

# ENHANCING FEDERAL CLIMATE STRATEGIES - OVERVIEW

**Overview:** At the federal level we need to expand the ways we address climate change across all policy areas. The Federal Government, from its earliest formation, has played a large role in shaping places - spatially, economically, culturally, racially etc. The built environment and socio-economic systems of the resulting places in turn have varying climate impacts. As federal agencies integrate climate driven policies, those policies must recognize past wrongs to our Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) communities and center on climate justice and systemic change. **PLACE Initiative** teaches the importance of urbanism's role as a central and integral piece of the climate change action era and provide contextual solutions and analysis for future climate driven policy.

## EXECUTIVE BRANCH ACTIONS

### A. HOUSING

#### A.1 - DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD)

In these times of glaring inequality and rampant inflation in housing costs, make the systemic change away from promoting real estate appreciation through tax policy to treating housing as a social good rather than a commodity to be bought and sold for a profit; instead focus on funding housing that promotes security, equity and legacy.

#### A.2 - DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY

Recognizing the fact that there is no federal agency and its bureaus whose actions have done more to create the housing crisis and gross inequality in BIPOC wealth, work with Congress on systemic change in our tax policy and the huge federal-backed mortgage system and provide the financial tools to support a just transition to complete, equitable, and sustainable communities.

#### A.3 - CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU (CFPB)

As the least entrenched and seemingly most progressive of all agencies dealing with housing, lead the way to a system of publicly financed housing cooperatives and help consumers purchase a share

#### A.4 - THE FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY (FHFA)

Since FHFA was established by the **Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 (HERA)** to be responsible for the effective supervision, regulation, and housing mission oversight of **Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac (the Enterprises)** and the **Federal Home Loan Bank System**, it must recognize the role of the entities it oversees in creating the commodification and financialization of housing and seek to either transform them or abolish them over the long term.

#### A.5 - DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA)

Focus on supporting our veterans to find opportunities to live and participate meaningfully in 15-minute communities, and to support their equitable and sustainable build-out.



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## A.6 - SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (SEC)

Focus on democratizing access to investment tools, especially those that are supportive of building and operating equitable, sustainable communities.

## A.7 - FEDERAL RESERVE

Develop incentives that induce small, local banks to prioritize lending for Main Street investments--not just real estate--so that we can have healthy, vibrant communities with strong neighborhood-serving businesses.

## A.8 - OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET (OMB)

Ensure that measures of urbanism like walkability, transit, and bicycling/micro-mobility modes are included in screening federal expenditures of every agency to create and sustain walkable communities as a part of a national commitment to living in 15-minute inclusive neighborhoods.

## B. WALKABILITY / LIVABILITY

### B.1 - DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOT)

Transition to a carbon-free transportation system including walkable 15-minute neighborhoods. Seek to lower VMT by roughly 1/3 nationwide to ensure that demand for energy can be met during the coming transition decades without exceeding our carbon budget.

### B.2 - DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (ED)

Transition away from credentialism and car-oriented mega-schools to a focus on providing students with education on how to be effective and contributing members of their community, which includes walkable/bikeable neighborhood scale facilities that contribute to the success of individuals and communities.

### B.3 - DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS)

*(Including the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)).*

Focus on supporting the resettling of climate migrants and refugees in receiver communities that are walkable, equitable, and inclusive and less prone to the flooding, drought, wildfires, hurricanes, sea level rise and other forces of nature.

### B.4 - DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES (HHS)

Prioritize a transition to healthier communities that facilitate walking, biking, and transit for most daily trips through understanding how the design of the built environment creates automobile-dependent sedentary lifestyle that produces obesity and other negative health impacts.



## C. ENVIRONMENT & RURAL

### C.1 - ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)

Focus on regulating carbon and supporting the transition to a carbon-free economy, while supporting the development of 15-minute communities that are equitable, sustainable, and healthy. Ensure that all parts of society--communities, individuals, businesses, and state, local and tribal governments--have access to tools to effectively participate in managing human health and environmental risks to their air, land and water.

### C.2 - DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

Focus on transitioning rural communities away from petroleum-intensive practices, and towards activities that sequester carbon and allow for rural life within small walkable communities, rather than requiring rural residents to live an auto-dependent lifestyle.

### C.3 - DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR (DOI)

*(Including National Park Service Preservation Office (NPS))*

Focus on working with nature in sequestering carbon, restoring habitat, and working with Native Americans to provide justice for past harms and an equitable path forward. NPS PO must also develop and enforce race and equity criteria re: historic preservation.

### C.4 - DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (DOE)

Focus on transitioning the grid from a centralized, largely fossil-fuel powered supplier of energy from producers to consumers, to a distributed system wholly reliant on renewable power with built-in redundancy that is resilient to the myriad threats posed to it by climate change, and is fully supportive of every location with a meter potentially consuming, producing, and storing energy.

## D. ECONOMIC

### D.1 - DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

*(Including National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Weather Service (NWS), and U.S. Census Bureau)*

Considering its role in data collection and management via NOAA, NWS, US Census and other bureaus and its role in fostering innovation by setting standards and conducting foundational research and development, Commerce should undertake initiatives to communicate and warn about the dangers of climate change, increase equity, and support the transition to carbon-free communities.

### D.2 - DEPARTMENT OF LABOR (DOL)

Focus on ensuring that labor is protected and supported in living in and building 15-minute communities that are equitable, sustainable, and healthy. . Reinvigorate antitrust enforcement and policy, strengthen merger policy, and break up Amazon and other tech giants in order to renew the commercial corridors of our neighborhoods and communities.



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## D.3 - SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (SBA)

Help to promote and finance small business owners to create/recreate vibrant commercial districts and 15-minute neighborhoods--prioritizing BIPOC communities in a just transition to become/retain such neighborhoods as proposed in **President Biden's initiative to narrow the racial wealth gap.**

## E.4 - NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION (NASA)

Since NASA satellites monitor everything from sea level to pollution to gravity shifts due to melting ice NASA should redouble its climate efforts with a focus on the safety of existing communities--with a focus on areas with the greatest number of BIPOC communities.

## E. INTERNATIONAL / OTHER

### E.1 - DEPARTMENT OF STATE (STATE)

Focus on coordinating domestic and international efforts to grow the communities we need while taking the actions we must to adapt to a changing world and deal with the consequences that are already baked into the system.

### E.2 - DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DOD)

Transition from providing a support role to the global extraction and transportation of fossil fuels, to providing crisis response and humanitarian assistance to help where needed as the world's climate continues to be more chaotic.

### E.3 - DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ)

Support equity and inclusivity--especially BIPOC voting rights--in compact, walkable communities where all are free from police brutality.

## LEGISLATIVE BRANCH ACTIONS

### (US) HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE

Focus on transitioning to a post-carbon economy that centers on climate justice and reducing demand for fossil fuels through funding redevelopment to compact, dense, walkable communities. Commit to, fund, and deliver on commitments to reduce GHG emissions to zero by 2050, with a 50% reduction from 1990 by 2030, and an 80% reduction by 2040. Focus on restoring the lands and waters of the United States to repair the damage done by decades of industrialization and suburbanization, and on restoring the communities of America to repair the damage done by centuries of racism and top-down capitalism, by enabling community-supportive models that better balance capitalism's need for profit with the needs of people.



## RESOURCES

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