

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ADAPTATION PROFESSIONALS

Instructions

The purpose of this toolkit is to make it as easy as possible for you to contact your representatives to advocate for inclusion of climate change adaptation measures in public policy decisions. Additionally, by distributing this toolkit as widely as possible, ASAP aims to help our community speak with a unified voice, particularly with regard to centering climate action in justice and equity.

This toolkit contains:

- [ASAP Top Public Policy Messages](#) which can be used to guide any type of message you send.
- [Phone Script](#) and [Email Template](#) for writing or calling your representatives. Note: calling your representatives is often the most impactful form of outreach.
- [Social Media Messages](#) which can be particularly impactful if you have a large social media following.

ASAP is currently recommending that you contact [your own representatives](#) with any of the messages contained in this toolkit. We are also recommending that you contact [members of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure](#) with infrastructure-related messages. This guidance will be updated weekly as we learn more about how best to direct our outreach.

House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

Leadership:

- Chair: Peter DeFazio (Democrat, Oregon, 4th district)
- Ranking member: Sam Graves (Republican, Missouri, 6th district)

Committee members:

Majority (Democrats)	Minority (Republicans)
• Eleanor Holmes Norton, DC • Eddie Bernice Johnson, TX • Rick Larsen, WA • Grace F. Napolitano, CA • Daniel Lipinski, IL • Steve Cohen, TN • Albio Sires, NJ • John Garamendi, CA • Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr., GA • André Carson, IN	• Don Young, AK • Eric A. "Rick" Crawford, AR • Bob Gibbs, OH • Daniel Webster, FL • Thomas Massie, KY • Scott Perry, PA • Rodney Davis, IL • Rob Woodall, GA • John Katko, NY • Brian Babin, TX • Garret Graves, LA

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• Dina Titus, NV • Sean Patrick Maloney, NY • Jared Huffman, CA • Julia Brownley, CA • Frederica S. Wilson, FL • Donald M. Payne, Jr., NJ • Alan S. Lowenthal, CA • Mark DeSaulnier, CA • Stacey E. Plaskett, VI • Stephen F. Lynch, MA • Salud O. Carbajal, CA, Vice Chair • Anthony G. Brown, MD • Adriano Espaillat, NY • Tom Malinowski, NJ • Greg Stanton, AZ • Debbie Mucarsel-Powell, FL • Lizzie Fletcher, TX • Colin Z. Allred, TX • Sharice Davids, KS • Abby Finkenauer, IA • Jesús G. "Chuy" García, IL • Antonio Delgado, NY • Chris Pappas, NH • Angie Craig, MN • Harley Rouda, CA • Conor Lamb, PA	• David Rouzer, NC • Mike Bost, IL • Randy K. Weber, Sr., TX • Doug LaMalfa, CA • Bruce Westerman, AR • Lloyd Smucker, PA • Paul Mitchell, MI • Brian J. Mast, FL • Mike Gallagher, WI • Gary J. Palmer, AL • Brian K. Fitzpatrick, PA • Jenniffer González-Colón, PR • Troy Balderson, OH • Ross Spano, FL • Pete Stauber, MN • Carol D. Miller, WV • Greg Pence, IN
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Senate Environment and Public Works (can contact with infrastructure related messages because this committee is responsible for the [America's Transportation Infrastructure Act of 2019](#))

Leadership:

- Chair: John Barrasso (Republican, Wyoming)
- Ranking member: Thomas Carper (Democrat, Delaware)

Committee members:

Majority (Republicans)	Minority (Democrats)
• Inhofe, James M. (OK) • Capito, Shelley Moore (WV) • Cramer, Kevin (ND) • Braun, Mike (IN)	• Cardin, Benjamin L. (MD) • Sanders, Bernard (VT) • Whitehouse, Sheldon (RI) • Merkley, Jeff (OR)

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- Rounds, Mike (SD)
- Sullivan, Dan (AK)
- Boozman, John (AR)
- Wicker, Roger F. (MS)
- Shelby, Richard C. (AL)
- Ernst, Joni (IA)

- Gillibrand, Kirsten E. (NY)
- Booker, Cory A. (NJ)
- Markey, Edward J. (MA)
- Duckworth, Tammy (IL)
- Van Hollen, Chris (MD)

The toolkit was designed with federal bills in mind but we encourage you to use these messages to advocate at the state and local levels as well.

