



POWER THE FUTURE

OUT OF THE BASEMENT AND UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

What a Biden Administration Would
Look Like on Energy Issues





POWER THE FUTURE

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I. INTRODUCTION

If there were any doubt before the coronavirus pandemic, there's little now: China is not America's ally; it's not a "strategic competitor";

// Science tells us we have nine years before the damage [of climate change] is irreversible."

- Joe Biden, July 14, 2020

// Millennials and people, you know, Gen Z and all these folks that will come after us are looking up and we're like: 'The world is gonna end in 12 years if we don't address climate change and your biggest issue is how are we gonna pay for it?'"

- Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, January 21, 2019

// A senior U.N. environmental official says entire nations could be wiped off the face of the Earth by rising sea levels if the global warming trend is not reversed by the year 2000...He said governments have a 10-year window of opportunity to solve the greenhouse effect before it goes beyond human control."

- Peter James Spielmann, Associated Press, June 29, 1989

What would happen if Joe Biden was elected president of the United States? What would it mean for energy workers? Where does Joe

Biden really stand on energy issues while he sits in his basement? Is Joe Biden an environmental radical? Has he always been? Provocative questions, no doubt. Answering "yes" certainly flouts conventional wisdom. After all, President Obama chose Biden as his running mate in part because he was moderate, supported by blue-collar workers ("Lunch Bucket Joe"), a defense hawk, "tough on crime," etc.¹ A case in point was a 2019 *New York Times* story, which stated: "Should former Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. enter the race, as his top advisers vow he soon will, he would have the best immediate shot at the moderate mantle."²

Biden's left-wing turn, commentators tirelessly assert, is of recent vintage, having been foisted upon him by progressives ("a kind of fuddy-duddy Trojan horse for a suite of genuinely progressive policies," as one writer put it).³ And as president, he will abandon it.

That may be true on some economic and national security issues (though doubtful). But on energy and environmental policy, Biden's more than three-decade voting record in the U.S. Senate shows he marched lockstep with green radicalism. Which is why his campaign energy and climate agenda, fashioned by Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.), aka, "AOC," and other acolytes of Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT), is a logical extension of his record.

As such, Biden has proudly embraced "net zeroism." "Net zero," of course, is the greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) goal that green activists demand all climate policy must aim for to be considered legitimate. The need to attain net-zero global GHG emissions by 2050 was first described in 2018 by the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on

1 "Joe Biden's Class Act," William McGurn, Wall Street Journal, September 2, 2008 (<https://www.wsj.com/articles/SB122031168773188725>).

2 "Bernie Sanders-Style Politics Are Defining The 2020 Race, Unnerving Moderates," Jonathan Martin and Sydney Ember, New York Times, March 9, 2019 (<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/09/us/politics/bernie-sanders-2020-election-democrats.html>).

3 "Joe Biden Cribbed Jay Inslee's Climate Plan. Inslee Couldn't Be Happier About That," David Wallace-Wells, New York Magazine, July 16, 2020 (<https://nymag.com/intelligencer/2020/07/jay-inslee-and-david-wallace-wells-on-bidens-climate-plan.html>).

Climate Change (IPCC).⁴ What does it mean?

The IPCC said the world would have to reach net zero by 2050 to avoid the worst effects of climate change. But achieving that goal requires “a radical change across the entire economy, doing away with fossil fuels and other sources of emissions wherever possible.” More precisely, it means that “every ton of CO₂ we do emit must be matched by a ton that we remove from the atmosphere.”⁵

The goal is impossible to meet. But for greens that’s irrelevant. As author Rupert Darwall recently explained, the “net-zero blueprint sees market capitalism replaced with global central planning to bring about top-down transformations of the economy — not only in energy but also in manufacturing, construction, transportation, agriculture and land use.”⁶

This is radical stuff, and Biden unequivocally supports it. According to his campaign website, Biden “believes the Green New Deal is a crucial framework for meeting the climate challenges we face,” and he will “lead the world to address the climate emergency and lead through the power of example, by ensuring the U.S. achieves a 100% clean energy economy and net-zero emissions no later than 2050.”⁷

Biden voiced the net-zero crowd’s opposition

to oil and gas drilling during his one-on-one presidential debate with Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT). “No more drilling on federal lands,” Biden pledged. “No ability for the oil industry to continue to drill. Period. Ends.” Biden also called for “no new fracking.”⁸

“No more drilling on federal lands,” Biden pledged. “No ability for the oil industry to continue to drill. Period. Ends.”

Biden’s campaign quickly clarified his statements—attempting to protect his supposed moderateness. He’s against new drilling on federal lands, they said, but he doesn’t support banning fracking. (Of course, the campaign’s clarification was disingenuous: without congressional authorization, no President could institute such a ban.)

Again, are such pledges out of character for Biden? Not even close. Prior to serving as President Barack Obama’s vice president, from 2009-2017, Joe Biden spent 36 years in the Senate. During his legislative career, he amassed an impressively leftist 83 percent rating from the League of Conservation Voters (LCV), considered “the gold standard for the public to evaluate the environmental records of members of Congress.”⁹ (Sen. Sanders, by comparison, has a lifetime score

4 “Summary for Policymakers of IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5° C Approved by Governments,” IPCC, October 8, 2018 (<https://www.ipcc.ch/2018/10/08/summary-for-policymakers-of-ipcc-special-report-on-global-warming-of-1-5c-approved-by-governments/>).

5 “Net zero by 2050: What does it mean?” Ruby Russell, Deutsche Welle media, May 31, 2019 (<https://www.dw.com/en/net-zero-by-2050-what-does-it-mean/a-48958487>).

