



# Debbie Wasserman Schultz

Chairwoman, House Appropriations Subcommittee  
Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies

## Funding Solutions to the Climate Crisis – 117<sup>th</sup> Congress

### *Key Investments*

1. Environmental Justice
2. Clean Energy
3. Sustainable Infrastructure
4. Clean Transportation
5. Disaster Mitigation
6. International Climate Resilience
7. Preparing Our Military
8. Climate-Friendly Agriculture
9. Science
10. Stop Subsidizing Pollution

Climate change is the defining issue of our time, because it affects virtually every policy area. According to the Fourth National Climate Assessment, it will cost the American economy hundreds of billions of dollars per year by the end of the century.

Municipalities have begun to spend vast sums on sustainability and adaptation measures. National security costs mount due to costlier infrastructure and climate-driven unrest. Climate change is already adversely impacting public health. The health and well-being of workers are being affected by extreme heat and other factors.

We must also recognize that communities of color are being hit hardest by climate change and pollution. These communities are often targeted by undesirable land use policies or inadequate enforcement of environmental laws, which forces them to confront environmental and public health hazards where they live, work, and play.

It is time for the Appropriations Committee, to work together with the committees of jurisdiction to double down on combating climate

change. Substantial federal investments are desperately needed to expedite the transition to clean energy and blunt the impacts already afflicting our communities – especially communities of color.

Economists, including the Chair of the Federal Reserve, widely support taking action to boost federal spending now to counteract the recessionary forces unleashed by the coronavirus and the Trump administration’s failure to manage it.

Further, these investments will pay dividends in the short and long terms. In the short term, these investments will get people to work and create jobs. In the long term, investing now will drastically reduce costs incurred by the American economy. We will also see other returns on our investment in the form of better health outcomes, more geopolitical stability, less inequality, safer coastal economies, improved agricultural yields, and more.

That is why, if elected Chair, Debbie will charge every subcommittee with fully funding efforts across the federal government to combat climate change. The Appropriations Committee will look to the Energy and Commerce Committee’s Clean Future Act, the House Natural Resources Committee’s American Public Lands and Waters Climate Solution Act, the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis’s “Solving the Climate Crisis” report, and President-elect Biden’s “Clean Energy Revolution and Environmental Justice Plan” as roadmaps. Debbie will work hard to advance the thoughtful proposals in these roadmaps and work in tandem with the authorizing committees to get things done.

Debbie will also support the President-elect’s vision to meet this moment by prioritizing both an inclusive, clean energy future and federal investment in transitional communities, creating millions of good-paying jobs and protecting our planet for generations to come.

As Chair, Debbie commits to making investments in the following items, many of which have been included in the plans mentioned above:

### ***Environmental justice as integral component of U.S. climate response – Interior, Labor-Health***

- Hiring additional EPA staff in the External Civil Rights Enforcement Office to expedite responses to Title VI environmental justice complaints
- EPA enforcement to adequately inspect polluters at a reasonable rate or properly enforce pollution statutes like the Clean Water Act
- The establishment of a new Environmental Justice Ombudsman within EPA
- CDC grants to reduce health disparities in frontline communities
- The National Urban and Community Forestry Program to fund tree-planting grants in urban environments, which counters urban heat islands
- President-elect Biden’s environmental justice proposal or any other EJ program enacted by the 117th Congress

### ***Research, development, demonstration, and deployment of clean and energy efficient technologies – Energy and Water***

- The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) and its clean energy programs, which include Solar, Wind, Geothermal, Bioenergy, Biothermal, Hydrogen, Fuel Cell and Water Power Technologies
- Energy storage to expand the durability and reliability of clean energy
- The Weatherization Assistance Program to ensure low-income and communities of color have access to clean and efficient energy consumption
- Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy to rapidly develop the new energy technologies of the future
- Modernizing our grid, facilitating the adoption of new energy sources and enhancing grid security

### ***Green and resilient infrastructure – Energy & Water, Interior, Transportation & Housing, Financial Services, Homeland Security, Labor-Health***

