

Executive Actions by Agency

Agency for International Development

Mission

Promote sustainable development that minimizes the associated growth in greenhouse gas emissions and reduces vulnerability to climate change.

Website

http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/environment/climate/

Executive Actions

1. Work with the United Nations Environment Programme to share technologies and best practices on energy production and conservation and on preserving and **restoring natural systems** that protect vulnerable areas from flooding, storm surges and other weather-related events.
2. Champion reforms to de-carbonize international development programs and focus them on renewable energy projects in the developing world.
3. Advocate that international development programs improve their performance on meeting other important environmental objectives. A [July 2008 report](#) by the Independent Evaluation Group, based on an examination of \$400 billion in investments in nearly 7,000 projects, concluded that environmental and sustainability objectives were often not put into practice in projects financed by the World Bank and its sister institutions.
4. Propose and champion a **Carbon Debit Mechanism** to address the previous lack in greenhouse gas trading regimes – the failure to factor in the greenhouse gas emissions created by projects funded by development banks that would not have occurred had those projects not been done. Based on a methodology developed by the National Academy of Sciences and approved by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, investors would be required -- prior to project approval -- to assess the emissions impact of their lending. Investors could claim and profit from a credit only when the bank's investment portfolio shows net greenhouse gas credits on an annual basis.
5. Shift humanitarian aid from focusing on disaster response to **disaster prevention**. Much of the world's population lives in coastal areas vulnerable to extreme weather and inundation. As the U.S. increases its emphasis on preserving and restoring natural systems that protect vulnerable domestic areas from flooding, storm surges and other weather-related events, it should work closely with the United Nations Environment Programme to share best practices with developing nations.

Climate Change Science Program

Mission

Facilitate the creation and application of knowledge of the Earth's global environment through research, observations, decision support, and communication.

Website

<http://www.climatescience.gov/>

Executive Actions

1. Distribute [regional climate models](#) to states and localities to help them engage in adaptation. Synthesize models at scales that are useful to state and local governments and act as a clearinghouse for climate impact models so that states and localities have access to the most up to date scientific information possible, published in a form that is useful to them.
2. Ensure that federal managers with responsibilities impacted by climate will be **trained** and able to respond. Develop workshops for federal managers that are regionally specific and tailored to the responsibilities of the agencies. In-person workshops are ideal, however exploring the potential for Internet-based formats would be ideal to both provide continuing access to the content and to reduce the need to travel to central locations.
3. Help **coastal populations and ecosystems** adapt to the effects of climate change by assessing the likely impacts of global warming on coastal communities and ecosystems. Provide this assessment to help the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and state and local governments to improve planning, adaptation and disaster-prevention programs.

Council on Environmental Quality

Mission

Coordinates federal environmental efforts and works closely with agencies and other White House offices in the development of environmental policies and initiatives. The CEQ Chair serves as the principal environmental policy adviser to the President. In addition, CEQ reports annually to the President on the state of the environment; oversees federal agency implementation of the environmental impact assessment process; and acts as a referee when agencies disagree over the adequacy of such assessments.

Website

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/ceq/aboutceq.html>

Executive Actions

1. Enter into discussions with Congressional leaders to define “**climate change emergency**” and to determine whether the Executive Branch has adequate existing authority to respond to such emergencies and to the threat of such emergencies. Prepare recommendations on any new authorities the President or members of the Administration should seek from Congress to deal with climate change emergencies.
2. Expedite the interagency effort to develop **national indicators** of ecosystem health, to implement the indicators and to report on national progress every two years.
3. Establish a task force to identify **policy gaps** in the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, National Environmental Policy Act and other federal environmental laws related to addressing natural resource management in the context of global climate change. Recommend provisions to address these gaps. Request an independent review of the analysis by the Environmental Law Institute and/or other independent organizations with expertise in U.S. environmental law.
4. Require that all **Environmental Impact Statements (EISs)** address climate change impacts, including those on ecosystems, biodiversity and ecosystem services, and to provide agencies with guidance on how to address this requirement. Issue appropriate guidance to agencies.
5. Assess the adequacy of agency procedures to review and quantify the impact of existing and proposed federal programs and policies on **biodiversity, ecosystem functions and services**. If current methods are not adequate, lead an interagency effort to improve them.
6. Organize a **Presidential Commission on Biodiversity** to recommend how federal policy related to species, land use, natural resources, marine resources, trade policy, etc. can be strengthened to better address habitat loss, threatened ecosystems, over-consumption, invasive species, environmental degradation and other drivers of biodiversity loss, to minimize extinctions and loss of genetic diversity, species, populations and habitats in the face of threats from climate change.
7. Convene a high-profile summit on how existing federal agencies and programs can be reformed to avoid further **wetland and riparian destruction** and promote large-scale river and wetland restoration, including the role for innovative public/private restoration finance options.
8. Update key federal floodplain and wetlands directives under Executive Orders 11988 and 11990 to reflect anticipated impacts from intense precipitation events as well as the impacts of land development from recent decades on hydrology.
9. Establish **life-cycle performance criteria** for federal loans, loan guarantees and other financial assistance where criteria are under the administration’s jurisdiction. Criteria should include net energy benefits, net greenhouse gas emissions, net water consumption, and other key economic and environmental factors that can be adequately quantified.

Mission

Provide leadership on food, agriculture, natural resources, and related issues based on sound public policy, the best available science, and efficient management.

Website

www.usda.gov

Executive Actions

1. Assess the emerging and projected impacts of climate change on the **National Forests**, including wilderness areas and other protected public lands managed by the USDA, and recommendation responsive actions to protect fish, wildlife, natural habitat and ecosystem services.
2. Create a **50-year federal agriculture plan**. The [Land Institute](#)'s Wes Jackson recently initiated a discussion that [recommends the next 10 five-year Farm Bills](#) be developed to achieve a) no net loss of soil, soil fertility or soil biodiversity; b) net reductions in greenhouse gas emissions; c) conservation and detoxification of water supplies; d) minimal nitrogen runoff; e) more profitable farms, more farm families and more vital rural communities; f) healthful food; and g) high yields. The 50-year plan should include a policy roadmap to make rural America the nation's principal source of renewable energy supply and carbon sequestration services.
3. Manage the evolution of **biofuels** and study methods of mitigating the impact of current corn ethanol production on food availability and costs.
4. Determine what funds are needed to finance Section 9010 of the 2008 Farm Bill, which "subsidizes the use of **sugar for ethanol** production through federal purchases of surplus sugar for sale to ethanol producers." Most other sections have specific dollar figures attached. Currently, this section simply states that "funds will be provided in sufficient amounts."
5. Work with the [Chicago Climate Exchange](#) to develop **criteria for agricultural and forestry practices** that are legitimate, verifiable and productive opportunities for funding from carbon offset programs.

Department of Defense

Mission

Providing the military forces needed to deter war and protect the security of our country.

Website

<http://www.defenselink.mil/>

Executive Actions

1. Adopt and rapidly implement the recommendations of the Defense Science Board Task Force on energy use (see [“More Fight, Less Fuel”](#)¹), including efforts to **reduce the military’s dependence on oil** and other finite sources of energy and to deploy renewable energy systems at military installations.. The DOD is [the single largest consumer of fossil energy in the world](#), making national defense vulnerable to fuel shortages and energy price spikes.
2. Work with the Department of Energy, the Agency for International Development and other relevant federal agencies to determine how energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies – which can help developing nations avoid resource conflicts and greenhouse gas emissions -- can be better integrated into **defense planning**.
3. Explore and if warranted seek greater **international cost-sharing** for protecting global oil supplies. [The International Center for Technology Assessment](#) estimated in a 2005 analysis that the military costs of protecting U.S. oil supplies around the world range from \$47 billion to \$113 billion each year (2003 dollars). Other economies – including Western Europe and Japan – also depend upon oil imports from volatile regions such as the Persian Gulf. Direct the DOD to evaluate international participation in protecting global oil supplies and routes to determine whether greater cost-sharing is justified from other nations.
4. Implement the recommendations of the [Center for Naval Analyses](#) study² to address the **security implications of climate change**. They include a) full integration of the national security implications of climate change into security and defense strategies; b) improvements in the Department of Defense’s combat power through energy efficiency; and e) an assessment by DOD of climate impacts on U.S. military installations worldwide.
5. Fully implement the [new Army doctrine](#) that nation building and safeguarding populations in “fragile states”, including those affected by energy conflicts and climate change, are likely to become more important than conventional war-fighting in coming years. The new doctrine, which will drive Army training and resource allocations in coming years, was issued in a new “Stability Operations Field Manual” in October 2008. Work with all branches of the military to adopt this doctrine, to include the eventuality of resource conflicts and climate disruptions in anticipating where “stability operations” should be undertaken, and to consult with the federal Climate Change Science Program to determine the likely locations of climate-related instability.