6 “Biden bets on net zero,” Rupert Darwall, The Hill, July 24, 2020 (<https://thehill.com/opinion/energy-environment/508762-joe-biden-bets-on-net-zero>).

7 “Climate: Joe’s Plan for a Clean Energy Revolution and Environmental Justice,” Biden for President website (<https://joebiden.com/climate/>).

8 CNN Democratic Presidential Primary Debate, March 15, 2020 (<http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/2003/15/se.03.html>).

9 League of Conservation Voters website: <https://www.lcv.org/mission/>

of 91 percent.)¹⁰

From 2001 to 2008, according to LCV, Biden voted for “pro-environment” policies 87 percent of the time.¹¹ Compared to the other 33 Democratic senators in office during the same timeframe, *only 8 received a higher rating*. Notably, Hillary Clinton and John Kerry received lower ratings, of 80 percent¹² and 76 percent¹³, respectively.

Of course, the Sunrise Movement, the ultra-leftist climate outfit, gave Biden an “F” in its Democratic presidential candidate ratings.¹⁴ But as David Wallace-Wells of *New York Magazine* recently

wrote, “the grade was always a bit misleading,” as Biden’s primary climate plan is “light-years better than anything any Democratic politician in any position of real power had ever put forward on climate before — not to mention how much better it was than anything being proposed on the other side of the aisle.”¹⁵ (Once he secured the nomination, Biden appointed Varshini Prakash, the extremist leader of the Sunrise Movement, to his climate “Unity Task Force” with AOC.¹⁶)

Notably, Biden’s climate plan “draws enough from

[Gov. Jay Inslee] and Sanders and [Sen. Elizabeth] Warren that at least some commenters have described it, plausibly, as the Green New Deal without the name.”¹⁷

This is the real Joe Biden, not some green Trojan horse. This is the same Biden who routinely belied his “lunch bucket” reputation by voting for legislation hostile to union jobs and the livelihoods of blue-collar workers.¹⁸ He rarely defied the

socialist green consensus, which is antienergy, anti-worker, anti-people—a disaster for America that disproportionately harms the poor, the elderly, and minorities.

And now his campaign, along with AOC and her band of climate warriors, is trying to take the socialist green

consensus—and its parade of horrible policies in train—straight to the White House.

How Does Biden Compare?

Biden	87%
Clinton	80%
Kerry	76%

Average LCV Score 2001-2008



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- 10 “National Environmental Scorecard,” League of Conservation Voters. <https://scorecard.lcv.org/moc/bernie-sanders>
- 11 “National Environmental Scorecard,” League of Conservation Voters. <https://scorecard.lcv.org/moc/joe-biden>
- 12 “National Environmental Scorecard,” League of Conservation Voters. <https://scorecard.lcv.org/moc/hillary-rodham-clinton>
- 13 “National Environmental Scorecard,” League of Conservation Voters. <https://scorecard.lcv.org/moc/john-kerry>
- 14 “Youth climate activists grade top 2020 Democrats on Green New Deal commitment,” Rebecca Klar, The Hill, December 5, 2019. <https://thehill.com/homenews/campaign/473235-youth-climate-activists-grade-top-2020-democrats-on-green-new-deal>
- 15 Wallace-Wells (n 3)
- 16 Ibid.
- 17 Ibid.
- 18 “Don’t be fooled: Joe Biden is no friend of unions,” Gabriel Winant, The Guardian, May 2, 2019. <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/may/02/joe-biden-is-no-friend-of-unions>

II. SEN. JOE BIDEN, “CLIMATE CHANGE PIONEER”

// I’ve never been middle of the road on the environment.”

- Joe Biden, May 14, 2019¹⁹

On the campaign trail, Joe Biden often claims climate-change bona fides by pointing to his Senate career. As evidence of his “leadership” on the issue, he cites the Global Warming Protection Act, which he introduced in September 1986.²⁰ For this, *Politifact* called him a “climate change pioneer,” and claimed he has the “longest legislative record on climate change.”²¹ “I’m one of the first guys to introduce a climate change bill, way, way back in ‘87,” Biden said in a speech in Iowa, on May 1.²²

The bill as written never passed, though parts were incorporated into a State Department spending bill in 1987.²³ Provisions of the bill were vague, focusing mainly on developing federal “strategies” to address the issue. In the end, those provisions largely deferred to federal agencies to craft the details. The bill’s directives were mostly

ignored by the Reagan Administration.²⁴

Perhaps by design, Biden and his campaign have refused to discuss the rest of the “longest legislative record on climate change.” Omitted are Biden’s votes for job-destroying climate change legislation in the 2000s. According to economic analyses (as detailed below), those bills included crushing mandates that would have raised energy prices, sent U.S. jobs overseas, and undermined energy-intensive industries, such as steel, refining, and chemical manufacturing.

“I’m one of the first guys to introduce a climate change bill, way, way back in ‘87,” Biden said in a speech in Iowa, on May 1.

A case in point is Biden’s vote for S. 139, the “Climate Stewardship Act,” also known as “McCain-Lieberman,” sponsored by Senators John McCain (R-AZ) and Joe Lieberman (D-CT). Thankfully, the bill was defeated, 55 to 43.²⁵ An economic analysis conducted by the Department of Energy’s Energy Information Administration (EIA) found that under S. 139, “electricity prices alone would increase 46 percent and the price of gasoline would rise by 40 cents per gallon.”²⁶

19 “Joe Biden: I’ve Never Been Middle of the Road on the Environment,” David Sherfinski, Washington Times, May 14, 2019 (<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2019/may/14/joe-biden-ive-never-been-middle-road-environment/>)

20 S. 2819, Global Warming Protection Act of 1986 (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/99th-congress/senate-bill/2891>).

