

FEDERAL CLIMATE POLICY PRIORITIES

IN THE 117TH CONGRESS

Recent executive orders issued by the Biden administration and the announcement of an aggressive target for U.S. greenhouse gas reduction have catalyzed climate action across all federal agencies and established a framework for congressional lawmaking. As outdoor industry companies transform our operations and supply chains to reduce our emissions through the [Climate Action Corps](#), we can also bring a unique business voice to shape meaningful climate policies that will strengthen the outdoor recreation economy and promote a clean economy. OIA is tracking legislative and administrative actions that advance our broader [climate policy agenda](#), and will bring OIA members opportunities to advocate on select priorities through action alerts and sign-on letters, op-eds, congressional testimony, “fly-ins,” and more.

In particular, the outdoor industry urges action on the following legislative priorities in the 117th Congress:

INVEST IN CRITICAL GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

- A Civilian Climate Corps will re-imagine the original New Deal-era program to create tens of thousands of jobs, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, transition to clean energy, help prevent catastrophic wildfires, and build climate resilience, with an emphasis on benefiting urban and rural communities hardest hit by the impacts of climate change. Legislative proposals have emerged to build the next generation of conservation and resilience workers, such as the [21st Century Conservation Corps Act](#) and the [Civilian Climate Corps Act](#).
- Urban parks and greenways have the ability to sequester carbon, create shade in heat-stressed urban areas, and reduce climate risks by helping to minimize the impacts of climate-related weather events, such as intense storms and flooding. Yet, more than 100 million Americans do not live within walking or biking distance of a park. The [Parks, Jobs, and Equity Act](#) will expand vital park infrastructure in urban areas — building climate resilience, improving the health and well-being of individuals, and expanding outdoor recreation opportunities for more communities.
- Americans travel by car every year to visit the parks, campgrounds, climbing meccas, fishing holes, and trails they love — and to take trips to stores where outdoor gear is sold. Transportation is one of the largest sources of both climate emissions and air pollution, negatively impacting both urban and rural communities. That’s why we support proposals to incentivize electric vehicles and build critical electric vehicle infrastructure throughout America — including in our parks and recreation areas — and urge Congress to include these policies as part of an infrastructure bill.



STAY INFORMED!

Here’s how you can stay up-to-date on opportunities to advocate:

SIGN UP to receive Action Alerts or visit OIA’s Advocacy Center.

Are you a member of the Climate Action Corps? Look out for notifications on our online community.

PROMOTE NATURAL CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

Nature plays a critical role in addressing climate change, and our forests, farms, wetlands, and grasslands have the potential to remove an additional 18 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. There are several legislative proposals to make nature a part of the climate solution:

- The bipartisan [Growing Climate Solutions Act](#) creates incentives for farmers and landowners to sequester carbon through climate-smart agricultural practices, enabling participation in the carbon credit market, and providing outdoor companies opportunities to invest in high-quality, nature-based carbon removal projects.
- The [REPLANT Act](#) would bolster reforestation efforts across the United States by planting billions of trees and creating thousands of new jobs. Planting new trees would sequester 75 million metric tons of carbon in the next decade, mitigating the effects of climate change and keeping communities healthy.
- Additionally, the [Climate Stewardship Act](#) would support voluntary climate stewardship practices on farms and ranches, and plant billions of trees to revive deforested landscapes and expand urban tree cover — promoting healthy communities and outdoor spaces across America.

ACCELERATE THE TRANSITION TO RENEWABLE ENERGY



An outdoor industry that relies on healthy natural playgrounds and healthy people getting outside should be powered by energy sources that enable that experience — not harm it. We support a federal Clean Electricity Standard, as well as policies to responsibly develop wind, solar, and geothermal energy on public lands, such as the bipartisan [Public Land Renewable Energy Development Act](#). Such policies promote public lands and recreation as vital solutions to climate change, could create more steady sources of revenue to local economies, and support communities as they transition away from the traditional energy economy.

SUPPORT EXECUTIVE ACTION ON CLIMATE



In addition to legislation, the outdoor industry supports the Biden administration's strong, continued commitment to using executive orders and other existing authorities to meet U.S. climate targets, strengthen the economy, and improve the well-being of the American people.

In particular, we support implementation of the 30x30 initiative, which calls for the protection of 30 percent of public lands and waters by 2030 while empowering states, tribal authorities, and local users of public, private, and working lands to shape local outcomes.

OIA climate policy staff, together with Recreation Advisory Council and Government Affairs Board Committee members, collaborate to establish our climate and other policy priorities.

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