Department of Education

Mission

The Department of Education’s mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

¹ Department of Defense, Defense Science Board. 2001. Task Force on Improving Fuel Efficiency of Weapons Platforms. More Capable Warfighting Through Reduced Fuel Burden. January 2001

² See pop. 46-48 for a full description of CNA’s recommendations.

Website

<http://www.ed.gov/index.jhtml>

Executive Actions

1. Work with the [Federal Government Distance Learning Association](#) (a nonprofit organization) to provide technical assistance to the nation's educational institutions on **distance learning**.
2. Work with the Climate Change Science Program, national laboratories and others to develop model curricula to improve **ecological literacy**, including understanding of the climate, oceans, soils, water and other life-support systems, at all grade levels.

Department of Energy

Mission

Advance the national, economic, and energy security of the United States; promote scientific and technological innovation in support of that mission; and ensure the environmental cleanup of the national nuclear weapons complex.

Website

<http://www.energy.gov/>

Executive Actions

1. Diagnose the causes, and propose solutions to, the logjam in setting **appliance efficiency standards**.
2. Work with ASHRAE, the U.S. Green Building Council, the American Institute of Architects and other stakeholder organizations to develop **model national building codes** that lead to zero-carbon performance in all new and substantially remodeled commercial buildings by 2025, and all new/remodeled residential buildings by 2030. The codes should require that starting in 2010, all new construction (residential and commercial) will use 50 percent less energy than regional averages.
3. Work with ASHRAE to develop new model building standards for **schools and public housing** projects.
4. Propose climate adaptation measures that are appropriate for and can be undertaken by the [Weatherization Assistance Program](#) (WAP) as it weatherizes the homes of low-income families. Determine whether WAP should adopt higher insulation and other energy efficiency standards in view of predicted impacts of climate change – for example, increasing numbers and intensity of heat waves.
5. Immediately implement the energy efficiency provisions in the **Energy Independence and Security Act** of 2007. Give highest priority to the new standards for fan, furnace and standby mode energy consumption. Fast-track the required rule making processes.

6. Assess the nation's [recoverable natural gas reserves](#), given advancements in extraction technologies that may dramatically expand supplies of **shale gas**. Assess the potential for converting existing conventional coal generation plants to natural gas, thereby replacing the dirtiest fossil fuel with the cleanest. This assessment should include the life-cycle carbon emissions of coal versus shale gas, including the costs of mitigating the environmental liabilities of each.
7. In view of new projections of domestic natural gas reserves, assess need for and the full, life-cycle costs and benefits of planned investments in **LNG import infrastructure** in the United States, compared to investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies sufficient to provide comparable energy value for comparable uses. Include externalities such as the defense of LNG port facilities, shipments and supplies.
8. Work with the National Institute for Standards and Technology, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the [National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners](#) to develop protocols and standards for a national **smart grid** to maximize the efficiency of the nation's electricity distribution system, improve its ability to mitigate the intermittency of wind and solar energy by moving power around the system, and accommodate distributed power systems.
9. Undertake a high-priority program of research, development and demonstration of [energy-storage technologies](#) that solve the intermittency problem of solar and wind power and allow base-load power plants to store power for peak periods. Give this research as high a priority as the DOE's work on carbon capture and storage (CCS).
10. Work with the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners to develop a **green rating and recognition system for electric and natural gas utilities**. The system could be modeled on the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED program for buildings, with points awarded for policies that advance energy efficiency and renewable energy and for greenhouse gas reduction in utility operations
11. Work with the nation's most carbon- and energy-intensive industries to create **technology roadmaps** that lead to major energy efficiency improvements and ultra-low greenhouse gas emissions. The [American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy](#) indicates that U.S. industries are nearing a period of substantial investment in capacity, providing an opportunity for substantial improvements in energy efficiency and emissions reduction. Direct that national laboratories use these roadmaps to guide future research and development related to industrial emissions. (In its [Industries of the Future](#) program, the DOE already has worked with many of America's most energy-intensive industries to develop pollution prevention roadmaps. These should be upgraded to include greenhouse gas emission reductions.)
12. Include **carbon inventories and greenhouse gas reduction consultation** in the energy and waste reduction audits performed for small- and medium-size industries by the [Industrial Assessment Center](#) program.
13. Report annually on the results of **federal energy programs and subsidies**. In a 2005 report, the General Accounting Office cited "a lack of a central source of

- information on the progress of federal energy-related efforts that may hinder policy makers in determining the direction of future energy policy initiatives.”
14. Monitor and regularly report on the progress of **research and development of clean coal technology** to assess its ability to provide safe and reliable low-carbon electric power at competitive prices and whether continued investments in research and development of this technology are in the public interest. Monitoring should include these factors:
 - a. Net-carbon, net-energy and net-environmental benefits of clean-coal technology over its life cycle, including mining and transport, compared to other electric generation technologies. (Carbon capture reportedly will require so much energy that it could reduce plant output by [10 to 30 percent](#).)
 - b. Adequacy of rail capacity be sufficient to transport coal in sufficient quantities to meet power demand.
 - c. Cost of infrastructure investments necessary to transport captured carbon to suitable storage sites.
 - d. Costs and responsibilities for long-term monitoring of sequestration sites.
 15. Analyze and synthesize the conclusions of recent studies on the potential contribution of energy efficiency and renewable energy to U.S. energy supplies, including:
 - a. The [Solar Grand Plan](#), a strategy to rapidly deploy solar technologies to provide nearly 70 percent of the nation’s electricity and 35 percent of its total energy (including transportation) by 2050, with a federal investment of \$400 billion over the next 40 years.
 - b. [Tackling Climate Change in the U.S.](#), a study by the American Solar Energy Society which concludes that renewable energy technologies can displace approximately 1.2 billion tons of carbon emissions annually by the year 2030—the magnitude of reduction that many scientists believe is necessary to prevent the most dangerous consequences of climate change. The report describes how energy efficiency measures could keep U.S. carbon emissions roughly constant over the next 23 years as the economy grows, and how renewable energy technologies could make deep cuts below today’s emissions.
 - c. [20% Wind Energy by 2030](#)” by the U.S. Department of Energy’s Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. The analysis concludes it is technically plausible to obtain one-fifth of the nation’s electricity from wind power by 2030, assuming sufficient investment in transmission.
 - d. [Carbon Free and Nuclear Free: A Roadmap for U.S. Energy Policy](#), which describes a strategy to achieve a zero-carbon economy in 30 to 50 years and to eliminate net oil imports in 25 years.
 - e. [The Outlook on Renewable Energy in America](#), by the American Council on Renewable Energy, which concludes that renewables could provide 635 gigawatts of new generating capacity by 2025, potentially more than the nation will need.
 16. Develop and regularly update an **evaluation of energy resources and technologies** based on a performance standard that includes their ability to reduce

- the nation's greenhouse gas emissions while simultaneously increasing national security, reducing vulnerability to domestic terrorism or sabotage, securing stable long-term energy supplies and reducing the nation's import of fossil fuels. Provide these evaluations to the White House and the Congress to assist them in setting the nation's energy investment priorities.
17. Develop specific energy-related climate mitigation and adaptation criteria for the [Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant](#) (EECBG) program established in the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA 2007).
 18. Provide technical and financial support to research projects that determine how **whole community design, advanced energy technologies and smart grids** can be integrated into new urban environments in collaboration with public, private and nonprofit entities, as authorized under EISA 2007.
 19. Evaluate the **water impacts** of various energy resources and technologies, particularly in areas of the U.S. expected to experience drought, and provide this information to state energy officials and public utility commissions. In R&D and technology deployment programs, emphasize fuels and energy technologies that minimize water use and identify opportunities to simultaneously advance CO₂ emissions reductions and water conservation.
 20. Work with the building industry to develop guidelines for **adaptive designs** that allow easier and less expensive building retrofits as new efficiency and renewable energy technologies are developed and become affordable. Incorporate the new guidelines in the Federal Energy Management Program and make the guidelines available to agencies that provide financial assistance for state, local and private building design and construction.
 21. Consult with other oil-importing nations to explore the creation of an international **Organization of Petroleum Importing Countries** for collaboration on energy policies, best practices, technology sharing and subsidy reform to reduce global dependence on oil, and to increase the global network of strategic petroleum reserves.
 22. In light of al Qaeda threats against U.S. domestic energy systems, work with the Department of Homeland Security to make security against attack and disruption a key factor in the nation's **energy infrastructure investments**.
 23. Develop strategies to phase in **marine diesel** and other cleaner fuel options, and to phase out Bunker C as fuel for shipping and cruise lines in U.S. ports.
 24. Develop recommendations to reduce energy emissions from **ocean vessels** while at port.
 25. Review the priorities of the **Asia-Pacific Partnership**. In 2005, the Bush Administration announced the [Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate](#), a seven-nation collaboration to accelerate the development and commercialization of low-carbon energy technologies. Members -- Canada, China, India, Japan, South Korea, Australia and the United States -- are collectively responsible for more than 50 percent of the world's energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. Review the objectives and work of the Partnership to ensure it reflects the administration's energy, security and climate goals, including the reduction of international reliance on fossil energy.

