



Today, we are faced with two immense energy and environmental challenges: a growing climate crisis and an increasing reliance on foreign oil that is driving up energy costs for Americans. I have a plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 80 percent from 1990 levels by 2050, cut foreign oil imports by two-thirds from projected levels by 2030, and transform our carbon-based economy into an efficient green economy that will create at least five million jobs.

Addressing global warming and moving our country toward energy independence will be **top priorities** in my administration. I will take action **within the first 100 days** of being in office.

I have a comprehensive strategy to achieve the goals I have outlined above – and it includes each of the seven benchmarks you have included in your presidential leadership agenda. I will address each of them below. I am also enclosing my complete energy agenda, which is also available on my Web site.

**Legislation for economy-wide emissions reduction:** A cornerstone of my plan is to establish a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 and to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. I will achieve this goal by maximizing our energy efficiency; creating market mechanisms to efficiently reduce greenhouse gas emissions through a cap-and-trade system; and promoting renewable, carbon-free energy sources.

**Aggressive R&D for low-carbon energy technology:** I will create a Strategic Energy Fund that will jumpstart a clean energy future by injecting \$50 billion over 10 years into research, development, and deployment of renewable energy, energy efficiency, clean coal technology, ethanol, and other homegrown biofuels. I will require oil companies to pay into this fund or increase their investment in energy technology themselves. I will also establish a national goal of producing 25 percent of our electricity from

renewable sources by 2025 and increasing production of biofuels to 60 million gallons by 2030.

**Federal planning for climate change impacts and response:** The scientific community has established beyond doubt that global warming is occurring. It is the biggest challenge we have faced in a generation – it is a challenge to our economy, to our security, to our health, and to our planet. It’s time for us to meet it with the leadership of the President and the cooperation of the government, the private sector, and all Americans. Under my plan, the federal government will set the rules and lead the way by reforming itself to meet new energy challenges. I will create a market-based cap-and-trade system that will be an overall framework for reducing greenhouse gas emission and will auction 100 percent of allowances to ensure that utilities and other companies do not obtain a windfall. The system would also provide flexibility for companies to bank, borrow, and trade allowances. The proceeds from the sale of allowances would be used to provide tax benefits for working and middle-class families and energy intensive industries, as well as incentives for energy efficiency and renewable technologies. I will increase fuel-wide economy standards to 40 miles per gallon in 2020 and 55 miles per gallon in 2030. By 2030, these tough CAFÉ standards will save consumers more than \$180 billion annually and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by more than 730 million metric tons. I will also increase federal funding for public transit. And I will establish a “Carbon Reduction Mortgage Association,” or “Connie Mae,” to help homeowners improve the energy efficiency of their homes, and I will ensure that the federal government is a leader in energy efficiency by ensuring that federal buildings built once I am in office are carbon-neutral and that housing developments meet tough energy efficiency standards.

**Picking the right team to carry the initiative:** I will create a National Energy Council modeled on the highly successful National Economic Council and the National Security Council. This new body will bring together disparate agencies throughout the federal government to ensure that they all have the same priorities for addressing global warming and are maximizing our effectiveness by coordinating and leveraging our efforts instead of duplicating. The National Energy Council will be headed by a National Energy Advisor who will report directly to the President, and will be charged with coordinating the implementation of my plan across the Executive Branch.

**Cooperation with international partners:** I will act to restore U.S. leadership in the global warming arena by playing an active role in developing a new deal to replace the Kyoto treaty, which expires in 2012. I will engage in high-level meetings with world leaders every three months if that's what it will take to hammer out a new agreement. I want to have a new pact in 2009. I will also invite the G8 nations and key developing countries to join the United States in establishing an "E8." This group would be comprised of the world's major carbon-emitting nations and would hold an annual summit devoted to international ecological and resource issues – global warming foremost among them.

**Reallocation of budget priorities:** I will create a \$50 billion Strategic Energy Fund to invest in researching, developing, and deploying alternative energy. I will also dedicate significant resources to weatherize the homes of 20 million low-income Americans, saving money for the home-owners and cutting down on our overall energy consumption. I'll devote \$1 billion per year to a "Connie Mae" that would help homeowners improve the energy efficiency of their homes, and \$1 billion annually to create a Green Building Fund to improve energy efficiency in public buildings. I will also increase federal funding for public transit by \$1.5 billion per year and invest an additional \$1 billion in intercity passenger rail systems. In all, I will invest \$15 billion annually. I will finance half of my plan with a portion of the revenues from the cap-and-trade auction. Another \$2.5 billion will come from savings from closing loopholes for oil and gas companies. And the \$5 billion Strategic Energy Fund will be financed internally by a windfall profits fee and removing special tax breaks for oil and gas companies.

**Enable/encourage citizens to build efficiency and conservation in their homes and communities:** I will empower individuals, schools, colleges, and communities to help our country address global warming by giving them tools to measure and reduce their consumption. I have issued a challenge to all Americans to sign a pledge – which is available on my Web site – to take steps in their lives to reduce energy consumption in measurable ways. In order to facilitate local efforts, I will invest in measurement tools to enable individuals and local communities to understand how much global warming pollution they are emitting and to measure the impact of their efforts to reduce their carbon footprint; in California, scientists have placed towers that measure the carbon emissions of local communities, enabling them to benchmark their progress in reducing their global warming pollution. I will also challenge colleges and schools to reduce emissions on campus and in their communities, and propose a set of awards through the Department of

Energy to recognize the most outstanding climate achievers. And I will urge people to have their towns join the more than 600 mayors who have signed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement to advance greenhouse gas reduction goals through leadership and action. Lastly, my administration will issue new “energy independence bonds” and I will invest the proceeds in energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in communities nationwide. I believe we have to enlist the American people the way we did in a previous generation for the Apollo program. We cannot sustain the current energy profile in this country. That’s why we have to act. And we will act in a way that brings the country together and lifts us up and gives us a feeling that we are, once again, reaching for the stars – only we’re going to do it right here on Earth.

My plan is based on shared responsibility. Every level of government, every part of our economy, and every single American has a role to play. And each aspect of my plan is designed with that basic principle in mind. Working together, I believe that we will succeed in tackling these challenges.

Thank you for allowing me to address these very important issues. I look forward to discussing these issues and more over the next few months. If you have any more questions about my plan, you can find more information on my Web site, [www.hillaryclinton.com](http://www.hillaryclinton.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hillary Rodham Clinton". The ink is black and the handwriting is fluid and personal.

Hillary Rodham Clinton

Date: December 28, 2007