21 “Was Joe Biden a climate change pioneer in Congress? History says yes,” John Kruzel, Politifact, May 8, 2019 (<https://www.politifact.com/factchecks/2019/may/08/joe-biden/was-joe-biden-climate-change-pioneer-congress-hist/>).

22 Joe Biden campaign rally in Des Moines, Iowa, May 1, 2020 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ljF323fHww>).

23 Deutsche Welle media (n 5).

24 “Joe Biden on Climate Change: Where the Candidate Stands,” James Bruggers, Inside Climate News, January 9, 2020 (<https://insideclimatenews.org/news/24062019/joe-biden-climate-change-global-warming-election-2020-candidate-profile>).

25 Roll call vote, 108th Congress – 1st Session, Vote number 420, October 30, 2003 (https://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_lists/roll_call_vote_cfm.cfm?congress=108&session=1&vote=00420).

26 Letter signed by Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, American Boiler Manufacturers Association, American Coke and Coal Chemicals Institute, American Farm Bureau Federation, American Iron and Steel Institute, Coalition for Affordable and Reliable Energy (CARE), Council of Industrial Boiler Owners, Edison Electric Institute, IPC–The Association Connecting Electronics Industries,

As noted, Biden, and the reporters who cover him, makes a point of touting his blue-collar credentials. “I make no apologies: I am a union man, period,” Biden said last year during his campaign kickoff in Pittsburgh.²⁷ But no “union man” would vote for S. 139: had it become law, the bill would have eviscerated industrial labor unions, which is precisely why the following unions opposed it:

- Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers;
- International Brotherhood of Boilermakers;
- Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers, and Helpers;
- International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers;
- International Brotherhood of Teamsters;
- Marine Engineers Beneficial Association;
- United Food and Commercial Workers International Union;
- United Mine Workers of America;
- United Transportation Union;
- Utility Workers Union of America; and
- United Steelworkers of America (several local chapters).²⁸

In 2005, Biden was back again supporting McCain and Lieberman. In a vain attempt to attract more votes to their flawed bill, McCain and Lieberman lessened its stringency and added new pork-

barrel provisions, such as greater federal aid for clean-coal and nuclear technologies. The bill was renamed the “Climate Stewardship and Innovation Act” (S. 1151).²⁹

In the end, at its core, it was basically the same bill with the same destructive mandates. Former Sen. Kit Bond (R-MO) summed it up this way:

The sponsor of this amendment was quoted in the past as saying, “My first priority is greenhouse gases.” Well, my first priority is protecting our families and workers... Every time we turn on a light it will cost us more. Every time we cool our homes to fight the blazing summer heat it will cost us more. Every time we turn up the furnace to fight the bitter winter cold, it will cost us more. Our fruits, vegetables, and grains, grown strong with fertilizer, will cost us more. Buying a product made of plastic will cost us more.³⁰

According to an analysis by economic forecasters Charles River Associates, implementing McCain-Lieberman 2.0 would have cost the U.S. economy \$507 billion in 2020 and \$545 billion in 2025, and the average family \$2,000 a year. Moreover, it would have destroyed 800,040 jobs in 2010 and 1.306 million jobs in 2020. In terms of energy prices, not surprisingly—after all, this the point of these bills—they would have gone way up: gasoline by 28 percent, electricity by 20 percent,

National Association of Manufacturers, National Corn Growers Association, National Electrical Manufacturers Association, National Mining Association, National Oilseed Processors Association, National Petrochemical & Refiners Association, Portland Cement Association, Small Business Survival Committee, Society of Glass and Ceramic Decorators, The Fertilizer Institute, The Industrial Energy Consumers of America, The Salt Institute, Toy Industry Association, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Ibid at 8.

27 “Joe Biden’s Union Pitch is a Throwback Aimed at White Men,” Scott Bixby, Gideon Resnick, Daily Beast, May 2, 2019 (<https://www.thedailybeast.com/joe-bidens-union-pitch-is-a-throwback-aimed-at-white-males>).

28 Floor remarks of Sen. George Voinovich (R-OH), Congressional Record, p. S13581, October 30, 2003, Issue: Vol. 149, No. 155 – Daily Edition (<https://www.congress.gov/congressional-record/2003/10/30/senate-section/article/s13572-1?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22climate+stewardship+act%22%5D%7D&s=6&r=1>).

29 S. 1151, Climate Stewardship and Innovation Act, introduced May 26, 2005 (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/109th-congress/senate-bill/01151>).

30 Floor remarks of Sen. Kit Bond (R-MO), Congressional Record, p. S7002 (<https://www.congress.gov/congressional-record/2005/6/22/senate-section/article/s6980-4?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22climate+stewardship+act+inohofe+lieberman%22%5D%7D&s=2&r=1>).

and natural gas by 47 percent.³¹

Despite this evidence, then-Sen. Barack Obama (D-IL) called the bill “good economic policy.”³² Biden agreed: On final passage, with Biden voting “yes,” the bill failed 60 to 38, having lost ground from 2003.³³

Climate warriors in the Senate, however, wouldn’t quit. In 2007, Sen. Lieberman, who by then became an independent caucusing with the Democrats, teamed up with Sen. John Warner (R-VA) to introduce S. 2191, “The Lieberman-Warner Climate Security Act.”³⁴ No matter how many different configurations of cap-and-trade they could conjure, the result was the same: mandates that would have destroyed jobs and wreaked havoc on the American economy.

