PRESIDENT OBAMA'S NATIONAL CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Using Existing Federal Laws and State Action to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions



Photo: NBC News

KEY FINDINGS

- Not yet on track
- Have the tools to get there
- Near term opportunities:
 - Existing power plants
 - Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)
 - Natural gas systems
 - Energy efficiency





ENERGY EMISSIONS HAVE FALLEN BUT, THIS TREND IS NOT EXPECTED TO CONTINUE





NON-ENERGY AND NON-CO₂ EMISSIONS ARE EXPECTED TO RISE

- Account for 22% of U.S. emissions
- Projected to increase 18% above 2005 levels by 2020, and 36% by 2035





The President's Climate Action Plan

- The Administration is taking steps to reduce U.S. emissions without new Congressional legislation
- Obama plans to use existing authorities granted to agencies such as DOT, DOE, & EPA
- Includes action on power plants, energy efficiency, renewables, HFCs, methane, and forests

U.S. GHG REDUCTIONS USING EXISTING FEDERAL AUTHORITIES





NEAR-TERM OPPORTUNITIES

- Existing power plants
- Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)
- Natural gas systems
- Energy efficiency

POWER PLANTS

 1/3 U.S. GHG emissions

Largest potential source of reductions

EPA tasked with establishing GHG emissions standards for existing power plants, and finalizing standards for new plants

COMPLIANCE OPTIONS FOR 111(d)

- On-site reductions through:
 - Efficiency improvements
 - Fuel-switching or co-firing
 - Utilization of waste heat
 - Carbon capture and storage
- Off-site reductions through:
 - Improved dispatch
 - New low and zero-carbon generation
 - Demand-side efficiency
 - Combined heat and power
- Does not allow for out-of-sector reductions (e.g., offsets)

HFCs

- Emissions are on the rise as HCFCs are phased out
- Second largest potential source of reductions in 2020
- U.S. working to address through amendments to Montreal Protocol
- EPA to reduce HFCs using SNAP program under the Clean Air Act

NATURAL GAS SYSTEMS

- 4% total emissions
- Reductions expected due to new air pollution standards
- More is possible if EPA sets standards for methane emissions
- President's plan calls for interagency working group on methane, but more is needed

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- Appliance and equipment standards set by DOE
- Can reduce electricity demand by 11% in 2035
- Additional potential in the industrial sector

STATE LEADERSHIP

- 29 states with renewable standards
 - 20 states with energy efficiency standards
- 10 states with cap and trade
- Can implement many of the same policies as federal agencies
 - Examine additional transportation, end-use efficiency, and renewable measures

STATES CAN COMPLEMENT FEDERAL ACTIONS, but alone cannot reduce emissions 17 percent below 2005 levels





THANK YOU

Kristin Meek Associate kmeek@wri.org

Michael Obeiter Senior Associate mobeiter@wri.org

POWER PLANTS



HFC CONSUMPTION



Photo Peter Morgan

Transportation

Administration set historic standards
Potential in later years for additional reductions

STATES ALONE CANNOT REDUCE EMISSIONS 17 PERCENT BELOW 2005 LEVELS





FIGURE S-6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions from State Action, as a percent of total reductions from state actions

- Nitric & Adipic Acid
- Coal Mining
- Landfills
- Natural Gas Systems
- Refineries
- Manufacturing
- Natural Gas Efficiency Programs
- Building Codes (natural gas only)
- VMT Reduction & Diversity in Fuel Mix
- Medium-& Heavy-Duty
- Light-Duty Cars & Truck
- Power Plants



State-level emissions reductions are largely from the power sector





RENEWABLE GENERATION

States with targets: States responsible for 25-75% of electricity consumption increase their renewable generation by 1% per year beyond existing target

States without targets:

 States responsible for 10-50% of electricity consumption increase renewable generation by 0.5% per year starting in 2015