



DAYENU
A Jewish Call to Climate Action

7 CLIMATE ACTIONS CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS AND THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION CAN TAKE ON DAY ONE

We're in the middle of a pandemic, fighting to save lives, save the planet, and save our democracy. Tinkering around the edges in this moment isn't going to cut it - going "back to normal" won't be enough. We're urging Members of Congress to have the *chutzpah* - boldness of vision - to take urgent action to confront these crises and to address climate change.

We must put people back to work building a 100% clean energy economy, create millions of high-wage jobs, prioritize environmental justice, and hold polluters accountable.

We have compiled a list of 7 immediate actions that the Biden Administration, alongside Congressional Leaders, can take as soon as new leaders are sworn in to put us on the right track.

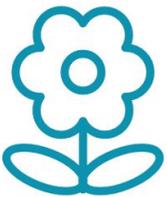
For each of the 7 executive actions, we have identified crucial roles for Members of Congress to play, including (but not limited to): confirmation hearings and votes, committee subpoenas and hearings, and/or Bills before the Senate and House of Representatives that would support these actions.

We have no time to waste - let's get to work



1. Choose a climate cabinet. Appoint a cabinet that will take immediate, aggressive action to cut greenhouse gas emissions, invest in clean energy jobs, and prioritize environmental justice.

Senators have a crucial role in cabinet confirmation hearings. Regardless of the party split, we will need Senate leaders and committee members to conduct robust, fair and transparent confirmation processes. Recess appointments should not be off the table.



2. Prioritize environmental justice. Order government agencies to use science-based standards, consider civil rights and cumulative impacts of pollution on low-income and historically marginalized communities.

Congress should pass the *Environmental Justice For All Act*, introduced in the 116th Congress as [H.R.5986](#) and in the Senate as [S.4401](#). The Bill: 1. Amends and Strengthens the Civil Rights Act of 1964: Prohibits discrimination based on disparate impacts and overturns *Alexander v. Sandoval*; 2. Requires the Consideration of Cumulative Impacts: Explicitly adds cumulative impacts in permitting decisions under the Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act; 3. Codifies the Clinton Administration’s Environmental Justice Executive Order: Creates a working group to ensure compliance and enforcement and develop government-wide strategies; 4. Reinforces the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA): Requires early and meaningful involvement in actions impacting communities, including Tribes; 5. Asserts Health Equity: Funds programs to study potentially harmful products marketed towards women and girls of color; 6. Provides Outdoor Access for All: Establishes programs to ensure more equitable access to parks and the outdoors; 7. Establishes Environmental Justice Grant Programs: Funds grants for research, education, and projects to address environmental and public health issues; and 8. Ensures a Fair and Just Transition: Establishes a Federal Energy Transition Economic Development Assistance Fund to support communities and workers as they transition away from fossil fuel-dependent economies.



3: Move the country towards 100% clean energy. Use existing Clean Air Act authority to set aggressive emissions standards for vehicles, power plants, buildings, public infrastructure, and industrial projects.

While the Biden Administration will have the authority to begin to move the country to 100% clean energy via authority granted in the Clean Air Act, Members of Congress can help lead the charge, and provide a backstop to the executive branch by passing the 100% Clean

Economy Act. The Bill, introduced in 2019 in the House as [H.R. 5221](#) sets a nationwide goal of achieving a 100 percent clean energy economy by 2050, defined as net-zero climate pollution across all sectors of the United States' economy.



4: Build back better. Work with Congress to pass a ten-year, \$10 trillion economic revitalization plan that creates millions of good-paying jobs by building green infrastructure.

The Coronavirus pandemic has impacted our economy deeply, causing tens of millions to lose their jobs, homes and livelihoods, widening the income gap between rich and poor and causing widespread economic devastation. This is the crucial moment to invest in a just, green recovery, to put people back to work building a 100% clean energy economy, create millions of high-wage jobs with a comprehensive stimulus and recovery package. The House-passed HEROES Act, [H.R. 6800](#), a \$2.2 trillion stimulus bill, should be the floor, not the ceiling for action, and must be followed up with more significant green infrastructure spending and jobs programs throughout the next decade.



5: Invest in our future. Direct the U.S. Treasury to regulate climate risk and shift trillions of dollars in public and private investments from fossil fuels to clean energy.

The Senate must conduct fair and comprehensive hearings, and confirm Janet Yellen as Secretary of Treasury – she has indicated that she would take meaningful steps to address climate risk through corporate risk disclosure and other means. In addition, Congress must pass the End Polluter Welfare Act, introduced as [H.R. 7781](#), which would end fossil fuel subsidies, and save Americans \$113 billion in giveaways to coal, oil and gas companies



6: Keep fossil fuels in the ground. Immediately stop new mining and drilling on public lands.

The House and Senate must pass legislation such as American Public Lands and Waters Climate Solution Act ([H.R. 5435](#)) to stop future leasing of public lands for fossil fuel extraction, while also providing necessary funding for communities and local governments currently dependent on fossil fuel revenues. Drilling and mining on public lands currently accounts for nearly 20% of all greenhouse gas emissions in the United States – if we are to meet our Paris commitments, we must move rapidly to end extraction on public lands, starting with revoking leases in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.



7: Re-engage internationally. Rejoin the Paris Climate Agreement.

President-elect Biden has indicated that the United States will rejoin the Paris Climate Agreement soon after he takes office. But the Paris agreement should be the floor for action. The United States must engage in international negotiations productively, and commit meaningful resources to developing countries and the most vulnerable nations as they deal with real-time impacts of climate change and embrace the clean energy future.

ABOUT DAYENU

Dayenu: A Jewish Call to Climate Action is a new organization mobilizing the American Jewish community to respond to the climate crisis with spiritual audacity and bold action.

The climate crisis is the defining challenge of our lifetimes. Confronting it demands all of us working together to reimagine and build a different kind of world – one that is just, equitable, and livable for us and for generations to come. Our collective experience of the coronavirus pandemic and increased awareness of racial injustice in recent months has only heightened the saliency and urgency of addressing the climate crisis.

Studies indicate that 80% of American Jews are concerned about the climate crisis, but most are not engaged and are unsure what they can do personally to move the needle on the issue. Furthermore, many Jews feel anxious and overwhelmed by the impending crisis. Through local and national organizing efforts and resources,

Dayenu is creating pathways for meaningful action, partnering with other communities for greater impact, and supporting Jews and Jewish communities to grapple with the experience of living in this time.

Dayenu mobilizes Jewish support for climate solutions, build our collective power with national and global movements, and raise up a spiritual, religious, and moral voice.