

# No Turning Back

## America's Governors Confronting the Climate Crisis & Building a Brighter Future

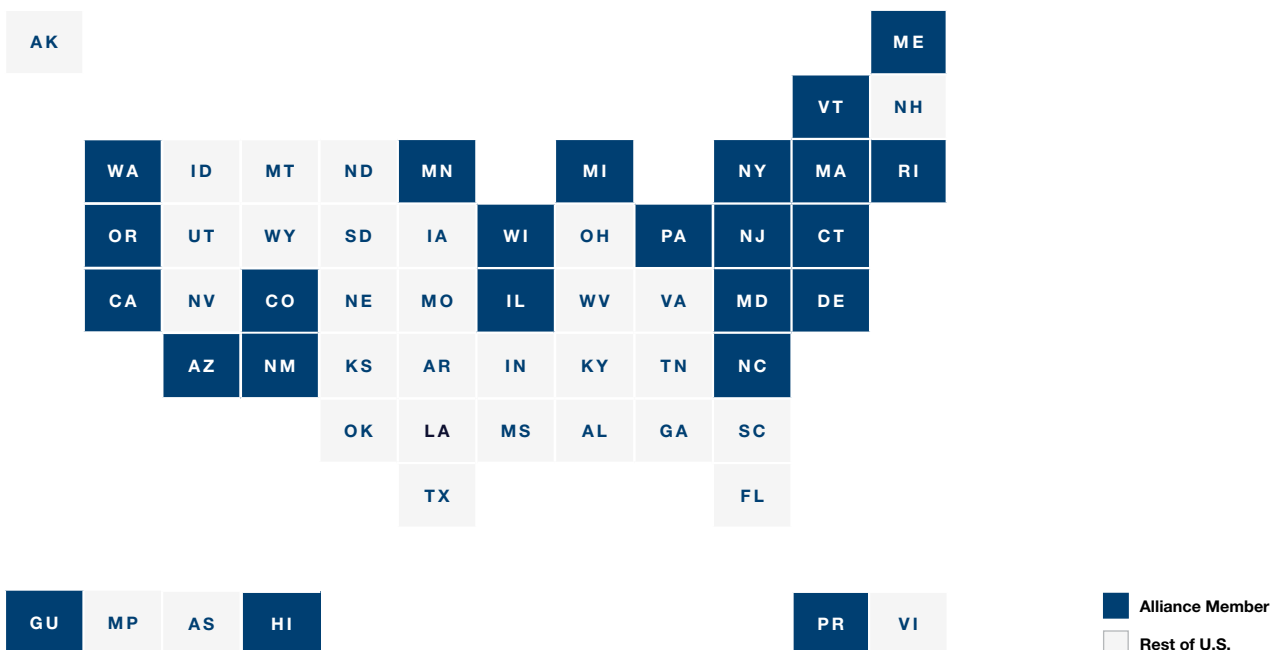
The United States Climate Alliance is a bipartisan coalition of U.S. governors committed to securing America's net-zero future by advancing state-led, high-impact climate action. The Alliance was launched on June 1, 2017, by the governors of Washington, New York, and California to help fill the void left by former President Trump's decision to withdraw the United States from the Paris Agreement. Since then, the Alliance's story has been one of growth, progress, and results. The coalition today comprises two dozen governors who collectively represent approximately 55 percent of the U.S. population and 60 percent of the country's economy — and its governors are delivering increasingly bold solutions to the climate crisis.

Over the past four years, robust support from the federal government has supercharged Alliance

members' work, from investing billions of dollars to help states and territories accelerate climate solutions to raising the federal floor for climate action nationwide. Record-breaking investments in clean technologies across the nation are both a result of this historic leadership and a catalyst for future progress.

These investments come at a critical moment. As the nation faces more frequent and more severe climate-driven weather events, Alliance governors' commitment to a cleaner and safer future remains resolute. Since this bipartisan climate action coalition was formed, Alliance governors have faced many challenges and remained a strong and steady force in climate leadership both domestically and internationally. This report outlines the progress our coalition has made over the last year — and how enhanced collaboration through the

MAP ES-1. U.S. Climate Alliance Members



ES-2 U.S. Climate Alliance and Executive Committee



**NEW YORK**  
Gov. Hochul



**NEW MEXICO**  
Gov. Lujan Grisham



**CALIFORNIA**  
Gov. Newsom



**WISCONSIN**  
Gov. Evers



**WASHINGTON**  
Gov. Inslee

Alliance has enabled member states and territories to raise their ambition, leverage their collective share of the economy, and scale successful approaches.

In 2024, Alliance members launched the new Governors’ Climate-Ready Workforce Initiative, an innovative partnership aimed at expanding career pathways in climate and clean energy fields, supporting new and existing workers in accessing these good-paying jobs, and collectively training 1 million new registered apprentices across the coalition by 2035. In addition, the coalition proudly named its new co-chairs and executive committee, including governors of New York, New Mexico, California, Wisconsin, and Washington to oversee the strategic direction of the coalition through the spring of 2025. For the first time, two female co-chairs are leading the Alliance — New York Governor Kathy Hochul and New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham. With the addition of Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers, the executive committee has its first governor from the Midwest.

## Measuring Our Progress

The bold leadership of Alliance states and territories has delivered real results through reducing emissions, growing the economy, and building healthier and more resilient communities. Between 2005 and 2022 (the latest year with complete data), the Alliance reduced its collective net greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 19 percent, continuing the coalition’s trend of lowering emissions over 15 years.

