

**NH Carbon Coalition  
Senator Barack Obama Response**

At this link - <http://www.carboncoalition.org/candidates/obama.php> - is a summary of statements and positions related to the benchmarks that Barack Obama has communicated to our steering committee members, volunteers and citizens in New Hampshire through the summer and fall. **To fully inform New Hampshire voters on how you will address climate change if you are elected, we invite you in your own words to share your thinking on each of these seven benchmarks.**

**WHAT ARE THE BENCHMARKS OF A COMPREHENSIVE EARLY ACTION PROGRAM?**

**Legislation for economy-wide emissions reduction:** The enactment of economy-wide legislation requiring mandatory reductions of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States. As the centerpiece of the early action plan, this legislative proposal should be aggressive, economically prudent and politically feasible.

I strongly support enacting legislation that places a hard cap on our nation's carbon emissions. I support implementation of a market-based cap-and-trade system to reduce carbon emissions by 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. I will start reducing emissions immediately in my administration, including taking aggressive steps to ensure that the federal government leads in cutting its carbon emissions. The legislation that I push in Congress will also require a 100 percent auction of carbon allowances to ensure that all polluters pay for their emissions. Some of the revenue generated will be used to support the development and deployment of clean energy, invest in energy efficiency improvements and address transition costs, including helping American workers affected by this economic transition and helping lower-income Americans afford their energy bills by expanding the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, expanding weatherization grants for low-income individuals to make their homes more energy efficient, and establishing a dedicated fund to assist low-income Americans afford higher electricity and energy bills. By responsibly reinvesting the proceeds from the carbon auction, I believe we can ensure that the U.S. economy continues to expand and that all Americans will have a stake in moving America toward a clean energy future.

**Aggressive R&D for low-carbon energy technology:** The establishment of an aggressive, well-funded and staffed research and development program to stimulate the commercialization of low and zero carbon energy technology. The program should include the establishment of a new agency to spur long-term research for transformative zero carbon energy technologies.

As president, I will also double federal R & D funding for clean energy projects and provide additional funding and loan guarantees to commercialize cellulosic biofuels and carbon capture and sequestration technology.

I am the only candidate to propose a \$10 billion per year for 5 year investment to more effectively spend federal clean energy investments through a new venture capital fund. This proposal will cut through the bureaucracy of the federal government by establishing a non-profit venture capital firm governed by some of the brightest venture capital minds in the U.S. My Clean Technologies Venture Capital Fund will be modeled on the highly-successful Central Intelligence Agency In-Q-Tel program. In-Q-Tel is a non-profit venture capital fund led by seasoned venture capital professionals to develop new intelligence technologies. The first five years of In-Q-Tel funding led to 22 new technologies being used in 40 government programs. The Clean Technologies Venture Capital Fund will focus federal money on an area currently ignored by venture capitalists – the deployment of new clean technologies beyond the research and development phase. This will help address the logjam or “Valley of Death” currently found with building the first commercial-scale advanced clean coal and cellulosic biofuel facilities.

**Federal planning for climate change impacts and response:** Issuance of a presidential directive requiring all federal agencies to consider the climate change impacts of their programs and to develop strategies to decrease exposure to climate risk in their areas of competence.

As president, I will ensure that my administration and the federal government lead the way in terms of improving energy efficiency and consumption of renewable energy. My energy plan calls for all new federal buildings to be zero-emissions by 2025 and 40 percent more efficient within the next five years. I will also place retrofitting existing federal buildings at a top priority, and seek to improve their efficiency by 25 percent within 5 years.

Currently, there is a federal goal to obtain 7.5 percent of federal government electricity demands from renewable sources by 2013. I believe that the federal government, the nation’s largest consumer of energy, must do better. I will ensure that at least 30 percent of the federal government’s electricity comes from renewable sources by 2020. I will also work to ensure that federal purchasing and planning initiatives take into account their projected carbon footprint, so we can ensure the federal government is taking responsible steps to meet these aggressive targets.

