

Policy Toolkit

A guide to climate policy



**The
Climate
Initiative**

Montana

Introduction

Hello!

My name is Alex Wicks and I am the Montana policy intern for The Climate Initiative. I have my bachelors degree in Political Science from The University of Montana. I have always been extremely passionate about the environment ever since I was a little girl. To me, the importance of the environment is non-negotiable and should be the top priority. Unfortunately, not everybody sees it this way, this is why we need to push for climate policy at both state and federal levels. The purpose of this Toolkit is to give the resources that are needed to make and see change in the state of Montana. Anyone is capable of making a change, you just have to take the initiative to do so.

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



Alex Wicks
Montana Policy Intern



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Montana Policy Landscape

Montana is known for its agriculture, ranching, mining, and its endless natural beauty. Montana has historically been rich in natural resources, such as copper, gold, and coal, which is why the state has coined the nickname the treasure state. Although it is one of the least regulated states in terms of climate policy, it has an abundance of natural resources and has the potential as a state to become a huge climate change leader.

Montana Environmental Quality Council 2021-2022

- The Montana Environmental Quality Council (EQC) provides advice and suggestions to the governor and other legislators on whether specific actions and requirements are being met, and whether policies need to be created to meet the requirements. This council was created by the 1971 Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA).
- Consists of 17 members: 6 senators; 6 representatives; 4 public members; and 1 non voting member.
- Duties are as followed as listed in the Montana Code Annotated (MCA):
 - Keep track of trends and conditions in the environment
 - Recommend policies to the governor and legislature on how to improve environmental quality
 - Keep track of changes in the natural environment
 - Analyze environmental legislative proposals
 - Analyze programs throughout the state in regards to environmental agencies

Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee

- “The Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee (ETIC) has broad oversight over a range of energy and telecommunication-related topics in Montana. The committee conducts interim studies as assigned by the Legislative Council or selected by members and reviews the administrative rules proposed by the Department of Public Service Regulation (DPSR) and the Public Service Commission (PSC).”
- Consists of 10 members: 4 senators and 6 representatives

Climate Change Advisory Committee (CCAC)

- Established by former Governor Brian Schweitzer
- Formed to produce a state climate mitigation action plan
- Created the Montana Climate Change Action Plan
 - Goal was to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and conserve energy within the economy
 - Create Science Advisory Panel

Montana Climate Solutions Plan 2020

- This plan was created by former Montana Governor Steve Bullock in August of 2020. The main goal of this plan is to properly prepare for expected changes that will come to our state because of climate change. Bullock created the Montana Climate Solutions Council in 2019, through executive order 8-2019, to write up this plan. This plan can be read in more detail at the link provided below.
- The main goals of this plan:
 - Preparing Montanans for the changes to the environment
 - Ensure natural resources continue to sustain the communities.
 - Climate adaptation
 - 1. Awareness, 2. Assessment, 3. Planning, 4. Implementation, and 5. Monitoring.
 - Available science and knowledge resources for climate change
 - Implementing strategies on reducing greenhouse gas emissions
 - By 2035, greenhouse gas neutrality with electricity
 - By 2050, neutrality across the economy
 - Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Strategies Committee
 - Formulate strategies to achieve goals outlined by Gov. Bullock.
 - Decarbonization and innovation
 - Establish innovation clusters to achieve goals of greenhouse gas emission neutrality.

Currently Enacted Laws

The Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA).

- 2019 revision
- “Declare a state policy that will encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between humans and their environment”
- Encourage economic change and development that is in favor of the environment.
- Encourage better decisions for people and the environment in Montana through identifying environmental impacts.
- Created the Environmental Quality Council

Regressive Climate Policies Currently Enacted

S.B. 257 - Prohibits carbons fees, taxation, and penalties (2021).

- Senator Jason Small (R.)
- Prohibits local governments from imposing carbon penalties, fees, or taxes

H.B. 576 - Repeal the renewable portfolio standard (2021).

