

# Why California Needs the Polluters Pay Climate Superfund



**Moderator: Woody Hastings**



**Assemblymember Dawn Addis**



**Jason Pfeifle, Center for Biological Diversity**



**Clair Brown, PhD., UC Berkeley**



**Joe LaCava, City of San Diego**



# Our Mission

**We're working to rapidly  
reduce climate pollution at  
scale, starting in California.**

We believe in thriving, healthy communities. We envision a future where everyone in California enjoys clean air and water, renewable and reliable energy, healthy food, thriving nature, and more.

# Sponsors



# Promotional Partners



# A Top Priority for The Climate Center in 2025

**Lawmakers must hold polluters accountable**

**Pass the Polluters Pay  
Climate Superfund Act,  
introduced as SB 684  
(Menjivar) in the Senate  
and AB 1243 (Addis).**

Scan the code to take action:





# 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.

Photo by Los Muertos Crew | Pexels

the  
climate  
center

# 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 true climate solutions**



Photo by Canva

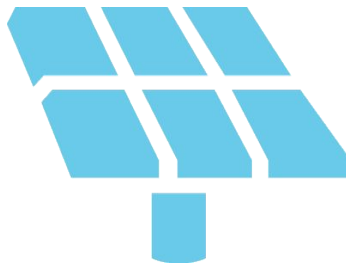
# The Four Pillars of Climate-Safe CA



**Phase out  
fossil fuels**



**Scale up  
carbon  
drawdown**



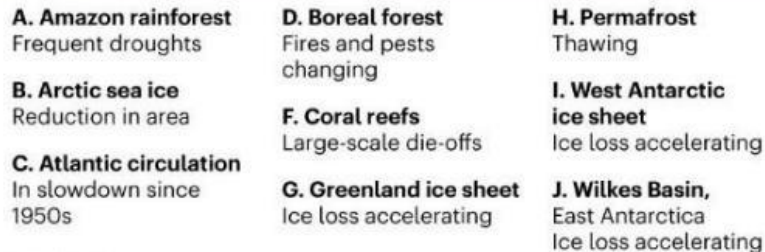
**Clean,  
resilient,  
affordable  
energy for all**



**Fund  
climate  
solutions**



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



# The Challenge

The climate crisis is hitting harder and faster than scientists predicted even a few years ago. Devastating wildfires, toxic smoke, extreme heat, and flooding are harming communities in California and beyond.

# Increasing health impacts, especially to frontline communities



Left: Wildfire smoke over Hollywood. Image by Lawrence | Flickr  
Right: Neighborhood drilling. Image by Tara Pixley.



- Fossil fuel air pollution causes one in five deaths globally
- Extreme heat kills more people in the U.S. than any other type of hazardous weather
- 2020 CA smoke storm: Three weeks of heavy smoke across California indirectly caused 1,200 deaths
- 7.3 million Californians live within 1 mile of oil or gas well



# Oil and gas influence

- California: 3rd largest refinery state and 6th largest producer of crude oil
- Big Oil spent a record \$38 million lobbying in CA in 2024 amid record profits
- Oil and gas lobbyists are using massive profits to fight climate action and spread misinformation while benefiting from taxpayer subsidies

Photo by Tara Pixley / Earthjustice

# Delayed climate action costs lives and dollars

- Eliminating fossil fuel air pollution in buildings and transportation in CA would avoid ~5,000 premature deaths and saves \$44 billion per year in improved health
- At least \$250 billion in damages from the January 2025 LA fires



Greenpeace image of fire damage

Image: © David McNew / Greenpeace





# California Must Lead

California has the tools and know-how to lead on climate. When our elected officials accelerate the transition to clean energy, all of us will benefit.

**California must lead on climate once again at the speed and scale required. Our communities deserve accelerated, equitable solutions.**

Photo: Climate rally in Sacramento. Image by Tessa Richardson.



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