



## **BARACK OBAMA'S PLAN TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND CREATE A GREEN ECONOMY**

Global warming is real, is happening now and is the result of human activities. The number of Category 4 and 5 hurricanes has almost doubled in the last 30 years. Glaciers are melting faster; the polar ice caps are shrinking; trees are blooming earlier; oceans are becoming more acidic, threatening marine life; people are dying in heat waves; species are migrating, and eventually many will become extinct. Scientists predict that absent major emission reductions, climate change will worsen famine and drought in some of the poorest places in the world and wreak havoc across the globe. In the U.S., sea-level rise threatens to cause massive economic and ecological damage to our populated coastal areas. Barack Obama believes we have a moral, environmental, economic, and security imperative to address our dependence on foreign oil and tackle climate change in a serious, sustainable manner.

### **IMPLEMENT A 100% AUCTION CAP-AND-TRADE PROGRAM TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.**

**Reduce Carbon Emissions 80 percent by 2050:** Barack Obama supports implementation of a market-based cap-and-trade system to reduce carbon emissions by the amount scientists say is necessary: 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. Obama will start reducing emissions immediately in his administration by establishing strong annual reduction targets, and he'll also implement a mandate of reducing emissions to 1990 levels by 2020.

- 100% Allowance Auction: Obama's cap-and-trade system will require all pollution credits to be auctioned. A 100% auction ensures that all polluters pay for every ton of emissions they release, rather than giving these emission rights away to coal and oil companies.
- Invest Revenue for a Clean Energy Future: Some of the revenue generated by auctioning allowances will be used to support the development and deployment of clean energy, invest in energy efficiency improvements, and to address transition costs, including helping American workers affected by this economic transition and helping lower-income Americans.

### **INVEST IN A CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY AND CREATE AMERICAN JOBS**

Barack Obama will invest \$150 billion over 10 years to advance the next generation of biofuels and fuel infrastructure, accelerate the commercialization of plug-in hybrids, promote development of commercial scale renewable energy, invest in low emissions coal plants, and begin transition to a new digital electricity grid. A principal focus of this fund will be devoted to ensuring that technologies that are developed in the U.S. are rapidly commercialized in the U.S. and deployed around the globe.

#### **(1) Increase Investment in Basic Research and Human Capital.**

- Invest in Basic Research: Obama will double science and research funding for clean energy projects including those that make use of our biomass, solar and wind resources. At present, the federal government spends over \$3 billion per year on all energy innovation efforts.

- **Invest in a Skilled Clean Technologies Workforce:** Barack Obama will use proceeds from the cap-and-trade auction program to invest in job training and transition programs to help workers and industries adapt to clean technology development and production. Obama will also create an energy-focused youth jobs program to invest in disconnected and disadvantaged youth and connect them with job skills for a high-growth industry.

**(2) Invest in Key Technology Deployment.**

- **Clean Technologies Deployment Venture Capital Fund:** Barack Obama will create a Clean Technologies Venture Capital Fund to fill a critical gap in U.S. technology development. Obama will invest \$10 billion per year into this Fund for five years. This Fund will partner with existing investment funds and our National Laboratories to ensure that promising technologies move beyond the lab and are commercialized in the U.S.
- **Production Tax Credit:** Obama will also extend the federal Production Tax Credit (PTC) for 5 years to encourage the deployment of renewable technologies.
- **Convert our Manufacturing Centers into Clean Technology Leaders:** Barack Obama believes that America is at a competitive advantage when it comes to building the high-demand technologies of the future, and he will help nurture America’s success in clean technology manufacturing by establishing a federal investment program to help manufacturing centers modernize and Americans learn the new skills they may need to produce green products.

**(3) Set Standards to Allow the Market to Invest and Innovate**

Obama will also establish new national standards to ensure less carbon intensive energy is used in our energy supply.

- **Require 25 Percent of Electricity to Come from Renewable Sources by 2025:** Barack Obama will establish a 25 percent federal Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) to require that 25 percent of electricity consumed in the U.S. is derived from clean, sustainable energy sources, like solar, wind and geothermal by 2025.
- **Ensure the Federal Government Uses Renewable Sources of Electricity:** Obama will ensure that at least 30 percent of the federal government’s electricity comes from renewable sources by 2020.

**INVEST IN THE FASTEST, CLEANEST WAY TO REDUCE EMISSIONS: ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

**Make the Federal Government the Leader in Saving Electricity:**

- **Make Federal Buildings More Efficient:** Obama will ensure that all new federal buildings are zero-emissions by 2025, and he will ensure that all new federal buildings are 40 percent more efficient within the next five years. Obama will also place retrofitting existing federal buildings at a top priority, and seek to improve their efficiency by 25 percent within 5 years.
- **Overhaul Federal Efficiency Codes:** Obama will ensure his Department of Energy implements regular updates for efficiency standards.

**Use Innovative Measures to Dramatically Improve Efficiency of Buildings:**

- **Set National Building Efficiency Goals:** Barack Obama will establish a goal of making all new buildings carbon neutral, or produce zero emissions, by 2030. He’ll also establish a national goal of improving new building efficiency by 50 percent and existing building efficiency by 25 percent over the next decade to help us meet the 2030 goal.
- **Establish a Grant Program for Early Adopters:** Obama will create a competitive grant program to award those states and localities that take the first steps in implementing new building codes that prioritize energy efficiency, and provide a federal match for those states with leading-edge public benefits funds that support energy efficiency retrofits of existing buildings.

- Flip Incentives to Energy Utilities: Obama will work to “flip” incentives to state and local utilities by ensuring companies get increased profits for improving energy efficiency, rather than higher energy consumption. This decoupling of profits from increased energy usage will incentivize utilities to partner with consumers and the federal government to reduce monthly energy bills for families and businesses. Obama will provide early adopter grants and other financial assistance from the federal government to states that implement this energy efficient policy.
- Expand Federal Efficiency Grants: Obama will expand federal grant programs to help states and localities build more efficient public buildings that adopt aggressive green building provisions like those provided by the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program of the U.S. Green Buildings Council.

**Phase out Traditional Inefficient Light Bulbs:** Obama supports the effort led by Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chairman Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) to update federal lighting efficiency standards to ensure that new lighting technologies are phased into the marketplace. As president, Obama will implement legislation that phases out traditional incandescent light bulbs by 2014.

**Invest in a Digital Smart Grid:** Barack Obama will pursue a major investment in our national utility grid to enable a tremendous increase in renewable generation and accommodate 21<sup>st</sup> century energy requirements, such as reliability, smart metering, and distributed storage. Obama will direct federal resources to the most vulnerable and congested areas and rural areas where significant renewable energy sources are located, as well as work toward national transformation of our energy grid in partnership with states and utilities.

**Build More Livable and Sustainable Communities:**

- Reform Federal Transportation Funding: Obama will re-evaluate the transportation funding process to ensure that smart growth considerations are taken into account and he will also re-commit federal resources to public mass transportation projects across the country.
- Require States to Plan for Energy Conservation: Obama will require governors and local leaders in our metropolitan areas to make “energy conservation” a mandatory part of their planning for the expenditure of federal transportation funds.