

# Investigating the Biden Administration's Climate Spending Extravaganza



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Biden Administration declared early on that one of its top priorities would be to address what it characterized as the climate crisis. This priority led to significant and widespread actions across the government through Executive Orders, inter-agency task forces, Climate Action Plans, and massive legislation, primarily embodied in the Inflation Reduction Act. As the Functional Government Initiative (FGI) has witnessed this unprecedented level of activity in the form of direct programmatic spending, grants, and contracts, we echo concerns raised by the Inspector General community around the potential for waste, fraud, abuse and mismanagement of taxpayer funds on a political priority of the Biden Administration in concert with their closely aligned and extremely well-funded environmental special interest industry.

This study offers an in-depth analysis of federal environmental spending across 25 federal agencies, identifying nearly 700 potential programs that allocate significant taxpayer resources toward climate-related initiatives. The cumulative budget of these programs exceeds \$713 billion. However, this total does not encompass all environmental expenditures, nor does it include every program across these agencies. The findings reveal a substantial increase in environmental spending, largely attributable to policy directions under the Biden-Harris Administration.

A key driver of this growth is Executive Order 14008, “Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad,” which introduced the Justice40 Initiative. This policy requires 40 percent of the overall benefits of federal investments in climate, clean energy, and environmental programs to flow to disadvantaged communities. This whole-of-government approach has resulted in a rapid increase in climate-related spending, raising questions about transparency, efficiency, and fiscal sustainability.

The analysis identifies opportunities for optimizing and prioritizing federal environmental expenditures and introducing appropriate oversight over an unprecedented infusion of taxpayer funds across agencies and programs that may not have sufficient controls in place to monitor spending. While many programs have statutory or potentially sensible connections to addressing environmental challenges, there are too often indicators of misuse, malfeasance, or ineffectiveness in the use of funds, including sending money to unaccountable foreign entities, partnering with overtly partisan organizations, and taking steps apparently designed to evade oversight and transparency. Identifying and prioritizing which programs should be considered for potential reduction or restructuring offer a pathway to scale back inappropriate or ineffective federal spending while maintaining essential environmental protections.

While this study is limited by time constraints and the lack of specifics in climate spending throughout the federal government, it provides a preliminary framework for evaluating and significantly reducing non-essential or wasteful expenditures within the budget. Further investigation through Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, congressional inquiries, and collaboration with the Trump Administration would yield more comprehensive data for informed decision-making.

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# BIDEN CLIMATE ADAPTATION PLANS

**At the beginning of his Administration, President Biden tasked agencies with leading a whole-of-government effort to address climate change through Executive Order 14008, Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad. Federal agencies released initial Climate Adaptation Plans in 2021**

According to a June 20, 2024, fact sheet from the White House, “Across the country, communities are experiencing the devastating impacts of climate change. From record-high average temperatures and extreme heat to changing precipitation patterns and sea-level rise, climate impacts – including disasters made worse by climate change – are affecting every corner of society and every community in America. The magnitude of challenges posed by the climate crisis was underscored last year when the nation endured a record 28 individual billion-dollar extreme weather and climate disasters that caused more than \$90 billion in aggregate damage. Just this week, more than 82 million Americans have been under heat alerts due to extreme temperatures made worse by climate change. That is why President Biden is leading the most ambitious climate, conservation, and environmental justice agenda in history, which includes directing federal agencies to lead by example.

“Today, the Biden-Harris Administration released updated Climate Adaptation Plans developed by more than 20 federal agencies that expand agency efforts to ensure their facilities, employees, resources, and operations are increasingly resilient to climate change impacts like extreme weather. This work advances the Biden-Harris Administration’s National Climate Resilience Framework, which helps to align climate resilience investments across the public and private sector through common principles and opportunities for action to build a climate-resilient nation. These efforts are backed by President Biden’s Investing in America agenda, through which more than \$50 billion is being delivered to advance climate adaptation and resilience across the nation, including in communities that are the most vulnerable to climate impacts.

