

CORPORATE CRACKDOWN PROJECT — CLIMATE

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS ONE-PAGER

In a new report, the Revolving Door Project highlights a slew of executive actions President Biden can take to combat the climate crisis using long-established powers under longstanding law. These actions would address corporate misbehavior unpopular with voters of all stripes.

Here are some highlights from each section:

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

- Close loopholes and vastly lower the threshold of methane leaks that require reporting.
- Rewrite the petroleum industry's self-written emission standards for heavy refinery liquids.
- Stop fracking wastewater from ending up in farmlands and drinking water through Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act authorities
- Enforce closure of coal ash storage ponds for the first time in American history
- Enforce the “Good Neighbor” rule prohibiting air pollution that blows across state borders

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

- Plug abandoned drilling wells that leak greenhouse gases.
- Reform the Gold Rush-era mining law that leaves mining for rare earth minerals — including minerals necessary for solar panels, like lithium — completely unregulated.
- Create a unified wildfire fighting task force.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

- Condition grants, subsidies, and loans on emissions-reducing practices, such as no-till farming practices and managing cover crops. Exclude CAFOs.
- Strictly define what counts as “sustainable” practices, excluding biogas.
- Break up the Big Ag monopolies, who are also some of the nation's worst domestic polluters and major financiers of climate denialism.
- Issue an immediate moratorium on new oil and gas leasing of National Forest Service-protected lands.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

- Massively increase civil and criminal cases brought against violators of environmental law, first by encouraging agencies to scale up referrals and then by pursuing as many cases as possible.
- Do not accept low-ball settlements and be willing to risk losing cases if the issue at stake matters. In short, don't join “[The Chickenshit Club](#).”
- Join citizen-led climate cases, or write amicus briefs on their behalf, wherever possible.

OIRA AND FINANCIAL REGULATORS

- Either revoke the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA)'s power to unilaterally veto regulations across the executive branch, or massively reweight its cost-benefit analysis frameworks to consider the enormous health benefits of the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts.
- Focus the Financial Stability Oversight Council and Federal Reserve Vice Chair for Supervision on the severe and proven financial stability risks posed by climate change. Incorporate climate risk into stress tests, and mandate divestiture of overly risk-inducing assets, such as oil and gas developments.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

- Ensure the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) supports building transmission infrastructure to match the number of proposed green energy projects, and enforces rules allowing rooftop solar projects to participate in wholesale energy markets.
- Disperse low-interest loans for clean energy projects, and do not exercise authority to lend to fossil fuel projects.
- Reverse the Tennessee Valley Authority's planned embrace of new fossil fuel projects.

FOREIGN POLICY AGENCIES

- Reinstate the crude oil export ban.
- Sanction actors responsible for persecuting environmental protectors in the Amazon as part of the Plan To Conserve Global Forests.
- Scrutinize the actual climate records of corporations in the "Forest Investor Club" and reassess priorities of green investing programs more generally.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

The report broadly argues that the missions and practices of the Defense Department are wholly incompatible with the mission of climate action at the scale necessary to avert climate change's worst effects. Specific policy recommendations are included, but a broader reckoning with the military-industrial complex is indispensable for the necessary reforms to this agency.

- Require the Defense Department to actually track and report its carbon emissions for the first time ever.
- Radically rework the Defense Logistics Agency's fuel practices — e.g., two-thirds of oil consumed in the invasion of Iraq was spent on transporting more oil to the front lines.
- Meaningfully audit Defense Department waste and fraud as a first step toward massive reductions in DoD spending and reorienting fiscal policy in a warming world.
- Ban burn pits worldwide.
- Revoke the Defense Department's slew of exemptions to basic environmental regulations that apply to every other part of the federal government.