

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 3269

To set and meet a national goal of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by not later than 2050, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 11, 2020

Mr. CARPER (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PETERS, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. UDALL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. WYDEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

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## A BILL

To set and meet a national goal of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by not later than 2050, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Clean Economy Act  
5 of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. NET-ZERO GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS BY NOT**  
2 **LATER THAN 2050.**

3 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-  
5 trator” means the Administrator of the Environ-  
6 mental Protection Agency.

7 (2) ANTHROPOGENIC.—The term “anthropo-  
8 genic”, with respect to greenhouse gas, means emis-  
9 sions and removals that are—

10 (A) the direct result of human activities; or

11 (B) the result of natural processes that  
12 have been affected by human activities.

13 (3) NET-ZERO EMISSIONS.—The term “net-zero  
14 emissions” means that, on an annual basis with re-  
15 spect to the United States, the quantity of anthropo-  
16 genic greenhouse gases emitted by sources does not  
17 exceed the quantity of anthropogenic sinks of green-  
18 house gases, as calculated by the Administrator  
19 using methodologies that are consistent with the rec-  
20 ommendations in the document of the Intergovern-  
21 mental Panel on Climate Change entitled “2019 Re-  
22 finement to the 2006 Guidelines for National Green-  
23 house Gas Inventories” (or any successor guidelines  
24 or refinements).

25 (b) PLAN FOR REDUCTION OF EMISSIONS.—The Ad-  
26 ministrator, acting pursuant to existing authorities under

1 the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.) and other ex-  
2 isting authorities of the Administrator, shall adopt and  
3 implement a plan—

4 (1) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from  
5 the United States that puts the United States on a  
6 pathway to achieve net-zero emissions by not later  
7 than 2050; and

8 (2) to achieve the interim targets established  
9 pursuant to subsection (c)(1)(C).

10 (c) REQUIREMENTS.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The plan under subsection  
12 (b) shall—

13 (A) achieve rapid greenhouse gas emission  
14 reductions, based on the best available science,  
15 to protect public health and welfare from the  
16 effects of climate change;

17 (B) be designed—

18 (i) to build on and reinforce progress  
19 by States, units of local government, and  
20 the private sector to reduce greenhouse gas  
21 emissions;

22 (ii) to maximize greenhouse gas emis-  
23 sion reductions while minimizing economic  
24 costs;

1 (iii) to reduce and minimize pollution  
2 and cumulative environmental effects in  
3 economically distressed communities, com-  
4 munities of color, and indigenous commu-  
5 nities, which are often disproportionately  
6 burdened by air, water, and land pollution  
7 and climate risks;

8 (iv) to maximize the nationwide de-  
9 ployment of existing and emerging tech-  
10 nologies to reduce greenhouse gas emis-  
11 sions, including—

12 (I) low- and zero-greenhouse gas  
13 electricity, transportation, and build-  
14 ing technologies;

15 (II) methane capture and de-  
16 struction technologies; and

17 (III) carbon capture, utilization,  
18 and sequestration technologies and  
19 practices, including direct air capture;

20 (v) to prevent domestic carbon leak-  
21 age;

22 (vi) to maximize flexibility in reducing  
23 greenhouse gas emissions for entities sub-  
24 ject to regulation under this section;

1 (vii) to minimize costs of greenhouse  
2 gas emission reductions to consumers, par-  
3 ticularly consumers from low-income  
4 households;

5 (viii) to prioritize infrastructure in-  
6 vestments that—

7 (I) reduce emissions of green-  
8 house gases and other pollutants;

9 (II) make communities more re-  
10 siliant to the effects of climate change;  
11 and

12 (III) use domestic labor and do-  
13 mestic content, promote job creation  
14 and job growth, and benefit workers  
15 and communities by utilizing project  
16 labor agreements and community ben-  
17 efit agreements;

18 (ix) to support early investments and  
19 job creation in energy efficiency and net-  
20 zero emissions technologies—

21 (I) in low-income communities  
22 and communities of color; and

23 (II) that reduce greenhouse gas  
24 emissions from—

1 (aa) the transportation sec-  
2 tor;

3 (bb) commercial buildings  
4 and homes, including multifamily  
5 homes; and

6 (cc) the industrial sector;

7 (x) to help address closed, abandoned,  
8 or underutilized industrial sites and other  
9 sources of legacy pollution, particularly in  
10 low-income communities and communities  
11 of color, and assist with remediation and  
12 reclamation of those sites;

13 (xi) to help ensure that communities  
14 are more resilient to the effects of climate  
15 change, particularly with respect to the  
16 ability of communities to provide safe  
17 drinking water and other essential public  
18 services in the event of extreme weather  
19 events and other consequences of climate  
20 change;

21 (xii) to minimize impacts on, and pro-  
22 vide assistance to, communities and work-  
23 ers that are affected by changes in na-  
24 tional energy and industrial practices that

1           may result from achieving net-zero emis-  
2           sions by not later than 2050; and

3           (xiii) to include any other actions, as  
4           determined to be appropriate by the Ad-  
5           ministrator—