“At the beginning of his Administration, President Biden tasked agencies with leading a whole-of-government effort to address climate change through Executive Order 14008, Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad. Federal agencies released initial Climate Adaptation Plans in 2021 and progress reports outlining advancements toward achieving their adaptation goals in 2022. With more than 300,000 buildings, four million employees, 640 million acres of public land, and \$700 billion in annual purchases of goods and services, the federal government must continue to be a leader and partner in advancing adaptation and resilience.”[1]

**Biden’s Climate Adaptation Plans has been developed by more than 20 federal agencies that expand agency efforts to ensure their facilities, employees, resources, and operations are increasingly resilient to climate change impacts like extreme weather. Biden’s Investing in America agenda has committed more than \$50 billion to advance climate adaptation and resilience across the nation, including in communities that are the most vulnerable to climate impacts**

According to a June 20, 2024, fact sheet from the White House, “Today, the Biden-Harris Administration released updated Climate Adaptation Plans developed by more than 20 federal

[1] Fact Sheet, “Biden-Harris Administration Releases Agency Climate Adaptation Plans, Demonstrates Leadership in Building Climate Resilience,” White House, June 20, 2024

# BIDEN CLIMATE ADAPTATION PLANS

agencies that expand agency efforts to ensure their facilities, employees, resources, and operations are increasingly resilient to climate change impacts like extreme weather. This work advances the Biden-Harris Administration's National Climate Resilience Framework, which helps to align climate resilience investments across the public and private sector through common principles and opportunities for action to build a climate-resilient nation. These efforts are backed by President Biden's Investing in America agenda, through which more than \$50 billion is being delivered to advance climate adaptation and resilience across the nation, including in communities that are the most vulnerable to climate impacts.”[2]

## **The Biden Administration has called Executive Order 14008, “the most ambitious environmental justice agenda ever undertaken by the federal government”**

According to the Environmental Justice Scorecard website, “Welcome to the Biden-Harris Administration's Environmental Justice Scorecard. On this website, you will find information about what federal agencies are doing to advance environmental justice in communities across America.

“During his first week in office, President Biden signed Executive Order 14008, Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad, launching the most ambitious environmental justice agenda ever undertaken by the federal government. The Environmental Justice Scorecard is a signature component of this Administration's commitment to confronting longstanding environmental injustice and inequities. It is the first-ever government-wide assessment of what the federal government is doing to advance environmental justice.”[3]

## **In 2021, Joe Biden said he would work with Congress to provide \$3 billion in adaptation finance annually for the President's Emergency Plan for Adaptation and Resilience (PREPARE) to support developing countries and communities in vulnerable situations around the world in their efforts to adapt to and manage the impacts of climate change**

According to an October 2021, “President's Emergency Plan for Adaptation and Resilience” document from the White House, “In response to a severe and urgent crisis, the President of the United States of America is announcing the President's Emergency Plan for Adaptation and Resilience (PREPARE) to support developing countries and communities in vulnerable situations around the world in their efforts to adapt to and manage the impacts of climate change. These impacts are already being felt, making investments in developing countries' climate resilience more urgent than ever. The President will work with Congress to provide \$3 billion in adaptation finance annually for PREPARE by FY2024. It is the largest U.S. commitment ever made to reduce climate impacts on those most vulnerable to climate change worldwide.”[4]

## **In 2023, Joe Biden announced a first-ever \$575 million Climate Resilience Regional Challenge to help coastal and Great Lakes communities, including Tribal communities in those regions, become more resilient to extreme weather and other impacts of the climate crisis**

[2] Fact Sheet, “Biden-Harris Administration Releases Agency Climate Adaptation Plans, Demonstrates Leadership in Building Climate Resilience,” White House, June 20, 2024

[3] Environmental Justice Scorecard, White House Office of Management and Budget, July 24,

[4] “President's Emergency Plan for Adaptation and Resilience,” White House, October 2021

# BIDEN CLIMATE ADAPTATION PLANS

According to a June 19, 2023, press release from the White House, “Over the past two years, more than 100 million Americans have been personally affected by an extreme weather event. The record-shattering heat wave that hit Puerto Rico earlier this month, recent wildfire smoke that blanketed the Midwest and East Coast, and devastating storms in California, are just the latest evidence that climate change is not a far-off threat. It’s a crisis that’s here now. President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris understand that to protect lives and livelihoods, we need to both slash emissions and give Americans the tools they need to prepare for the growing impacts of climate change.