26. In collaboration with the State Department, explore a **bilateral agreement with China** to collaborate on technology transfer and emissions reduction, with the goal of concluding the agreement prior to the international climate meeting in Copenhagen in December 2009. Based on this exploration, advise the President on whether he should visit personally with President Hu Jintao to facilitate an agreement.
27. Propose creation of an **International Renewable Energy Agency (IREA)** funded by redirecting global subsidies that have traditionally supported carbon-intensive projects in the fossil and nuclear energy industries to renewable energy investments. The IREA would provide technical assistance through a worldwide network of experts in energy efficiency and renewable technology. Financing would be administered through an IREA Clean Energy Bank to provide micro-loans and grants as well as to facilitate technology transfer from the U.S. and other industrialized nations to the developing world.
28. Recommend to the Secretary of the Treasury how the [home energy rating system](#) might be used by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to determine eligibility for and the quality of home mortgages.
29. Work with the Small Business Administration and Department of Commerce to propose an **Industrial Transition Assistance Program (I-TAP)**, including technical and financial assistance that would help energy-intensive companies and industries make the transition to a low-carbon economy – for example, by switching their product lines from carbon-intensive to carbon-free goods. One recent precedent is [\\$25 billion in loan guarantees](#) Congress approved in September 2008 to help the U.S. auto industry produce more efficient vehicles.
30. Strengthen the goals of the **Federal Energy Management Program** to stimulate markets for green energy and products. Direct agencies to use their power as consumers to open new markets for green products, from paper and paperclips to trucks and tanks. Require that government supply chains comply with standards to reduce their carbon footprints and require that state and local agencies do the same when they receive federal funding. With more than 500,000 buildings, 600,000 vehicles and \$18 billion in energy expenditures each year, the federal government can become a huge, sustained customer for green energy and products, spurring industries to invest in new plant and equipment.
31. Revive the Cool Communities program, providing grants to cities to reduce the urban heat island effect and resulting heat-related illness and deaths with the use of green roofs, urban forests, light-colored surfacing and other strategies.

Department of Health and Human Services

Mission

Protect the health of all Americans and providing essential human services, especially for those who are least able to help themselves.

Website

<http://www.hhs.gov/>

Executive Actions

1. Evaluate the **likely impact of climate-related public health problems on low-income populations** and on the cost and availability of health insurance. Direct DHHS to devise recommendations for local governments on measures to help low-income populations cope with impacts such as heat waves, increased allergies, and new disease vectors.³
2. Assess the nation's capacity to monitor and treat diseases related to climate change, including infectious diseases, heat-related illness and respiratory illness. This could augment the current Environmental Health Tracking Program.
3. Develop a national response plan for heat wave emergencies with the participation of local governments.
4. Direct the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to meet annually with representatives of local governments and professional organizations to assess their needs for assistance in adapting to health- and weather-related emergencies. Reflect local priorities and needs in budget requests and program plans.
5. Direct the National Institutes of Health and CDC, in coordination with DHS, to coordinate their programs and plans for mitigating and adapting to climate-related health problems.
6. Direct the CDC and DHS to provide communities with information on how to prepare for and address public health emergencies related to climate change, including preparation for heat waves, storms and winter weather anomalies; the use of air-conditioned facilities as emergency shelters during heat events; the provision of back-up energy supplies for hospitals and other critical facilities. (See Adaptation and States and Localities chapters.)
7. Direct the CDC, working with the Building Codes and Standards Program at the U.S. Department of Energy, to incorporate disaster resilience, cooling strategies and other critical design features into model national building codes. Pay particular attention to standards for schools and public buildings that affect large populations, factoring in energy efficiency and other green building advantages.

Department of Housing and Urban Development

Mission

Encourage a strong private sector housing industry that can produce affordable housing; and to stimulate private sector initiatives, public/private sector partnerships, and public entrepreneurship.

Website

<http://www.hud.gov/>

³ Redefining Progress has studied the health and other impacts of climate change, and energy and climate policies, on communities of color. See its reports at http://www.rprogress.org/publications/2004/CBCF_REPORT_F.pdf

Executive Actions

1. Include transportation costs when indexing housing affordability
2. Work with the Federal Transit Administration to implement the [joint actions](#) to facilitate investments in housing and urban development near mass transit. (HUD and FTA identified these improvements in a report they prepared at the direction of the Transportation and Housing and urban Development Appropriations Committee.)

Department of Interior

Mission

Protect and provide access to our nation's natural and cultural heritage and honor our trust responsibilities to Indian Tribes and our commitments to island communities.

Website

<http://www.doi.gov/>

Executive Actions

1. Fully and promptly collect all [lease and royalty payments](#) due from energy companies for energy production on public lands. According to the General Accounting Office, the U.S. government charges among the [lowest royalty rates in the world](#) for energy production on public lands. Interior's inspector general identified several past issues in the collection of royalty payments, including the failure by the Minerals Management Service to collect royalty payments for drilling leases it issued in 1998-99, costing the government \$10 billion.

Department of Labor

Mission

Foster and promote the welfare of the job seekers, wage earners, and retirees of the United States by improving their working conditions, advancing their opportunities for profitable employment, protecting their retirement and health care benefits, helping employers find workers, strengthening free collective bargaining, and tracking changes in employment, prices, and other national economic measurements..

Website

<http://www.dol.gov/>

Executive Actions

1. Develop a program and budget request that provides **climate-action assistance for workers** displaced by carbon pricing and other federal policies to reduce

greenhouse gas emissions. As a starting point, consider the assistance package framed by the [Economic Policy Institute](#), including these provisions:

- a. Every worker who loses his or her job in an energy-producing or energy-intensive industry would be provided with compensation equal to two years of full income, including health and retirement benefits;
- b. Affected workers should be provided up to four years of college education or other professional training, and up to two additional years of full income support for those who take more than two years of education or training;
- c. Older workers should be provided the option of benefits that create a bridge to retirement.

Department of State

Mission Statement

Create a more secure, democratic, and prosperous world for the benefit of the American people and the international community.

Web Site

<http://www.state.gov/>

Executive Actions

1. Organize a meeting early in 2009 between President Obama and leaders from the **European Union and Australia** to discuss their positions on a suitable post-Kyoto agreement, including the responsibilities of developed and developing nations.
2. Propose that United Nations assess the impact of **greenhouse gas emissions in the developing world**. There is no credible system in place to assess the full impact of greenhouse gas emissions in the developing world – ranging from wood and dung fires, to methane from rice paddies, to deforestation. The Administration should propose an assessment by the United Nations Environment Programme that distinguishes between “luxury” and “survival” emissions – in other words, carbon emissions from activities vital to providing basic needs versus those that are not.
3. Seek an **international “grand deal” on carbon subsidies**. A [recent analysis](#) by the United Nations Environmental Programme estimates worldwide subsidies of fossil fuels may amount to as much as \$300 billion annually. Once the United States has begun an orderly phase-out of its own fossil energy subsidies, the Administration should seek agreement among all nations to a) inventory, quantify and improve reporting of their fossil energy subsidies; b) phase out the subsidies, preferably with funds redirected to energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies; c) facilitate the transfer of clean

- technologies and resources to the developing world to reduce their need for fossil fuels; and 4) establish an enforcement mechanism.
4. Inform the Iraqi government that effective immediately, Iraq will be expected to pay for its reconstruction. In 2003, then Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz assured the American people that Iraq, blessed with the world's third-largest oil reserves, would pay for its own [postwar reconstruction](#). Five years later as the 2008 presidential election approached, Congress had appropriated \$48 billion in U.S. taxpayer dollars to rebuild Iraq. Meantime, [Iraq will earn \\$156 billion in oil revenues between 2005 and the end of 2008](#), and has amassed a budget surplus of \$79 billion.
 5. Propose and work with the United Nations to develop and implement international roadmaps to a **carbon-free, nuclear-free global energy economy**.

Department of Transportation

Mission Statement

Ensure a fast, safe, efficient, accessible and convenient transportation system that meets our vital national interests and enhances the quality of life of the American people, today and into the future.