A study conducted by Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) found that the Lieberman-Warner bill would have caused “higher energy prices,” which in turn “would have ripple impacts on prices throughout the economy and would impose a financial cost of \$739 to \$2,927 per year by 2020 on national households, rising to

\$4,022 to \$6,752 by 2030.”³⁵

The impacts of Lieberman-Warner would have been “felt especially by the poor, who spend more of their income on energy and other goods than other income brackets.” On top of this, the U.S. “would lose between 1.2 and 1.8 million jobs in 2020 and between 3 and 4 million jobs in 2030.”³⁶

For Jim Rogers, then-CEO of Duke Energy, and long-known for his progressive views on climate change, Lieberman-Warner was too much. He referred to the bill as “just a money grab.” “Only the mafia,” Rogers said, “could create an organization that would skim money off the top the way this legislation would skim money off the top.”³⁷

In the end, opponents successfully filibustered, meaning supporters failed to muster the 60 votes necessary to proceed to debate. The bill went down, 48 to 36.³⁸ Biden missed the vote, showing up 10 minutes late, because, he said, his trains were late.³⁹

However, in his statement, he conveyed his

31 Floor remarks of Sen. James Inhofe (R-OK), Congressional Record, p. S7015 (<https://www.congress.gov/congressional-record/2005/6/22/senate-section/article/s6980-4?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22climate+stewardship+act+inhofe+lieberman%22%5D%7D&s=2&r=1>).

32 Floor remarks of Sen. Barack Obama (D-IL), Congressional Record, p. S7008, <https://www.congress.gov/congressional-record/2005/6/22/senate-section/article/s6980-4?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22climate+stewardship+act+inhofe+lieberman%22%5D%7D&s=2&r=1>.

33 Roll call vote, 109th Congress -1st Session, Vote number 148, June 22, 2005 (https://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_lists/roll_call_vote_cfm.cfm?congress=109&session=1&vote=00148).

34 S. 2191, Lieberman -Warner Climate Security Act, introduced October 18, 2007. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/110th-congress/senate-bill/2191>

35 “1.8 Million Jobs May Be Lost by 2020, New Study Says,” press release, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee (minority), March 1, 2008 (https://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/press-releases-all?ID=aa38aae2-802a-23ad-434c-da2bd3dcfad2&issue_id=

36 Ibid.

37 “Climate Bill Underlines Obstacles to Capping Greenhouse Gases,” Juliet Eilperin and Steven Mufson, Washington Post, June 1, 2008. <http://www.timism.com/GlobalDying/!R-Gen/ObstaclesToCappingGreenhouseGases0805331WashPost.htm>

38 Roll Call Vote 110th Congress – 2nd Session, vote number 145, June 6, 2008 (https://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_lists/roll_call_vote_cfm.cfm?congress=110&session=2&vote=00145).

39 Floor remarks of Sen. Joe Biden (D-DE), Congressional Record, p. 11023, June 2, 2008, Issue: Vol. 154, No. 89 – (<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CREC-2008-06-02/pdf/CREC-2008-06-02.pdf>).

support for the motion and the bill: "For the first time we have before the Senate legislation to slow, stop, and reverse greenhouse gas emissions in the United States. When such a plan is finally passed, signed and enacted, we will look back on this day as the beginning. Let us commit ourselves to that goal."⁴⁰

III. VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN

// If I could wave a wand, and the Lord said I could solve one problem, I would solve the energy crisis. That's the single most consequential problem we can solve. It's what you have to do to get greenhouse gases under control."

- Joe Biden, March 3, 2007, at a rally in Hartsville, S.C.⁴¹

Biden was as good as his word and took his commitment to anti-energy rationing schemes to the White House, as President Obama's vice president. He struck a particularly harsh, extremist chord on the campaign trail, where he vowed,

"The last time Democrats spent big on renewables, during the 2009 green stimulus," Schellenberger wrote, "10 members of former President Barack Obama's finance committee, and more than 12 of his 'bundlers,' benefited from \$16.4 billion of the \$20.5 billion in stimulus loans."

40 Ibid.

41 "An Interview with Joe Biden about Energy and the Environment," Amanda Little, Grist, August 30, 2007 (<https://grist.org/article/biden/>).

42 "Biden: No Coal Plants Here in America," Ben Smith, September 23, 2020, Politico (<https://www.politico.com/blogs/ben-smith/2008/09/biden-no-coal-plants-here-in-america-012157>).

43 "Obama Kept His Promise, 83,000 coal jobs lost and 400 mines shuttered," Andrew Follett, Daily Caller, September 5, 2016 (<https://dailycaller.com/2016/09/05/obama-kept-his-promise-83000-coal-jobs-lost-and-400-mines-shuttered/>).

44 "How Green is Joe Biden," Jason Plautz and National Journal, The Atlantic, September 16, 2015 (<https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2015/09/how-green-is-joe-biden/452970/>).

45 Ibid.

46 "A Retrospective Assessment of Clean Energy Investments in the Recovery Act," Council of Economic Advisors, February 2016 (https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/sites/default/files/page/files/20160225_cea_final_clean_energy_report.pdf).

to the great delight of green activists, that, under the Obama-Biden Administration, there would be "no coal plants here in America. Build them if they're going to build them, over there."⁴² (The Administration made great progress toward that goal.⁴³)

In a June 2015 speech at the White House, Biden said getting "a handle on climate change was "'the single most important thing' he and Obama could do while in office."⁴⁴ As vice president, Biden helped to destroy the coal industry and pushed the administration's green agenda, mainly on two fronts.