“That is why today, President Biden is in California touring a coastal community that is working to safeguard their natural infrastructure – highlighting both the urgency of taking bold climate action and strengthening America’s resilience. During his visit, he will preview the Biden-Harris Administration’s latest actions to help communities adapt to the changing climate.

“Through the President’s historic Investing in America agenda, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will later this week launch a first-ever \$575 million Climate Resilience Regional Challenge to help coastal and Great Lakes communities, including Tribal communities in those regions, become more resilient to extreme weather and other impacts of the climate crisis. The funding will support innovative coastal resilience and adaptation solutions, such as building natural infrastructure, planning and preparing for community-led relocation, and protecting public access to coastal natural resources, that protect communities and ecosystems from sea level rise, tidal flooding hurricanes, storm surge, among other severe climate impacts. The Challenge is part of the \$2.6 billion in resilience funding for NOAA included in the Inflation Reduction Act, and is part of the President’s Justice40 Initiative.”[5]

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[5] Fact Sheet: Biden-Harris Administration Makes Historic Investments to Build Community Climate Resilience, White House, June 19, 2023



**Within days of taking office, Joe Biden signed Executive Order 14008, which included the Justice40 Initiative, setting a goal that 40 percent of the overall benefits of certain federal climate, clean energy, affordable and sustainable housing, and other investments flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized by underinvestment and overburdened by pollution**

According to the White House website, “For the first time in our nation’s history, the Federal government has made it a goal that 40 percent of the overall benefits of certain Federal climate, clean energy, affordable and sustainable housing, and other investments flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized by underinvestment and overburdened by pollution. President Biden made this historic commitment when he signed Executive Order 14008 on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad within days of taking office. To continue delivering on his environmental justice vision, President Biden signed Executive Order 14096 on Revitalizing Our Nation’s Commitment to Environmental Justice for All in April 2023.”[6]

**The Justice40 Initiative is part of the White House Office of Environmental Justice, which was established by Joe Biden to coordinate “federal agency efforts to address current and historic environmental injustices”**

According to the White House Office of Environmental Justice website, “President Biden established the first White House Office of Environmental Justice. The Office of Environmental Justice, which is housed within the White House Council on Environmental Quality, is tasked with coordinating federal agency efforts to address current and historic environmental injustices.”[7]

**In May 2022, Dr. Jalonne L. White-Newsome was appointed as the first Federal Chief Environmental Justice Officer**

According to the White House Office of Environmental Justice website, “Appointed in May 2022, Dr. Jalonne L. White-Newsome serves as the first Federal Chief Environmental Justice Officer, where she advises the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality on environmental justice and leads the White House’s first Office of Environmental Justice.”[8]

**In May 2022, Corey Solow was promoted from Deputy Director for Environmental Justice to Director for Environmental Justice, and was tasked to work with Dr. White-Newsome to coordinate and lead CEQ’s environmental justice policy work, including by supporting the implementation of the Justice40 Initiative across government**

According to a May 5, 2022, press release from the White House, “Today, the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) announced the appointment of Dr. Jalonne L. White-Newsome to be CEQ’s Senior Director for Environmental Justice. Dr. White-Newsome succeeds Dr. Cecilia Martinez as the second person to ever hold this position in the White House as President Biden has prioritized environmental justice across every level of government. In this historic role, Dr. White-Newsome will advise Chair Mallory on environmental justice policy and help advance the Biden-

[6] Justice40, White House website, Accessed Aug. 15, 2024

[7] White House Office of Environmental Justice website, Accessed Aug. 15, 2024

[8] White House Office of Environmental Justice website, Accessed Aug. 15, 2024

Harris Administration’s bold and historic commitment to leverage the force of the full federal government in advancing environmental justice.”[9]