Website

<http://www.dot.gov/>

Executive Actions

1. Through the appointment and hiring process, ensure that key transportation officials have expertise in transit-oriented urban design; advanced low-carbon transit options; mixed-use development; pedestrian access and other methods to reduce vehicle miles traveled.
2. Increase the **CAFE standard** for passenger vehicles and light trucks to 50 miles per gallon by 2025.
3. Require that new and rehabilitated roads must be designed to provide **safe accommodations for pedestrians, cyclists, transit riders and people of all ages and disabilities**
4. Create a **Transportation Advisory Task Force** with representation from federal, state and local agencies, as well as experts from industry, the environment community and science,⁴ to provide recommendations to the Administration on the following issues:
 - a. Reforms needed in the reauthorization of SAFETEA-LU to dramatically reduce the nation's greenhouse gas emissions and reliance on petroleum fuels.

⁴ Among the participants should be the Secretary of Transportation, the modal administrators of the Federal Aviation Administration, the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Railroad Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, and the Maritime Administration, and the chief executive of the National Passenger Rail Corporation,

- b. Resources for and barriers to accelerated investments in inter-modal transportation systems.
 - c. Affirmative commitments for multi agency federal-state-local-private partnerships for inter-modal intercity travel.
 - d. Immediate actions that can be taken under executive authority and new authorities that should be sought from Congress to sustain sufficient funding for mobility projects in view of the fact that Congress has not yet authorized the Vision 100 Act (the statutory framework for the Federal Aviation Administration), the Aviation Airport and Airways Trust Fund or SAFETEA-LU.
 - e. Strategic direction to the Secretary of Transportation on how best to maximize leverage and develop scalable investments under the **Passenger Rail Safety Act**, which reauthorized Amtrak for five more years, provided capital funding for improving the existing intercity passenger rail network, and provided resources to advance high speed rail in the United States.
 - f. How federal data produced by different agencies, such as the EIA, EPA and Bureau of Transportation Statistics, can be made **more uniform** with clearly defined objectives so that data can be better compared and aggregated. (For example, EPA and EIA currently do not use the same categories for reporting data related to transportation emissions.)
5. Develop a strategy for replicating at national scale **experimental projects** that have been cost-shared by the federal government and have successfully demonstrated innovative approaches to enhancing mobility while reducing energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. These innovations include:
- a. Demand response systems such as car sharing for non-work trips and van pooling to supplement scheduled transit services. Car sharing in Chicago is resulting in increased transit use, significant sales of passenger vehicles by car-sharing and van-pool users, and net removal of 17 vehicles from private use for each vehicle shared.
 - b. The redesign of public right of way areas to create "complete streets" that safely accommodate pedestrians, bicycles, persons with disabilities, and children walking to and from schools.
 - c. Asset management approaches that extend the life and/or the use of existing systems before investing in new ones, or that use state and local access management authority to indirectly calm traffic and shape land use.
 - d. Peak and variable pricing to shift or lower transportation demand on toll highways, transit systems and intercity rail. (For example, a Federal Aviation Administration experiment at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago capped total flights at peak demand periods to address congestion problems at virtually no cost compared to the cost of new runways. A similar experiment is scheduled for all three airports in the New York City area, using auctioning of landing rights.)
 - e. Transit systems that bundle scheduled transit with car sharing with a single smart card (a practice recently approved by the Chicago Transit Authority); that tie system expansion to wind electric power; or that marry electric transit to electric distribution utilities and "smart grid" transmission systems,

providing both a dedicated source of authorized revenue for rapid expansion of transit systems.

6. Promote the new [standards for urban boulevards](#) developed by the Congress for a New Urbanism and the Institute for Transportation Engineers.
7. In collaboration with the EPA, analyze the potential savings in greenhouse gases and petroleum consumption that would result if a portion of federal revenues from carbon pricing were used to **invest in new mass transit systems** in the United States, including [high-speed rail](#) connecting the nation's major metropolitan areas.
8. Direct the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to change the funding formula and rating process in the [New Starts program](#) to eliminate time-consuming or prohibitive administrative measures for mass transit systems. Currently, for example, the agency requires more rigorous environmental impact assessments for public transportation projects than for highways.
9. Direct the FTA to begin evaluating the benefits of reducing traffic congestion, wear and tear on highways, and savings of CO₂ emissions on fuels when it evaluates the cost-effectiveness of public transportation projects.
10. Include lifecycle greenhouse gas emission reductions as a performance standard for awarding federal funds to states under the [Surface Transportation Program](#).
11. Report unobligated funds balances on a real time basis. (Federal highway funds are extremely flexible but that flexibility has been largely hidden from public view.)
12. Work with Congress to make rapid completion of emission-reducing mobility projects a condition of funding in order to maximize their environmental and local economic benefits.
13. Update federal regulations to reflect new funding mechanisms states and localities are using to compensate for the decline in motor fuel tax revenues. For example:
 - a. Make clear that federal authority and actions to reduce transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions govern projects supported by unconventional sources of funding such as public debt and local options taxes.
 - b. Remove barriers to flexible approaches for providing matching federal funds.
 - c. Clarify that such sources as Passenger Facility Charges levied on airline tickets can be used for groundside access such as regional mass transit air-rail connections and intercity passenger rail connections at airports.
14. Clarify requirements related to cost-reimbursement for local projects that replace aging highways in densely populated areas -- including limited-access, elevated and depressed expressways -- with urban boulevards backed up by existing street grids, local traffic calming and local transit system enhancements. Such replacements have already occurred in Milwaukee, San Francisco, New York, Portland OR, and New Jersey, and are being pursued in at least a dozen other cities. These efforts result in significant emissions reduction, but they are occurring in a confused regulatory environment in which it has been claimed that cities and states need to repay original cost to the federal government. DOT should:

- a. Give priority for rebuilding these highways in their original configurations ONLY when there are structural deficiencies that the original designs can best address, as opposed to basing such decisions on "functional" deficiency, criteria weighted toward traffic capacity increases (e.g.. lane widening and ramp widening) and against reductions in vehicle miles traveled.
 - b. Use principles of life cycle costing and least cost planning when considering the economics of substituting one form of transportation for another.
 - c. Allow flexibility and encourage states to support substitutions of “at-grade” or surface roads and transit for limited-access elevated or depressed roadways, without penalty,
15. Remove barriers to federal, regional, state and local [financing partnerships](#) for surface transportation projects, insofar as current law permits.

Department of the Treasury

Mission Statement

Serve the American people and strengthen national security by managing the U.S. Government's finances effectively, promoting economic growth and stability, and ensuring the safety, soundness, and security of the U.S. and international financial systems.

Website

<http://www.ustreas.gov/>

Executive Actions

1. Analyze the feasibility of using leverage acquired in recent federal rescue packages to require that the long-term costs of fossil fuels and risks associated with climate change be factors in rating communities and corporations.
2. Use the new authorities granted under the Housing and Economic Recovery Act, the takeover of Fannie May and Freddie Mac and other related legislation to ensure that mortgage refinancing, regulatory reform and federal funds for financial stabilization are structured to support the national goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. For example, new federal authority under the Housing and Economic Recovery Act should be used to advance the use of energy-efficient and location-efficient mortgages at substantial scale.
3. Consider providing credit enhancement to transit providers affected by the failure of the American International Group and at risk to pay default premiums.

Domestic Policy Council

Mission Statement

Coordinates the domestic policy-making process in the White House and offers policy advice to the President. The DPC also works to ensure that domestic policy initiatives are coordinated and consistent throughout federal agencies. Finally, the DPC monitors the implementation of domestic policy, and represents the President's priorities to other branches of government.

Agency Website

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/dpc/>

Executive Actions

1. Establish a [National Energy and Climate Council](#) and appoint a National Energy and Climate Advisor to head the council, equal in stature to the National Security Advisor and the National Economic Advisor. The new council should coordinate implementation of the Presidential Climate Action Plan; oversee climate and energy research; engage in international negotiations toward a post-Kyoto climate change agreement; and coordinate with state and local officials on mitigation and adaptation. In addition, the council will assist the administration with international strategies to reduce energy poverty and to cope with domestic and international climate-related emergencies. Direct the National Energy and Climate Council to prepare recommendations for executive and congressional action to spur energy innovation in the United States through better coordination of federal research, better management of demonstration projects and other reforms such as those proposed in [“A New Strategy to Spur Energy Innovation.”](#)
2. Assign the Council with principal responsibility for coordinating the implementation of the [Presidential Climate Action Plan](#).
3. Assign the Council to develop a strategy to **reduce domestic oil consumption 50 percent by 2020 and eliminate oil imports by mid century**. The U.S. Department of Energy sponsored a [study](#) in 2005 of what might happen when world oil production peaks, a milestone that [some say has already occurred](#). The authors conclude: “The peaking of world oil production presents the U.S. and the world with an unprecedented risk management problem. As peaking is approached, liquid fuel prices and price volatility will increase dramatically, and, without timely mitigation, the economic, social, and political costs will be unprecedented.” In 2007, the [Government Accountability Office](#) recommended that the Secretary of Energy “work with other agencies to establish a strategy to coordinate agency efforts to reduce uncertainty about the likely timing of (peak oil) and to advise Congress on how to best mitigate the consequences”. The Council should coordinate the development of this strategy.
4. Appoint the following to the National Energy and Climate Council: the secretaries of the Departments of Energy, State, Defense, Commerce, Homeland Security, Labor, Agriculture, Transportation, Interior, Housing and Urban Development and Treasury; the Environmental Protection Agency; the Small Business Administration; the directors of the National Science Foundation and the Climate Change Science Program; and the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Environmental Protection Agency

Mission Statement

The mission of the Environmental Protection Agency is to protect human health and the environment.

