

# CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Governor Bill Richardson

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to write about my energy plan. I believe that this is the single most important domestic issue facing America today, and that is why I have laid out the most comprehensive, visionary policy that will halt global warming.

Here are my answers to your specific questions:

## **What are the benchmarks of a comprehensive early action program?**

### 1) Legislation for economy-wide emissions reductions:

We must dramatically reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions: 20% by 2020, 80% by 2040, and 90% by 2050. This is ten years faster than scientists say is necessary because we must lead the world, and we can't afford the possibility of backsliding and inaction. We will start with a market-based cap and trade system for greenhouse gas emissions to create incentives for the electric and industrial sectors to make significant reductions in their carbon emissions. We can afford to protect the climate. Given the risks of catastrophic climate change, we can't afford not to do it.

### 2) Aggressive R&D for low-carbon energy technology:

Yes. My plan calls for the following research and development funding. The federal government will:

- Provide \$1 billion in battery and materials research, development and demonstration in the first three years of the program.
- Support research in cellulosic ethanol and other biofuels.
- Continue supporting development of technologies for the efficient and affordable conversion of cellulosic materials, such as switchgrass, to renewable fuels and other bioproducts that displace petroleum. The research budget should phase in to \$1 billion per year for five years.

### 3) Federal Planning for climate change impacts and response

If we do not act quickly and decisively, then the worldwide impact of global climate change will be catastrophic. When I am President, we will take the necessary action, and by working together and making the necessary sacrifices, we can forestall this catastrophe.

We must nevertheless prepare for all possibilities, and I will do this by listening to what experts from the 'reality-based community' have to tell us. I will also make the FEMA-director report directly to me. I believe it was a mistake when the House and Senate voted to place FEMA inside the Department of Homeland Security. It got lost inside that

massive bureaucracy, and we saw the results of that during the Katrina disaster. This has to change.

4) Picking the right team to carry the initiative:

The past few years have shown the American people how catastrophic the results are when the President stacks the highest positions of government with unqualified cronies. I have a long record of picking the most qualified experts to advise me on the issues, and I will continue to do this when I am President.

5) Cooperation with international partners:

I believe strongly that we must work with our partners overseas if we are to combat the problem of global climate change. My plan includes working closely, bilaterally, and multilaterally with rapidly developing nations like China, Brazil, South Africa, and India to foster available new, low-carbon technologies to meet their growing energy demand.

In order to achieve this, my Administration will cooperate with the European Union, the World Bank, the Asian partnership, the relevant United Nations agencies, and our allies around the world to help finance the incremental cost of “doing it right.”

As President, I will play a leading role in international negotiations toward global warming pollution reductions around the world. Atmospheric carbon dioxide levels must be kept below 450 parts per million to prevent catastrophic climate change. The United States will negotiate with other nations toward strict, effective limits on global warming pollution in order to save the earth’s atmosphere and to avoid the disastrous impacts that scientists have predicted in the absence of sharply reduced carbon emissions.

Our technology, our policy, and our accomplishments in energy fuel-switching and energy efficiency will enable us to use market forces to push developing nations to embrace realistic reductions in their own emissions and use of newer low-carbon technologies. For instance, the world’s atmosphere cannot long endure the addition of a major conventional coal plant every week in China, and China (including its National Academy of Sciences) recognizes that global warming will affect its people and economy as drastically as it will affect most of the world. These inherently contradictory positions can be brought together in a satisfactory new policy only with U.S. involvement and Presidential leadership.

We must also finance the relatively affordable incremental cost for developing nations to adopt low-carbon energy technologies and options. My Administration will work with allies, the European Union, and international finance agencies such as the World Bank to provide financing for developing nations to adopt carbon-clean options, such as renewables and gasification of coal, instead of conventional technologies that produce large amounts of global warming pollution.

Finally, we must also groom relations with our largest oil suppliers, Mexico and Canada, which currently supply about 20 percent of our oil.

To do this, I will work with our neighbors to create the North American Energy Council: The Council will stabilize the oil and gas trade, work on a continental electrical grid, help to bring energy resources and productivity to market throughout the continent, and develop a regional system for carbon trading.

The North American Energy Council will not have the authority to intervene in any nation's affairs, but will rather be a forum to develop mutually acceptable policies to be adopted and approved by each nation's legislatures. This will accomplish several major purposes:

- Assure the long-term trade in petroleum and refined products, as well as natural gas, across borders in North America.
- Develop a continental electric grid, improving our nation's cooperation in energy and our ability to tap into cost-effective electricity resources throughout the continent, while improving management and standards across the board.
- Implement a regional carbon market, so that investments and efficiencies throughout a wider market will be represented in the energy choices made by all of our businesses, consumers, and governments.
- Focus on development of promising continental renewable energy sources, matching energy sources with population centers that may lack such resources nearby.

6) Reallocation of budget priorities:

The budget priorities of the Bush Administration have been horrendous, and they need to be changed. First, we must end the Iraq War, which has already cost some \$470 billion. Second, we must roll back the Bush tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans, while preserving those for the middle class. We also need to eliminate Cold War-era weapons systems that do nothing to actually enhance our national security in this era.

With these savings and others that I have outlined elsewhere, we must, as I have stated above, address our clean and renewable energy needs. But we must also guarantee universal healthcare coverage for all Americans, create an education system that can help

our children to thrive in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, care for our veterans, and restore fiscal discipline by balancing our federal budget.

- 7) Enable/encourage citizens to build efficiency and conservation in their homes and communities:

Efficiency is a key part of my energy plan, and I have been an efficiency advocate for years. This includes my time as Secretary of Energy, when I ordered new standards of energy efficiency for buildings and appliances.

As President, my energy plan calls for a wide array of incentives and programs to vastly improve our nation's energy efficiency. Some of these programs include:

- **Retrofits:** I will enhance incentives for homeowners and businesses to retrofit existing structures by installing solar hot water and space heating systems, adding insulation and sealing the building envelope. Similar incentives for conserving electricity and natural gas will be offered by utilities under the efficiency measures in our electric and natural gas policies.
- **Codes and regulations:** I will create code requirements, fashioned to regions of the country, to require all new construction to be 50 percent more energy efficient by 2030. I will also work closely with the building trades and state-level construction regulators on this program.
- **Incentives:** builders will be encouraged to adopt new systems such as earth-based heating and cooling, as well as community heating and cooling projects that sharply increase efficiency and reduce costs.