According to the same release, “In addition to Dr. White-Newsome’s appointment as Senior Director for Environmental Justice, Chair Mallory today announced the promotion of Corey Solow from Deputy Director for Environmental Justice to Director for Environmental Justice. Solow will work with Dr. White-Newsome to coordinate and lead CEQ’s environmental justice policy work, including by supporting the implementation of the Justice40 Initiative across government, helping develop an environmental justice scorecard, updating the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool, and advancing other key policy, research, and data initiatives.”[10]

## **In May 2022, the White House announced that it had over \$29 billion in new funding opportunity notifications and announcements on the Justice40 Initiative**

According to a May 23, 2022, White House fact sheet, “The White House Office of Management and Budget released a snapshot of over \$29 billion in new funding opportunity notifications and announcements that the Biden-Harris Administration has already rolled out to deliver on the Justice40 Initiative—with much more on the way. To put that figure in context, the President’s FY23 budget request for climate and environmental justice discretionary funding totals about \$45 billion.”[11]

## **In July 2024, the White House highlighted more than \$600 billion in federal investments that President Biden had secured over Fiscal Years 2022-2027, including through his Investing in America agenda, for programs that are part of the Justice40 Initiative**

According to a July 24, 2024, fact sheet from the White House, “President Biden and Vice President Harris believe that every person has a right to breathe clean air, drink clean water, and live in a healthy community – now and into the future. During his first week in office, President Biden launched the most ambitious environmental justice agenda in our nation’s history. Today, at the first-ever White House Summit on Environmental Justice in Action, the Biden-Harris Administration released detailed progress reports from 24 federal agencies showcasing how the President is delivering for communities that have faced longstanding environmental injustices and inequities.

“The second annual Environmental Justice Scorecard describes the impacts and benefits of more than \$600 billion in federal investments that President Biden has secured over Fiscal Years 2022-2027, including through his Investing in America agenda, for programs that are part of the Justice40 Initiative. The goal of the President’s Justice40 Initiative is to deliver 40 percent of the overall benefits of certain federal investments to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized by underinvestment and overburdened by pollution.”[12]

[9] Press Release, “The White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Appoints Dr. Jalonnie L. White-Newsome as Senior Director for Environmental Justice,” White House, May 5, 2022

[10] Press Release, “The White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Appoints Dr. Jalonnie L. White-Newsome as Senior Director for Environmental Justice,” White House, May 5, 2022

[11] Fact Sheet: Biden-Harris Administration Holds Justice40 Week of Action to Highlight Historic Investments in Overburdened and Underserved Communities, White House, May 23, 2022

[12] Fact Sheet, “Biden-Harris Administration Delivers Environmental Justice with Cleaner Air, Clean Water, and Healthier Communities,” White House, July 24, 2024



# JUSTICE40 INITIATIVE



## As of November 2023, the White House listed more than 500 programs that were covered for the Justice40 Initiative

According to a Nov. 29, 2023, Justice40 Initiative Covered Programs List from the White House, the following departments had the following covered programs.[13]

Department	Covered Programs
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	11
AmeriCorps	5
Department of Agriculture	70
Department of Commerce	14
Department of Energy	167
Department of Health and Human Services	13
Department of Homeland Security	4
Department of Housing and Urban Development	26
Department of the Interior	75
Department of Labor	4
Department of State	1
Department of Transportation	40
Department of Veterans Affairs	1
Environmental Protection Agency	79
NASA	2
National Science Foundation	3
Small Independent Agencies	3

## In July 2024, the White House announced Justice40 Initiative spending that included over \$4.3 billion for the EPA in Climate Pollution Reduction Grants to implement community-driven solutions that tackle the climate crisis, reduce air pollution, advance environmental justice, and accelerate America’s clean energy transition

According to a July 24, 2024, fact sheet from the White House, “In addition to highlighting the unprecedented progress on environmental justice that has been made over three and a half years under President Biden’s leadership, the Administration has in recent days – as part of its fifth Investing in America tour – announced nearly \$5 billion in funding awards from programs covered by the Justice40 Initiative. These include the following:

“The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced over \$4.3 billion in Climate Pollution

Reduction Grants to implement community-driven solutions that tackle the climate crisis, reduce air pollution, advance environmental justice, and accelerate America's clean energy transition.

