

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.

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

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;

(iii) to reduce and minimize pollution and cumulative environmental effects in economically distressed communities, communities of color, and indigenous communities, which are often disproportionately burdened by air, water, and land pollution and climate risks;

(iv) to maximize the nationwide deployment of existing and emerging technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including—

(I) low- and zero-greenhouse gas electricity, transportation, and building technologies;

(II) methane capture and destruction technologies; and

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

(v) to prevent domestic carbon leakage;

(vi) to maximize flexibility in reducing greenhouse gas emissions for entities subject to regulation under this section;

(vii) to minimize costs of greenhouse gas emission reductions to consumers, particularly consumers from low-income households;

(viii) to prioritize infrastructure investments that—

(I) reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants;

(II) make communities more resilient to the effects of climate change; and

(III) use domestic labor and domestic content, promote job creation and job growth, and benefit workers and communities by utilizing project labor agreements and community benefit agreements;

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

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

(II) that reduce greenhouse gas 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 determine to be necessary.

21 (e) ACTIONS BY OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—In coordination with the Ad-
23 ministrator, 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.

