean energy, and environmental justice leaders in key cabinet-level positions across the executive branch — and teams with deep experience and expertise around them — climate and environmental justice will remain at the heart of our country's foreign, domestic, and economic agendas. In fact, this leadership team has hit the ground running, actively and vocally prioritizing climate and justice in their work.

THE CABINET



Department of Commerce

Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo proved herself a job creator and strong advocate for clean energy as the former governor of Rhode Island. Raimondo committed Rhode Island to 100% clean energy by 2030 and oversaw the development of the first offshore wind farm in the United States. Raimondo is well positioned to reestablish a culture of scientific integrity at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and depoliticize the Census to deliver a representative depiction of our country that stands to improve equity in our democracy.



Department of Energy

Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm, Michigan's former governor, brings a wealth of experience leading policies to reduce pollution and accelerate clean energy. Granholm's experience helping to rebuild the American auto industry during the last recession will be invaluable as the Biden-Harris administration works toward a 100% clean energy economy that will create good-paying, union jobs.



Department of the Interior

Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland's confirmation is monumental — she is the first Native American to serve in a presidential cabinet. Haaland's leadership is a pivotal step toward ensuring that Tribal communities — who have long been excluded and overlooked in our country's governance — can see themselves, their ideas, and their leadership reflected in the management and decision making of public lands and waters. Her record of prioritizing people over polluters positions her well to chart a bold path for conservation and ensure that public lands and waters are part of climate solutions in the years ahead.



Department of Justice

With Merrick Garland confirmed as attorney general, the Biden-Harris administration has restored independence and integrity to the Department of Justice. Garland has decades of fair and even-handed experience on the DC Circuit Court, and an excellent civil rights team has been nominated to join him in strengthening our democracy by advancing voting rights, pushing policing reform, and challenging discrimination.



Department of State

The Senate swiftly confirmed Secretary of State Antony Blinken, an experienced leader who sees climate change as a “number one priority.” Blinken has promised to fully integrate climate change into foreign policy, national security, and trade. He will approach climate change in concert with our health, the economy, job growth, and racial disparities, and will work to establish our nation’s international leadership on tackling the climate crisis.



Department of Transportation

The Senate confirmed Pete Buttigieg as our new secretary of transportation, making him the first-ever openly gay cabinet secretary. During the confirmation process, Buttigieg vowed that climate change would be central to any infrastructure package, advocating that we have a “unique window of opportunity” to invest in much-needed infrastructure that also curbs the climate crisis.



Department of Treasury

As treasury sSecretary, Janet Yellen will help the Biden-Harris administration meet its commitment to promote American clean energy exports and investments, which will be advanced while protecting workers and the environment from corporate exploitation.



Environmental Protection Agency

With Michael Regan confirmed as administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Biden-Harris administration added another ultra-qualified cabinet member, while also appointing the first Black man to lead the EPA in its mission to protect our health and environment. Regan served as the secretary of North Carolina's Department of Environmental Quality, where he was known for his collaborative approach while going to bat for North Carolinians against polluters — an approach that is bound to help rebuild the EPA and center the needs of environmental justice communities in the EPA's policymaking.



Office of the United States Trade Representative

The Senate unanimously confirmed Katherine Tai to serve as U.S. trade representative, making her the first Asian American woman and first woman of color appointed to this position. With the Biden-Harris administration's whole-of-government approach to the climate crisis, Tai will have ample opportunity to implement a new trade model that includes robust and binding climate, environmental and conservation protections, strong enforcement provisions, and creates good-paying, family-sustaining jobs.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



Council on Environmental Quality

Chair Brenda Mallory brings decades of experience working on climate and natural resources to the helm of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). Having seen how policies can be used to exclude people, her leadership in the administration's whole-of-government approach will help ensure that all communities — especially communities of color and low-income communities that are overburdened by pollution — help shape and benefit from our climate solutions. And, with Dr. Cecilia Martinez serving as CEQ's senior director for environmental justice — someone who has spent her career working on behalf of communities disproportionately harmed by pollution — we know that environmental justice communities will have a fierce advocate at the decision-making table.