"The Department of Housing and Urban Development announced \$19 million in new grant and loan awards under its Green and Resilient Retrofit Program after announcing more than \$142 million last month, bringing the total funding awarded under this program to more than \$773 million. This funding supports significant energy efficiency and climate resilience renovations in more than 4,200 homes at properties housing low-income individuals, families, and seniors bringing the total number of homes supported under this program to over 20,000.

"The Department of the Interior (DOI) awarded \$20 million in funding to Alabama to address dangerous and polluting abandoned mine lands, create good-paying, family-sustaining jobs, and catalyze economic opportunity across the state. With this announcement, DOI has now awarded over \$1.4 billion from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to states to remediate abandoned mine lands." "Tomorrow, EPA will announce the first round of Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants Program selections, the single largest investment in environmental justice ever to go directly to communities. These selections will advance collaborative efforts to achieve a healthier, safer, and more prosperous future for all. EPA has made \$2 billion available and organizations are encouraged to apply for awards by November 21, 2024. EPA will make selections on a rolling basis." [14]

**In November 2023, the Biden administration announced it has opened up \$2 billion in grants for lower-income communities overburdened by pollution and vulnerable to climate change for projects to bolster their resilience to climate impacts and strengthen their ability to monitor air and water quality**

In a Nov. 21, 2023, article, Reuters reported, "The Biden administration announced on Tuesday it has opened up \$2 billion in grants for lower-income communities overburdened by pollution and vulnerable to climate change for projects to bolster their resilience to climate impacts and strengthen their ability to monitor air and water quality.

"The Community Change Grants are the single largest investment in environmental justice that has been made by an administration, and a key measure to achieve the administration's goal of ensuring that 40% of federal clean energy investment benefits flow to disadvantaged communities." [15]

**In 2021, EPA administrator Michael Regan said that as part of the Justice40 Initiative, \$100 million of the agency's budget request would support development and implementation of a community notification program to monitor and provide real-time data to the public on current environmental pollution, saying it, "will help address disproportionate environmental or public health risks in minority and low-income populations resulting from exposure to pollution and the COVID-19 pandemic"**

According to April 21, 2021, congressional testimony from EPA administrator Michael Regan, "Thank you, Chairwoman Pingree, Ranking Member Joyce, and members of the Subcommittee.

[14] Fact Sheet, "Biden-Harris Administration Delivers Environmental Justice with Cleaner Air, Clean Water, and Healthier Communities," White House, July 24, 2024

I am grateful for the opportunity to appear before you today to discuss the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's discretionary funding request for Fiscal Year 2022.

“Before I get to the funding request, I would like to discuss the bold vision laid out by President Biden in the American Jobs Plan. This plan is a transformational investment that puts working people first and will help ensure we reduce pollution and help create good quality jobs.”[16]

According to the same testimony, “The environmental justice initiative invests in a new community air quality monitoring and notification program, provides additional funds to enforce existing laws meant to protect communities from hazardous pollution, and allocates resources to hold polluters liable in civil and criminal suits. As part of the Justice40 Initiative, \$100 million will support development and implementation of a community notification program to monitor and provide real-time data to the public on current environmental pollution. These investments build on the funds provided by the American Rescue Plan, which will help address disproportionate environmental or public health risks in minority and low-income populations resulting from exposure to pollution and the COVID-19 pandemic.”[17]

## **In 2023, Chicago-based community organization Blacks in Green was awarded a five-year, \$10 million grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the Justice40 Initiative**

In an April 16, 2023, article, the *Energy News Network* reported, “As the founder and CEO of Blacks in Green, Naomi Davis has always focused on developing a whole-system approach to empowering her community of West Woodlawn on Chicago’s South Side.

“And with the award of a five-year, \$10 million grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Blacks in Green is positioned to extend and expand its community-focused approach to sustainability and climate resilience throughout the Midwest.