- Rep. Jerry Schillinger (R.)
- Removes requirements for the state of Montana to accelerate their use of renewable energy

Bills Not Enacted: Failed

H.B. 193 - Montana Climate Action Act (2019).

- Rep. Mary Ann Dunwell (D)
- Would have established a carbon tax and distribute revenue
- Would have required carbon emissions to be reduced by 25% the 2005 levels by 2035 and by 50% of the 2005 levels by 2050.

H.B. 265 - Phase out use of styrofoam in food-related businesses (2021).

- Rep. Marilyn Marler (D)
- Would have banned the use of styrofoam containers in food establishments starting in 2024.
- Would have required a fee for any exemption that was requested.

S.B. 190 - Establish monitoring and reporting requirements for greenhouse gas emissions (2017).

- Senator Mike Phillips (D)
- Would have required the Board of Environmental review to adopt rules and fees to report and quantify greenhouse gas emissions.
- Would have required a plan from the board on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in Montana.

Montana Climate Leaders

Understanding the leaders of your state and their role in the government is another important thing to learn in order to be a great climate advocate. By learning who are the change makers in your government, you can understand who to contact and who are most likely to support you in your climate policy.

Legislative Branch

Both Montana state senators and representatives must be at least 18 years old and a U.S. Citizen. They are required to have resided in Montana for at least a year before the general election and reside in the county (and district) for at least 6 months before the general election.

Governor Greg Gianforte (R) Governor since 2021

Lieutenant Governor Kristen Juras (R) Lieutenant Governor since 2021

Montana Senate:

- 50 Senators
- 31 Republicans
- 19 Democrats
- 1 seat vacant
- President of the Senate: Mark Blasdel (R)
- President Pro Tempore Jason Ellsworth (R)
- Each senator elected on 4 year term

Montana House of Representatives:

- 100 House Representatives
- 67 Republicans
- 33 Democrats
- Speaker of the House Wylie Galt (R)
- Each representative is elected on a two year term



Executive Branch

Elected Executive Officials:

- Governor Greg Gianforte (R)
- Lieutenant Governor Kristen Juras (R)
- Attorney General Austin Knudsen (R)
- Secretary of State Christi Jacobsen (R)
- State Auditor Troy Downing (R)
- Elsie Arntzen (R)

Judicial Branch

The Judicial Branch in Montana consists of:

- The Supreme Court, which has a Chief Justice and six Associate Justices
- The District Courts
- The Workers' Compensation Court
- The Water Court
- The Courts of Limited Jurisdiction, which include Justice Courts, Municipal Courts and City Courts



Key Climate Officials

These climate leaders were identified using the [Montana Environmental Information Center \(MEIC\)](#), [Montana Conservation Voters \(MCV\)](#) scorecards, and the National Environmental scorecard from LCV.

- Includes legislatures that have 90% and up score for MEIC and includes their score for MCV.

State Legislators and their Track Records:

- Sen. Carlie Boland (D - Great Falls)
 - 100% (2021) MEIC
 - 100% lifetime MCV
- Sen. Ellie Boldman (D - Missoula)
 - 100% (2021) MEIC
 - 100% lifetime MCV
- Sen. Jill Cohenour (D - East Helena)
 - Minority Leader
 - 100% (2021) MEIC
 - 99% lifetime MCV
- Sen. Janet Ellis (D - Helena)
 - 100% (2021) MEIC
 - 100% lifetime MCV
- Sen. Pat Flowers (D - Belgrade)
 - Minority Whip
 - 100% (2021) MEIC
 - 100% lifetime MCV
- Sen. Mike Fox (D - Hays)
 - 100% (2021) MEIC
 - 100% lifetime MCV

Key Climate Officials Cont.

