

# PRESSING FORWARD

## Governors' Enduring Fight for a Resilient & Sustainable Future

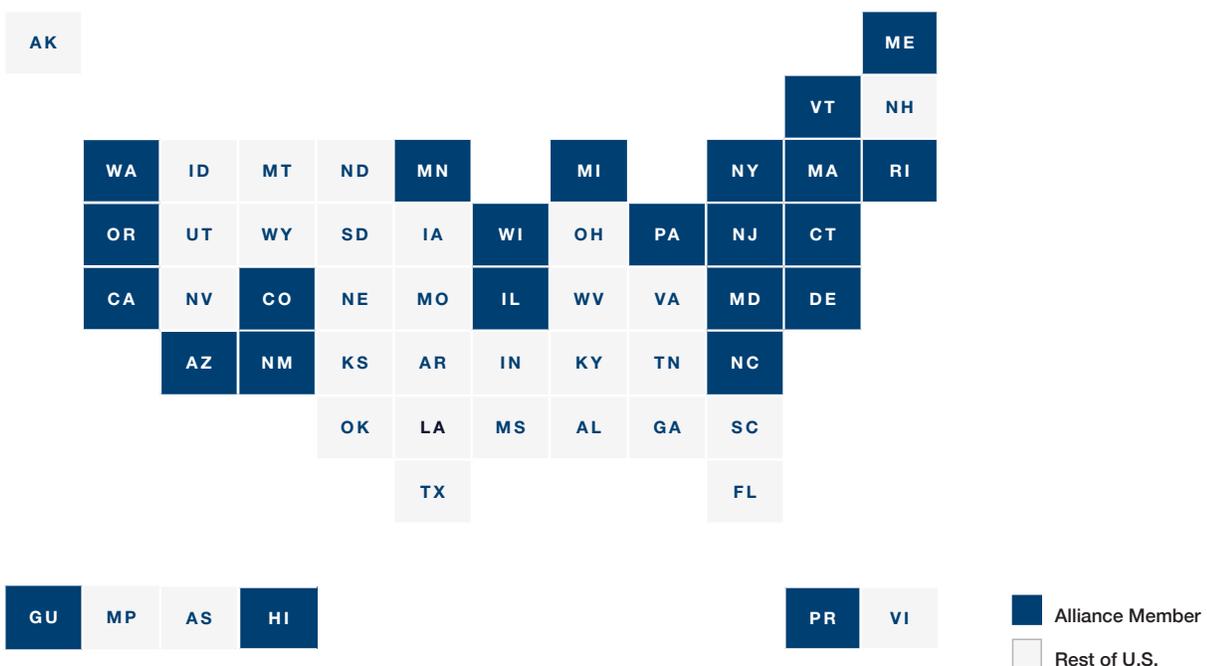
### Executive Summary

The United States Climate Alliance (the 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 by the governors of Washington, New York, and California on June 1, 2017, to help fill the void left by the federal government's withdrawal from the Paris Agreement. Since then, the coalition has grown to two dozen governors who collectively represent nearly 55 percent of the U.S. population and 60 percent of the

U.S. economy — and its governors continue to fight for a healthier future and a stronger economy for all Americans.

America's climate progress is a testament to the work of these governors and the strength of the Alliance. Since this coalition launched more than eight years ago, its members have advanced more than 2,300 bold actions and innovative policies to tackle climate pollution and build resilience to the impacts of climate change. Thanks to these efforts, U.S. markets are rapidly transforming toward cleaner technologies and cleaner energy. Heat pump sales outpaced gas furnaces by 32 percent in

MAP ES-1. U.S. Climate Alliance Members (States and Territories)



2024 — beating the prior year’s record-setting lead of 21 percent. More than 1.5 million electric vehicles were sold in 2024, more than five times higher than 2020 totals. Nearly two-thirds of electricity generation currently under construction and expected to come online through 2031 will be powered by solar and wind.