- The Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Funds to upgrade wastewater and drinking water systems as climate change intensifies pressure on water resources
- The USACE Levee Safety Program to protect frontline communities from natural disasters and flooding
- The Building Technologies Office within EERE to develop smarter, less wasteful, more energy efficient buildings
- GSA to retrofit federal buildings for energy efficiency
- The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and encourage HHS to direct more funding to solar energy

- The Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund so that fees can pay for resilience projects at ports and harbors
- HUD programs promoting energy efficiency upgrades and partnerships with local communities to electrify and green them
- The DOI Office of Insular Affairs to help territories invest in clean energy infrastructure, as well as the DOE Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs and DOI's Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development to help tribes invest in clean energy infrastructure
- The expansion of the clean energy workforce, which will provide plentiful, good-paying jobs

### ***Revamped, clean, electrified transportation sector – Energy & Water, Transportation & Housing***

- Sustainably repairing and expanding our roads, bridges, and airports; building a network for electric vehicles; and building a clean energy grid – all in conjunction with the Moving Forward Act once it passes
- Ambitious, big public transit projects, including the construction of a modern national high-speed rail network, new intercity passenger rail projects, and bus rapid transit
- The Vehicle Technologies Office at EERE and research into zero-emissions technologies and fuels
- Grants for facilities to manufacture clean vehicles

### ***Disaster mitigation and response programs to adapt to new climate change realities – Homeland, Agriculture, Transportation & Housing, Commerce-Justice-Science.***

- Pre-disaster and hazard mitigation grant programs at FEMA and for resilient disaster recovery
- National Flood Insurance Program mapping to improve flood risk information
- Hazardous fuels reduction to reduce the incidence of wildfires
- NOAA to research and respond to harmful algal blooms
- USFS, HUD, and FEMA programs for wildfire preparation

### ***American international leadership on climate change and international climate resilience activities – State & Foreign Operations***

- Fulfilling our international obligations to the Green Climate Fund
- Foreign aid for USAID Office of Forestry and Biodiversity
- Support for the Global Environment Facility
- Diplomatic missions to expand climate change as a priority on the world stage

### ***The U.S. military's transition to clean energy – Defense, Military Construction/Veterans Affairs, Energy & Water***

- Helping the U.S. military transition to clean energy, including through funding increases, directives in report language, and working with HASC

- Infrastructure resilience for military installations; this includes funding smart, resilient rebuilding and renovation following natural disasters
- The National Renewable Energy Laboratory to help DOD build resilient renewable energy projects at installations that withstand severe weather

### ***Sustainable, climate-friendly agriculture – Agriculture***

- Programs that incentivize farmers to farm sustainably or remove sensitive lands from production, including the Conservation Reserve Program, Conservation Stewardship Program, Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Regional Conservation Partnership Program, and others
- Research programs to come up with new, innovative ways to farm sustainably
- USDA’s Regional Climate Hubs, which connect USDA research and tools on sustainability to agricultural producers
- The Local Agriculture Market Program to support the development and expansion of local and regional food markets, which will cut emissions and encourage more sustainable agriculture
- The Rural Energy for America Program, which provides financing and grants to agricultural producers to acquire renewable energy systems or make energy efficiency improvements

### ***Science – Interior, Commerce-Justice-Science, Labor-Health, Legislative Branch***

- Research on climate science and its impacts on human and natural systems – including expanding agency grants for universities and research institutions
- Earth observation science at NOAA, NASA, and USGS to improve understanding of severe weather systems and forecasting
- The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to further explore climate change’s impacts on human health, impacts which most prominently affect low-income communities and communities of color
- NOAA to expand research on the ocean carbon cycle and blue carbon sequestration and to improve research on geoengineering
- Research efforts at NSF, NOAA, NASA, EPA, USGS, and DOE on climate science, monitoring, and modeling
- Reestablishing the congressional Office of Technology Assessment, which had provided nonpartisan scientific and technology analysis to Congress until Republicans defunded it
- Congressional support agencies like CRS, GAO, and CBO to analyze climate and science issues
- President-elect Biden’s ARPA-C proposal, a new interagency initiative focused on game-changing clean technologies

### ***Stop subsidizing pollution. No funding shall be provided for (Interior):***

- Drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
- Outer Continental Shelf leasing for fossil fuel extraction or seismic testing