



# Climate-Safe California

Together, we can make California the first state in the nation to become carbon negative.

the  
climate  
center

# Our Vision

We believe in thriving, healthy communities.

The Climate Center envisions a future where everyone in California benefits from equitable access to climate solutions, from clean air to renewable energy, healthy food, and more.





# Oil and Gas Interests Are Standing the Way

California has the tools and know-how to lead on climate, but oil and gas corporations and their allies are blocking progress in Sacramento.





Californians, especially the most marginalized among us, are reeling from climate disasters and fossil fuel pollution **today**.

# Accelerate the Clean Energy Transition

When our elected officials accelerate an equitable transition to clean energy, all of us will benefit.

Our communities deserve accelerated, equitable solutions to the climate crisis.

The Climate Center is working to make them a reality.



## RAISING THE ALARM

Evidence that tipping points are under way has mounted in the past decade. Domino effects have also been proposed.



**A. Amazon rainforest**  
Frequent droughts

**B. Arctic sea ice**  
Reduction in area

**C. Atlantic circulation**  
In slowdown since 1950s

**D. Boreal forest**  
Fires and pests changing

**F. Coral reefs**  
Large-scale die-offs

**G. Greenland ice sheet**  
Ice loss accelerating

**H. Permafrost**  
Thawing

**I. West Antarctic ice sheet**  
Ice loss accelerating

**J. Wilkes Basin, East Antarctica**  
Ice loss accelerating

@nature

# The Challenge

The climate crisis is hitting harder and faster than scientists predicted even a few years ago. As the United Nations recently warned, we are witnessing a **“code red” moment** for humanity.

# The IPCC Is Calling Out Major Polluters

“This document is an **atlas of human suffering** and a damning indictment of **failed climate leadership**. This abdication of leadership is **criminal**. The world’s biggest polluters are **guilty of arson of our only home**.”

— **U.N. Secretary General António Guterres**





Sunday

# Los Angeles Times

latimes.com

\$3.66 DESIGNATED AREAS HIGHER © 2020 WST ††

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

# California's climate apocalypse

Fires, heat, air pollution: The calamity is no longer in the future — it's here, now

## Oregon residents standing ground

BY RICHARD READ,  
MOLLY HENNESSY-FISKI  
AND MELISSA ETEHAD

MOLALLA, Ore. —  
Christine VanOeveren grab-



BY SUSANNE RUST  
AND TONY BARBOZA

In 2001, a team of international scientists projected that during the next 100 years, the planet's inhabitants would witness higher maximum temperatures, more hot days and heat waves, an increase in the risk of forest fires and "substantially degraded air quality" in large metropolitan areas as a result of climate change.

In just the past month, nearly two decades after the third United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report was issued, heat records were



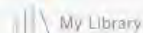
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# Unequal Impacts

Devastating wildfires, toxic smoke, extreme heat, crippling drought, and pervasive air pollution have become the new normal for Californians, disproportionately harming people of color and lower-income communities.



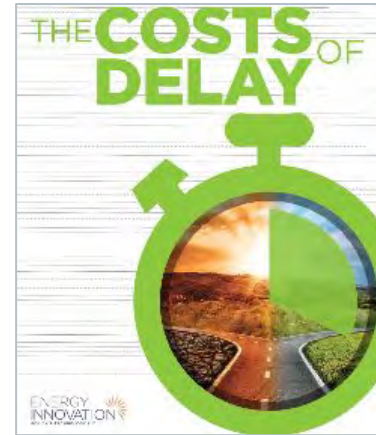
# Health Impacts of Fossil Fuels



- Fossil fuel air pollution now accounts for 1 in 5 deaths globally
- Heatwaves are the leading climate-related killer
- 7.3 million Californians live within 1 mile of an oil or gas well

# Climate Inaction and Delay Costs Trillions

- It costs much less to invest big today than to wait until 2030
- In California, we can invest ~\$47 billion/year now or it will cost us \$110 billion/year starting in 2030.
- \$150 billion in damages from 2018 California wildfires alone
- \$80 billion invested in California climate action will generate ~725,000 jobs







'Fossil fuels are choking humanity': Major UN report sounds the alarm on climate impacts

## 'Fossil fuels are choking humanity': Major UN report sounds the alarm on climate impacts

PUBLISHED MON, FEB 28 2022-6:00 AM EST



# Failing to Act Today Will Cost Us Down the Line

If we don't quickly and dramatically change course, these climate extremes will only get worse. The longer we delay action, the more costly these disasters become — in both dollars and human lives.

# California Has Fallen Behind

- ✓ **European Union:** Cut GHGs by at least 55% by 2030 ... from 1990 levels to reach net zero emissions by 2050
- ✓ **Denmark:** 70% GHG cut below 1990 by 2030;
- ✓ **Rhode Island:** 100% GHG free electricity by 2030
- ✓ **United Kingdom:** Cut GHGs 68% by 2030 from 1990 levels; 100% ZEV sales by 2030; 100% clean electricity by 2035



“I don’t at all feel that we [in California] are leading the world anymore.”

– Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon



## Bold Targets Work

- **AB 1493 (2002) tailpipe emissions cuts:** Later adopted by 13 other states, became the basis for 2010 national clean car standards
- **SB 100 (2018) 100% carbon-free electricity by 2045:** Already adopted by 10 other states and Biden Administration with earlier deadlines
- **Gov. Newsom Executive Order 100% ZEV car sales by 2035 (Sept 2020):** GM announced it will sell only 100% ZEV cars by 2035 (Jan 2021); Volvo by 2030 (Mar 2021)





# Climate-Safe California

Climate-Safe California is a unique and comprehensive campaign to make California the first state in the nation to become carbon negative.

