

**CCLI's 2011 Action Project**

**Cool the Climate**

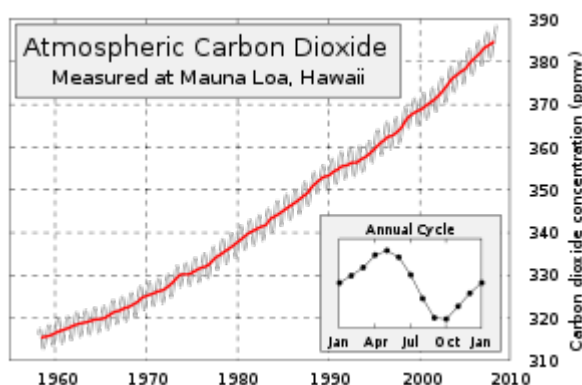


[www.takeresponsibility.us](http://www.takeresponsibility.us)

**Cool the Climate** means cooling down the climate by phasing out the red hot CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in our economy // We must protect & extend the progress we've made transforming our carbon based economy → Partner with us (by taking the **Power Pledge**, enrolling in **Cool the Climate** & **Lead Your Revolution**, and passing it on);

## ***The Transformation of our carbon based ~ pollution oriented economy into a clean, efficient and vibrant new energy economy***

If we are to stabilize and minimize our dangerous impact on the climate, we must phase out the emission of carbon dioxide as a principal byproduct of our energy economy.



The Keeling Curve: Atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations as measured at [Mauna Loa Observatory](http://www.esr.noaa.gov/mauna_loa/)

### **(a) Protect the progress we have made so far**

Given the massive resistance from the lobbying community and special interests who benefit from the status quo there have been impressive and

important steps forward in the direction of controlling CO2 emissions for the Nation and the States which we need to hold onto – NAMELY:

- The EPA's right and mandate by Supreme Court ruling (Massachusetts v. Environmental Protection Agency <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/04/02/AR2007040200487.html>) to regulate CO2 under the Clean Air Act and the EPA's intention announced on December 23, 2010 to carefully do so for power plants and refineries is vitally important. But Congress, with Republicans and coal state Democrats alike, is trying to undo the EPA's CO2 regulation authority and **we the people must not let that happen.** That EPA authority is the principal leverage for the Congress to enact meaningful climate legislation.
- National Production Tax Credit (PTC) and Investment Tax Credit (ITC) and depreciation benefits for renewables. Extending these tax incentives for renewables as the Nation did in December 2010 (<http://green.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/12/17/tax-cuts-for-energy-too/>) is vital to developing a vibrant clean energy economy. We must keep the incentives in place and have them in place for the next decade to generate jobs, the sustained investment and innovation required of our country to be the beacon of light to the world for clean energy.
- Regional Progress: The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) (<http://www.rggi.org/news>), an effort of the Northeast and Midatlantic states, along with the Western Climate Initiative (<http://www.westernclimateinitiative.org/>) are demonstrating climate and emission reduction leadership on a regional level. Our civil society should protect, support and extend these regional developments.
- State Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) – California's failed ballot initiative to do away with it is telling that the people care for clean energy <http://www.greenbiz.com/news/2010/11/03/california-voters-defeat-measure-suspend-climate-law> – New Mexico's RPS, though less ambitious, is also an important step in the right direction and it must not be scaled back as utilities like PNM and others vested in the old energy status quo would like;
- New Mexico's Cap on CO2 emissions from large industrial plants by the 2010 ruling of the Environmental Improvement Board (EIB) is an important step of leadership by the states <http://www.carbonoffsetsdaily.com/news-channels/usa/new->

[mexico-passes-carbon-emissions-caps-44675.htm](http://mexico-passes-carbon-emissions-caps-44675.htm) but the new Governor of New Mexico Susana Martinez who has support from the oil and gas interests and who has expressed ambivalence about human induced climate change already terminated the Environmental Improvement Board as one of her first acts as Governor and the matter is likely to wind up in court. We New Mexicans should not accept any reversal on the carbon dioxide cap that was passed. Rather we should emphasize the resulting economic development/job growth/innovation/leadership type benefits of clean energy arising from this and other most sensible anti-pollution guidelines in place which all together are so needed to help climb the state out of poverty and into a position of leading the nation in energy, economic and environmental stewardship.