Agency Website

<http://www.epa.gov/>

Executive Actions

1. Expedite the Administrator's "determination on endangerment" regarding greenhouse gas emissions and, if such a determination is made, proceed expeditiously with the **regulation of greenhouse gases** under the Clean Air Act. Closely consider the recommendations by several states, due to be submitted to EPA by Nov. 28, which suggest how regulation should be structured.
2. Reinvigorate enforcement of the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act and other federal laws that protect environmental quality, and to identify budget needs to close gaps in staffing or other needs to strengthen compliance with regulatory programs.
3. Create and coordinate an interagency **Climate Action Green Room** – a one-stop shop to provide state and local officials with information about climate change, policy and adaptation. Instruct EPA to draw personnel from each of the agencies responsible for programs relevant to local climate action, including the Departments of Energy, Transportation, Agriculture and Housing and Urban Development, and the U.S. Small Business Administration.
4. Develop a methodology for crediting urban [smart-growth initiatives](#) in State Implementation Plans under the Clean Air Act.
5. Expand the reach of storm water management programs by providing financial assistance to states to help local governments ornamental turf grasses (lawns, etc.) and impervious surfaces (where appropriate) to rain gardens, xeriscapes, or other landscaping and permeable surfaces that capture and filter storm water.
6. Expand, improve and promote the "[Water Sense](#)" water efficiency program to complement the federal Energy Star Program and promote water efficiency in water fixtures, appliances, landscape irrigation, etc.
7. Inventory and assess wastewater and storm water treatment infrastructure systems throughout the U.S. that fail to provide consistent and adequate treatment for current or projected sewage and storm water volume (including anticipated increases from intense storms). The assessment should identify priorities for rapid improvement and modernization, and develop a timetable for reaching compliance with current environmental laws and reducing environmental risks and hazards to public health and safety. The assessment will include a projection of federal resources required to implement upgrades, and an analysis as to whether current requirements for local matching funds under the State Revolving Loan program are barriers to rapid advances in water treatment infrastructure.

8. Encourage **states** to be more aggressive than federal law in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. On Feb. 29, 2008, EPA Administrator Stephen Johnson [denied a waiver](#) that would have allowed California and other states to establish greenhouse gas emissions standards for new vehicles. California and several other states that wanted to implement the standard have sued.
9. Develop a national water resources conservation strategy.
10. Expand research and monitoring to evaluate the influence of increased temperature and changes in salinity, pH and water volume on lethal dose levels of currently permitted pollutants.
11. Manage pollution through prevention as a primary strategy, while not neglecting regulatory and other controls.
12. Institute carbon mitigation/sequestration banking and create a national protocol, including standards and policy, for Transferable Development Rights.
13. Remove preemption of state regulations geared toward oil spill prevention.
14. Develop a national plan to phase out the use of plastic shopping bags and encourage reusable bags, as China, Ireland and some U.S. cities and individual corporate campaigns have already done.
15. Improve coordination of and seek adequate funding for federal non-point source pollution programs, including alignment with agricultural policies and programs to reduce the significant amount of pollution that comes from agricultural sources.
16. Ensure that chronic point sources of pollution continue to be addressed, including septic systems, sewer overflows, waste water treatment facilities, industrial and animal feeding operations.
17. Establish an independent national commission on water resources and climate change to oversee implementation of PCAP's recommendations on fresh water resources and to develop additional responsive strategies to safeguard water supplies, water quality, and freshwater dependent ecosystems.
18. Establish an **interagency task force** to develop recommendations for ways the federal government can address leaking infrastructure, promote wastewater recycling and re-use, and change water fee structures to promote conservation measures such as xeriscaping, precision agriculture and irrigation, cistern use, etc.
19. Urge state regulators to **require that new power generation facilities meet strict water use performance criteria** to be determined based on projected changes in rainfall.
20. Appoint a national working group with representation from regional, state and local water policy experts and diverse stakeholders and interests, (including broader ecological needs) to assess and develop recommendations for coordination of U.S. federal and regional water management systems in the context of rapid environmental change and risks to human health and safety.
21. Provide technical support and funding for states to develop state-level water plans. Provide additional incentives for states to support local watershed planning.
22. Develop a national public education campaign that increases public awareness of the role that water plays in our economy and well-being, and the role we can all play in protecting and conserving fresh water.
23. Use the National Environmental Policy Act to prevent projects that will create adverse impacts on species and ecosystems stressed by climate change.

24. Quantify the connections between water quality and greenhouse gas emissions. Identify emissions that degrade water quality and practices that sequester carbon and improve water quality. Set up a system whereby polluting operations can purchase nutrient credits from those reducing run-off. Integrate greenhouse gas language into water quality regulations.
25. Tie environmental standards to payments and measurement standards. Extend compliance requirements for receipt of commodity payments to include nutrient management requirements in Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) non-attainment watersheds. Create a pilot project for the Chesapeake Bay or the Upper Mississippi River Watershed, with joint USDA/EPA jurisdiction. Tie payments for voluntary programs to standardized quantitative measures of environmental performance, and fund a pilot program to better tie these measures to payment allocations.
26. Assess contamination risks to U.S. drinking water supplies from saltwater intrusion, storm water contamination, floodwater contamination and other climate and weather related events.
27. Direct EPA to review existing science on the impact of E85 fuels (85% alcohol) on the emission of volatile compounds that increase ground-level ozone – a respiratory irritant and a greenhouse gas.

Executive Office of the President

Website

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/government/eop.html>

Executive Actions

1. Create an **Energy Security and Climate Stabilization Board** consisting of America's top academic, financial, corporate, non-profit and government leaders, and charge it with framing a roadmap to the new economy. The board -- a cross between President Roosevelt's War Production Board and President Clinton's President's Council on Sustainable Development -- should recommend market mechanisms, regulatory reforms, trade policies and barrier-busting initiatives that will unleash economic transformation.
2. Establish a permanent interagency coordinating structure in the White House, supported by an **Ocean Policy** and chaired by an assistant to the President to oversee implementation national ocean policy, including coordinated and comprehensive management of offshore activities and a framework to help states initiate and coordinate efforts at the regional level.
3. Create a **Presidential Commission on Carbon Subsidy Reform** with recommending reforms to make [federal energy subsidies](#) more effective, including:
 - o Reduce subsidy levels for a given technology or activity every five years to spur research and encourage early adoption.

- Retain subsidies for emerging industries long enough to provide a stable environment for private investment, and terminate them when the technologies have reached sufficient market penetration.
 - Design carbon-reduction and energy efficiency incentives for consumers on a sliding scale to reward best-performing products.
 - Periodically review the performance of subsidies to determine their impact on the maturation and commercialization of targeted technologies.
4. Create a **President's Council of Advisors on Ocean Policy** to review and rank the recommendations of Pew and U.S. commissions in the context of emerging climate science and the observed effects of climate change. The Council should identify opportunities to improve ocean and coastal governance through recommendations such as those from the Joint Oceans Commissions Initiative.
 5. Direct the National Energy and Climate Council to oversee interagency development of a **National Climate Change Adaptation Plan** in consultation with outside entities as appropriate. The plan should provide a framework for states and localities that want to develop climate change adaptation strategies. It should examine ways in which federal agencies should coordinate to ensure the timely dissemination of new climate projections. It should not pre-empt state and local planning for climate change adaptation. The council should coordinate with the Departments of Transportation and Energy to develop federal guidelines for resilient infrastructure development.