Unfortunately, destabilizing actions by the federal government are now threatening our country’s efforts to address the climate crisis. The world is once again turning its eyes to Alliance states and territories, which have a long track record of leadership through challenging and uncertain times.

At every turn over the past year, the Alliance’s governors have stepped up and stood tall in their work to protect Americans from the worsening impacts of climate change. In January 2025, when President Trump announced the United States’ withdrawal from the Paris Agreement, the Alliance committed to the international community, in a letter to the United Nations Climate Change Executive Secretary, that its governors will continue America’s work to slash climate pollution. Following a succession of destabilizing actions from Congress and the federal government intended to halt state-led clean vehicle programs, a group of Alliance governors launched the new Affordable Clean Cars Coalition — a growing partnership among 13 states to sustain America’s transition to cleaner and more affordable cars and safeguard states’ clean air authority. Finally, attorneys general from Alliance states and territories banded together to secure restoration of federal funding for critical climate and clean energy programs.

The Alliance continues to press forward, not only because it’s the right thing to do and supported by science, but because the American people are demanding action. This report represents the perseverance, resilience, and unwavering commitment of the Alliance’s members to deliver the safe, healthy, and affordable future Americans deserve.

## A global problem with increasingly local impacts

Scientists across the world agree: the Earth’s atmosphere is warming, and greenhouse gases (GHGs) emitted from human activity are indisputably accelerating the pace. This warming has already amplified extreme weather events,

