



**POWER THE FUTURE**

# **A DEMOCRATIC TAKEOVER:**

HOW A BLUE WAVE IN NOVEMBER WILL DESTROY  
AMERICAN ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

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# **POWER THE FUTURE**

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## INTRODUCTION

Joe Biden is having trouble with fracking. Last year, during the Democratic Presidential debate, Biden was very clear. When asked whether there would be “any place in his administration for fossil fuels,” including coal and fracking, he said, “No. We would work it out. We would make sure it’s eliminated and no more subsidies for either one of those, either.”<sup>1</sup>

In September 2019, in New Hampshire, Biden was asked by a young climate activist: “How can we trust that you’re going to act on climate — on the climate crisis — if you’re still attending fundraisers that fossil fuel executives are ... at?”

..... “ .....

**Biden:**

“Kiddo, I want you to just take a look. You don’t have to agree, but I’d like you to look into my eyes. I guarantee you, I guarantee you, we’re going to end fossil fuel, and I am not going to cooperate.”<sup>2</sup>

..... ” .....

Or consider this exchange on March 15 between Biden and Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT), who was Biden’s chief rival to be the Democratic presidential nominee:

**Sanders:** “I’m talking about stopping fracking as soon as we possibly can. I’m talking about telling the fossil fuel industry that they are going to stop destroying this planet — no ifs, buts and maybes about it. I’m talking about speaking to...”

**Biden:** “So am I.”

**Sanders:** “[Saying to Biden he thinks Biden wants to continue fracking] Correct me if I am wrong.”

**Biden:** “No more — no new fracking.”<sup>3</sup>

Realizing that importance of fracking to, among other states, Pennsylvania and Ohio, and thus to his chances of winning the presidency, Biden has since flip-flopped on the issue. “I am not banning fracking,” Biden said recently. “Let me say that again: I am not banning fracking. No matter how many times Donald Trump lies about me.”<sup>4</sup>

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1 <http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/1907/31/se.02.html>

2 <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/biden-pledges-to-end-fossil-fuel-after-confrontation-with-climate-activist-over-fundraiser>

3 <http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/2003/15/se.03.html>

4 <https://www.cnn.com/2020/08/31/politics/joe-biden-not-banning-fracking/index.html>



Yet the liberal media have failed to ask—either out of ignorance or duplicity—whether Biden supports the “Ban Fracking Act,” legislation introduced earlier this year by Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) (also known as “AOC”) and Sanders. The bill would “institute an immediate federal ban on all new federal permits for fracking-related infrastructure” and ban fracking nationwide in 2025.<sup>5</sup>

Why is this relevant? Recall that AOC, along with former Sen. John Kerry (D-MA), co-chaired the Biden-Sanders “unity task force” on climate change. The task force concept arose from an agreement to unify the moderate and progressive wings of the party after Sanders lost the Democratic presidential nomination to Biden. Their agreement led to task forces on climate change, education, health care, taxes, and other issues.

The result was a 110-page socialist policy manifesto fully endorsed by the Biden campaign. “Of course, like in any collaborative effort, there are areas of negotiation and compromise,” AOC said. “But I do believe that the Climate Task Force effort meaningfully and substantively improved Biden’s positions.”<sup>6</sup> Biden was equally effusive about the task forces. “I am deeply grateful to Bernie Sanders for working with us to unite our party and deliver real, lasting change for generations to come.”<sup>7</sup>

Does Joe Biden want to ban fracking? Maybe, or maybe not. If you’re confused, just ask AOC and Bernie. We know they do, because they helped write Biden’s energy and climate change plan. And if the Democrats win the House, Senate, and White House in November, you can be sure Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) will be doing AOC’s and Bernie’s bidding.

Thus, another important question: will a President Biden sign or veto the Ban Fracking Act if it reaches his desk? What about all the other pieces of extreme climate legislation Democrats have conjured up over the last two years? And if Senate Democrats deep-six the filibuster, as many of them have promised, can anyone or anything stop them?