State Legislators and their Track Records:

- Sen. Jen Gross (D - Billings)
 - 100% (2021) MEIC
 - 100% lifetime MCV
- Sen. Edith McClafferty (D - Butte)
 - 93% (2021)
 - 88% lifetime
- Sen. Mary McNally (D - Billings)
 - 93% (2021)
 - 100% lifetime
- Sen. Shannon O'Brien (D - Missoula)
 - 100% (2021)
 - 100% lifetime
- Sen. Jennifer Pomnichowski (D - Bozeman)
 - Minority Whip
 - 100% (2021)
 - 100% lifetime
- Sen. Christopher Pope (D - Bozeman)
 - 100% (2021)
 - 96% lifetime
- Sen. Diane Sands (D - Missoula)
 - Minority Whip
 - 100% (2021)
 - 99% lifetime
- Sen. Susan Webber (D - Browning)
 - 100% (2021)
 - 100% lifetime

Key Climate Officials Cont.

State Legislators and their Track Records:

- Representative Kim Abbott (D - Helena)
 - Minority Leader
 - 100% (2021)
 - 100% lifetime
- Rep. Laurie Bishop (D - Livingston)
 - Minority Whip
 - 100% (2021)
 - 100% lifetime
- Rep. Alice Buckley (D - Bozeman)
 - 100% (2021)
 - 100% lifetime
- Rep. Mary Caferro (D - Helena)
 - 93% (2021)
 - 91% lifetime
- Rep. Willis Curdy (D- Missoula)
 - 100% (2021)
 - 100% lifetime
- Rep. Mary Ann Dunwell (D - Helena)
 - 100% (2021)
 - 100% lifetime
- Rep. Robert Farris-Olsen (D - Helena)
 - 100% (2021)
 - 100% lifetime
- Rep. Dave Fern (D - Whitefish)
 - 93% (2021)
 - 100% lifetime

Key Climate Officials Cont.

State Legislators and their Track Records:

- Rep. Tom France (D - Missoula)
 - 100% (2021)
 - 100% lifetime
- Rep. Moffie Funk (D - Helena)
 - 100% (2021)
 - 98% lifetime
- Rep. Jim Hamilton (D - Bozeman)
 - 100% (2021)
 - 100% lifetime
- Rep. Denise Hayman (D - Bozeman)
 - 100% (2021)
 - 100% lifetime
- Rep. Jessica Karjala (D - Billings)
 - 100% (2021)
 - 100% lifetime
- Rep. Kathy Kelker (D - Billings)
 - 93% (2021)
 - 97% lifetime
- Rep. Connie Keogh (D - Missoula)
 - 100% (2021)
 - 100% lifetime
- Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter (D - Billings)
 - 93% (2021)
 - 100% lifetime

Key Climate Officials Cont.

State Legislators and their Track Records:

- Rep. Kelly Kortum (D - Bozeman)
 - 100% (2021)
 - 100% lifetime
- Rep. Marilyn Marler (D - Missoula)
 - Minority Caucus Chair
 - 100% (2021)
 - 100% lifetime
- Rep. Andrea Olsen (D - Missoula)
 - 100% (2021)
 - 97% lifetime
- Rep. Tyson Running Wolf (D - Browning)
 - Minority Whip
 - 93% (2021)
 - 100% lifetime
- Rep. Ed Stafman (D - Bozeman)
 - 100% (2021)
 - 100% lifetime
- Rep. Sharon Stewart-Peregoy (D - Crow Agency)
 - 100% (2021)
 - 90% lifetime
- Rep. Katie Sullivan (D - Missoula)
 - 100% (2021)
 - 100% lifetime
- Rep. Danny Tenenbaum (D - Missoula)
 - 100% (2021)
 - 100% lifetime

Key Climate Officials Cont.

State Legislators and their Track Records:

- Rep. Mark Thane (D - Missoula)
 - 100% (2021)
 - 100% lifetime
- Rep. Marvin Weatherwax (D - Browning)
 - 100% (2021)
 - 94% lifetime
- Rep. Rynalea Whiteman Pena (D - Lame Deer)
 - 100% (2021)
 - 100% lifetime
- Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy (D - Box Elder)
 - 100% (2021)
 - 83% lifetime

Key Climate Organizations

Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)

Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Montana Conservation Voters (MCV)

Cottonwood Environmental Law Center

Environment Montana

Eco Montana



Montana State Policy History

This section will provide some of the state's history to both policies that help mitigate and policies that perpetuate the climate crisis. It's important to understand both to inform your climate advocacy for the state of Montana.