First, Biden's "biggest role" was overseeing spending of the \$800 billion stimulus bill, including \$90 billion in "clean-energy" programs, which, he told *Rolling Stone*, was "the thing I'm proudest of that we were able to get done in the first term."⁴⁵ The Obama White House Council of Economic Advisers dubbed that \$90 billion an "unprecedented investment in clean energy."⁴⁶

But if anything, it was an unprecedented

giveaway to Obama's campaign contributors, as environmentalist Michael Shellenberger recounts in his new book, *Apocalypse Never*. "The last time Democrats spent big on renewables, during the 2009 green stimulus," Schellenberger wrote, "10 members of former President Barack Obama's finance committee, and more than 12 of his 'bundlers,' benefited from \$16.4 billion of the \$20.5 billion in stimulus loans."⁴⁷

Biden appeared oblivious to it all. In an interview with *Time* in 2010, Biden mused about the "fun stuff," in the stimulus and at one point talked about building a green electric grid: "God, wouldn't it be wonderful? Why don't we invest \$100 billion? Let's just go build it!"⁴⁸

Along with imagining green grids and steering "clean energy" funds to campaign supporters, Biden played a role in U.S. negotiations of the Paris Climate Change Agreement. How much of a role is disputed,⁴⁹ though Biden was clearly an enthusiastic cheerleader. In 2015, he said fighting climate change was "the 'single most important thing' the Administration could do."⁵⁰ And in 2019, in a speech at the College of Charleston, he said, "One of the things I'm proudest of is getting passed, getting moved, getting in control of the

Paris Climate Accord."⁵¹

The Paris Agreement seeks to limit global temperature increases to "well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels."⁵² Participating countries were required to "prepare, communicate and maintain" so-called "Nationally Determined Contributions" (NDCs)— "the heart of the Paris Agreement"—to help achieve the agreement's goal.⁵³

The Obama-Biden Administration submitted an NDC that was replete with anti-energy climate mandates, pledging to reduce emissions 26-28 percent below 2005 levels by 2025. It includes, among other harmful policies, Obama's infamous "Clean Power Plan," which would have subjugated the entire U.S. electric grid to the Environmental Protection Agency, "plus all other regulations the Obama administration adopted or proposed."⁵⁴ Fortunately, President Trump pulled the U.S. out of Paris in 2017.⁵⁵

Compliance with the Obama NDC would have eliminated thousands of jobs and raised energy prices. According to the Heritage Foundation, it would have forced "significant changes in energy markets, particularly for electricity generation,

47 "I Was Invited to Testify on Energy Policy. Then Democrats Wouldn't Let Me Speak," Michael Shellenberger, July 29, 2020 (<https://quillette.com/2020/07/29/why-democrats-are-trying-to-shut-me-up-about-climate-change-and-renewables/>).

48 "How the Stimulus is Changing America," Michael Grunwald, *Time*, August 26, 2010 (<http://content.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,2013826,00.html>).

49 "Did Biden help secure the Paris Agreement? We checked," Jean Chemnick, *E&E News*, February 28, 2020 (<https://www.eenews.net/stories/1062466359>).

50 "What's Joe Biden going to do on climate change? Look at his record under Obama," Umair Irfan, *Vox*, May 29, 2019 (<https://www.vox.com/2019/5/28/18634602/joe-biden-2020-climate-change-announcement>).

51 "Joe Biden Said He Worked on Climate Deal with Long-Dead Chinese Leader," Joshua Kaplan, *Breitbart*, February 25, 2020 (<https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2020/02/25/joe-biden-says-he-worked-on-paris-climate-deal-with-long-dead-chinese-leader/>).

52 "What is the Paris Agreement?" United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (<https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/what-is-the-paris-agreement>).

53 "Nationally Determined Contributions," United Nations, The Paris Agreement (<https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement/nationally-determined-contributions-ndcs>).

54 "Misdirected Paris Agreement Debate Fixates on 'May'," Marlo Lewis, *Competitive Enterprise Institute*, May 7, 2017 (<https://cei.org/blog/misdirected-paris-agreement-debate-fixates-meaning-may>).

55 "Statement by President Trump on the Paris Climate Accord," June 1, 2017 (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/statement-president-trump-paris-climate-accord/>).

causing prices to rise.” Higher prices would have reverberated “throughout the economy, resulting in an overall average shortfall of nearly 400,000 jobs and total income loss of more than \$20,000 for a family of four by the year 2035.”⁵⁶

Along with this, Paris, and presumably Obama and Biden, let China off the hook. China boasted about joining Paris, and it’s easy to see why: China’s pledge would allow it to “actually increase GHG emissions by 117 percent by 2030 before they start reducing.” According to the Industrial Energy Consumers of America, “If U.S. manufacturers were required to reduce GHG emissions while China’s manufacturing sector was allowed to increase GHG emissions to 2030, it would put us in a perilous competitive disadvantage.”⁵⁷

IV. PRESIDENT BIDEN?

// We do need a green revolution.”
– Joe Biden, May 14, 2019⁵⁸

Biden’s presidential climate change agenda would have the same effect as Obama’s Paris NDC,

undercutting U.S. innovators and entrepreneurs who compete globally. His plan continues his long march to climate utopia, proposing to spend \$2 trillion, with the Green New Deal as a “crucial framework.”⁵⁹