## FLASHBACK: 2009

These are all timely, if frightening, questions. If you’re wondering what Democratic control of Congress could look like in 2021, just rewind to 2009. At the time, Speaker Pelosi was pushing a 1,428-page bill, colloquially referred to as “Waxman-Markey” after the legislation’s principal cosponsors. Backed by green extremists and crony capitalists in industry, the bill was a statist monstrosity designed to impose bureaucratic control over the U.S. economy. And it was central to Pelosi’s radical agenda.

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5 <https://www.sanders.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/sanders-ocasio-cortez-lead-first-ever-bill-to-ban-fracking-nationwide>

6 <https://www.ecowatch.com/democrats-climate-policy-2646373430.html?rebellitem=1#rebellitem1>

7 <https://www.ecowatch.com/democrats-climate-policy-2646373430.html?rebellitem=3#rebellitem3>



Waxman-Markey featured a complicated cap-and-trade scheme to regulate carbon dioxide emissions from power plants—the scheme under which, as Barack Obama infamously said, “electricity prices would necessarily skyrocket”<sup>8</sup> — along with new mandates burdening nearly every sector of the economy. Had it become law, it would have destroyed hundreds of thousands of jobs, decimated the fossil fuel industry, and impoverished millions of Americans.

As *The Atlantic* magazine said at the time, “The bill is so big, so audacious, even in its watered down form, that if it somehow manages to pass the Senate, it will almost immediately change the lives and lifestyle of every American, the fortunes of major industries, and the economic future of regions, cities and towns.”<sup>9</sup>

The bill was so outlandish that, when it came to a vote on June 26, 2009, 44 Democrats voted against it; the House passed it narrowly, 219 to 212.<sup>10</sup> “We passed transformational legislation which takes us into the future,” Pelosi gushed at a press conference following the vote.<sup>11</sup> It was certainly transformational, though maybe not in the way Pelosi had promised. As it turns out, Waxman-Markey helped stoke the Tea Party revolution, which ended the Democrats’ House majority and Pelosi’s reign as Speaker in 2010.<sup>12</sup>

Sen. James Inhofe (R-OK), a longtime foe of socialist fantasies posing as climate change bills, declared Waxman-Markey “dead on arrival” in the Senate.<sup>13</sup> Ultimately, he was right, but only after Senate Democrats engaged in an embarrassing act of legislative self-immolation.

Led by the incompetent maneuverings of former Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA), then chair of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, Senate Democrats attempted to write their own version of the bill (the preposterously named “Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act”).<sup>14</sup> But in early 2010, it collapsed under its own weight, even though Democrats had, for a time, a filibuster-proof majority.

Problems came from Democrats themselves, who couldn’t run away from the Boxer bill fast enough. They appeared to grasp, as the late Rep. John Dingell (D-Mich.) said, that cap-and-trade “is a tax, and it’s a great big one.”<sup>15</sup> Former Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-MO) said, “We need to be a leader in the world but we don’t want to be a sucker,” and that “if we go too far with this,” then “all we’re going to do is chase more jobs to China and India, where they’ve been putting up coal-fired plants every 10 minutes.”<sup>16</sup> Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.) worried that “a cap-and-trade program might allow Wall Street to distort a carbon market for its own profits.”<sup>17</sup>

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8 <https://freebeacon.com/issues/flashback-obama-promised-electricity-costs-would-skyrocket/>  
9 <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2009/06/pelosi-waxman-markey-slaughter-triumph/20228/>  
10 <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/votes/111-2009/h477>  
11 <https://www.politico.com/story/2009/06/house-passes-climate-change-bill-024232>  
12 <https://grist.org/climate-energy/what-theda-skocpol-gets-right-about-the-cap-and-trade-fight/>  
13 <https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/71965-inohofe-markey-spar-over-white-house-copenhagen-agenda>  
14 <https://www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/senate-bill/1733>  
15 <https://www.politico.com/story/2009/04/dingell-cap-and-trade-a-great-big-tax-021730>  
16 <https://grist.org/article/2009-claire-mccaskill-on-climate-legislation/>  
17 <https://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2009/9/post-aaa2bd88-802a-23ad-4c2d-8c78d5324a59>



## THAT WAS THEN, THIS IS NOW

But that was then, this is now. Times have changed. Since their 2010 implosion, Democrats have purged party dissenters and defectors on climate change (and on every other conceivable issue, for that matter). Climate alarmism, and the socialist measures that inevitably accompany it, is the new political faith for Democrats—heretics be damned.

