

Building Blocks of State Climate Policy

State legislators can tackle climate change, revitalize the economy, and advance justice by legislating across these seven key sectors. This document provides a framework, links to model legislation, examples from states across the US, and further resources.

Sector-Specific Policies (% of total GHG emissions)

Economy-Wide Policies

	Industry (22%)	Electricity (27%)	Buildings (12%)	Transportation (28%)	Agriculture & Conservation (10%)	Adaptation & Resilience	Reduce Fossil Fuel Reliance
Set Standards	<p>Reduce methane, HFCs, and potent greenhouse gases by enacting industrial emissions standards</p> <p>Support domestic manufacturing by establishing a Buy-Clean Standard</p>	<p>Increase renewable energy on the grid by enacting a renewable portfolio standard</p> <p>Increase renewables and modernize the grid by upgrading transmission, distribution, and storage</p> <p>Streamline permitting of renewable energy projects</p>	<p>Update energy codes to the most recent standards</p> <p>Decarbonize buildings by enacting building energy performance standards</p> <p>Empower local governments to adopt more stringent energy codes by adopting stretch codes</p>	<p>Encourage electric vehicle deployment and spur innovation by adopting the Advanced Clean Cars Program</p> <p>Coordinate on regional goals by joining the Transportation Climate Initiative</p> <p>Encourage utilities to invest in electric vehicles by requiring them to develop Transportation Electrification Plans</p> <p>Set targets for medium- and heavy-duty vehicle electrification</p> <p>Leverage government's purchasing power by enacting Green State Fleets</p> <p>Decarbonize fuels by enacting a low-carbon fuel standard</p> <p>Remove legal barriers to charging station installations</p>	<p>Fight food waste through policies such as organic waste reduction goals and donation standards</p> <p>Conserve public lands and green spaces</p> <p>Protect coastal ecosystems</p> <p>Support farmers practicing regenerative agriculture</p>	<p>Be ready for climate disasters: strengthen building codes and incorporate climate science in infrastructure planning</p> <p>Protect public health by enacting indoor air quality standards</p> <p>Promote energy security through microgrids and distributed energy generation</p> <p>Coordinate disaster response by requiring comprehensive tracking of disaster spending</p>	<p>Create a clear timeline by formally establishing greenhouse gas reduction targets</p> <p>Limit or eliminate new fossil fuel generation and opt for cheap, carbon-free energy</p> <p>Close expensive fossil fuel plants early and support communities in transition through securitization</p> <p>Advance environmental justice and protect public health by instituting minimum statewide drilling setbacks</p>
Align Incentives	<p>Save money and reduce energy waste by enacting and expanding Energy Efficiency Resource Standards</p>		<p>Encourage distributed renewable energy by promoting net metering and community solar</p> <p>Align utility incentives with climate goals</p> <p>Consider the social cost of carbon in energy decisions</p> <p>Increase accountability and cut costs through Intervenor Compensation Programs</p>	<p>Ensure buildings are electric vehicle- and solar-ready</p> <p>Save people and businesses money by updating appliance efficiency standards</p> <p>Encourage cost-effective energy upgrades by adopting benchmarking and transparency requirements</p>	<p>Provide financial incentives to encourage clean energy, electrification, energy efficiency, electric vehicles, and conservation</p>		
Stimulate Investment	<p>Help homeowners and business save money on electricity bills by implementing financing mechanisms that lower the upfront cost of upgrades. Successful mechanisms include: Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs, Energy Savings Performance Contracts (ESPC), and Revolving Loan Funds (RLFs).</p> <p>Spur private investment in clean energy by establishing or expanding Green Banks or Clean Energy Funds</p>		<p>Expand public and private electric vehicle charging infrastructure</p> <p>Expand and electrify public transit</p> <p>Invest in smart growth and complete streets</p> <p>Expand and electrify passenger and freight rail</p>		<p>Create jobs by investing in green infrastructure and conservation</p> <p>Support local governments in making resilience and disaster-response plans</p> <p>Protect vulnerable communities by ensuring equitable relocation programs</p>	<p>Stimulate innovation and raise government revenue by establishing a carbon pricing mechanism</p> <p>Free up scarce revenue by undoing fossil fuel subsidies</p> <p>Hold governments accountable to climate action</p>	
Across Sectors	<p>- Prioritize Equity and Justice</p> <p>- Create Clean Energy Jobs and Support Economic Transition</p>						

through **proactive community engagement**, **equity screens**, targeted investments in frontline and disadvantaged communities, prioritization of low-income efficiency and weatherization, shutting down **polluting infrastructure**, remediating polluted sites, and more.

through financial incentives for clean energy companies that meet **high-quality labor standards**; targeted investments in transitioning communities; **job training and apprenticeship programs**; **securitization**; and more.