Consistent with national trends, Alliance members’ collective emissions in 2022 rose slightly over 2021 levels. This bump was primarily driven by increased emissions in the buildings and industrial sectors as the nation’s economy continued to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Looking ahead, increased investment and accelerated implementation of ambitious climate policies will enable even deeper reductions in the years to come.

## Turning Federal Investments Into Action

Alliance members are moving quickly to harness the hundreds of billions of dollars of historic federal climate investments made possible through the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)*, the *Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)*, and the *CHIPS and Science Act*. This historic funding has helped accelerate investments in the manufacture, purchase, and deployment of clean energy and clean technologies, with Alliance members continuing to see record-breaking investments year after year. For example:

- Between 2021 and 2023, investments in the development of manufacturing capacity for clean technology quadrupled nationwide, helping to strengthen the U.S. manufacturing sector overall and bolster manufacturing jobs here in America.
- In the first half of 2024, investments in the development of clean technology manufacturing capacity across Alliance states were nearly five times greater than those made in all of 2021.

- Large investments are propelling the adoption of utility-scale solar across Alliance member states and accelerating offshore wind deployment, with cumulative investment in offshore wind technologies growing from zero in mid-2023 to over \$1.6 billion in mid-2024.
- More households and businesses than ever are powering buildings with clean energy and adopting clean technologies such as zero-emissions vehicles, heat pumps, solar panels, and battery storage, with sales of these technologies rising steadily year over year.
- Alliance members are working to take full advantage of the IRA's climate and clean energy tax incentives to help finance the deployment of clean energy and clean technology throughout their states and territories.

Alliance members captured more than \$70 million collectively in federal funds to build state capacity and develop new — or update existing — state and territorial climate and clean energy plans last year. This spring, all 24 Alliance members submitted priority climate action plans under the Biden-Harris administration's Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) program, which outline how states and territories can advance near-term, high-priority, and implementation-ready solutions to reduce GHG emissions and supercharge climate action. This summer, as part of the second phase of the CPRG program, Alliance members collectively secured approximately \$2.6 billion in historic funding. These awards, made possible by the IRA, will provide direct funding to 14 Alliance states to implement ambitious measures that deliver significant emissions reductions and community benefits. In total, these grants are expected to collectively reduce emissions by over 600 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent by 2050.

## Going Further, Faster, Together

The Alliance has forged a strong state-federal partnership with the Biden-Harris administration, working shoulder-to-shoulder with federal agencies to advance robust climate solutions. In early 2023, Alliance members provided over 20 recommendations of specific steps the federal government could take, using its executive and regulatory authority, to reduce emissions, increase climate resilience, advance environmental justice and

equity, and empower states to lead on climate action. As of mid-2024, the Biden-Harris administration had made substantial progress in advancing critical actions that align with these and other Alliance recommendations.

In 2024, Alliance members and the federal government together have advanced innovative pathways on shared priorities, including accelerating adoption of grid-enhancing technologies, advancing a climate-ready workforce, and mobilizing climate financing solutions. This partnership has demonstrated the remarkable and rapid progress on climate that is possible when ambitious state and territorial leadership is coupled with a strong, supportive, forward-looking federal government.

## Continuing to Advance Bold Climate Action

Alliance members are advancing high-impact climate solutions while partnering with the federal government, local communities, and industry on whole-of-society approaches. For example, during the past year, Alliance members have:

- Crafted ambitious new climate action plans, implemented cross-sectoral emissions reduction programs, launched climate-centered governance structures, and regularly tracked progress toward their climate goals.
- Adopted next-generation building standards and codes, electrified households, and helped consumers save money on their energy and water bills.
- Deployed a wide range of financial policies and programs, leveraged diverse funding sources, and partnered across the public and private sectors to finance the net-zero transition.
- Expanded and modernized electricity distribution and transmission systems and deployed more zero-carbon energy sources.
- Invested in and planned for a decarbonized industrial future; created markets for low-carbon industrial products; advanced solutions to mitigate methane across oil and natural gas, waste, and agricultural sources; and continued to phase down hydrofluorocarbons.



Photo credit: Office of Hawai'i Governor Josh Green

- Worked with communities to develop just climate solutions; directed significant funding toward capacity-building and environmental justice-focused programs; and took actions to develop a diverse, equitable, and inclusive climate-ready workforce.
- Planned for, incentivized, and deployed natural climate solutions at scale, leveraging these solutions and healthy natural and working lands to support resilient communities and ecosystems.
- Considered the cost of climate change in their policy decision-making and advanced programs that put a direct price on carbon pollution to cost-effectively drive reductions while raising revenue to reinvest into communities.
- Prioritized climate adaptation and strengthened resilience by taking a whole-of-government approach, deployed equitable plans and roadmaps, and invested directly in communities to help them prepare to withstand and recover from future extreme events.
- Expanded access to cleaner and lower-cost vehicles, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and multimodal transportation options.

## Looking Ahead

While substantial progress has been made, the latest emissions data show that additional action is needed to achieve longer-term climate targets. With a change in the federal administration on the horizon, the pace of progress toward realizing these goals will be defined by how leaders at all levels of government respond to the latest science and their commitment to advancing — or rolling back — common-sense climate solutions.

Regardless, the commitment of the U.S. Climate Alliance and its members remains resolute. This bipartisan climate action coalition was born in challenging times — when former President Trump decided to withdraw the United States from the Paris Agreement — and it is built with the strength and durability to withstand whatever uncertainty or headwinds may lie ahead. The Alliance has been a cross-cutting, consistent source of state-led leadership to uphold the United State’s climate action both domestically and abroad. It is abundantly clear that Alliance governors are up to the task and well-positioned to continue leading the charge.

For more information, see [www.usclimatealliance.org](http://www.usclimatealliance.org).

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