Domestic Policy Council

With former UN Ambassador and National Security Advisor Susan Rice leading the Domestic Policy Council — a role that drives the development and implementation of the president's policy agenda across the federal government — she brings experience protecting our democracy and leading global efforts to fight climate change, including the Paris Agreement, to the administration's whole-of-government approach to climate and justice. Furthermore, as someone who calls Washington, DC her hometown, Rice is an advocate for ending the racist, political disenfranchisement of over 700,000 district residents — nearly 50% of whom are Black in a city that is overwhelmingly Democratic — by making DC the 51st state.



National Economic Council

Appointing Brian Deese, a longtime climate policy expert, to the key role of National Economic Council director is a critical move that cannot be overstated. From his success in helping rebuild the American auto industry with stronger clean car standards, advancing the Paris Climate Agreement, protecting our lands and ocean and much more, he is exactly the experienced climate leader we need at President Biden's side as they rebuild our economy.



National Security Council

By naming John Kerry to the National Security Council as the special envoy for climate, the Biden-Harris administration has ensured that their whole-of-government approach to the climate crisis will extend to our nation's international leadership.



White House Office of Domestic Climate Policy

When the Biden-Harris administration appointed Gina McCarthy as the first-ever White House national climate advisor, they chose someone with decades of public service — at both the state and federal level, including as Obama's EPA administrator — to lead and coordinate domestic climate policy. And, Deputy White House National Climate Advisor Ali Zaidi also brings a combination of state and federal experience, from Obama's Office of Management and Budget to New York state government.



EXECUTIVE ACTION



The Biden-Harris administration has swiftly started to deliver on their historic climate, environmental justice, and democracy campaign commitments.

On day one, the president rejoined the Paris Climate Agreement, stopped the Keystone XL pipeline, halted the process that would have allowed drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and started the process to undo more than 100 Trump-era rollbacks of health and environmental protections, and more. On January 27, the biggest day in more than a decade for climate action, Biden signed a series of executive orders enshrining the administration's whole-of-government response that puts climate action and environmental justice at the center of their international and domestic policy agendas. And most recently, the president announced the American Jobs Plan and Made in America Tax Plan, which will put clean energy, jobs, and justice at the center of coronavirus recovery efforts.

EXECUTIVE ACTIONS

DAY ONE

Recommitting to the Paris Climate Agreement

To assert the United States' global leadership on climate change, on day one, the president recommitted our country to the Paris Climate Agreement and pledged to further reduce our emissions while mobilizing every major country to make deeper cuts in their carbon emissions too.

Stopping the Keystone XL Pipeline

By officially halting the dirty and dangerous Keystone XL pipeline with a day one executive order, the Biden-Harris administration made clear that it would listen to the diverse grassroots movement that has long pushed to stop this pipeline. And while blocking the Keystone XL pipeline did enormous good for communities and the environment, the Dakota Access pipeline continues to jeopardize the health and safety of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and millions of others downstream. It is time to listen to the Standing Rock Sioux and the many activists who have called for the Dakota Access pipeline's end too.

Freezing and Undoing Trump Administration Regulations

After four long years of the Trump administration prioritizing polluters, resulting in the dismantling of more than 100 critical environmental and health protections, the Biden-Harris administration immediately froze and plans to reverse a myriad of these destructive policies. This includes reinstating methane standards for the oil and gas industry, reestablishing clean car standards, cutting pollution from power plants, protecting our precious waterways, and much more.





Halting Drilling in the Arctic Refuge

The Biden-Harris administration put a day-one freeze on Trump's attempt to fast-track drilling in the majestic Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. By halting the drilling process in the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge — the land that the Gwich'in people call "The sacred place where life begins" — the administration has provided a reprieve from Big Oil for this sacred place that is ground zero for the impacts of climate change. To fully remove the threat of drilling, it is incumbent on Congress to swiftly pass legislation restoring protections for this iconic landscape.

Moving to Restore Protections for National Monuments

The Biden-Harris administration kick-started its conservation agenda with a day one executive order to review Trump's unlawful attempts to diminish protections for the Bears Ears, Grand Staircase-Escalante, and Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monuments. Protecting lands that are sacred to tribes and waters that provide a buffer for marine life against the worst impacts of climate change would mark a major shift toward conservation that prioritizes people over polluters.

