



Tribal Review of Congressional Action Plan on Climate Change

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Actions

- Position Tribes for economic leadership in policies fostering the transitioning to carbon neutrality
- Solidify Tribe's sovereign status as a cornerstone of programs, policies, and institutions focused on climate governance, science, and justice
- Ensure protections for Indigenous cultures that face climate risks
- Adopt the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as US policy



HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE
CLIMATE CRISIS

Democratic Members

Chair: Kathy Castor (FL)

Ben Ray Luján, NM

Suzanne Bonamici, OR

Julia Brownley, CA

Jared Huffman, CA

Donald McEachin, VA

Mike Levin, CA

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Joe Neguse, CO

Republican Members

Garret Graves, LA

Morgan Griffith, VA

Gary Palmer, AL

Buddy Carter, GA

Carol Miller, WV

Kelly Armstrong, ND





HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE
CLIMATE CRISIS

1. Sets ambitious targets

- A. 2050: net-zero CO₂ emissions to limit warming to 1.5°C
- B. After 2050: net-negative emissions

2. Policy recommendations

3. Articulates process

Relevance: Foundation for climate, energy, & environmental policy discussions





HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE
CLIMATE CRISIS

- January 2019: House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis established
 - Framework for future climate legislation
- April 2019- Feb. 2020: 17 hearings
- June 2020: Congressional Action Plan on Climate Crisis released



12 Pillars of Climate Action

1. Invest in infrastructure to build a just, equitable, and resilient clean energy economy.
2. Innovation and deployment of clean energy technologies.
3. Transform industry and domestic manufacturing of clean energy technologies.
4. Break down barriers for clean energy technologies.
5. Invest in workers and build a fairer economy.
6. Invest in communities to cut pollution and advance environmental justice.
7. Improve public health and manage climate risks to health infrastructure.
8. Invest in agriculture for climate solutions.
9. Make communities more resilient to the impacts of climate change.
10. Protect and restore lands, waters, ocean, & wildlife.
11. National security & restoring international leadership.
12. Strengthen core institutions.





Purpose of ATNI's Tribal Review

- Provide information to Tribal leaders
- Language for use with other policy makers
- Foundation for unified regional / national policy initiatives



Intended Audience

- Tribal leaders, ATNI, NCAI, Congress members
 - Potential foundation for policies of individual Tribes



Process of Tribal Review

- Led by core team (5 individuals)
- Co-authors: 33 individuals representing Tribal citizens, Tribal partners, and Tribal organizations
- Reviewed: 33 co-authors + 11 additional reviewers
- Input received: 106 individuals from 97 Tribes, intertribal organizations, and partner organizations/agencies (NTICCC Workshop)





Content of Tribal Review

- Identify information gaps, opportunities, and priorities regarding proposed policies, programs, and actions
- Identify tribal concerns relevant to proposed plan that may affect Tribes and indigenous communities.
- Identify overarching tribal priorities





Key Themes identified

- **Social-economic resilience** during transition to carbon-neutral economy
- **Environmental and climate justice**
- **Tribal sovereignty**, Trust Responsibility, Government-to-Government relations, & Tribal Consultation
- **Ecological resilience / Access** to culturally-valued resources (e.g., First Foods)
- **Recognize value of TEK**, while respecting Free, Prior and Informed Consent of Indigenous Peoples
- **Uphold & expand institutions** relevant to climate governance and science

Pillar 1: Invest in **Infrastructure** to Build a Just, Equitable, and Resilient **Clean Energy Economy**

Tribal Priorities:

- **Roads**: Protect existing & upgrade
- Maritime and shipping industries: environmentally friendly
- **Environmental standards**: Implement Tribal standards
- **Energy**: Technical assistance
- **Water infrastructure**: clean water; **flooding**, green projects
- **Telecommunications**: Reliable and resilient networks for Tribes
- **Oil & Gas Infrastructure**: **Consent**; **Consultation**; Stop leaks/pollution

Pillar 2: Drive **Innovation and Deployment of Clean Energy** and **Deep Decarbonization Technologies**

Tribal Priorities:

- **Long-term Grant Programs**
 - Updating or converting existing infrastructure
- **Education**
 - Education: key for transition to clean and green future
 - STEM education: Capitalize on new/emerging markets
- **Tiered Grant System**
 - Competitive federal grant programs offer advantages to larger, fully staffed Tribes;
 - Under-resourced, over capacity Tribes are disadvantaged and have difficulty competing for resources
 - Federal and Tribal governments would benefit from using the Government-to-Government relationship to establish a tiered grant system for Tribes

Pillar 3: Transform Industry and Expand Domestic Manufacturing of Clean Energy and Zero-emission Technologies

Tribal Priorities

- Reduce CO₂ emissions: Carbon capture, utilization, & storage
 - Workforce development
- Reduce waste & pollution: Closed cycle manufacturing framework
- Reduce industrial emissions: Research & development
- Manufacturing investment: Clean energy, vehicle, & zero-emission technologies
- Carbon removal technology: Develop, manufacture, & deploy cutting-edge