Berkeley Pit

- The Berkeley Pit is located in Butte Montana. The pit used to be the location of an open copper mine. The pit is now filled with heavy metals and other toxic chemicals. These chemicals and metals filled the area after the pit closed in 1982, resulting from the pumps being shut off. These metals and chemicals are extremely toxic and dangerous to any form of life.

Executive Order 8-2019

- Created the Montana Climate Solutions Plan of 2020 which then created the Montana Climate Solutions Council by former governor Steve Bullock
- Montana joined the US climate alliance

Montana Climate Change Action Plan (2007)

- Former Governor Brian Schweitzer
- The effects that global warming has on the economy, environment, and quality of life for Montana
- Climate Change Advisory Committee (CCAC)
 - The CCAC created the Montana Climate Change Action Plan
 - Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and conserve energy within the economy

"This Is The Year Montana Decides How To Replace Coal"

- Closing of Montana coal plants
- Looks at different pathways Montana can take to move to clean energy

Montana greenhouse gas inventory and reference case projections (2007)

- Projections for greenhouse gas emissions between 1990 and 2020

Bill Guide

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 8888①
2 INTRODUCED BY SMITH②
3 BY REQUEST OF THE MONTANA ARTS COUNCIL③
4
5 ① A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE POSITION OF STATE TROUBADOUR;
6 PROVIDING FOR THE NOMINATION, APPOINTMENT, AND TERM OF THE STATE TROUBADOUR;
7 AMENDING SECTION 22-1-206, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."
8
9 ② BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
10
11 ③ Section 1. Section 22-1-206, MCA, is amended to read:
12 **22-2-106. Council duties.** The council shall:
13 (1) encourage the study and presentation of the arts and stimulate public participation in the arts;
14 (2) cooperate with public and private institutions engaged within the state in artistic and cultural activities,
15 including but not limited to ~~music, theater, dance~~ the performing arts, painting, sculpture, architecture, and allied
16 arts and crafts, and make recommendations concerning methods to encourage participation in and appreciation
17 of the arts to meet the legitimate needs and aspirations of persons in all parts of the state;
18 (3) as required under 2-15-242, nominate three individuals to serve as the state poet laureate and provide
19 the list of nominees to the governor; and
20 (4) as required under [section 2], nominate three individuals to serve as the state troubadour and provide
21 the list of nominees to the governor."
22 ④ NEW SECTION. Section 2. State troubadour. (1) There is a state troubadour.
23 (2) Within 30 days prior to the expiration of the state troubadour's term of appointment or within 30 days
24 after a vacancy in the position occurs, the Montana arts council established in 22-2-101 shall nominate three
25 individuals to be the state troubadour. The Montana arts council shall provide the list of nominees to the governor
26 who shall, within 30 days after receiving the list of nominees, appoint the state troubadour from among the
27 individuals named on the list.
28 (3) The individual named by the governor as the state troubadour shall serve for a term of 2 years.
29 ⑤ NEW SECTION. Section 3. Effective date. [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

1. Bill Number

Reflects whether a bill originated in the House (House Bill) or Senate (Senate Bill) as well as the numerical order in which the bill was introduced.

2. Sponsors

The legislator who introduces a bill.

3. By Request Line

By rule, a bill that is proposed by a legislative committee or is introduced by request of a state agency must include a "by request" line.

4. Title

Must clearly summarize the contents of the bill. Also, must list all amended or repealed MCA sections.

5. Enacting Clause

Prescribed by Law.

6. Amendatory Material

A section of a bill that amends current law. In an amendatory material section, material proposed to be deleted is shown as stricken through (e.g., music, theater, dance) while material proposed to be added is shown as underlined (e.g., the performing arts). Material shown as underlined and in all capital letters (with the exception of the phrase NEW SECTION) reflects amendments to a bill.