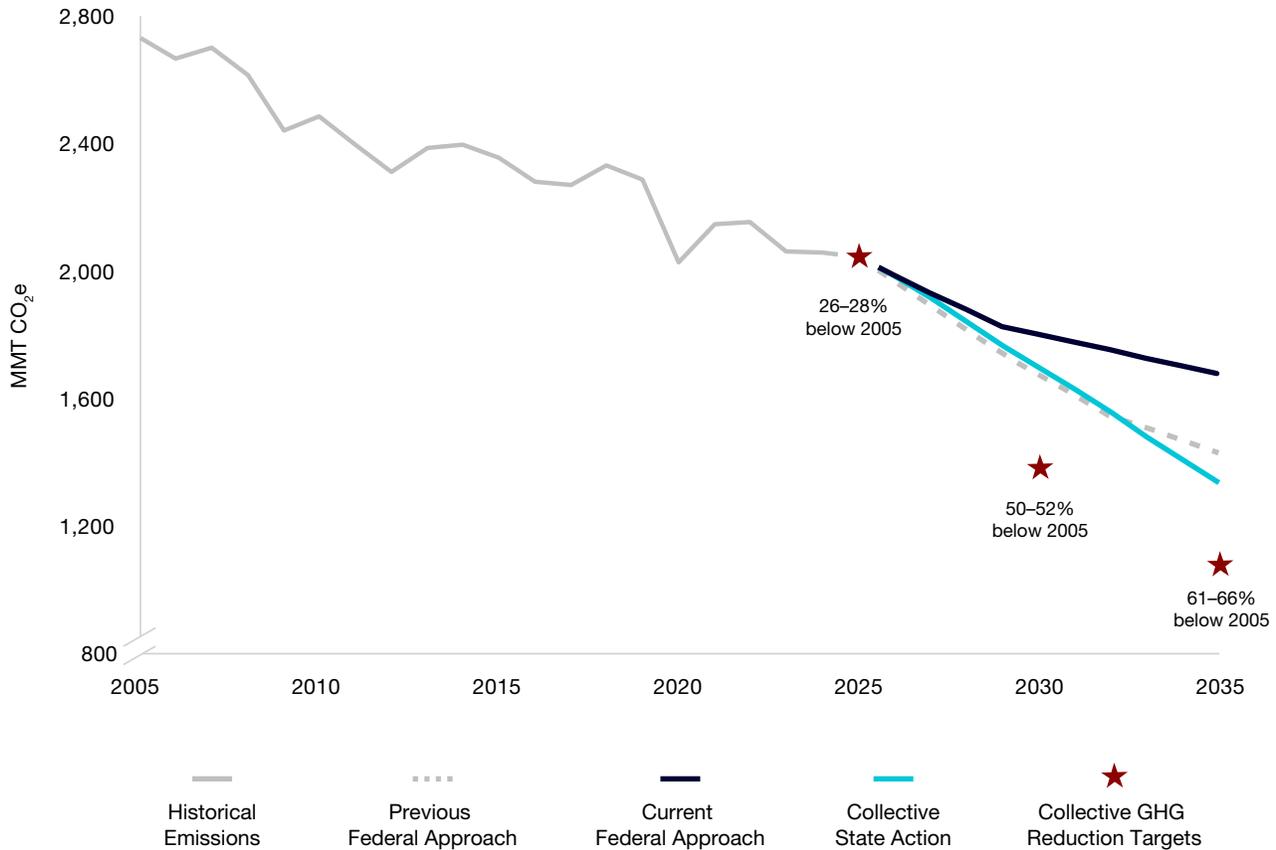


Photo credit: U.S. Climate Alliance

disrupted ecosystems, and increased the severity and frequency of natural disasters, negatively impacting lives and livelihoods in U.S. communities and across the globe. In 2024, the United States alone saw 27 climate-related disasters that totaled over \$1 billion in damages, marking the fourth-costliest disaster spending year in the nation’s record. And while extreme weather events are among the greatest risks of climate change, there are also localized, near-term impacts that are directly affecting people’s daily lives in every corner of the country.

Throughout 2025, the federal government has advanced efforts to eliminate national tracking and reporting of key public data, shutter federal scientific research operations, and ignore or hide the scientific consensus on greenhouse gases and climate change. Yet doing so will not eliminate these real-world impacts of a changing climate — it will instead jeopardize communities across the nation and leave them underprepared for worsening climate impacts. In the face of these efforts, Alliance governors have been resolute in affirming the essential role science plays in mitigating the negative outcomes of climate change, and they remain committed to science-based decision-making in their states.

**FIGURE ES-1.** By working together to advance actions that aim to save households money, cut emissions, and protect communities, Alliance members can help mitigate the loss of federal leadership.



## Measuring our progress

The Alliance successfully reduced its collective net GHG emissions by 24 percent between 2005 and 2023 (the latest year with complete data) while increasing its collective gross domestic product by 34 percent, putting its near-term target within reach to reduce net emissions 26 percent by 2025. These emissions reductions were driven in part by adoption and implementation of ambitious state and federal actions in the preceding years. While the new federal administration’s efforts are expected to slow progress through at least 2028, the actions Alliance governors are taking will sustain the coalition’s progress: the Alliance is projected to continue reducing emissions, at a faster rate than the rest of the country, even with federal rollbacks. This is largely due to the policies and programs Alliance members already have in place.

Importantly, the Alliance has identified a pathway to help mitigate the loss of federal ambition in the coming years (Figure ES-1). This pathway reflects broad adoption of state-level policy solutions that aim to save households money, cut harmful pollution, and protect communities. What’s more, transitioning to a net-zero economy by 2050 would deliver significant monetary benefits that vastly outweigh the costs. Achievement of the Alliance’s collective climate goals is estimated to deliver \$11 billion in annual net savings by 2030, \$103 billion by 2035, and \$185 billion by 2050 — leading to trillions of dollars of cumulative net benefits to Americans over the coming years.

Alliance governors recognize that communities across the country are already bearing the cost of climate change through higher food prices, rising utility bills, lost productivity from extreme heat, and rapidly increasing home insurance costs. Additional societal costs are also



Photo credit: Office of California Governor Gavin Newsom

accumulating from worsening wildfires and flooding events, increased spread of diseases, and damages to public infrastructure from extreme weather events, among other impacts. These immediate costs help underscore the economic imperative of climate action as Alliance states and territories redouble their efforts in the years to come.

