



February 11, 2025

The Honorable Russell Vought  
Director, Office of Management and Budget  
Executive Office of the President of the United States  
Washington, DC

RE: Report on Climate Spending by the Biden Administration

Dear Director Vought:

Congratulations on your confirmation to head the Office of Management and Budget. As you know there are many challenges facing our nation and the federal budget.

President Trump has already taken several swift, decisive actions in this area to unwind energy and environmental policies that restricted our nation's prosperity. The Functional Government Initiative (FGI) has a new report that could be useful for your ongoing efforts. **"Investigating the Biden Administration's Climate Spending Extravaganza"** catalogues the Biden administration's profligate and wasteful spending in the name of catastrophic climate change. As you work to implement President Trump's budget priorities and promote his agenda, this report could be a helpful guide to target many areas where the previous administration allocated vast sums. Because these programs were given so much money so quickly, there are significant concerns over transparency, efficiency, and sustainability.

Early on, President Biden declared climate change a top priority, and he wasted no opportunity to lavish taxpayer dollars on it. He issued sweeping executive orders, launched inter-agency task forces, and required climate action plans across the government. His Executive Order 14008, "Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad," which President Trump promptly repealed on his first day back in the White House, created the Justice40 Initiative, aiming to allocate 40 percent of overall benefits of federal spending for climate, clean energy, and environmental programs to disadvantaged communities.

Many of these efforts redirected vast amounts of taxpayer resources to partisan special interests and distracted government agencies from best serving the American people with respect to their core statutory duties. For example, while the disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan was careening out of control, Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin prioritized carving time out of his day to sign off on DOD's Biden-mandated climate plan. Distractions of this sort should be eliminated, and with the massive sums allocated to these questionable, controversial sky-is-falling-themed programs, there could be numerous examples of similar distractions across the government.

President Biden massive climate programs also channeled billions to well-connected organizations and Biden administration allies in the climate industry, in some case through former administration employees, and according to news reports, even after the November 2024 general election.

After extensive research, FGI has identified nearly 700 potential programs that allocate significant taxpayer resources toward these climate-related initiatives. The cumulative budget of these programs exceeds \$713 billion – but the actual figure may be significantly higher. We believe this inventory will be a useful reference point as you direct agencies to uncover waste, fraud, and abusive federal spending in the name of climate change.

I hope you find the report useful as you help President Trump turn the page from Biden-era initiatives.

Sincerely,

Chris Stanley  
Director, Functional Government Initiative