Do you have a recommendation for an additional talking point/message? Do you have a specific recommendation or idea that tracks with an existing message in the toolkit that you'd like to see us encouraging people to share? Please use [this form](#) to let us know!

Want to get involved with this campaign by helping keep the toolkit up to date, tracking bills, or connecting ASAP with other climate change adaptation and climate justice organizations with similar campaigns? Email Gabriel Henderson at campaigns@adaptpros.org.

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ASAP Top Public Policy Messages

There are important lessons from the COVID-19 crisis that strengthen the argument for climate action, including capacity building to respond to climate shocks and stressors.

- The COVID-19 crisis and the climate crisis are related and both provide opportunities for government to work with the academic, scientific, and business communities in a trusting and proactive manner to create a more resilient future.
- Like the COVID-19 crisis, the impacts of climate change are being felt now and will worsen without the implementation of proactive climate adaptation strategies.
- Our nation's response to the COVID-19 crisis must be harnessed to create communities that are more just, inclusive, and climate resilient.

To be effective, responses to both crises must reduce social inequity, remove barriers, and enhance well-being for all.

- Both the COVID-19 crisis and the climate crisis disproportionately harm poor communities and communities of color.
- Responses must bring justice to these communities, including by: considering the needs of these communities first and foremost, including members of these communities in decision making, and ensuring that interventions benefit everyone equitably.

Investments and policies must serve multiple purposes.

- All government policies and investments, including responses to COVID-19, should enhance climate resilience by reducing carbon pollution and requiring the incorporation of future climate conditions (including updated storm design standards, sea level rise projections, and workforce competency requirements).
- Strategic job creation for the future is vital for business, young people, and the new economy (e.g., renewable energy, sustainable community development, public health.)
- Investment in public health infrastructure strengthens our capacity to respond to future pandemics and climate risks.
- For example, policies that reduce air pollution also lower the risk of COVID-19 complications and risks associated with climate change.

Other Key Lessons:

- The federal government must lead the response to the COVID-19 and climate crises with financial and technical resources and policy leadership. However, the federal government must also provide funding and flexibility to state, regional, local, and tribal governments to craft solutions most appropriate for their situations.
- International cooperation is needed to solve both crises.

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Phone Script

Hello, my name is [Name] and I am your constituent from [City and State]. The COVID-19 crisis and the climate crisis are related. Both require government to work with the academic, scientific, and business communities in a trusting and proactive manner to create a more resilient future. Like the COVID-19 crisis, the impacts of climate change are being felt now, disproportionately harm poor communities and communities of color, and will worsen without significant investment by the federal government. I am calling to ask [Senator or Representative's name] to support provisions in ["Upcoming COVID-19 recovery legislation" OR Name of specific stimulus bill] that will address the long term threats our country faces as a result of climate change and ensure responses to both crises remove barriers and enhance well-being for all people.

Stimulus money that addresses COVID-19, such as sustained investments in a robust public health system and the creation of new-economy jobs like solar energy will be critical fortifications as we face even bigger threats from climate change.

Can I count on (Senator or Representative's name) to consider these multiple purposes that must be served in upcoming COVID-19 recovery legislation?

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Email Template

Dear [Senator/Representative],

As the U.S. Congress develops legislation to address the health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis, I strongly urge you to also consider a longer-term, but equally-as-serious threat to our well-being: climate change. I am writing to you as a member of the American Society of Adaptation Professionals. Our organization believes that **there are important lessons from the COVID-19 crisis that strengthen the argument for climate action, including capacity building to respond to climate shocks and stressors.** The COVID-19 crisis and the climate crisis are related, and both crises provide opportunities for government to work with the academic, scientific, and business communities in a trusting and proactive manner to create a more resilient future. Like the COVID-19 crisis, climate change is happening now and will get worse without proactive responses to lessen impacts. Our nation's response to the COVID-19 crisis must be harnessed to create more resilient and inclusive communities.

To be effective, responses to both crises must reduce social inequity, remove barriers, and enhance well-being for all people. One very sad fact is both the COVID-19 crisis and the climate crisis disproportionately harm poor communities and communities of color. Responses must bring justice to these communities, including by: considering the needs of these communities first and foremost, including members of these communities in decision making, and ensuring that interventions benefit everyone equitably..