“‘Only a whole-system solution can transform the whole-system problem common to Black communities everywhere,’ Davis said. ‘We are about — in our core founding vision and mission — self-sustaining Black communities everywhere. And the mission being to reinvent the walk to work, walk to shop, walk to learn, walk to play village, where African Americans own the businesses, own the land, and live the conservation lifestyle.’

“Blacks in Green was one of 17 organizations selected to receive a portion of \$177 million to form Environmental Justice Technical Assistance Centers. The program is administered through the Federal Interagency Communities Technical Assistance Network as part of the Biden-Harris Administration Justice 40 Initiative designed to ensure that 40% of relevant federal investments are administered in environmental justice communities.”[18]

[16] Michael Regan Testimony, FY2022 Budget Request for the Environmental Protection Agency, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Hearing, April 21, 2021

[17] Michael Regan Testimony, FY2022 Budget Request for the Environmental Protection Agency, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Hearing, April 21, 2021

[18] Audrey Henderson, “Chicago’s Blacks in Green gets a major boost from a \$10 million EPA grant,” *Energy News Network*, April 16, 2023

Utilizing millions of dollars in grants, including \$10 million from the Justice40 initiative, Blacks in Green is working toward building a “sustainable square mile” in Chicago’s West Woodlawn neighborhood. The enclosed community will have a solar micro-energy grid, farm, botanic garden, composting program, and affordable housing. The blocks of land she is slowly procuring include Emmett Till’s childhood home, which the group is turning into a museum

In a Jan. 16, 2024, article *Capital B* reported, “Naomi Davis’ dream is not too different from the one that took her grandparents from being sharecroppers in Mississippi to living on the South Side of Chicago: the vision of being a part of an autonomous Black community.

“Utilizing millions of dollars in grants, including \$10 million from the federal government’s Justice40 initiative, Davis’ organization, Blacks in Green, is working toward building a ‘sustainable square mile’ in Chicago’s West Woodlawn neighborhood. The enclosed community will have a solar micro-energy grid, farm, botanic garden, composting program, and affordable housing. The blocks of land she is slowly procuring include Emmett Till’s childhood home, which the group is turning into a museum.”[19]

***In These Times* in August 2024: “The most unprecedented aspect of Justice40 has been the allocation of \$3 billion in grant money for community-based nonprofits like Blacks in Green, including \$200 million in technical assistance to help groups apply”**

In an August 2024, article, *In These Times* reported, “TWO DAYS AFTER A SERIES OF tornadoes ripped through Chicago’s South Side, leaving hundreds of thousands of people without electricity, Naomi Davis and Suzanne Waddell met in the front yard of Emmet Till’s childhood home to assess the damage. Fencing had been blown down.

“Their organization, Blacks in Green, founded by Davis in 2007, owns the historic landmark. It will open as a playhouse, community farm and museum in 2025, honoring the life the 14-year-old deserved to have. Even in 92-degree heat, people stopped by to take photos, a regular occurrence that reminds Davis of the larger duty marginalized people in America have “to remind each other of our greatness.”[20]

According to the same article, “Most federal climate grants are accessible only to municipalities or corporations; the most unprecedented aspect of Justice40 has been the allocation of \$3 billion in grant money for community-based nonprofits like Blacks in Green, including \$200 million in technical assistance to help groups apply. Theoretically, this process cuts out much of the bureaucracy that has defined federal grant-making and allows those who know the problems to directly address their community’s unique challenges, fostering tangible, immediate improvements. In practice, concerns about how quickly funding and resources are actually reaching local organizations remain-particularly as the future of the program is rocky.”[21]

[19] Adam Mahoney, “Why Biden’s Hallmark Environmental Program Has Been Slow to Take Root,” *Capital B*, Jan. 16, 2024

[20] Adam Mahoney, “The Biden Billions,” *In These Times*, August 2024

[21] Adam Mahoney, “The Biden Billions,” *In These Times*, August 2024

***In These Times:*** “In all, since 2023, the Biden administration has awarded some \$368 million directly to community-based nonprofits out of the \$3 billion pot, with many of the projects not yet underway or in early stages”

