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# Clean Economy Act of 2020

*U.S. Senator Tom Carper*

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*Cosponsors: Baldwin, Bennet, Blumenthal, Booker, Cantwell, Cardin, Casey, Coons, Cortez Masto, Duckworth, Durbin, Feinstein, Hassan, Heinrich, Hirono, Kaine, King, Klobuchar, Leahy, Menendez, Murphy, Peters, Schatz, Schumer, Shaheen, Smith, Stabenow, Udall, Van Hollen, Wyden*

## Purpose of Legislation

Across the country, Americans are seeing and experiencing the effects of the climate crisis in their communities every day. Without swift and meaningful action, climate change will have even more devastating effects on our economy, environment, public health and way of life. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other federal agencies already have tools that can help our nation meet climate goals. This bill will provide EPA and other federal agencies with direction from Congress so they can quickly implement policies that will put our nation on a path toward a clean, healthy and fair economy.

*The Clean Economy Act* empowers the EPA to both set and move the country toward a national goal of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by no later than 2050. The Clean Economy Act also requires federal agencies to implement policies that will help the United States meet the net-zero goal by 2050 *AND* boost American competitiveness, promote healthier communities and foster a growing and fair economy.

## Summary

➤ **The Clean Economy Act directs EPA to use existing legal authorities to set and implement an aggressive, yet achievable, greenhouse gas emission reduction plan.**

EPA is required to -

- Establish a plan that will put the nation on a path to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by no later than 2050;
- Set interim national greenhouse gas targets for 2025, 2030, and 2040; and,
- Start implementation of that plan within a year of enactment.

➤ **The Clean Economy Act requires EPA in its net-zero plan to prioritize public health, lower costs, economic growth, and support for a strong labor workforce and front line communities.**

EPA's net-zero by no later than 2050 plan must –

- Achieve rapid emission reductions, based on the best available science, at minimal costs;
- Protect and strengthen public health, safety, and livability in all communities;
- Maximize the deployment of existing and emerging clean technologies;
- Build upon existing State, local and private sector climate programs;
- Prioritize infrastructure investments that are more resilient to a changing climate and built with domestic labor, domestic content and prevailing wage standards; and,
- Address pollution and cumulative environmental effects in economically distressed communities, communities of color, and indigenous communities.

➤ **The Clean Economy Act also requires other federal agencies to implement policies that bolster the ability of the United States to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and stay globally competitive through investments in innovation, worker training, resiliency and strong labor standards.**

## **Supporters**

### *Labor Unions*

United Steelworkers  
Utility Workers Union of America  
Service Employees International Union  
American Federation of Teachers

### *Environmental NGOs*

American Rivers  
BlueGreen Alliance  
Center for American Progress  
Clean Water Action  
Climate Reality Project  
Defend Our Future  
Earthjustice  
Environment America  
Environmental Defense Fund  
Green the Church  
Hispanic Access Foundation  
Interfaith Power & Light  
League of Conservation Voters  
Moms Clean Air Force  
National Wildlife Federation  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
Sierra Club  
Trust for Public Land  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
Voices for Progress  
Wilderness Society  
World Wildlife Fund

### *Public Health NGOs*

Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments  
American Lung Association  
American Public Health Association  
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America

### *Industry and Industry Groups*

Coalition for Environmentally Responsible Economies (CERES)  
DSM