Investments and policies to respond to COVID-19 must serve multiple purposes.

Government policies and investments, from the national to the local level, including responses to COVID-19, should enhance climate resilience by reducing carbon pollution and preparing for future conditions. Strategic job creation for the future is vital for businesses, young people, and the new economy. This should include such important investments as renewable energy, sustainable community development, green infrastructure, public health, and many others. For example, investment in public health infrastructure strengthens our capacity to respond to future pandemics and climate risks. Policies that reduce air pollution also lower the risk of COVID-19 complications and risks associated with climate change.

Another key lesson from the COVID-19 crisis is that complex problems require federal leadership. The federal government must lead the response to the COVID-19 and climate crises with financial and technical resources and policy leadership. However, the federal government must also provide funding and flexibility to state, regional, local, and tribal governments to craft solutions most appropriate for their situations.

Finally, international problems such as global pandemics and climate change require international cooperation. The nations of the world are better off working together on solutions than against each other.

Respectfully yours,

ASAP: Building a Community of Climate Change Leaders
<https://adaptationprofessionals.org>

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Social Media Messages

Twitter. Tweet these at your elected representations (consider doing them in a thread):

1. The #COVID19 pandemic makes it more urgent that we grow our capacity to respond to climate shocks & stressors: stimulus bills must also fund actions that lessen the climate threat & enhance resilience. #climateactionASAP 1/7
(224 char)
2. This summer, #COVID19 will complicate community responses to extreme heat, air pollution, wildfires, and hurricanes. Investing in public health and disaster preparedness helps communities facing outbreaks on top of seasonal climate hazards.
#climateactionASAP 2/7
(263 char)
3. Recovery initiatives for #COVID19 must bring justice to these communities by supporting the long-time efforts of local #environmentaljustice advocates such as [tag name of local EJ leader]. #climateactionASAP 3/7
(212 char)
4. Responses to #COVID19 should include representatives of communities facing climate hazards & pandemic outbreaks in decision-making--from the beginning & throughout implementation. They should also be designed to distribute benefits equitably.
#climateactionASAP 4/7
(265 char)
5. The COVID19 stimulus investment in jobs should create a future-facing workforce in sectors that will be crucial in the new economy: renewable energy, sustainable community development, public health, green infrastructure, natural resource mgmt, etc.
#climateactionASAP #COVID19 5/7
(275 char)
6. COVID19 interventions for at-risk communities should include \$\$ for parks, open space, wetlands & other natural infrastructure that can provide immediate health benefits & future buffers for extreme heat, air pollution, sea level rise, & wildfires.
#climateactionASAP #COVID19 6/7
(280 char)
7. To conclude, the compound threat of COVID19 & climate change opens a window for gov't to proactively create solutions for both. Our representatives should support actions that take advantage of this chance to build a more resilient & equitable future.
#climateactionASAP 7/7
(274 char)

Use three hastags: 1) #ClimateActionASAP 2) either #ClimateSmartRecovery or #ResilientRecovery 3) either #COVID19 or #PublicHealth

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Facebook and LinkedIn

Post this on your political representatives' FB pages, or post it on your own page and tag your representatives.

And, if you have one, post this on your LinkedIn profile and tag your political representatives if they have LinkedIn profiles.

The COVID19 pandemic makes it more urgent that we grow our capacity to respond to climate shocks & stressors: stimulus bills should therefore fund actions that both lessen the climate threat & enhance resilience. This summer COVID19 will complicate community responses to extreme heat, air pollution, wildfires, and hurricanes. Investing in public health and disaster preparedness helps communities facing outbreaks on top of seasonal climate hazards. Recovery initiatives for #COVID19 must remove barriers and enhance well-being for all, especially poor people & people of color. These initiatives must bring justice to these communities by supporting the long-time efforts of local environmental justice advocates. Recovery initiatives should include representatives of communities facing climate hazards & pandemic outbreaks in decision-making--from the beginning & throughout implementation. They should also be designed to distribute benefits equitably. The compound threat of COVID19 & climate change opens a window for government to proactively create solutions for both. Our representatives should support actions that take advantage of this chance to build a more resilient & equitable future.

#climateactionASAP #COVID19

If you want to tag ASAP, type:

@american society of adaptation professionals

@adaptpros