In an August 2024, article, In These Times reported, “In all, since 2023, the Biden administration has awarded some \$368 million directly to community-based nonprofits out of the \$3 billion pot, with many of the projects not yet underway or in early stages. Instead-as the vast majority of climate-related grants still flow through state-houses-corporate lobbyists and conservative lawmakers have the ability to thwart the process of Justice40.”[22]

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[22] Adam Mahoney, “The Biden Billions,” In These Times, August 2024

# FY2024-25 ESTIMATED CLIMATE SPENDING

Below is the estimated federal climate spending for fiscal years 2024-25

Agency	Programs	Cost
Department of Agriculture	102	\$35,039,414,278
Department of Commerce	10	\$991,414,000
Department of Defense	9	\$7,547,300,000
Department of Education	1	N / A
Department of Energy	163	\$418,665,282,000
Department of Health and Human Services	12	\$5,231,488,000
Department of Homeland Security	6	\$1,648,293,000
Department of Housing and Urban Development	22	\$102,242,726,582
Department of the Interior	56	\$12,858,327,000
Department of Justice	1	\$137,302,000
Department of Labor	5	\$2,039,113,000
Department of State	5	\$1,772,400,000
Department of Transportation	62	\$103,317,023,438
Department of Veterans Affairs	1	N / A
Environmental Protection Agency	189	\$10,762,256,000
National Science Foundation	11	\$4,154,030,000
Denali Commission	2	\$18,8000,000
Executive Office of the President	1	\$4,676,000
GSA	1	N / A
Millenium Challenge Corporation	5	\$1,811,600,000
U.S African Development Foundation	1	\$45,000,000
USAID	2	\$17,000,000
Army Corps of Engineers	10	\$1,938,100,000
AmeriCorps	6	\$802,595,000
NASA	8	\$2,378,600,000
Total	691	\$713,422,739,298



# FY2024-25 ESTIMATED ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SPENDING

Below is the estimated environmental justice spending for fiscal years 2024-25, broken out from the overall climate spending in the previous section of this report. The following includes, but is not limited to, Justice40 spending and other environmental spending that would benefit a specific DEI demographic or subcategory. Please note that this is not all climate change spending by the federal government but should serve as a bridge between DEI and climate spending. Each specific line item can be found in the addendum spreadsheet.

Department	Total Programs	Total Cost
Agriculture	83	\$29,680,882,278
Commerce	8	\$875,513,000
Defense	1	\$0
Energy	163	\$418,665,282,000
HHS	11	\$5,227,488,000
DHS	6	\$1,648,293,000
HUD	21	\$102,242,726,582
Interior	55	\$12,723,327,000
Labor	4	\$2,027,567,000
State	1	\$147,300,000
Transportation	62	\$103,317,023,438
VA	1	\$0
EPA	84	\$68,169,234,000
NASA	1	\$68,600,000
NSF	1	\$212,360,000
Total	504	\$745,041,855,298

**During his 2021 nomination for secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack pledged to focus on climate change initiatives and work to address racial inequities in agricultural assistance programs**

In a Feb. 2, 2021, article, the Associated Press reported, “Tom Vilsack, President Joe Biden's nominee for secretary of agriculture, pledged Tuesday to focus on climate change initiatives and work to address racial inequities in agricultural assistance programs.

“Vilsack, who testified before the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee, would bring much on-the-job experience to the position. In addition to serving two terms as the governor of Iowa, he spent eight years as President Barack Obama's Agriculture Secretary.”[23]

**According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the USDA’s Climate Adaptation Plan “describes the intentional steps that USDA is taking to adapt and build resilience Department-wide so that we are poised to serve and support our stakeholders in a changing climate”**

According to U.S. Department of Agriculture’s 2024-2027 Climate Adaptation Plan, “The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), with its broad mission and diverse programs and operations, is vulnerable to the current and future effects of climate change. USDA has a stewardship responsibility for federally managed forests and grasslands, which provide a variety of critical ecosystem services. The Department also supports farmers, ranchers, and other land managers in the stewardship of their own lands and operations by promoting voluntary conservation programs and stewarding the expanding portfolio of conservation easements. These natural resources are vulnerable to a range of climate change impacts which will make them harder to manage and sustain for future generations. At the same time, the people and communities we serve across the country are exposed to the effects of extreme heat and increasingly severe storms, flooding, wildfire, and drought, many of which are intensified by climate change. This Climate Adaptation Plan describes the intentional steps that USDA is taking to adapt and build resilience Department-wide so that we are poised to serve and support our stakeholders in a changing climate.