As noted above, Biden proposes to ban new oil and gas production on federal lands. Biden’s ban, supporters say, would be “symbolically important and would pack a decent punch.” “It’s such an obvious first step to a clean energy economy,” said Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA), who is a member of the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis. “You just can’t keep digging the hole deeper.”⁶⁰

According to the Bureau of Land Management, onshore federal lands produce about 8 percent of the nation’s oil and 9 percent of its natural gas. Biden would also ban offshore production, which accounts for 15 percent of domestic oil production and 3 percent of natural gas.⁶¹ In a recent study, the National Ocean Industries Association found that the Biden offshore ban would destroy nearly 200,000 jobs and deny federal and state governments billions in revenues.⁶²

The rest of the Biden plan is standard socialistic fare, including proposals to vastly expand

56 “After Paris: Next Steps for the Trump Administration’s International Climate Agenda,” Nicolas Loris, Heritage Foundation, July 28, 2017 (<https://www.heritage.org/energy-economics/report/after-paris-next-steps-the-trump-administrations-international-climate>).

57 Industrial Energy Consumers of America, letter to President Trump, May 15, 2017 (https://www.ieca-us.com/wp-content/uploads/05.15.17_Letter-to-Trump-Paris-Accord.pdf).

58 “Biden Tells Ocasio-Cortez to Calm Down,” Victor Skinner, The American Mirror, May 14, 2019 (<https://www.theamericanmirror.com/blog/2019/05/14/biden-ocasio-cortez-climate-activists-should-calm-down-a-little-bit/>).

59 “Joe Biden Embraces Green New Deal as he Releases Climate Plan,” Dino Grandoni and Jeff Stein, Washington Post, June 4, 2019 (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2019/06/04/joe-biden-embraces-green-new-deal-he-releases-climate-plan/>).

60 “Biden’s promise to ban federal drilling wouldn’t significantly reduce emissions,” Josh Siegel, Washington Examiner, April 23, 2020 (<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/energy/bidens-promise-to-ban-federal-drilling-wouldnt-significantly-reduce-emissions>).

61 Federal data obtained from Department of the Interior, Natural Resources Revenue Data. (<https://www.onrr.gov>). Total U.S. natural gas production data obtained from U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Information Agency, “Natural Gas, Natural Gas Withdrawals and Production,” and “Petroleum and Other Liquids, U.S. Field Production of Crude Oil,” release date July 31, 2020 (<https://eia.gov>).

62 “The Economic Impact of the Gulf of Mexico Oil and Natural Gas Industry,” National Ocean Industries Association (<https://www.noia.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/The-Economic-Impacts-of-the-Gulf-of-Mexico-Oil-and-Natural-Gas-Industry-2.pdf>).

“environmental justice” policies in the EPA and Department of Justice, which are convenient political cover for more regulation of the economy and promising to hold corporative executives criminally liable for climate change. He also proposes to spend billions on subsidies for electric vehicles; green charging infrastructure; “zero-emission” buses; new fuel economy standards for cars with the goal of eliminating the internal combustion engine; and massive subsidies for high-speed rail and greater “energy efficiency” in homes and buildings. Perhaps as ridiculous as banning oil and gas production, Biden wants a zero-emissions electric power sector by 2035. The list goes on.⁶³

These policies are pie-in-the-sky pabulum, with (not surprisingly) very few details. More interesting, and much more revealing, than Biden’s campaign documents are the policy musings of former Obama Administration officials. This group will have substantial influence over a potential Biden Administration, and would, in many cases, likely return to work in the federal government.⁶⁴

Consider Joe Goffman, the former associate administrator for climate and senior counsel in EPA’s Office of Air and Radiation. Goffman was a leading architect of the Obama Clean Power Plan (CPP). The CPP was so legally flawed that the Supreme Court issued an unprecedented injunction to block its implementation.⁶⁵ Goffman is now executive director of Harvard Law School’s Energy and Environmental Law Program.⁶⁶

One of Goffman’s students recently published a paper outlining very precise methods for how a Biden EPA could impose wide-ranging, command-and-control climate regulations over the entire U.S. economy via the Clean Air Act, which would make the CPP look like child’s play. And no need for Congress. Here’s an excerpt:

...[E]ven assuming that Democrats maintain the House and take both the White House and the Senate in 2020, it seems unlikely that the next Congress will rapidly pass a comprehensive climate bill...In light of the ongoing Covid-19 crisis, an incoming Congress will almost certainly be preoccupied with addressing the corresponding economic downturn, and is thus more likely to neglect financially and politically costly climate legislation. For all of these reasons, the next administration must be prepared to address climate change immediately with the tools already available to it: EPA’s regulatory authority under the Clean Air Act.⁶⁷

The paper proposes regulations under the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) program and a provision addressing international emissions. Doing either, or both, would, among other things, create massive roadblocks to permitting generally, but especially energy infrastructure such as pipelines and oil and gas production facilities. “Each program offers a vast regulatory potential,” the paper explains,

63 “The Biden Plan to Build a Modern Sustainable Infrastructure and Equitable Clean Energy Future,” Joe Biden for President (<https://joebiden.com/clean-energy/>).

64 “Biden campaign staffs up from Obamaworld,” Alexi McCammond, Axios, June 30, 2020. <https://www.axios.com/joe-biden-campaign-obama-hires-2020-d8f41c7a-0fb1-42ad-9608-29024a58766d.html>

65 “U.S. Supreme Court Blocks Obama’s Clean Power Plan,” Lawrence Hurley and Valerie Volcovici, Scientific American, February 9, 2016. <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/u-s-supreme-court-blocks-obama-s-clean-power-plan/>

66 Harvard Environmental and Energy Law Program. <https://eelp.law.harvard.edu/about-the-eelp/team/>

67 “Immediate Executive Action: Unexplored Options for Addressing Climate Change under the Existing Clean Air Act,” Grace Weatherall, JD 2021, Harvard Energy and Environmental Law Program, July 27, 2020 (<http://eelp.law.harvard.edu/wp-content/uploads/Immediate-Executive-Action-Weatherall.pdf>).

