Sierra Club's Legislative Policy Blueprint for Climate & Communities

Voters have made a resounding call for ambitious action to invest in thriving, healthy communities.

November 2026

With the election of a Democratic majority in the US House of Representatives and Senate, the American people have sent a clear message rejecting the Trump administration's destructive agenda. Now is the time for Democrats to fight for accountability for Trump's corrupt, pro-polluter policies and invest in an affordable clean energy future.

These policy recommendations detail an ambitious agenda the incoming Congress can pick up on day one to deliver for the American people by tackling the affordability crisis, holding polluters accountable, preserving our public lands, and protecting the health and safety of our communities.

Tackle Skyrocketing Energy Prices and Get More Clean Energy Online

Congress can address the affordability crisis facing American families by getting more clean energy on the grid, addressing power-hungry data centers, and funding programs that support energy efficiency.

- Pass the Energy Bills Relief Act or a similar energy package that would restore the clean energy tax credits and grants cut in the 2025 "One Big Beautiful Bill" law, provide immediate relief to households, and support the longer-term transition to clean energy.
- Put guardrails on new data centers by requiring them to be powered by clean energy, not coal or gas, pay their own way so utility customers don't see higher bills, and pay taxes on their electricity consumption to fund grid updates and bill relief.
- Make home heating and cooling more affordable by funding energy efficient home retrofits and expanding the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

- Reform how FERC and utility regulators handle gas buildout and transmission planning, interconnection, and who pays for new large loads, so clean energy connects faster and households aren't left with the bill.

- Pass a surface transportation bill that cuts costs and reduces pollution with stable transit funding, EV charging, industrial demonstrations funding, and low-pollution procurement.

Protect Communities from Extreme Weather and Hold Big Polluters Accountable

For too long, Big Oil has had free rein to profit at the expense of American families. Congress must end handouts to corporate polluters and make polluters pay for the damage they've done.

- Pass a Make Polluters Pay package that repeals the billions of dollars in fossil fuel subsidies they disproportionately receive that are lining the pockets of fossil fuel executives, and creates safeguards that require the oil and gas industry to clean up their messes and internalize the costs of pollution.

- As big oil companies report record-breaking profits at the same time families struggle to pay their bills, Congress must rein in Big Oil and Gas profiteering by enacting a windfall profits tax.

- Close the infamous "Halliburton Loophole" and other statutory loopholes that give the oil and gas industry free rein to pollute our air and water without being held accountable or held to the most basic transparency requirements.

- As communities face devastating effects of a historic El Niño, Congress must strengthen disaster response and resilience by investing in battery storage and microgrids to make communities more resilient and ensuring lower insurance and recovery costs for households.

Conserve America's Wild Places for Current and Future Generations

Protect America's public lands, waters, and wildlife and ensure equitable access to nature.

- Pass a lands package that includes protection of the Roadless Rule, protection for the Arctic from development by extractive industries, the designation of new wilderness areas, blocking new offshore drilling while protecting offshore wind, and wildfire resilience.

- Protect and expand equitable access to parks, trails, and public lands, including by investing in Transit to Trails programs, park staffing, and access funding.
- Remove propaganda and restore signage changed by Trump so people can learn about America's history.
- Include language in the Farm Bill that advances conservation, healthy forests, and wildlife.
- Pass proactive wildlife legislation to increase funding and habitat for imperiled species, along with a small scope Endangered Species Act modernization bill.

Fight Back Against the Trump Administration's Destructive Agenda

Trump has engaged in a deeply unpopular crusade to slash critical government agencies and attack environmental safeguards that protect us from pollution. Democrats have an opportunity to fight back.

- Block or reverse Trump's rollbacks of air, water, methane, and other health protections using appropriations riders, oversight, and, where possible, statutory protections.
- Use the budget and appropriations process to restore funding and staffing for the EPA, Department of the Interior, Department of Energy, and other agencies.
- Write guardrails against impoundment and politicized grant terminations into spending bills.
- Restore the environmental justice programs, grants, and protections the administration has rolled back.
- Use oversight to investigate administrative actions that enrich corporate polluters and Donald Trump himself while consumers pay the price.

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