Ensuring an Accurate Census

The Biden-Harris administration immediately reversed Trump's racist and unlawful executive order excluding undocumented people from the Census count. This Biden-Harris administration executive order clearly defines the purpose of the Census to count all people within our country, an acknowledgment that we cannot have a truly representative democracy and equitable response to environmental injustice if people are left out of the national count.



Chalk the Vote, Detroit

Securing Protections for Dreamers

With a day one executive order protecting Dreamers and ensuring a path to citizenship, the immigrant youth and community leaders who have long fought to protect their families were prioritized in this human rights victory. This is an important step toward all people having the safety, stability, and legal means to fully participate and contribute to their communities and our nation.

Halting the Border Wall

On day one, the Biden-Harris administration discontinued Trump's plans to build a xenophobic, racist, and environmentally destructive border wall. Trump's planned wall threatened communities living along our southern border, had far-ranging negative impacts on our lands, wildlife and waterways, and circumvented bedrock environmental laws — which the new administration immediately rejected.

Advancing Racial Equity Through the Federal Government

For too long, our laws, policies, and governance have reinforced racial disparities, upholding systems that continually disadvantage communities of color. On day one, the Biden-Harris administration announced a whole-of-government equity agenda that promises to systematically implement fair decision-making processes across the entire executive branch and redress inequities that exist in current policies and programs. This executive order — which seeks to more equitably allocate federal resources and benefits, engage historically excluded communities in the decision-making process, and establish a working group — is a step toward our federal government ensuring everyone has opportunity in our country.





Prioritizing the Public Interest

On day one, the Biden-Harris administration signed an executive order requiring all appointees to commit to an ethics pledge that promises decisions will be made exclusively for the public interest and not for private or personal gain. This executive order is a clear signal that the administration is prioritizing people — who are the heart of our democracy — and is a step toward ending the revolving door in politics that benefits polluters at the expense of our communities.

A week after inauguration, the Biden-Harris administration devoted an entire day to executive actions that will help tackle climate change, create jobs, and confront environmental racism. It was the single biggest day for climate action in more than a decade. In his remarks, the president emphasized the inextricable link between climate and jobs:

“Today is ‘Climate Day’ at the White House, which means that today is ‘Jobs Day’ at the White House.”

EXECUTIVE ACTIONS

CLIMATE + DEMOCRACY

Centering Climate in National Security and Foreign Policy

To establish the United States as a global climate leader, this executive order acknowledged increased goals for emissions reductions, kicked off a plan to establish and finance the U.S. reduction plan, and reaffirmed the president's World Leaders Climate Summit.

Whole-of-Government Approach to the Climate Crisis

To coordinate a whole-of-government approach to the climate crisis, this executive order formally established the White House Office of Domestic Climate Policy, which is charged with coordinating and implementing the president's domestic climate agenda. It also established the National Climate Task Force, which consists of 21 leaders from across federal agencies who are working together to create a whole-of-government approach to confronting the climate crisis.

Rebuilding Infrastructure

This executive order encourages construction, manufacturing, and engineering jobs by ensuring that every federal infrastructure investment reduces climate pollution and steps are also taken to accelerate clean energy and transmission projects while protecting the environment.





Leading by Example

To model climate leadership, this executive order directs federal agencies to purchase carbon-free electricity and zero-emission vehicles, increase climate resilience of facilities, and create jobs that meet wage and benefit guidelines, with a choice to join a union. It also calls on the secretary of the Interior to pause new oil and gas leasing on public lands and waters while reviewing existing unfair processes and identifying new processes that will double renewable energy production from offshore wind by 2030.

Conserving 30% of America's Lands and Waters by 2030

To fight the climate crisis and improve equitable access to nature, this executive order committed the U.S. to the goal of conserving at least 30% of our lands and ocean by 2030 and included an intentional process for stakeholder engagement so those who know our lands best help determine how we reach this ambitious goal. Conserving 30% of our lands and waters is enormously popular among communities and their state and local leaders — 70 mayors and 450 state and local elected officials recently declared their support for the initiative.