Federal Emergency Management Agency

Mission Statement

Reduce the loss of life and property and protect our institutions from all hazards by leading and supporting the nation in a comprehensive, risk-based emergency management program of mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

Website

<http://www.fema.gov/>

Executive Actions

1. Develop a **web-based directory** of resources that help local governments prepare for and respond to extreme weather events, public health emergencies and other climate-related impacts. Develop a SimCity-type web-based video program to build local response skills.
2. Increase the emphasis on **disaster prevention**. Review and recommend improvements in other federal programs that help communities prevent damages from natural disasters and extreme weather events anticipated as a result of climate change. With EPA, address how federal programs can better promote restoration of natural systems, including wetlands and river meander that prevent or reduce the severity of natural disasters. With DOE, identify changes in national model building codes that lead to buildings that can better withstand extreme

- weather events while still providing for energy-efficient sustainable design. With EPA, DOE and the Departments of Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, identify how land use planning and development can be made more responsive to changes in climate.
3. Work closely with professional organizations such as the [National Emergency Management Association](#) and the [Association of State Floodplain Managers](#) to **improve intergovernmental cooperation** on disaster prevention and to determine whether emerging climate impacts require modifications in federal disaster response. The Association of State Floodplain Managers has prepared further recommendations for national flood policy, available [here](#).
 4. Designate special **Climate Adaptation Zones** in areas most susceptible to adverse climate impacts. Businesses, institutions, infrastructure and buildings within the zones would be given priority for federal funding related to adaptation; Give priority attention to the zones for disaster preparedness and response. SBA should give priority attention to small businesses that provide goods and services related to adaptation.
 5. Reform the **National Flood Insurance Program**. Assess taxpayer exposure to flood risks based on projected changes in climate. Since 1980, [taxpayer exposure in the National Flood Insurance Program \(NFIP\) has quadrupled, approaching \\$1 trillion in 2005](#). In 1999, the program was debt-free. Today, it carries an \$18 billion deficit the Congressional Research Service has concluded it cannot repay. Consider reforms recommended by the [Competitive Enterprise Institute](#), as well as the following:
 - a. Direct FEMA, in collaboration with the USGS and NOAA to work with state water surveys to define **high-risk flooding locations**. Develop and issue maps that denote 200 and 500 year flood hazards and show true risk including residual risk behind levees and below dams and areas vulnerable to coastal surge. Use the updated maps to determine insurance rates;
 - b. Shift all flood insurance to an **actuarial** basis (charging for the true risk and not subsidized by other policyholders or taxpayers). Consider Housing and Urban Development (HUD) support via a means test for low income individuals;
 - c. Update and upgrade NFIP **floodplain management** regulations to reflect knowledge gained since the program was initiated in 1968. This includes maps that project flooding (beyond documentation of historic floods) and factors regarding safety of building in highest risk areas such as coastal surge zones and floodplains;
 - d. Analyze the implications of climate change for future insurance rates and identify prevention measures that may be taken to mitigate climate-exacerbated flood conditions;
 - e. Explore the feasibility of insuring second homes to the same level of protection that a primary residence receives;
 - a. Deny coverage to new buildings constructed knowingly in high-risk areas;
 - b. Reject loss claims from building owners who have rebuilt in flood-prone areas and have made past total loss claims;

- c. If a building permit is sought for an area deemed to be at high risk of a climate-related incident (flood, hurricane, etc), provide the applicant with the best available **climate-impact information**. If the applicant decides to go ahead with construction, require that he/she waive the ability to recoup public money in the event of a natural disaster.
 - d. Conduct workshops for local governments on **nonstructural approaches** to disaster prevention such as relocating buildings out of flood plains; disaster preparedness related to the anticipated local impacts of climate change; adaptive building and infrastructure designs; and post-disaster recovery strategies that help reduce future greenhouse gas emissions and vulnerabilities.
6. Work with the EPA, USGS, NOAA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to develop a nationwide assessment of **flood control infrastructure** (dams and levees) and floodplain management to determine the best strategies for reducing risk and restoring and conserving functioning ecosystems in light of increases in storm intensity and flooding. In addition to hard systems such as levees, floodplain protection, re-location of high-risk communities and other green infrastructure solutions must play a significant part.
- Evaluate the potential to relocate vulnerable coastal communities, including the capacity to move threatened coastal infrastructure, prevent the interruption of human services and drinking-water supplies and provide emergency services.
 - Reform and integrate levee policy, which is under jurisdictions between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, FEMA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and DOI. Give priority to undeveloped land for flood management, and use structural protection only as a last resort for already developed areas. Anticipate and plan for future watershed development, extreme weather and sea-level rise.
 - Improve mechanisms for early warning of catastrophic weather events.

Federal Housing Finance Agency

Mission Statement

Promote a stronger, safer U.S. housing finance system

Website

<http://www.fhfa.gov/Default.aspx?Page=4>

Executive Actions

- Instruct the Federal Housing Finance Agency to remove arbitrary barriers in the secondary mortgage market to purchasing multi-family housing and mixed-used development debt.

General Services Administration

Mission Statement

Leverage the buying power of the federal government to acquire best value for taxpayers and our federal customers. We exercise responsible asset management. We deliver superior workplaces, quality acquisition services, and expert business solutions. We develop innovative and effective management policies.

Website

<http://www.gsa.gov/Portal/gsa/ep/home.do?tabId=0>

Executive Actions

4. To help green the supply chain through which state and local governments now purchase \$900 billion annually in products and services, develop carbon standards for fuels and products purchased by state and localities with federal funds. When the guidelines are completed, direct agencies to make compliance a condition of federal funding.
5. Establish a task force comprised of representatives of local, state and federal government and industry to explore new intergovernmental collaborations for purchasing energy-efficient, low-carbon products.
6. Improve incentives in federal construction for the use of **permeable pavements, green roofs, and other green building approaches** that contribute to water and energy conservation.
7. See related recommendations under Crosscutting Programs, Federal Energy Management Program

Internal Revenue Service

Mission

Provide America's taxpayers top quality service by helping them understand and meet their tax responsibilities and by applying the tax law with integrity and fairness to all.

Web Site

<http://www.irs.gov/irs/index.html>

Executive Actions:

1. Equalize transit and parking benefits. Currently, employers can receive a federal tax deduction for covering up to \$200 for employee parking, but only \$105 per month for employee transit expenses.

National Guard

Mission

During peacetime each state National Guard answers to the leadership in the 50 states, three territories and the District of Columbia. During national emergencies, however, the President reserves the right to mobilize the National Guard, putting them in federal duty status.

Website

<http://www.ngb.army.mil/default.aspx>

Executive Actions

1. **Maintain adequate numbers** of National Guard troops in the United States to respond to national emergencies.

National Intelligence Council

Mission

Provide a focal point for policymakers to task the Intelligence Community to answer their questions; reach out to nongovernment experts in academia and the private sector to broaden the Intelligence Community's perspective; contribute to the Intelligence Community's effort to allocate its resources in response to policymakers' changing needs; lead the Intelligence Community's effort to produce National Intelligence Estimates and other NIC products.

Website

http://www.dni.gov/nic/NIC_home.html

Executive Actions

1. Continue monitoring and assessing the **national security implications** of climate change as climate science matures and climate impacts continue to manifest worldwide. Update its estimates and/or assessments each time a major new scientific study is released on climate change, including the reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Mission

Understand and predict changes in Earth's environment and conserve and manage coastal and marine resources to meet our Nation's economic, social, and environmental needs.

Website

<http://www.noaa.gov/>

Executive Actions

1. Chair a **President's Council of Advisors on Ocean Policy** to review and rank the recommendations of Pew and U.S. commissions in the context of emerging climate science and the observed effects of climate change. The Council should identify opportunities to improve ocean and coastal governance through recommendations such as those from the Joint Oceans Commissions Initiative.
2. Improve monitoring and warning systems using satellite systems that measure ocean temperature, waves, winds and sea levels. Collaborate with the National Science Foundation to identify gaps in continuing research to quantify the effects of climate change on ocean habitat and ecology.
3. Assess existing and emerging threats to oceans, as well as their potential ecosystem services in light of emerging science about climate change. Study the economic and food security consequences of acidification, ways to reduce the pH of the oceans while not harming them, and the potential for ecologically safe harvesting of ocean energy, including offshore wind generation and tidal power.
4. With other responsible agencies, develop a national oceans strategy to reduce ocean pollution, overfishing, coastal development in sensitive areas and damage to marine habitat, so that oceans and coastal areas are better able to adapt to climate change.
5. Recommend an expansion of protections within National Marine Sanctuaries.
6. Identify potential conservation and withdrawal zones, where development should be prevented or existing development removed to protect and restore wetlands, estuaries and critical habitat.
7. Support and encourage states and regions in implementing strategies to better understand, adapt to, and mitigate climate change impacts on oceans and coastal areas.

National Park Service

Mission

Promote and regulate the use of the national parks to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.

Website

<http://www.nps.gov/>

Executive Action

1. Put **solar panels** back on the White House. As a symbol of national leadership, President Carter installed solar panels on the White House. President Reagan removed them.