**Picking the right team to carry the initiative:** The appointment of key cabinet officials who are fully committed to implementation of the climate action plan. This includes the Secretaries of Treasury, State, Defense, Energy, Interior, Transportation, the Administrator of the EPA, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and the Chairman of the Council of Economic advisors. The plan should also include a personnel strategy that provides key agencies with the capacity to carry out the climate initiative

I will ensure that my Cabinet and all of my appointees honor the primacy of sound science in regulatory and policy decision-making, and adherence to sound science of course means a recognition that the climate change threat is real and exacerbated by human activity. I will keep political ideology out of scientific decisions in the Executive

Branch. I will also only appoint officials that are qualified to do their jobs, and aren't going to represent big industry rather than the American people while serving in my administration. As part of my bold plan to make the federal government lead on efficiency and renewable energy measures, I will also ensure that each agency is equipped to meet these targets with the proper personnel and resources.

**Strategy to mobilize support and reengage international partners:** The plan must make provisions to mobilize public and private sector support for the climate initiative. The plan must also provide for international engagement to reassert positive U.S. leadership for global action on climate change.

By outlining a specific energy policy plan and continually discussing my proposals across the country, I have already begun to work to build consensus about the need to implement a serious federal climate change policy. I have also spoken to industry leaders – including the leaders of the domestic auto industry in Detroit – about the critical need to transition to more sustainable energy practices, which will also help the American economy grow over time. I am also proud of my work in the U.S. Senate to bring together new allies, from both sides of the aisle, to champion a strong, new fuel efficiency approach. I will bring that leadership and commitment to my efforts to implement climate change

In terms of restoring American international leadership on global climate change, I was the first presidential candidate to call for creating a Global Energy Forum – a body which will include the world's top emitters from the developed and developing world. This standing body will allow all participating countries to discuss their climate-related concerns. I will also re-engage the U.S. with the post-Kyoto international climate negotiations.

I will also create a strong export program that promotes American green technologies abroad to the benefit of both U.S. businesses and workers and developing nations that are seeking to reduce their own emissions. This will ensure that as the U.S. reduces its emissions, it is working with the developing world to ensure its residents have access to non-polluting sources of energy production as well. At the same time, I will strengthen carbon sequestration and conservation efforts across the globe so the world's continued economic growth doesn't come at the expense of our mission to address global climate change and halt environment degradation.

**Reallocation of budget priorities:** A budget plan, to be submitted with the new President's alterations to the budget, which shifts budget priorities to reflect the climate initiative, including the reallocation of funds for the restoration and expansion of earth science programs so that understanding and maintaining earth's physical, ecological and atmospheric systems is once again paramount. Such an effort must be reflected in the mission and budget of the key science agencies including NASA, NOAA, USGS, and others.

I will end subsidies to oil and gas companies and use the savings to benefit America's long-term economic and energy security. I will also double funding for basic scientific research, including research for the physical sciences, across the federal government. I will also restore scientific integrity to the federal government so that ideology does not get in the way of sound policy decisions, including sound budget decisions. I am proud of my record in the Senate to oppose the Bush administration's attempts to undermine our nation's critical science research and management programs.

**Enable/encourage citizens to build efficiency and conservation in their homes and communities:** This is where real presidential leadership can play a role in having millions of citizens strive, with pride and conviction, to help our country grow in a sustainable fashion and become independent from fossil fuels.

As president, I will make energy conservation a top priority and use my position as president to communicate directly with the American people about the importance of reducing our energy consumption. I will also work with Congress to start creating a smart, digitally-connected energy grid that will help consumers produce electricity at home through solar panels or wind turbines, and be able to sell electricity back through the grid for other consumers, and help consumers reduce their energy use during peak hours when electricity is more expensive. This effort will help more Americans better manage their energy consumption. I will also create a competitive grant program to award those states and localities that take the first steps in implementing new building codes that prioritize energy efficiency, and provide a federal match for those states with leading-edge public benefits funds that support energy efficiency retrofits of existing buildings.

I will ensure that the federal government continuously updates its energy appliance standards so that more Americans have access to highly-efficient consumer products. I will also implement legislation that phases out traditional incandescent light bulbs by 2014, which will save American consumers \$6 billion per year on monthly electricity bills and will save 88 billion kilowatt hours of electricity per year.

Finally, I will train and create the workforce needed to improve our nation's energy efficiency – including expanding and incorporating green technology training into federal workforce initiatives and creating a new job corps for disconnected youth to engage in energy efficiency projects, such as weatherization, in their home communities.