

Executive Order on Addressing the Climate Crisis

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to address and prepare the Nation for the impacts of climate change by undertaking actions to (1) address the climate crisis and avert the most catastrophic climate change scenarios by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing the capacity of our nation's carbon sinks; (2) enhance climate preparedness and resilience; (3) assist with climate change adaptation; (4) address historical environmental and public health inequities; and (5) prioritize the needs of communities and working families above corporate polluters, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. POLICY. Climate change presents a greater, more severe threat to the United States' economy and environment than recognized at the time President Obama issued Executive Order 13653 ("Preparing the United States for the Impacts of Climate Change"). Scientific research and data show that there have been and will be further increases in average temperatures, prolonged heat waves, heavy rainstorms, permafrost thawing, ocean acidification, and sea-level rise. These and other climate impacts are already affecting our nation's communities, natural resources, ecosystems, economy, security, and public health and welfare.

While carbon dioxide is the most abundant greenhouse gas, other greenhouse gases, including black carbon, fluorinated gases, nitrous oxide, and methane, create a warming influence on the climate that in some cases is many times more potent than that of carbon dioxide on a per-ton basis. These pollutants also have a dramatic and detrimental effect on air quality and public health.

Reducing emissions of all greenhouse gases will have an immediate beneficial impact on climate change and public health. It will also have long-term economic benefits, creating

sustainable, well-paid jobs and improving the United States' international competitiveness. National climate action offers an opportunity to advance public health and economic opportunities for all Americans, including by addressing the health, economic, and environmental burdens that have disproportionately fallen on communities of color and low-income communities.

Since the rescission of EO 13653, our nation has lost precious time to address, respond to, and prepare for the existential threats climate change will bring. Tempering the worst of these impacts is essential to protecting our national security and public health and essential to achieving global leadership in climate change aversion, resilience and preparedness. The COVID-19 crisis has compounded and laid bare the disproportionate impacts of environmental pollution, climate change, and other public health threats on communities of color and low-income communities.

Mitigating and responding to the threats posed by climate change require deliberate preparation, close cooperation, meaningful engagement by stakeholders, and coordinated interagency planning across government, including, among others, by the Council on Environmental Quality, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Departments of Energy, Defense, Interior, State, and Transportation, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Cooperation with states and local and tribal governments is also essential.

Section 2. POLICY. It is the policy of the Federal Government to lead and facilitate domestic and global efforts to decelerate climate change; improve climate preparedness and resilience; help safeguard our economy, infrastructure, environment, and natural resources; address the disproportionate impacts of climate change and other environmental pollution on communities of color; and provide for the continuity of operations, services, and programs. These efforts must identify and prioritize efforts to protect our nation's most vulnerable populations.

Section 3. FEDERAL RESPONSE. Federal agencies shall be responsible for developing policies and regulations that may directly or indirectly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support atmospheric greenhouse gas removal, including, where appropriate, restoring previous regulations and policies to address climate change, and, where appropriate, promulgating new or modified regulations and policies. To this end, the heads of all agencies shall identify regulatory standards, guidance documents, policies and other instruments designed to mitigate or adapt to the impacts of climate change that have been repealed, rescinded or weakened, including pursuant to the executive orders rescinded by Section 4 of this Order; where appropriate, reinstate such instruments; and, where appropriate, strengthen such instruments. Federal agencies shall also develop new policies and regulations that can support climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience to prevent this existential threat from fully materializing, based on current science and data.

Section 4. EXECUTIVE ORDERS REVOKED. Executive Orders 13766, 13771, 13795, 13834, 13840, 13867, 13868, 13792, 13927 and 13924 are hereby revoked.

Section 5. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE. (a) The Attorney General is hereby ordered to: (i) implement, to the extent possible by executive action, the Environmental Justice Act of 2019 (S. 2236); (ii) increase enforcement of environmental and civil rights laws to advance environmental justice; (iii) strategically support ongoing plaintiff-driven climate litigation against polluters; (iv) address legacy pollution in a manner that includes real and lasting remedies to make communities safe, healthy, and whole; and (v) work hand-in-hand with EPA's Office of Civil Rights to ensure that Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act is enforced to bring justice to frontline communities.

(b) There is hereby established a White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council and White House Environmental Justice Interagency Council, both of which will report directly to the Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). These two councils

will be charged with revising EO 12898 in order to address current and historic environmental injustice, in collaboration with local environmental justice leaders; and developing plans for creating accountability and firm metrics on meeting the established goals.

(c) There is established an Interagency Climate Equity Task Force tasked with addressing climate inequity in frontline vulnerable communities and tribal nations, directed by the principle of investing in community self-determination.

Section 6. GENERAL PROVISIONS. (a) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

- (i) the authority granted by law to an executive department, agency, or the head thereof; or
- (ii) the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(b) This order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

(c) This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.