National Security Council

Mission

Serve as the President's principal forum for considering national security and foreign policy matters with his senior national security advisors and cabinet officials; advise and assist the President on national security and foreign policies; serve as the President's principal arm for coordinating these policies among various government agencies.

Website

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/nsc/>

Executive Actions

1. Assess how U.S. investments can better “**multi-task** to simultaneously address climate mitigation and adaptation and international security issues.

Securities and Exchange Commission

Mission

The mission of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission is to protect investors, maintain fair, orderly, and efficient markets, and facilitate capital formation.

Website

<http://www.sec.gov/>

Executive Actions

1. Require publicly traded companies to disclose to their shareholders and prospective investors the risks associated with climate change, carbon pricing and energy price and supply volatility. The SEC now requires companies to disclose “financially material conditions” to shareholders in their annual reports. A [growing body of case law](#) suggests that potential environmental liabilities should be considered financially material conditions. Significant environmental and energy liabilities that are difficult to quantify can be disclosed in the “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Conditions,” a section of the companies’ annual reports.

United States Army Corps of Engineers

Mission

Provide quality, responsive engineering services to the nation including:

- Planning, designing, building and operating water resources and other civil works projects (Navigation, Flood Control, Environmental Protection, Disaster Response, etc.)

- Designing and managing the construction of military facilities for the Army and Air Force. (Military Construction)
- Providing design and construction management support for other Defense and federal agencies. (Interagency and International Services)

Website

<http://www.usace.army.mil/>

Executive Actions

1. Cooperate with FEMA on the flood-protection reforms recommended above.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Mission

Conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

Website

<http://www.fws.gov/>

Executive Actions

1. Reinvigorate efforts to identify endangered and threatened species under U.S. jurisdiction, including those on the [World Conservation Union Red List](#), and develop ark projects and other recovery strategies through partnerships between agencies, research institutions and private partners (such as the international effort focused on amphibian conservation).

U.S. Forest Service

Mission

Sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

Website

<http://www.fs.fed.us/>

Executive Actions

1. Work with the Climate Change Science Program to evaluate climate impacts on the nation's **forests and grasslands**. Assess and propose measures and budget to deal with the following:

- a. Damage to forests by wildfires, pests and drought, and mitigation and adaptation measures;
 - b. The capacity of old growth forests, wetlands, natural grasslands, soils and other habitats to contribute to natural sequestration of carbon and how to conserve and maximize that capacity;
 - c. Ecologically appropriate restoration strategies in forests, wetlands, grasslands and urban/suburban landscapes;
 - d. Native species that are disease-tolerant, able to thrive in current and anticipated climate conditions and effective at carbon sequestration, and how these species should be used in public and private reforestation in coordination with wildlife and watershed protection goals.
2. Establish a comprehensive forest management policy that enhances forest carbon-sequestration. Incorporate the fact that old growth forests better sequester carbon than newly planted or younger forests and that the carbon consequences of fire, disease and pest damage to forests must be examined to determine the best methods of containing the damage and mitigating the release of carbon. Specific steps should include:
- a. Removing financial barriers preventing farmers from converting marginal agricultural lands to permanent grassland or forest;
 - b. Modifying forestry programs to promote management practices that improve carbon sequestration, such as thinning, increasing harvesting rotation periods and reforestation; and
 - c. Directing the USDA and EPA to quantify the contributions reducing urban sprawl can make to sustaining forested lands, grasslands and pastures as a carbon sequestration measure.

United States Geological Survey

Mission

Provide geologic, topographic, and hydrologic information that contributes to the wise management of the nation's natural resources and that promotes the health, safety, and well-being of the people.

Website

<http://www.usgs.gov/>

Executive Actions

1. Support and define the functions and responsibilities of the National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center (NCCWSC) within the United States Geological Survey (USGS) established by P.L. 110-161.
2. Direct the [National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center](#) to assess existing and potential ecological transition corridors. Identify and assess ownership patterns of areas that may serve as corridors to enable species to move in response to climate change and to inform and guide land-use planning and decisions at the landscape-level. Take advantage of tools such as the [USGS Gap](#)

[Analysis](#) project to identify connections between protected areas. Partner with state wildlife management agencies, tribes and private organizations as appropriate to develop conservation recommendations and actions that will protect biodiversity.

U.S. Global Change Research Program

Mission

Facilitate the creation and application of knowledge of the Earth's global environment through research, observations, decision support, and communication.

Website

<http://www.usgcrp.gov/usgcrp/default.php>

Executive Actions

1. Provide sufficient resources for the interagency [U.S. Global Change Research Program \(USGCRP\)](#) to enhance support for mitigation and adaptation research, including response strategies. There is a particular need for enhanced research, assessment and communication activities at regional to local scales.

United States Coast Guard

Mission

Protect the public, the environment, and U.S. economic interests in the nation's ports and waterways, along the coast, on international waters, or in any maritime region as required to support national security.

Website

<http://www.uscg.mil/>

Executive Actions

1. Proactively address, through regulation, the root causes of oil spills, such as organizational and management failures regarding crew training, equipment maintenance, fuel transfers, and crew size, crew fatigue, and language requirements.

United States Navy

Mission

Maintain, train and equip combat-ready Naval forces capable of winning wars, deterring aggression and maintaining freedom of the seas.

Website

<http://www.navy.mil/swf/index.asp>

Executive Actions

1. Abide by multiple court decisions to limit where and how training exercises occur that use active sonar.

United States Trade Representative

Mission

Develop and coordinate U.S. international trade, commodity, and direct investment policy, and oversee negotiations with other countries

Website

<http://www.ustr.gov/>

Executive Actions

1. Champion **Clean Energy Sovereignty**. Some important policies the United States and other nations can institute to fight global warming, such as requirements that a percentage of energy come from renewable resources, can be challenged as unfair trade practices under the current rules of the [World Trade Organization](#) (WTO). Climate protection should trump trade protection. Advocate that national policies necessary to reduce greenhouse gas emissions should be exempted from WTO challenge. Examples:
 - a. All governments must retain authority to internalize costs, protect climate-friendly products from unfair imports and encourage activities that reduce emissions.
 - b. Domestic regulation and standard-setting cannot be transferred to international trade organizations.
 - c. Specific subsidies for renewable energy programs and practices must be permitted.
 - d. Nations must have the right to determine the country of origin, scale of production and environmental impact of their energy imports to protect climate stability.
 - e. Trade measures vital to multilateral environmental agreements should be exempt from WTO challenges.
2. Propose a “**border adjustment**” to protect U.S. companies that must compete against products from nations that do not price carbon. The border adjustment could rebate any carbon taxes paid by producers as their products leave the U.S. for such foreign markets, and would impose an equivalent tax on foreign products as they enter the States.

White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

Mission

Serve as the President's liaison to state, local, and tribal governments.

Website

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/government/off-descrp.html>

Executive Actions

1. Organize a White House conference to work with municipalities on a national initiative on municipal water system planning and infrastructure modernization.
2. Organize a White House Conference on Intergovernmental Climate Action, attended by the mayors and governors who have taken a leading role in addressing climate change, to frame an action plan that coordinates the authorities of local, state and federal governments and establishes ongoing lines of communication between the three levels of government.

White House Office of Legislative Affairs

Mission

Serves as the President's liaison to the United States Congress.

Website

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/government/off-descrp.html>

Executive Actions

1. Convene key members of Congress from both parties to collaborate with the President on **executive and legislative actions** that should be taken in 2009 to address climate and energy security, in advance of the international meeting in Copenhagen in 2009.
2. Communicate to Congress a firm commitment by the President to veto bills that contain **congressional earmarks**. [Citizens Against Government Waste](#), which tracks pork-barrel spending in Congress, tallied 9,963 earmarks in 2006 appropriations bills, totaling \$29 billion. The 2007 [military spending bill](#) contained 2,700 earmarks totaling nearly \$12 billion. [Taxpayers for Common Sense](#) estimated that the 2009 defense appropriations bill contains nearly \$5 billion in earmarks. Some projects funded by earmarks might well serve the national interest; many do not. All should be subjected to scrutiny in the normal budgeting process. Funds now spent on earmarks will be critical to securing sufficient funding for the national investment in a new energy economy.
3. Keep key members of Congress closely apprised of international negotiations leading up to, and beyond, the Copenhagen meeting in December 2009 and invite them to monitor international meetings on climate change to improve the chances of Senate ratification of resulting treaties.