As noted, earlier this year, socialist Sen. Bernie Sanders dropped out of the Democratic Presidential primary, ceding the nomination to Joe Biden. Deflated but not diminished by their loss, radical progressives demanded greater influence in writing the party’s platform. The Biden campaign, fearing a backlash, readily agreed.

This led to the Biden-Sanders “unity task forces,” and AOC, the de facto leader of the party’s extreme wing, was tapped, along with former Sen. John Kerry, to co-chair the climate change task force. In turn, she and other radicals recruited task force members who were the antithesis of “party yes-men and shrinking violets that some liberals feared would fill out the advisory panels,” according to *Politico*.<sup>18</sup>

The result was a 110-page socialist policy manifesto. “Democrats believe,” as the document’s authors state, “we must embed environmental justice and climate justice at the heart of our policy and governing agenda. We will take immediate action to reverse the Trump Administration’s dangerous and destructive rollbacks of critical climate and environmental protections.”<sup>19</sup>

Sanders praised the final document as a “good policy blueprint that will move this country in a much-needed progressive direction and substantially improve the lives of working families throughout our country.”<sup>20</sup>

As this effort attests, if Joe Biden captures the White House and Democrats win House and Senate majorities, there will be unanimity around their extreme green legislative agenda. There is no room for dissent.

In the Senate, if they win, the Democrats’ majority will likely be quite slim, anywhere from 50 to 52 senators (in the event of 50-50 ties, a Vice President Harris would cast the deciding vote). That’s far short of the 60 votes required to overcome the Senate’s filibuster rule to pass most pieces of legislation. But that won’t matter: The Democrats have vowed to eliminate it. Along with packing the Supreme Court and turning Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico into states, ending the filibuster ranks high on the liberal wish list.

Sen. Schumer recently said “nothing is off the table” on the filibuster.<sup>21</sup> Translation: he’ll get rid of it. While acknowledging that the filibuster “has also saved a lot of bad things from happening too,” Joe Biden said, “If in fact [Republicans] are as obstreperous as is expected, we’d have to get rid of the filibuster.”<sup>22</sup> For her part, AOC has attacked the filibuster as a “tool of segregationists” and therefore “unjust and “unacceptable.”<sup>23</sup>

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18 <https://www.politico.com/news/2020/05/13/biden-sanders-unity-task-forces-leaders-aoc-254456>  
19 <https://assets.documentcloud.org/documents/6983091/Biden-Sanders-Platform.pdf>  
20 <https://www.ecowatch.com/democrats-climate-policy-2646373430.html?rebellitem=3#rebellitem3>  
21 <https://thehill.com/homenews/senate/513028-schumer-on-nixing-the-filibuster-nothing-is-off-the-table>  
22 <https://news.yahoo.com/biden-nabj-nahj-filibuster-130036278.html>  
23 <https://twitter.com/aoc/status/1308460331577028612>



The Founders designed the Senate to be anti-majoritarian, to cool the passions of the House. While not in the Constitution, the filibuster has been a time-honored parliamentary tool to, among things, force compromise. But these days, that’s something Democrats, especially cancel-culture progressives, find distasteful. And when it comes to climate change, green extremists—the same extremists who wrote the party’s platform—feel the same way.

## HELLO GREEN NEW DEAL - AND MUCH MORE

With no dissent and no legislative obstacles, the most radical ideas conjured by millennial climate warriors, who now control the party, will not only get top billing, but could very well become law. These eco-socialists dismiss as “small ball” the 1,400-page Waxman-Markey bill and the \$90 billion green subsidy bonanza in the Obama stimulus. Whereas today, Joe Biden has proposed a \$2 trillion green spending binge, a plan that Vox called “the most ambitious and aggressive environmental agenda in US history if it were enacted.”<sup>24</sup>

But that’s just the beginning. Cue up AOC. Along with writing the Biden-Sanders unity task force recommendations, she and her sidekick Sanders wrote, and introduced last year, the infamous “Green New Deal,” a \$16 trillion utopian blueprint to completely reorder the nation’s energy system and economy.<sup>25</sup> While trying to distance himself from it, Joe Biden nonetheless has called the Green New Deal “a crucial framework.”<sup>26</sup>

Indeed, that very framework has shaped nearly every energy and environmental bill Democrats have proposed in the 116th Congress—and it is the only acceptable benchmark by which every future piece of energy and environmental legislation will be measured.