## **(b) Make advancements**

### **Gas Tax –**

This year we should follow the Bipartisan Debt Commission advice [http://www.fiscalcommission.gov/sites/fiscalcommission.gov/files/documents/CoChair\\_Draft.pdf](http://www.fiscalcommission.gov/sites/fiscalcommission.gov/files/documents/CoChair_Draft.pdf) (p. 29) and enact a national and state gas tax increase CCLI believes for the purpose of reducing our deficit, moving away from employment income taxation and towards pollution-oriented consumption taxation, for the purpose of spurring innovation and advancing clean energy and to discourage foreign oil expenditures which jeopardize our economic and national security. The revenue from the increase in the gas tax should be used one third for deficit reduction, one third for earned income tax credit and other revenue benefits for lower and middle income citizens (so that it not unduly burden these hard working people of our country) and finally for clean energy investment advancing the research, development and innovation to lead in clean technology, business creation and job generation.

### **Carbon Tax –**

The United States (and state by state) in order be a new energy leader, to set a clear price signal and pay for the pollution costs we are imposing on future generations through unreal pricing of oil, gas and coal → should enact a transparent carbon tax (<http://www.carbontax.org/>) which could

be revenue neutral and/or could go towards deficit reduction, lower and middle income revenue and tax credit off-sets and clean energy R & D.

### **National Renewable Energy/Electricity Standard (NRES) –**

It is important that states extend their renewable energy portfolio standards but it is even more important that the United States establish a National Renewable Energy Standard that call on utilities nationwide to have a certain percentage of energy coming from renewable sources like wind, solar, biomass, geothermal. Senators proposed legislation for this last fall but there is scant leadership on the national level to enact it.

[http://www.energyonline.com/Industry/News.aspx?NewsID=7474&Senators\\_Propose\\_National\\_Renewable\\_Electricity\\_Standard](http://www.energyonline.com/Industry/News.aspx?NewsID=7474&Senators_Propose_National_Renewable_Electricity_Standard)

We the people need to hold our federal elected officials accountable and in the meantime work to protect and expand upon the state Renewable Energy Portfolio (RPS) standards.

### **Meaningful Energy Policy and Climate Legislation –**

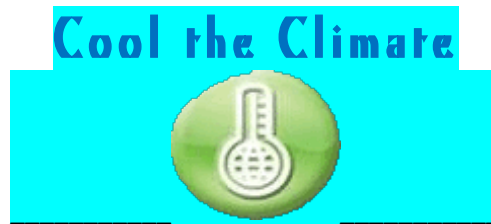
America has to date utterly failed to produce a meaningful, responsible and truly empowering energy policy, but we need to insist on and insist on it until it happens. Too much is at stake not to. Instead of sending billions of our hard earned money overseas to countries that do not like us for resources that are destroying the life-supporting mechanisms of Earth, we in the United States could be developing our own clean and abundant resources right here at home, creating quality jobs and growing our economy to the nth degree while protecting the climate.

<http://climateprogress.org/2010/01/14/oil-dependence-is-a-dangerous-habit/> . On this vital matter of our national, economic and environmental security, we should adhere to the words of Winston Churchill, *“Never give in. Never give in. Never, never, never, never...never give in, except to convictions of honor and good sense.”*

## **(c) Partnership – what you can do, what we can all do together**

### **Register for Cool the Climate**

([http://www.takeresponsibility.us/quest11/coolclimate\\_signup.html](http://www.takeresponsibility.us/quest11/coolclimate_signup.html)) – to show *we the people's* strength in spirit and in numbers behind sensible climate stewardship.



**Enroll in Lead Your Revolution** (<http://act.takeresponsibility.us/>)– to demonstrate solidarity, raise awareness and generate action on behalf of clean energy in America.



### **Enlist in the Power Pledge**

(<http://www.takeresponsibility.us/powerpledge.html>) – for steps from A-Z you can take to resist climate pollution and support a new, clean and sustainable future.

## **Take the Pledge and *Enlist in the Clean Energy Revolution***

### **Pass it on –**

Pass these participation steps and partnership opportunities on to others you know by inviting your email contacts to join with us so we may compound our impact.