Pillar 4: Break Down Barriers for Clean Energy Technologies

Tribal Priorities:

- Removing regulatory barriers
- Funding and support for project development
- Funding for implementation
- Incentivize clean energy projects
- De-incentivize non-clean energy projects

Pillar 5: Invest in America's **Workers** and Build a Fairer **Economy**

Tribal Priorities:

- **Clean economy definition**: should include low-carbon sectors (e.g., health care, caregiving, domestic work, education, low-impact services, the arts)
- **Data improvements**: Population, demographic, & economic data for Tribal communities;
- **Tribal sovereignty**: recognition in legislation and regulations to support equity and fairness for workers;
- **Free, prior, and informed consent** of Indigenous communities in relevant labor agreements;
- **Worker training opportunities** and **childhood education** for the Indigenous workers in the low-carbon economy;
- Needs of coal miners and their communities;
- **Resolve legacy issues**: e.g., compensation to uranium workers and their families
- Address needs of Tribes in **transition from oil & gas development**.

Pillar 6: Invest in Disproportionately Exposed Communities to Cut **Pollution** and Advance **Environmental Justice**

Tribal Priorities:

- **Environmental justice** and government-to-government consultation.
- **Integration** of relevant UN policies and instruments.
- Develop policies for **unrecognized and state recognized Tribes**.
- Improve **knowledge of Tribal issues**: Culture, data, infrastructure, and policy
- **Indigenous knowledge**: included in government procedures and policies related to environmental justice.

Pillar 7: Improve **Public Health** and Manage Climate Risks to **Health Infrastructure**

Tribal Priorities:

- **Mental health**: Challenges faced by cultures with historical connections to place and environment
- **Define Health**: Expand beyond the physiological and mental to include social, environmental, and cultural factors
- Tribal **pre-disaster preparedness**: Involve Tribes at beginning of program development
- **Funding streams for Tribal health** need to be developed and/or codified
- **Climate health programs** focused on youth and elders

Pillar 8: Invest in American **Agriculture** For Climate Solutions

Tribal Priorities:

- Increase **agriculture carbon sequestration**
 - Regulatory resources & incentives
- **Agricultural emissions**
- Investments in **rural broadband** for precision agriculture
- **Technical assistance** for Tribal farmers
- Financial and technical assistance for **Tribal climate stewardship practices**
- Access to Tribal programs: local and regional food systems, transportation, & reducing food waste

Pillar 9: Make U.S. Communities More Resilient to the Impacts of Climate Change

Tribal Priorities:

- Resilience across sectors
- Community-led planning and decision-making
- Federal support for tribally-led relocation and resettlement
- Floodplain Management: collaborative, sustainable, and equitable
- Implementation funding: Tribal resilience project and programs
- Health and well-being of urban Indigenous communities
- Maintain connections to culture and build resilience.

Pillar 10: Protect and Restore America's Lands, Waters, Oceans, and Wildlife

Tribal Priorities

- Co-management of resources; Protecting TEK
- Place-based Tribes: Location and timing of species' behaviors
 - Changes in habitat range of subsistence resources
 - Allowances for continued access for cultural and subsistence purposes
- Heritage sites: Protection and conservation
- Land conservation: more expansive, holistic Indigenous views
- Conservation policies: Indigenous approaches to resource management
- Habitat protection
 - Ensure sovereign rights
 - Protect essential habitat
 - Habitat degradation threatens sovereign rights for subsistence

Pillar 11: Advance **Climate Resilience & Preparedness** for a Strong National Defense / Restore America's **International Leadership**

Tribal Priorities:

- Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- International leadership: Rejoin the **Paris Accord**
- Support Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP): **strengthen TK in climate policy**
- Green Climate Fund & direct funding of Indigenous Peoples in developing countries.
- Support participation of Indigenous Permanent Participants in leadership roles for the Arctic Council
- Fund **capacity building of Indigenous women, girls, and youth**
- Prevent/mitigate black carbon
- **Fight deforestation**: disallow all offsets as offsets allow emission of carbon elsewhere.
- Provide **aid to Tribes for development of hazard mitigation and climate resilience plans**
- National security: include **food security** (including marine resources), **energy security**, and **human rights of Indigenous people** at the southern border
- Involve Indigenous Peoples and representatives in cross-border negotiations affecting their rights, and on U.S. delegations to international venues addressing climate change.

Pillar 12: Strengthen America's **Core Institutions** to Facilitate Climate Action

Tribal Priorities:

- Implement United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Implement Tribal Climate Change Policy Principles in federal programs
- Increase **financial and technical support** for Tribes
- **Downscaled climate projections**
- Assess the impacts of climate actions on Tribes
- Provide **funding** for Indigenous students to:
 - **Study** in colleges and universities
 - **Work on climate change** at all levels of government
 - **Intergenerational learning about culture, history, & experience**



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Next Steps

Adopt Tribal Resolutions to push Tribal priorities for the Congressional Climate Action Plan

- National Congress of American Indians
- United Southern and Eastern Tribes
- Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians
- Other Intertribal organizations
- Tribal Resolutions