It’s worth recounting the provisions of the GND, because if Democrats have full rein over Washington, D.C., key components of it could become law. The resolution is rife with revolutionary rhetoric, calling for a “fair and just” energy “transition” for “communities and workers,” spurred by a ten-year “mobilization” of spending, taxing, mandating, and enforcing a long march through America’s economy. Here are just some the GND’s demands:

- Requiring that renewable energy comprise “100 percent of the power demand in the United States”;
- Upgrading “all existing buildings in the United States” to achieve “maximum energy efficiency”;
- Providing a federal jobs guarantee;
- Guaranteeing jobs “with a family-sustaining wage”;
- Achieving “justice and equity by stopping current, preventing future, and repairing historic oppression of indigenous peoples, communities of color, migrant communities, deindustrialized communities, depopulated rural communities, the poor, low-income workers, women, the elderly, the unhoused, people with disabilities, and youth (referred to in this resolution as ‘frontline and vulnerable communities’)”;

24 <https://www.vox.com/21516594/joe-biden-climate-change-covid-19-president>

25 <https://ocasio-cortez.house.gov/gnd>

26 <https://joebiden.com/climate-plan/#>



- Ensuring “a commercial environment where every businessperson is free from unfair competition and domination by domestic or international monopolies”; and
- “Building wealth and community ownership.”<sup>27</sup>

Many of these demands have nothing to do with energy or climate change. But of course, that’s the point, according to AOC’s chief of staff. “The interesting thing about the Green New Deal,” he told the Washington Post, “is it wasn’t originally a climate thing at all...we really think of it as a how-do-you-change-the-entire-economy thing.”<sup>28</sup>

As if the GND weren’t enough, the Democrats have shared plenty of additional, painful details about their climate policy preferences. After the 2018 mid-term elections, Democrats vowed to make climate change a legislative priority. But with Republicans still controlling the Senate, and President Trump in the White House, passing bills into law wasn’t realistic. But they have been waiting patiently, spending the last two years laying the groundwork for a blue wave in November 2020.

Toward that end, Democrats convened ad hoc climate change panels in the House and Senate, both of which recently published reports chock-full of outrageous policy recommendations. Those recommendations include new taxes, mandates, subsidies, and hundreds of billions of dollars in spending that cover nearly every sector of the economy, including utilities, finance, transportation (cars, trucks, airplanes), homes, commercial buildings, manufacturing, trade, as well as participation in international climate agreements.

The House and Senate reports are 543 and 263 pages long, respectively. Here are some “highlights”:

### **Impose a carbon tax :**

While euphemistically calling it a “price on carbon,” Democrats support a carbon tax on fossil fuels, which would mean higher prices for just about everything, especially higher electric bills, higher home heating costs, and higher prices at the gas pump.

### **Cripple the electricity sector :**

Democrats favor a “decarbonized” electric grid by 2035, and believe it is the “economically favorable choice.” Despite what they say, this will mean a grid free of fossil fuels, raising the prospect, as was painfully demonstrated in California recently, of rolling blackouts and more expensive power.

### **Destroy oil and gas production :**

President Trump repealed the harmful Obama-era EPA and Interior Department regulations on oil and gas production, but Democrats propose to reinstate them. House Democrats support passing the “Methane Waste Prevention Act” (H.R. 2711), which is simply a backdoor way of banning fracking.