Revitalizing Energy Communities

To ensure no one is left behind in our transition to clean energy, this executive order established an interagency working group and directs federal agencies to coordinate assistance and investments in communities whose workforce relies on coal, oil, and natural gas extraction, and power plants. These investments include reducing toxic substances leaking from existing and abandoned infrastructure to protect community health and turning idled properties, like brownfields, into new hubs of economic growth.

Securing Environmental Justice

To ensure a more equitable and healthier future for everyone, this executive order directed every agency to make environmental justice a part of their mission and develop programs and policies that address the disproportionate health, environmental, economic, and climate impacts on historically marginalized and overburdened communities, which are often communities of color. This order also pledged to deliver 40% of federal investments to disadvantaged communities and committed to strengthen enforcement of violations of environmental laws with a disparate impact on underserved communities. It also established the White House Environmental Justice Interagency Council and the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council to facilitate a whole-of-government approach to environmental justice.

Restoring Scientific Integrity

After the Trump administration undermined science and censored scientists for four years, this memorandum helps to restore the role of science in federal decision making, directing agencies to use the best available science and data to inform their policies and programs.

Reestablishing Council of Advisors on Science and Technology

To facilitate a whole-of-government commitment to scientific integrity, this executive order reestablished the president's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology.

Addressing the Social Cost of Carbon

Greenhouse gas emissions have a cost — paid mostly by communities of color and low-income communities, and the Biden-Harris administration has directed agencies to take the true harms of pollution into account when crafting policies and regulations. For the communities of color who have historically been exploited by polluting industries, these interim social cost of carbon findings are a start to the long overdue accountability they deserve.



Protecting the Integrity of the National Environmental Policy Act

The Council on Environmental Quality has withdrawn Trump's Draft Greenhouse Gas Guidance, which attempted to narrow federal agencies' consideration of climate impacts in their National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) reviews of energy, infrastructure, and other projects. The Biden-Harris administration has also listed for review and potential replacement the Trump administration's rule attacking public input and scientific impacts assessment in implementation of NEPA.

Restoring the Integrity of the Land and Water Conservation Fund

In the final days of the Trump administration, then-Secretary of Interior David Bernhardt put policies in place that would have undermined the Land and Water Conservation Fund by shifting money away from grants for nature-deprived communities and allowing governors and local governments to veto land acquisitions. The Biden-Harris administration reversed Bernhardt's order — ensuring that one of our greatest conservation programs can work as intended and prioritize creating more equitable access to our nation's outdoors.

Jumpstarting Offshore Wind Projects

In Biden's first week in office, he committed to doubling renewable energy from offshore wind by 2030. Leaders from across the administration came together to formulate a bold set of actions to support offshore wind energy, strengthen the domestic supply chain, and create good-paying, union jobs. The whole-of-government approach to offshore wind includes a new

priority wind energy area in New York, steps toward approving our country's first large-scale offshore wind farm, Vineyard Wind, upgrades to supply chain infrastructure like ports and factories, investments in research and development, and more.

Committing to 2030 U.S. Climate Goal

In announcing a near doubling of U.S. ambition in its commitment to reducing climate pollution over 10 years, the Biden-Harris administration has signaled to the world that the U.S. is serious about tackling climate change. Still, the other climate-related actions listed here are just the first step to meeting the commitment to rapidly slash emissions — Congress will need to pass massive climate-saving infrastructure investments along the lines of the American Jobs Plan, and the administration will have to swiftly put forward complementary regulatory actions.

Promoting Access to Voting

Too many people in this country — especially people of color — face discriminatory policies and obstacles to exercising their fundamental right to vote. To uphold the federal government's responsibility of ensuring access to the ballot box for all, the administration issued an executive order that directs agencies to help promote voter registration and participation through their existing services, modernizes and improves the website [vote.gov](https://www.vote.gov), establishes a Native American Voting Rights Steering group, ensures voting access to eligible individuals in federal custody, and ensures access to voting for military and overseas residents.



Honor the Vote Exhibit, Atlanta

WHAT IS NEXT



photo: Adam Schultz

In just 100 Days, the Biden-Harris administration has shown our country that they heard voters' mandate to confront the climate crisis in a just and equitable way while fixing our democracy.