6                   (I) to mitigate the effects of cli-  
7                   mate change; and

8                   (II) to help ensure the health,  
9                   safety, and livability of all commu-  
10                  nities;

11           (C) include, for each of the years 2025,  
12           2030, and 2040, interim greenhouse gas reduc-  
13           tion targets that the Administrator determines  
14           will put the United States on a pathway to  
15           achieve net-zero emissions by not later than  
16           2050;

17           (D) include equity treatment and meaning-  
18           ful involvement of minority populations, low-in-  
19           come populations, Indian Tribes, and indige-  
20           nous peoples in the development, implementa-  
21           tion, and enforcement of the plan; and

22           (E) ensure that all laborers and mechanics  
23           employed by contractors or subcontractors in  
24           the performance of construction, alteration, or  
25           repair work assisted or supported by the plan

1           are paid wages at rates not less than those pre-  
2           vailing on similar construction, alteration, or re-  
3           pair work in the locality as determined by the  
4           Secretary of Labor in accordance with sub-  
5           chapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United  
6           States Code.

7           (2) IMPLEMENTATION DEADLINE.—The Admin-  
8           istrator shall, after public notice and comment,  
9           adopt and begin the implementation of the plan  
10          under subsection (b) not later than 1 year after the  
11          date of enactment of this Act.

12          (3) AUTHORITY.—With respect to the labor  
13          standards specified in paragraph (1)(E), the Sec-  
14          retary of Labor shall have the authority and func-  
15          tions set forth in Reorganization Plan Numbered 14  
16          of 1950 (64 Stat. 1267; 5 U.S.C. App.) and section  
17          3145 of title 40, United States Code.

18          (d) RULEMAKINGS.—The Administrator shall pro-  
19          mulgate regulations to carry out this section as the Ad-  
20          ministrators determines to be necessary.

21          (e) ACTIONS BY OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

22                (1) IN GENERAL.—In coordination with the Ad-  
23                ministrators, the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary  
24                of the Interior, the Secretary of Labor, the Assistant  
25                Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development,

1 the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Hous-  
2 ing and Urban Development, the Secretary of  
3 Transportation, the Secretary of Defense, the Sec-  
4 retary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of  
5 Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Vet-  
6 erans Affairs, the Chairperson of the Chemical Safe-  
7 ty and Hazard Investigation Board, the Adminis-  
8 trator of General Services, the Administrator of the  
9 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,  
10 and the heads of Federal regional commissions shall  
11 assist with the implementation of the plan under  
12 subsection (b) by taking actions using existing au-  
13 thorities of those heads of agencies.

14 (2) MINIMUM ACTIONS.—At a minimum, the  
15 actions required under paragraph (1) shall—

16 (A) bolster the ability of the United States  
17 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and im-  
18 prove economic competitiveness by ensuring a  
19 robust, skilled, and well-prepared domestic  
20 workforce through equitable access to worker  
21 training programs in low- and zero-greenhouse  
22 gas technologies and processes (including tech-  
23 nologies and processes that reduce or sequester  
24 greenhouse gas emissions), including for under-  
25 employed, unemployed, displaced, or dislocated

1 workers, with an emphasis on programs that in-  
2 clude collectively bargained programs, Reg-  
3 istered Apprenticeships that meet the require-  
4 ments under parts 29 and 30 of title 29, Code  
5 of Federal Regulations (as in effect on Decem-  
6 ber 1, 2019), historically Black colleges and  
7 universities, land-grant colleges and univer-  
8 sities, Tribal colleges and universities, Hispanic-  
9 serving institutions, community colleges, and  
10 union training centers;

11 (B) invest in research, development, and  
12 deployment of low- and zero-greenhouse gas  
13 technologies and processes (including tech-  
14 nologies and processes that reduce or sequester  
15 greenhouse gas emissions)—

16 (i) to ensure that the United States  
17 continues to be a leader in those tech-  
18 nologies and processes; and

19 (ii) to encourage new growth in do-  
20 mestic industries and sectors that address  
21 climate change (and associated supply  
22 chains);

23 (C) achieve net-zero emissions by not later  
24 than 2050 to the maximum extent practicable,

1 consistent with applicable Federal law in a  
2 manner that—

3 (i) removes policy barriers to labor  
4 union organizing; and

5 (ii) applies mandatory labor stand-  
6 ards, including prevailing wages, safety,  
7 and health protections;

8 (D) incentivize reforestation, farming, and  
9 other land management practices on farms, on  
10 ranches, and in forests that—

11 (i) improve soil health or sequester  
12 carbon; and

13 (ii) increase resiliency of farms and  
14 ecosystems to the effects of climate change;

15 (E) encourage the restoration of eco-  
16 systems (such as forests, wetlands, grasslands,  
17 and aquatic systems), particularly on Federal  
18 and Tribal land, that—

19 (i) sequester carbon; and

20 (ii) improve climate resilience; and

21 (F) include other actions as appropriate to  
22 mitigate the effects of climate change.

23 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
24 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section

- 1 such sums as are necessary for each of fiscal years 2020
- 2 through 2050.

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