Crosscutting Programs

Federal Energy Management Program

Modify Executive Order 13423 to do the following:

1. Establish a **zero-net-emissions goal** for federal buildings. The American Institute of Architects, the U.S. Green Building Council, the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) and the U.S. Council of Mayors have endorsed [targets](#) to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions 30-50 percent for new buildings by 2010 and 100 percent – or net-zero emissions – by 2030. The new Executive Order should:
 - Direct agencies to apply the same targets to new federal buildings, major renovations, build-to-lease federal facilities and privatized military housing, and require that new or renewed federal leases in existing buildings give preference to buildings that meet Energy Star rating requirements.
 - Direct agencies to take full advantage of the provision in current law that allows government agencies (which are tax-exempt) to assign the commercial building tax deduction⁵ to the architect or energy service company responsible for the construction or retrofit of a federal building.
 - Direct DOE to update federal building standards to add a requirement that buildings over a specified size (or peak electricity demand) must include advanced (interval) electricity meters as well as sub-metering of major equipment and end-uses.
 - Direct DOE to periodically update federal building energy standards to ensure buildings are ready to incorporate new and emerging technologies, as applicable.
2. Increase **renewable energy goals**. EO 13423 requires agencies to obtain at least 7.5 percent of their electricity from renewable energy resources in 2013 and thereafter. Currently, federal agencies are meeting about 75 percent of this requirement by purchasing renewable energy credits (RECs) rather than generating their own power. This is allowed under a 2006 DOE rule. The new EO should:
 - Direct DOE to develop a road map for agencies to receive 70 percent of their electricity from renewable resources by 2050.
 - Direct that all federal RECs be required to meet the criteria of the [Green-e Energy National Standard](#).
3. EO13423 removed previous targets for federal agencies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The new EO should restore **specific goals for cutting greenhouse gases**.
4. Expand greenhouse gas reduction goals to all **federal transportation** activities. Current energy-efficiency targets for federal agencies neglect the majority of fuel

⁵ This tax provision was extended by Congress under the recently enacted [Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008](#).

used in federal vehicles. EO 13423 sets standards for non-military federal fleets but these represent less than 20 percent of the transportation energy consumed by the federal government. The government's largest consumer of transportation energy and emitter of associated greenhouse gases is the military, led by emissions from jet fuel for military aircraft and ship bunker fuel. The new EO should direct the Department of Defense to:

- Propose specific performance targets for reducing the use of greenhouse gas intensive fuels in 2015, 2020 and beyond;
- Report on its efforts to improve the efficiency of aircraft, ships and field equipment including fossil-fueled generators and determine the cost-effectiveness of additional efficiency investments based on the full cost of delivering the fuel to the point of use;
- Use the fully burdened cost of fuels in all agency procurement requests and in the acquisition of fuel-consuming equipment (see Department of Defense).

5. Further in regard to **transportation fuels**, the new EO should direct all agencies to:

6. Establish an aggressive renewable fuels portfolio standard and performance standards related to greenhouse gas emissions;
7. Adopt California's tough greenhouse gas emissions standards for light- and medium-duty passenger vehicles, vans and trucks;
8. Require the use of high-efficiency, ultra-low-emission fleet vehicles in short-distance environments such as military bases and federal office and hospital complexes.
9. Direct all Cabinet secretaries and independent agency directors to report on their commitments to reducing the use of fossil fuels in transportation and vehicle miles traveled as part of the annual budget process, management plans and reports to Congress required by the Government Performance and Results Act.

6. **Reduce vehicle travel** for government customers and employees. The President should direct that:

- GSA establish location efficiency criteria for each new or expanded federal facility of more than 50,000 square feet or employing more than 500 people. These criteria would require agencies to seek locations that are close to mass transit and other forms of mobility that don't require the use of personal automobiles;
- All agencies increase the use of telecommuting and alternative work schedules that reduce the number of days employees must commute to work;
- GSA create telework centers in cities with large numbers of federal employees;

- Direct federal agencies to incorporate “location efficiency” – i.e., convenient access to public transit – in deciding where to locate federal offices, hold meetings or provide public services;
- Direct agencies to implement [e-government](#) – the practice of providing federal services on-line – to the maximum extent possible, and to provide technical assistance to state and local government agencies to do the same. According to a study by the Pew Internet and American Life Project, more than half of all Americans contact the government in a given year, and 30 percent of those contacts are to transact business with the government, ranging from paying taxes, registering vehicles, and paying parking tickets and taxes to applying for government services. Many of these services can be performed on-line.

7. **Hold agencies accountable** for meeting targets. At least nine agencies did not meet their 2005 targets for reducing building energy use. Three of these had not even achieved 1995 goals by 2005. Reporting mechanisms have either not been established or have been allowed to be ignored. Agencies should face stiff penalties for failing to provide reports on progress toward meeting established energy efficiency goals. Compliance “report cards” should be public record. The new EO should:

- Tighten oversight and enforcement by defining these penalties and necessary enforcement procedures;
- Ensure that agencies follow established DOE rules when they exclude buildings from energy-intensity targets, and enforce implementation of all available cost-effective measures in facilities that are excluded from the intensity reduction requirements. Compliance with the DOE protocol should be tracked in the Federal Energy Management Annual Report to Congress;
- Require agencies to apply the energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reduction goals to source rather than site energy.
- Enforce requirements for buying **energy-efficient products**. Although executive orders are in place, enforcement is lacking. There is no effective central tracking of purchases and evidence shows a failure to comply and lax enforcement. The President should direct:
 - The General Services Administration (GSA) and the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) to comply immediately with energy efficiency purchase requirements;
 - Inspectors general to conduct periodic audits of large solicitations for energy-consuming products;
 - The GSA to create a mechanism for vendors to report federal procurement solicitations that do not comply with energy efficiency requirements. (Both EAct 2005 and EISA codified these regulations, however enforcement is lacking.)

8. Create **binding and understandable requirements** for facility managers. EAct 1992 directed all buildings and facilities to implement energy-efficiency measures

with simple paybacks of 10 years or less by 2005. However, there was never any measure of accountability or enforcement attached to the requirement, and 10-year paybacks may now be too short. The effort and cost associated with performing energy audits and installing advanced electrical metering will be wasted if savings opportunities are not identified and implemented. The EO should direct agencies to implement all measures identified that have a simple payback of less than 12 years. The calculation of net savings should consider not only energy and water costs but also operations, maintenance, repair and replacement costs.

9. Champion sufficient **federal investment** to meet efficiency and emission goals. To meet current energy efficiency targets, the federal government will have to invest nearly \$1.5 billion each year through 2015. Recent appropriations have ranged from only \$100 million to \$300 million. The President should direct agencies to submit annual budget requests sufficient to meet the new energy efficiency and emission reduction targets proposed in PCAP.
10. Use federal buying power to **open green markets**. The EO should:
 - Direct the Office of Management and Budget to develop a pilot program to influence the efficiency and emissions profiles of the federal supply chain, to measure results within three years and to report results in terms of reductions in fossil energy use and greenhouse gas emissions reductions;
 - Request that the Government Accountability Office conduct an independent review of the full range of federal financial assistance programs to identify opportunities to leverage energy efficiency improvements, renewable energy use and greenhouse gas reductions by the recipients of the assistance;
 - Direct GSA to propose a program of advance purchase commitments by the federal government for energy efficiency equipment, low-carbon fuels and ultra-low-emission or no-emission vehicles, designed to provide industries with long-term and sizeable markets for these green products.

Federal Financial Assistance

- **Redirect other federal assistance programs to invest in the new low-carbon energy economy.** The government offers a [wide variety of financial, technical and other assistance](#) to states, localities and the private sector – at least 200 such programs according to the Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance. These programs include not only direct loans, loan guarantees and grants, but also direct payments conditioned upon particular activities; insurance; access to federal property; specialized services by federal personnel; advisory services; technical assistance and training. The President should direct the Office of Management and Budget to review these programs and activities to determine a) which of them could be targeted better to directly or indirectly advance the goals of climate and

energy security; b) where the Administration has the authority to determine eligibility criteria; c) where the Administration should propose that Congress modify eligibility criteria to better support climate and energy security.

- Direct federal agencies that administer **economic development programs** to give highest priority to communities most adversely affected by job and business losses related to federal climate policy. These programs should seek high leverage from state economic development assistance programs and should work to locate the growing number of wind and solar equipment manufacturing and assembly plants in communities facing losses of tax base and jobs due to carbon pricing.
- Direct agencies to define economic development in cost of living and community benefits terms. Federal assistance should achieve a multiple bottom line outcome of better transportation choices, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, better economic outcomes for households and communities.
- Direct agencies such as the IRS to include transportation costs in tax expenditures made in the name of housing affordability. Examples include Qualifying Assistance Plans for allocating Low Income Housing Investment Tax Credits, and Treasury and the new Federal Housing Finance Agency in lending, granting or investing funds in the name of financial stability.