Recognizing that every fraction of a degree of avoided warming matters, Alliance governors will keep pressing forward for the health, safety, and economic prosperity of Americans across the country.

## Enduring growth of clean energy and clean technologies

The Alliance is helping sustain the growth of clean energy and technologies — from record heat pump and electric vehicle sales to new wind and solar power construction and generation. This unprecedented growth in investment and innovation in recent years, across the country and around the world, is fueled by efforts to reduce emissions and combat climate change while increasing energy security and bolstering resilience.

In the U.S., Americans have directly benefited from record levels of investment in the manufacture, deployment, and purchase of clean energy and clean technology over the last two years, fueled by the *Inflation Reduction Act* and other federal laws. This growth supercharged the development of renewable energy sources, the most cost-effective form of electricity generation to build, and spurred the creation of more than 400,000 good-paying jobs and over \$422 billion in investments in new or expanded manufacturing facilities for batteries, electric vehicles, and other clean technologies. These investments are transforming local communities and delivering cleaner air, lower costs, and stronger economies.

While the new administration has taken steps to slow this growth, the U.S. market is demonstrating that the transition to cleaner energy and technologies is increasingly durable and likely irreversible. Clean energy sources and clean technologies are offering Americans greater freedom from volatile fuel costs and more choices to lower their out-of-pocket costs on utilities and gas, while providing a pathway for communities and companies to prepare to meet growing energy demand, including from data centers. Even at a slower pace, the clean transition in America has continued throughout 2025 and will keep gaining traction over the coming years.

## Continuing to advance bold climate action

Alliance members have worked individually and together during the past year to continue advancing bold, high-impact actions to deliver affordable clean energy, safeguard public health, grow the economy, and build climate resilience. For example, Alliance members have:

- Established new climate targets, tracked and monitored progress toward their existing targets, and identified opportunities to raise ambition through progress reports and updated climate action plans.
- Adopted next-generation equipment standards, advanced more efficient building codes and standards, deployed heat pumps, and pursued utility planning and innovation to lower energy costs, improve public health and well-being, and increase resilience.
- Leveraged public and private investments and innovative financing tools to support climate mitigation and resilience efforts while ensuring affordability, accessibility, and a just economic transition.
- Developed policy pathways and programs to decarbonize the electricity grid, maximized federal clean energy incentives, and delivered near-term energy bill relief for customers today while improving energy affordability in the long run.
- Advanced innovative industrial decarbonization policies that invest in facility-level clean technology solutions, drive demand for low-carbon products, limit the release of high global warming-potential gases, and improve data collection, monitoring, and reporting.
- Pressed forward on equity-centered policies; directed significant investments to frontline communities; and accelerated the development of a diverse, equitable, and inclusive climate-ready workforce.
- Increased planning and investments in natural and working lands to combat climate change impacts and ensure healthy and resilient lands and waters continue to support climate solutions.

- Continued to consider the cost of climate change in policy decision-making, established programs to make polluters pay for climate damages resulting from their actions, and expanded programs that cap carbon pollution and generate revenue that can be reinvested into advancing climate action and helping disadvantaged communities.
- Strengthened governance and resilience planning efforts, invested in climate resilience projects, implemented community-led resilience projects, and adapted insurance frameworks to help the country better withstand and recover from extreme events.
- Increased access to affordable transportation choices by accelerating the deployment of cleaner and lower-cost vehicles, expanding charging infrastructure, and improving multimodal transportation and land use planning.

## Looking ahead

Alliance members are delivering real results. And this year, governors in every Alliance state and territory have shown they are built to lead in this moment — and won't back down. They will keep harnessing the power of collective state-led, high-impact climate action for the health and welfare of current and future generations of Americans.

UNITED STATES  
**CLIMATE  
ALLIANCE**

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

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