“because each, if successfully implemented, could both address greenhouse gas emissions from all sectors of the economy and curtail pollution from existing sources.”⁶⁸

Even with this “vast regulatory potential,” a President Biden could be working with a Democratic House and Senate in 2021. Climate change legislation will no doubt be in the cue. To get a sense of what could happen, John Podesta, Obama’s former counselor and architect of the Obama Administration’s climate change agenda, said that previous cap-and-trade bills—as explained earlier, would have decimated U.S. industry and consumers—“aren’t going to get you to go fast enough in the harder-to-decarbonize sectors.”⁶⁹

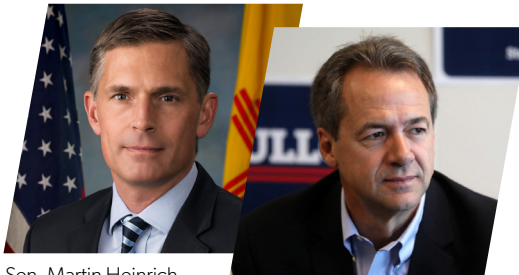
He doesn’t explain which sectors he has in mind, but Podesta’s point is clear: *with Biden, and a Democratic Congress, we’re going far more aggressive than we ever have.* House Democrats have already introduced bills to achieve “net-zero” greenhouse gas emissions from the U.S. economy and released a massive 547-page “Congressional Action Plan for a Clean Economy and a Healthy, Resilient, and Just America,” detailing a veritable cornucopia of green socialist policy dreams.⁷⁰ If Democrats win the Senate, and keep the House, they will assuredly eliminate the filibuster, meaning these bills could pass and Biden would sign them.⁷¹

V. WHO LEADS A BIDEN ADMINISTRATION?

Right now, Democratic leaders are jockeying behind the scenes and working with Biden-Harris transition team leaders to become the chosen leaders in potential new administration. It’s the circle of life in the never-ending Washington, DC swamp.

Reading the political tea leaves, the leading candidates to become Secretary of the Interior in a Biden-Harris administration include Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-NM), Gov. Steve Bullock (D-MT), Gov. Jared Polis (D-CO), and Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham (D-NM). Sen. Heinrich’s record representing the state of New Mexico shows a politician who cares more about earning good will with liberal leaders like Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY) in Washington, DC than doing what’s right economically for the constituents he represents in

an energy producing state. Usually when a politician stops looking out for their own constituents’ best interests, it means they have another job they want in life. That makes Sen. Heinrich the front-runner for Interior right now.



Sen. Martin Heinrich

Gov. Steve Bullock

In Montana, Gov. Bullock is involved in a competitive Senate race. As we get closer to

68 Ibid. at 5-6.

69 “John Podesta on climate: Strike while the iron is hot,” Scott Waldman, Climatewire, July 31, 2020 (https://www.eenews.net/climatewire/2020/07/31/stories/1063658527?utm_medium=email&utm_source=eenews%3Aclimatewire&utm_campaign=edition%2B4U78umwxJQjuR7yJ6VKUMA%3D%3D).

70 For legislation, see “The CLEAN Future Act,” released by the House Energy and Commerce Committee, on Jan. 28, 2020: <https://energycommerce.house.gov/newsroom/press-releases/ec-leaders-release-draft-clean-future-act-legislative-text-to-achieve-a-100>. For the report, see the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis: <https://climatecrisis.house.gov/sites/climatecrisis.house.gov/files/Climate%20Crisis%20Action%20Plan.pdf>.

71 “Biden signals openness to eliminating Senate filibuster,” Max Cohen, Politico, July 14, 2020. <https://www.politico.com/news/2020/07/14/joe-biden-2020-filibuster-360587>

Election day and it appears Sen. Steve Daines (R-MT) will be reelected, expect to see Gov. Bullock's name on the short list for potential Interior Secretary or Energy Secretary.

Gov. Lujan Grisham is also being considered for Secretary of Energy, along with former HUD Secretary Julian Castro (D-TX) and Gov. Jay Inslee (D-WA). Gov. Polis could also be a candidate for EPA Administrator. Former Democratic presidential candidate Tom Steyer is a potential option for United Nations Special Envoy to focus on climate change. All of these individuals would be a marked departure from the moderate image on energy related issues that the Biden team is trying to paint.

VI. THE BIOS OF INFLUENTIAL BIDEN ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ADVISORS

The below Members and aides are not likely to be in formal administrative positions, but they will continue to have influential voices in the energy space. On top of that, they will fill key positions in an agency or department like Chief of Staff or Deputy Secretary. These are the roles and positions that don't always receive headlines, but can be as influential or even more so than the actual department heads. This list is a who's who of radical liberal environmental thinkers who will have a damning impact on the economy of our nation.

