Policy Toolkit

A guide to climate policy

The Climate Initiative

Climate Policy

Introduction

Hello!

My name is Javan Santos and I am the Policy Manager for The Climate Initiative. Through these policy toolkits, I hope to show youth that policy can be simple and accessible for young people who are passionate about making change in their community. I started writing policy when I was in high school and have worked in policy for almost seven years now. The experience and knowledge from those years are poured into these toolkits for youth to use to make a difference in climate advocacy. Whether you are hoping to analyze policy, talk to a policymaker, or learn about what it takes to turn an idea into a law, I hope that you will learn something helpful in the resources these toolkits provide.

After you learn the fundamentals of navigating policy, this toolkit also comes with a run down of several different state-specific policy tools. In it, you'll find a history of climate policy in your state, legislators that are supportive of climate policy according to organizations within your state, and other useful information. Climate advocacy is not easy, and there is so much at stake for youth if nothing is done. My hope is that these toolkits will provide you all you need to make much needed change in your state and your community!

If you have any questions or thoughts on how we at The Climate Initiative can help your advocacy, please feel free to reach out to me at: javan@theclimateinitiative.org

Javan

Javan Santos
Policy Manager

Climate Policy

Climate change is an issue that can be seen in almost every aspect of daily life. Not only is it an environmental issue, it is an issue that affects housing, public health, and even the economy. Learning about a few examples of climate change policies can help you understand the types of policies that can help mitigate climate change.

One great way to see how policy changes affect climate change is Climate Interactive's En-Roads Model. This resource can provide an interesting perspective on just what type of change needs to be done to prevent permanent damage due to climate change. Developed by The Climate Initiative's Advisory Council member John Sterman, feel free to interact with the tool below and see just how much impact certain policies have on climate change.

EN-ROADS ⬅ **Click here!**

Examples of Climate Policy

Carbon Tax

- A policy stating that any person, family, or corporation who contributes to carbon emissions must pay a tax per ton of carbon they emit. Usually $5-25 per ton based on previous policies.

- Helps mitigate climate change by incentivizing electrification and decarbonizing industries to avoid the carbon tax while raising government revenues to help address climate change.

- Mostly affects energy intensive industries and lower income households who cannot afford to electrify their vehicles and appliances (however, tax revenues could be returned to low income communities through rebates).

Gas Station Ban

- A ban that prevents the development of new gas stations, as well as the maintenance or expansion of currently open gas stations.

- Possible exception for the transition to charging stations, as well as for the installation of hydrogen fueling stations.

- Has only been successfully passed in one jurisdiction so far (Petaluma, CA), but is an up and coming policy push.

- Helps mitigate climate change by taking away the infrastructure that perpetuates carbon emissions and while promoting greener alternatives.

Carbon Neutral Retirement Investments

- Helps mitigate climate change by not allowing retirement investments in businesses that create carbon emissions.

- Maine recently passed a law that would require residents retirement funds to only invest in carbon neutral businesses and industries.

- Some people may worry that this policy limits their retirement growth because they have fewer investment options, but carbon neutral investment options help carbon neutral businesses grow and allow our economy to wean off investing in carbon emitting industries.

TCI

Policy Toolkit Survey

Thank you for taking the time to download and utilize one, or all, of our TCI Policy Toolkits!

To ensure that these Policy Toolkits are meeting your needs, please leave any and all feedback that you can to help improve our toolkit offering.

Please take a few minutes to complete a quick survey. You will be entered into our monthly eco-merch giveaway while completing the survey!

[Click here to take the survey](#)

Thank you!

Write it. Speak it. Show it.

Share your climate policy projects *for* the world.

Your story of change will inspire other youth to take meaningful climate action.

In connection with TCI programs, tools, and events, Stories of Change are shaping the way youth and communities across the nation and beyond are taking action on climate change.

We want to hear how utilizing our Toolkits has impacted your climate journey. Your story can encourage other youth to take action.

Click HERE for more information and to submit your Story of Change!