7. New Material

If a bill includes amendatory material as described above, any section of that bill that does not amend the MCA (Montana Code Annotated), Session Laws, the Constitution, or Administrative Rules of Montana must be designated a "NEW SECTION". A "NEW SECTION" may be proposing to create new law in an area not covered by present statutes.

8. Effective Date

By law, unless an effective date section is included that states otherwise, every statute passed and approved during a regular legislative session takes effect on the following October 1; exceptions include appropriation for public funds for public purposes, which takes effect on the following July 1, and taxation of or imposition of a fee on motor vehicles, which takes effect on the following January 1. Any proposed effective date that falls outside of these dates must be included in the bill.



[Please click here to be taken to a more detailed bill breakdown from the state of Montana!](#)

Montana City & County Climate Change Policies

Climate change policy does not only happen on the national or state level, it also happens on the local level! Though smaller in scale, the local level can be the best chance to have direct conversations, and see the impacts of climate change in your community. Knowing how your local governments are set up and ways local leaders seek to mitigate climate change is another great tool in your climate advocacy.

Montana consists of 56 counties, with the largest cities being Billings (Yellowstone County), Missoula (Missoula County), and Great Falls (Cascade County).

Missoula County

- Missoula County has committed to address climate change through the Missoula County Sustainability Program which was created in 2017.
 - Missoula County and the city of Missoula committed to 100% clean electricity by 2030, specifically in the Missoula urban area.
 - Missoula County partnered with [Climate Smart Missoula](#) and Missoula itself to create [Climate Ready Missoula](#). This is a plan to prepare for impacts that climate change will bring.
 - Carbon neutrality within Missoula county by 2035.
 - Missoula County partnered with Climate Smart Missoula and Missoula itself again and created the [Buildings 4 the Future](#). This is a plan to help Missoula create buildings and homes more healthy, affordable, comfortable, and energy efficient.
 - [Electrify Missoula](#) was launched to help move Missoula away from fossil fuels and towards cleaner energy.
- Missoula County has also made it easier for residents to obtain residential solar energy systems.
- [Sustainability and Community Resiliency | Missoula County, MT](#)

Bozeman

- Climate Plan Guiding Principles
 - Adopting bold targets for emissions reduction and renewable energy.
 - 26% emissions reduction by 2025
 - 100% net clean electricity by 2030
 - Carbon neutral by 2050
- Seeking innovative, actionable solutions to mitigate climate change.
 - 6 focus areas
 - Healthy, Adaptive and Efficient Buildings
 - Responsible and Reliable Clean Energy Supply
 - Vibrant and Resilient Neighborhoods
 - Diverse and Accessible Transportation Options
 - Comprehensive and Sustainable Waste Reduction
 - Regenerative Green space, Food Systems and Natural Environment
- Weaving sustainability and resilience into decision-making processes.
- Pursuing partnerships with other municipalities and our utility provider.
- Inviting all Bozeman residents to join us, including current and future leaders

Big Horn County

- Reduce energy consumption within the county.
- Big Horn County Energy Efficiency Plan

Glacier County

- Dedicated to reducing emissions, preparing for environmental changes, and educating the community on how to reduce their negative impact and how the future climate changes will impact their lives.
- Climate Smart Glacier Country

Ravalli County - Bitterroot Valley

- Educate on climate and the future changes
- Advocate for climate change
- Mitigate future changes and reduce the impact of the community negatively affecting climate
- Bitterroot Climate Action Group

Glen Falls

- Dedicated to becoming a clean energy community through conservation and clean energy usage.
- Citizens for Clean Energy (CCE)

Helena, state Capitol

- Reduce negative contributions to climate change
- Prepare and education community on impacts of climate change
- Resilient Helena
- Helena Climate Action Plan 2009

Butte

- Protect Public Health
- Grow green energy
- Safeguard natural resources
- Preserve critical watersheds
- Resilient Butte

Policy Toolkit Survey

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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.](#)

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