



SUMMARY: WHITE HOUSE CLIMATE SUMMIT

“PRESIDENT BIDEN HOSTS A LEADERS CLIMATE SUMMIT ON EARTH DAY”

April 22-23, 2021

OVERVIEW

During his campaign, President Biden pledged to hold an international summit on the climate crisis during the first 100 days of his Administration. The goal of the summit is two-fold: demonstrate United States’ commitment to address climate and encourage countries to bolster their commitments made under the Paris Climate Accord.

The first day of the Virtual Leaders Summit on Climate featured a number of panels, including an opening session of 28 world leaders. Other sessions addressed climate finance, adaptation and resilience, local action, and climate security issues.

The second day of the Leaders Climate Summit focused on climate innovation and the economic opportunities presented by actions on climate change. The latter theme will be a central messaging point for the Administration as it advocates for its climate agenda.

President Biden’s remarks from the opening session on the first day can be found [here](#), and Vice President Harris’s remarks from the first day can be found [here](#).

DAY ONE OF THE LEADERS SUMMIT ON CLIMATE

April 22, 2021

U.S. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Emissions Target

President Biden announced a U.S. emissions reduction goal of 50-52 percent in greenhouse gas (GHG) pollution by 2030, measured against 2005 levels. In order to achieve this goal, the White House outlined several policies it would pursue, including:

- 100% carbon-free electricity by 2035;
- Supporting building efficiency upgrades;
- Transportation sector policies, including infrastructure investments, emissions standards, and development of low-carbon renewable fuels;
- Nature-based solutions;
- Addressing industrial processes, including support for carbon capture and developing new sources of hydrogen;
- Reduction of non-CO₂ greenhouse gases; and
- Investments in innovation and technology.

The White House fact sheet on the announcement can be found [here](#).

International Climate Finance Plan

On January 27th, President Biden issued an [Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad](#), which required the development of an international climate finance plan. Today, the President unveiled the details of this plan, which calls for the U.S. to double climate financing to developing countries by 2024, including a tripling of adaptation financing. These goals will be measured against the average level of finance during FY 2013-2016. Components of the plan include:

- Prioritization of climate for U.S. development agencies, including U.S. AID and the U.S. DFC;
- Mobilization of private finance;
- Ending public investments in fossil fuel-based energy;
- Supporting capital flows to low-emissions investments; and
- Reporting on U.S. finance investments.

The full plan can be found [here](#), and the executive summary can be found [here](#).

DAY TWO OF THE LEADERS SUMMIT ON CLIMATE

April 23, 2021

STATEMENTS FROM U.S. OFFICIALS

[President Biden](#) (Opening Session)

[Vice President Harris](#) (Opening Session)

[President Biden](#) (Climate Session 2: Investing in Climate Solutions)

[President Biden](#) (Climate Session 5: The Economic Opportunities of Climate Action)

[Secretary of State Antony Blinken](#)

[Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen](#)

[Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin](#)

[U.N. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield](#)

U.S. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A number of announcements were made demonstrating the Administration's commitments to achieve its goal of reducing U.S. emissions by 50-52 percent by 2030 compared to 2005 levels. These goals and initiatives are outlined below.

- Global Climate Ambition Initiative: assist developing countries in their climate strategies
- U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) goals for climate investments: a net-zero investment portfolio by 2040
- Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC): more than 50 percent of program funding will be climate-related
- Greening Government Initiative (GGI): first international convening on greening national plans for sustainable government operations
- Increase international financing by committing the U.S. to double public climate finance to developing countries by 2024 (relative to FY 2013-2016)
- U.S. International Climate Finance Plan (summary can be found [here](#))
- Establish a Net-Zero Producers Forum: energy ministries from the U.S., Canada, Norway, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia to align strategies
- Establish a U.S.-India Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 Partnership
- Increased technical assistance from the U.S. for the Renewable Energy for Latin America and the Caribbean (RELAC) initiative
- Support for clean energy mineral supply chains
- Catalyze the transition to zero-emitting transportation as swiftly as possible through work at DOT
- Join the Zero Emission Vehicle Transition Council
- Reduce emissions from international shipping
- Reduce emissions from international aviation
- Launch the Global Partnership for Climate-Smart Infrastructure
- Create a Chairman's Council on Climate at the U.S. Export-Import Bank (EXIM)
- Department of Energy will join Canada, the European Union, and Chile to launch the Empowering People initiative at the Clean Energy Ministerial
- Accelerate clean energy innovation and manufacturing, including performance goals, with an initial focus on hydrogen, carbon capture, industrial fuels, and energy storage
- Increase U.S. leadership and participation in Mission Innovation
- Create the Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate (fact sheet can be found [here](#))
- Join the Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT)
- Launch a Global Power System Transformation (G-PST) Consortium
- Launch the Foundational Infrastructure for the Responsible Use of Small Modular Reactor Technology (FIRST) Program in support of small modular reactors

- Direct the EPA to fund \$1 million in grants through the Commission on Environmental Cooperation
- Partner with islands to lead on climate and energy resilience
- Make investments in clean cookstoves to reduce black carbon and strengthen commitment to the UN Clean Cooking Alliance
- Launch the Black Carbon Health in Indigenous Arctic Communities
- Launch the Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest (LEAF) finance coalition to address deforestation
- Fund nature-based approaches to coastal community and ecosystem resilience
- Promote resilience in the Southern Ocean
- Direct the Department of Defense to conduct climate exposure assessment of U.S. bases through the Defense Climate Assessment Tool (DCAT)
- Support assessments in partner countries around the world with the DCAT
- Advance subnational and non-state engagement abroad
- Catalyze subnational action and participation in COP26

Full details on the President's announcement can be found [here](#).