# Climate-Safe California



**Endorsed by hundreds of businesses, elected officials,  
and nonprofits and more than 1,600 individuals.**

[www.ClimateSafeCA.org](http://www.ClimateSafeCA.org)

# Speed and Scale

**Climate-Safe California** offers climate policy solutions at the speed and scale that science demands.







# Thriving, Healthy Communities

Climate-Safe California is a set of policies that can **create thousands of family-sustaining jobs and build a more equitable clean energy economy.**

# Guiding Principles

Climate-Safe California — and all of The Climate Center's work — is guided by these core principles:

1. Follow the latest science
2. Secure a just transition for fossil fuel workers and their families
3. Prioritize climate justice with equitable access to climate solutions



# Four Pillars of Climate-Safe California



**Phase out  
fossil fuels**



**Scale up natural  
carbon removal**



**Invest in resilient  
communities for all**



**Fund climate  
action now**



# Accelerating Phase out of Fossil Fuels

- Halt all new oil and gas drilling and infrastructure permits
- Establish 1+ mile health, safety buffer zones at active wells
- Start plugging >5,000 abandoned wells
- Invest in public-private efforts to transition fossil fuel workers to good quality jobs or early retirement



# 100 Percent Clean Electricity



California must phase out methane gas and rapidly shift to 100 percent clean electricity. Methane gas is 84 times more powerful than carbon dioxide and leaks are rampant.

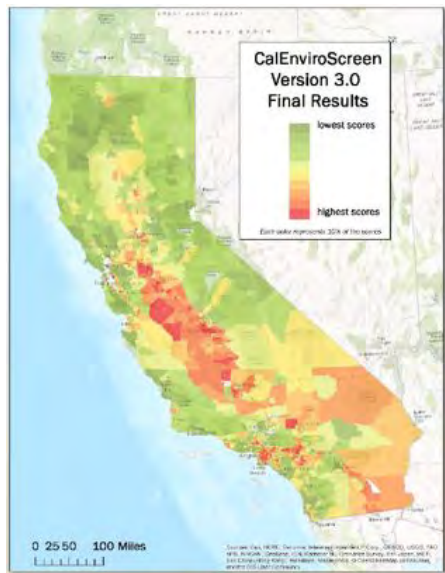
# Safe and Reliable Clean Electricity

Clean energy microgrids can help California shift to 100 percent clean electricity for reliable and affordable energy. They can also keep the power on during extreme weather events.



# We Secured \$200 Million from the California Public Utility Commission for Microgrids in Frontline Communities

Microgrid Equity Coalition convened by The Climate Center



Community Energy Resilience Planning for local governments now an eligible project for over \$165M in Transformative Climate Communities funding





# Transitioning to Sustainable Mobility

- **Begin phase out of fossil fuel powered vehicles**, including cars, trucks, buses, and ships immediately. Eg: cash for clunkers, EV charging at multi-family housing
- **No new gas powered vehicle registrations by 2030**
- Flip priorities: **Invest 80%+ of Caltrans \$ in non-GHG sustainable modes of transportation by 2025**
- Invest in **affordable housing near jobs**
- Invest in **clean mass transit**



# Benefits of Nature-Based Carbon Removal

## Key report findings and recommendations

- Proven techniques like **compost application, agroforestry and urban tree planting** draw down carbon and increase water security, reduce air pollution and extreme heat impacts, and enhance crop resilience to extreme weather.
- The cost of implementation at scale in California is roughly **\$30 billion over ten years** from public and private sources, relatively inexpensive for the benefits. In contrast, the economic impact of climate disasters in the state is far greater. For instance, the 2018 wildfire season inflicted \$150 billion in damages.
- Sequestration policies must be **designed to address the needs of vulnerable populations**, especially farmworkers, frontline, and urban communities. The full participation of these groups is key.



### SETTING AN AMBITIOUS SEQUESTRATION GOAL FOR CALIFORNIA'S WORKING LANDS:

ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NET-NEGATIVE EMISSIONS BY 2030

JANUARY 2022

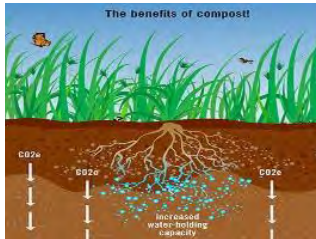
# Nature-Based Carbon Removal Works



**Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCS/CCUS):** Removes CO<sub>2</sub> from power plants and industrial processes, placing the CO<sub>2</sub> into long-term storage, but 81% used for “enhanced oil recovery”



**Direct Air Capture (DAC):** Extracts CO<sub>2</sub> from the air by pulling air through filters where it reacts with chemicals and is stored or used to make synthetic fuels [~19 direct air capture (DAC) plants operating worldwide, capturing ~0.01 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>/year]



**Nature-Based Sequestration (NbS):** Absorbs CO<sub>2</sub> using nature, like trees, plants, soil, oceans, and other natural or biological settings.

# California Must Lead

These initiatives fit together like pieces of a puzzle: we need to pursue all of them in tandem to deliver on the promise of a climate-safe future. **If we can do this in California — the fifth-largest economy in the world and a major oil and gas-producing state — we can do it anywhere.**