The administration has appointed a historic and visionary team, created the internal infrastructure to ensure climate and justice permeate the entire executive branch, have begun their work on the American Jobs Plan economic recovery package that prioritizes clean energy, justice, and jobs and are showing support for democracy reforms that will make our governance more equitable and fair, especially for people who have long been disenfranchised from the process. We hope the administration and Congress will build on this early progress and strong foundation by enacting the American Jobs Plan into law and pursuing democracy reforms that make our country more inclusive and responsive to the people.

AMERICAN JOBS PLAN

This spring, President Biden debuted his American Jobs Plan, calling for historic investments in our country's infrastructure. To meet the converging crises we face, it is critical that this recovery plan prioritize addressing long-standing racial and environmental injustice, tackling the climate crisis, and creating good-paying, union jobs. As the Biden-Harris administration and Congress move forward, we are working to defend and ensure robust enactment of these priorities:

Put the U.S. on the path to **100% carbon-free energy** powering our electricity grid, and new cars, buses, and buildings by 2035. A robust 10-year tax title is a critical part of this, as are complementary policies like a clean energy standard, major electric vehicle charging infrastructure initiatives, manufacturing incentives, and clean energy research and development.

Center justice and equity for low-income communities and communities of color harmed by the legacy of toxic pollution, including delivering on the president's Justice40 promise to deliver **40% of benefits to these most-impacted communities.**

Support the maintenance and creation of millions of **high-quality, good paying jobs** in the domestic clean energy and manufacturing sectors and across the economy.

Make **investments that harness our public lands and the ocean for climate solutions and resiliency.**

Ensure that these investments **deliver on the basic right of clean water for all.** Bold investments are needed in our drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, especially in low-income communities and communities of color who have borne a disproportionate share of the pollution burden and failing water infrastructure.

DEMOCRACY REFORM

For far too long, restrictive voting laws and partisan gerrymandering have silenced voices in our communities, disproportionately suppressing people of color, young people, and people with disabilities. Unrigging our political system would help restore trust in our elections and return power to the overwhelming majority of people in this country who want to see meaningful action on climate change and clean energy. Congress has introduced the following legislation that would strengthen our democracy if passed and signed into law by President Biden:

The For the People Act — S. 1 and H.R. 1, which the House passed — is a sweeping democracy reform package that will expand **and protect the freedom to vote, end partisan and racial gerrymandering, get polluter money out of politics, and restore transparency and accountability in our government.** This legislation would also supersede racist voter suppression laws that a disturbing number of state legislatures are considering, like the sweeping 'Jim Crow 2.0' elections bill enacted in Georgia — a blatant attempt to suppress the Black and Brown voters who overcame barriers to participate in the 2020 election.


The Washington, DC Admission Act, H.R. 51, which the House passed, would grant DC statehood. The **unrepresented residents of DC — more than half of whom are people of color — deserve to have their voices heard in our country's legislative process,** particularly on environmental justice issues, including air pollution, contamination of waterways, and equitable solutions to the climate crisis. It is past time for equal representation in our federal government and the fundamental right to self-govern for the more than 700,000 residents of our nation's capital.



PRESIDENT BIDEN SUPPORTS DEMOCRACY REFORM

After the House passed the For the People Act of 2021, President Biden showed his support of the legislation, saying:

"The right to vote is sacred and fundamental — it is the right from which all of our other rights as Americans spring. This landmark legislation is urgently needed to protect that right, to safeguard the integrity of our elections, and to repair and strengthen our democracy."



“This is a time of testing. We face an attack on democracy and on truth. A raging virus. Growing inequity. The sting of systemic racism. A climate in crisis. America’s role in the world. Any one of these would be enough to challenge us in profound ways. But the fact is we face them all at once, presenting this nation with the gravest of responsibilities. Now we must step up. All of us.”

– President Biden in his inaugural address to the nation on January 20, 2021



Our Earth Is Worth Fighting For

For more information or to get involved, visit lcv.org

   @LCVoters

740 15th Street NW, Suite 700

Washington, DC 20005

202.785.8683