### **Subsidize the global ‘Green Climate Fund’:**

This fund redistributes money from developed (e.g., the U.S.) to developing countries to address climate change. In 2014, President Obama committed \$3 billion to the fund, “of which the United States has transferred \$1 billion so far.” Fortunately, after announcing U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Agreement, President Trump opposed depositing additional taxpayer dollars into the fund. The House report endorses H.R. 4986, the “Green Climate Fund Authorization Act of 2019,” which allows more taxpayer money to be spent, while “emphasizing the ‘responsibility of the U.S. government to work with its global partners to promote environmental justice and climate justice.’”

27 <https://ocasio-cortez.house.gov/gnd>

28 <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/magazine/wp/2019/07/10/feature/how-saikat-chakrabarti-became-aocs-chief-of-change/>



### **Ban the internal combustion engine by 2035 :**

In lockstep with their socialist allies in California, Democrats recommend establishing a national “zero-emissions vehicle” (ZEV) sales standard “to ensure all light-duty vehicles sold by 2035 are zero-emission.” They also support extending and expanding tax credits for electric vehicles, even making them “refundable,” which effectively means government hand-outs for low-income electric vehicle buyers.

### **Mandates on commercial buildings :**

Democrats want to “retrofit” and “decarbonize” 5 million commercial buildings and 125 million homes in the U.S. The House report laughably claims, “The national effort to reduce pollution from buildings will create construction jobs in every county in the United States.” To accomplish these goals, they recommend more federal spending and greater social engineering through the tax code.

### **“Greening” the financial system :**

Along with central banks in Europe, Democrats support the international effort to stop banks from investing in fossil fuels—and for those that currently do, to force the gradual depletion of their investments over time. The House report recommends directing the Federal Reserve “and other federal financial regulators, as appropriate,” to “identify and mitigate climate-related risks of large financial institutions through a comprehensive macroprudential framework.” These measures, according to the House report, “should include enhanced capital, stress testing, margin, portfolio limits, and divesture to address climate-related risks.”

### **Environmental justice :**

Democrats are demanding “racial equity assessments” to be incorporated into permits for infrastructure, such as pipelines and oil and gas exploration and development. This will make those permits more difficult to obtain. They also call for an “enforcement surge” by the Environmental Protection Agency, conducted by a new army of EPA lawyers, in “the 100 communities most overburdened by industrial pollution,” which will undoubtedly target areas with manufacturing and fossil fuel production. And they want to amend the Civil Rights Act to “define discrimination based on disparate impact,” and “establish a private right of action under Title VI, Section 602,” meaning citizens can file lawsuits against energy companies in “environmental justice communities” even if there’s no intentional act of discrimination.<sup>29</sup>

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29 <https://climatecrisis.house.gov/report>; [https://www.schatz.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/SCCC\\_Climate\\_Crisis\\_Report.pdf](https://www.schatz.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/SCCC_Climate_Crisis_Report.pdf)

## CONCLUSION

These reports show in stark detail what the Democrats plan to do if they win the DC trifecta on November 3. They will use the full powers of Congress and the presidency, and eliminate any parliamentary obstacles standing in their way. As Sen. Kamala Harris (D-CA), now Biden’s vice presidential running mate, put it during her own failed bid for the Democratic presidential nomination, “If [Republicans] fail to act, as president of the United States, I am prepared to get rid of the filibuster to pass a Green New Deal.”<sup>30</sup>

If that’s the case, Democrats will have no trouble passing the silliest, and at the same time, the most dangerous, of AOC’s climate change policy proposals. And no matter how utopian or far-fetched the party’s ideas, a President Biden, even if he is so inclined, will not be able to stop the radical extremists in Congress.

Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-WA), who co-chairs the Congressional Progressive Caucus, and who proudly stands as part of AOC’s infamous “Squad,” said the party’s progressive wing will “do both the pushing, the walking alongside and the going out in front of Joe Biden” on the party’s legislative agenda.<sup>31</sup> Thanks to Jayapal and AOC, the party has clearly delineated how they will reorder the American economy, and the American way of life, along socialist lines, all in the name of saving the planet from the supposed “existential crisis” of climate change.

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30 <https://dailycaller.com/2020/08/12/joe-biden-kamala-harris-green-new-deal/>

31 <https://www.npr.org/2020/08/20/902185484/a-new-biden-administration-would-face-old-problems-with-congress>