Stef Feldman is the policy director for Biden's campaign. Previously, she was policy director at

the Biden Institute at the University of Delaware. Feldman also held multiple positions in the Obama Administration including Deputy Director for Domestic and Economic Policy.⁷²



Former EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy is a member of Biden's Climate Task Force. Currently, McCarthy is the President and CEO of the Natural Resources Defense Council. While at EPA, McCarthy was instrumental in developing the Clean Power Plan.⁷³



Rep. Kathy Castor (D-FL) is a member of Biden's Climate Task Force. She is also Chair of the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis and Co-chair of the House Democratic Environmental Message Team. Prior to serving in Congress, Castor was an environmental attorney and served as the chair of the Hillsborough County Environmental Protection Commission.⁷⁴



Rep. Donald McEachin (D-VA) is a member of Biden's Climate Task Force. He is Co-chair of the House Democratic Environmental Message Team and co-founder of the United for Climate and Environmental Justice Congressional Task Force.⁷⁵ McEachin was the lead sponsor of House Democrats' "most ambitious climate legislation since progressives offered the now languishing Green New Deal resolution."⁷⁶

Heather Zichal is also a member of Biden's Climate Task Force. Zichal is the Executive Director of the

72 Stef Feldman, LinkedIn (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/stef-feldman/>).

73 Natural Resources Defense Council (<https://www.nrdc.org/experts/gina-mccarthy>).

74 Rep. Kathy Castor, Official House Website (<https://castor.house.gov/biography/>).

75 Rep. Donald McEachin, Official House Website (<https://mceachin.house.gov/about>).

76 "Democrats plant a flag with bill to eliminate carbon emissions," Elvina Nawaguna, Roll Call, 11/22/19 (<https://www.rollcall.com/2019/11/22/democrats-plant-a-flag-with-bill-to-eliminate-carbon-emissions/>).

Blue Prosperity Coalition and worked previously at The Nature Conservancy. Most notably, Zichal was the Deputy Assistant to the President for energy and climate change in the Obama Administration.

⁷⁷ Despite her positions in the Obama Administration and with the Biden campaign, Zichal has profited off of fossil fuels. After leaving the Obama Administration, she joined the board of Cheniere, a natural gas company.⁷⁸ Zichal resigned from the Cheniere Board of Directors in July 2018.⁷⁹ In 2017, her last full year on Cheniere's board, Zichal was paid \$218,771.⁸⁰

Frank Verrastro is a member of Biden's Climate Task Force. Verrastro is a senior advisor with the Energy Security and Climate Change Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. He has also previously served in the Departments of Energy and Interior.⁸¹

Varshini Prakash is a member of Biden's Climate Task Force. Prakash is the Executive Director of the Sunrise, "a movement of young people working to stop climate change, take back our democracy from Big Oil, and elect leaders who will fight for our generation's health and wellbeing." She has led demonstrations in support of the Green New Deal.⁸²

Kerry Dugan is a member of Biden's Climate Task Force. In the Obama Administration, Dugan was Biden's Deputy Director for Policy. She also held positions in the Department of Energy under

Secretary Ernest Moniz.⁸³

Catherine Flowers is a member of Biden's Climate Task Force. She is the founder of the Center for Rural Enterprise and Environmental Justice and is a senior fellow at the Center for Earth Ethics.⁸⁴

VII. CONCLUSION

This is what the public should expect from a Biden presidency. On energy and environmental policy (and very likely so much else), Biden is fully simpatico with the most extremist elements of the Democratic party and the green movement. The effect will cripple America's shale revolution and immiserate consumers, especially the poor.

A study by the Trump White House Council of Economic Advisers (CEA) profoundly expresses what would be lost if Biden wins. Titled "The Value of U.S. Energy Innovation and Policies Supporting the Shale Revolution," CEA found that, by lowering energy prices, "the shale revolution saves U.S. consumers \$203 billion annually, or \$2,500 for a family of four." About 80 percent of the total savings "stem from a substantially lower price for natural gas, of which more than half comes from lower electricity prices." Moreover, "Oil accounts for the other roughly 20 percent of the savings, most of which are transportation sector savings on fuel."⁸⁵

77 The Nature Conservancy (<https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/who-we-are/our-people/heather-zichal/>).

78 "Ex-Obama aide slams Sanders climate platform push," Devin Henry, The Hill, 7/8/16 (<https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/287034-former-obama-climate-aide-slams-sanders-platform-push>).

79 U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, Cheniere Energy, Schedule 14A, 4/15/19 (<https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/3570/000119312519105842/d684187ddef14a.htm>).

80 U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, Cheniere Energy, Schedule 14A, 4/13/18 (<https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/3570/000119312518117055/d505123ddef14a.htm>).

81 Center for Strategic and International Studies (<https://www.csis.org/people/frank-verrastro>).

82 UCLA Institute of the Environment and Sustainability (<https://www.ioes.ucla.edu/person/varshini-prakash/>).

83 Michigan League of Conservation Voters (<https://michiganlcw.org/kerry-duggan/>).

84 Center for Earth Ethics (<https://centerforearthethics.org/catherine-flowers/>).

85 White House Council of Economic Advisers, October 2019 (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/The-Value-of-U.S.-Energy-Innovation-and-Policies-Supporting-the-Shale-Revolution.pdf>).

What about the poor?

Because low-income households spend a larger share of their income on energy bills, lower energy prices disproportionately benefit them: shale-driven savings represent 6.8 percent of income for the poorest fifth of households compared to 1.3 percent for the richest fifth of households. These consumer savings are in addition to economic benefits linked to greater employment in the sector.⁸⁶

Whether poor, rich, middle-class, or a struggling entrepreneur, Biden and his green socialist policy agenda, which he has pursued for four decades, will not discriminate. It will run roughshod over the entire U.S. economy and swallow growth and prosperity in its wake.

86 Ibid. at 1.