“The 2024-2027 USDA Climate Adaptation Plan builds on USDA’s 2021 Action Plan for Climate Adaptation and Resilience and reflects how USDA agencies and offices have matured and advanced in their consideration of climate change in their programs, policies, and operations. The 2021 Plan identified the following priority actions:

1. Build resilience across landscapes with investments in soil and forest health.
2. Increase outreach and education to promote adoption of climate-smart adaptation strategies.
3. Broaden access to and availability of climate data at regional and local scales for USDA Mission Areas, producers, land managers, and other stakeholders.
4. Increase support for research and development of climate-smart practices and technologies to inform USDA and help producers and land managers adapt to a changing climate.

5. Leverage the USDA Climate Hubs to support USDA Mission Areas in delivering adaptation science, technology, and tools.”[24]

**Tom Vilsack highlighted billions of dollars in investments to reduce agricultural greenhouse gas emissions, encourage new economic activity in rural areas, and protect the communities most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Vilsack highlighted \$20 billion to help producers implement practices and projects that reduce emissions, enhance soil carbon sequestration and provide other climate benefits and \$5 billion to maximize the power of public and private forests in the fight against climate change**

According to a Dec. 8, 2023, press release from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, “Secretary Vilsack highlighted the fact that President Biden’s Inflation Reduction Act, the single-largest investment in climate and clean energy solutions in American history, provides billions of dollars to reduce agricultural greenhouse gas emissions, encourage new economic activity in rural areas, and protect the communities most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. USDA investments include:

- Nearly \$20 billion to help producers implement practices and projects that reduce emissions, enhance soil carbon sequestration and provide other climate benefits;
- More than \$13 billion to provide rural America with clean, affordable energy and increase the availability of domestic biofuels; and
- \$5 billion to maximize the power of public and private forests in the fight against climate change.

“Through the Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities, USDA has invested more than \$3 billion in pilot projects that provide verifiable on-farm emissions reduction and carbon sequestration benefits, while also creating new market opportunities for producers who use climate-smart practices.

“The Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate (AIM for Climate), launched at COP26 and co-led by the United States and the United Arab Emirates, announced that increased investment in climate-smart agriculture and food systems innovation by its partners has more than doubled – from \$8 billion announced at COP27 to more than \$17 billion at COP28. This includes \$1.5 billion in previously announced funding from the United States, of which \$1 billion is from USDA. Now with more than 600 partners, including 55 countries, AIM for Climate is a flagship initiative of the COP28 Presidency and has been endorsed by the past three COP Presidencies.”[25]

**The U.S. Department of Agriculture has approximately \$91 billion in funds available to spend in Fiscal Years 2022 - 2027 through its Justice40 covered programs**

[24] 2024-2027 Climate Adaptation Plan, U.S. Department of Agriculture, May 2024

[25] Press Release, “Secretary Vilsack Highlights U.S. Agriculture’s Climate Leadership at COP28,” U.S. Department of Agriculture, Dec. 8, 2023

According to the Environmental Justice Scorecard website, “Through President Biden’s Investing in America agenda and other sources, USDA has: approximately \$91 billion in funds available to obligate (i.e., to spend) in Fiscal Years (FY) 2022 - 2027 through its Justice40 covered programs.

“Through President Biden’s Justice40 Initiative, USDA is working to deliver benefits to disadvantaged communities. Each program that is part of the Justice40 Initiative delivers benefits in at least one of seven investment categories, and many programs are delivering benefits to communities across multiple categories of investment. The 70 covered program(s) at USDA working to deliver benefits for communities include:

- 48 program(s) protecting communities from the impacts of climate change
- 17 program(s) advancing clean and affordable energy for communities
- 1 program(s) delivering and advancing clean transportation options for communities
- 6 program(s) advancing affordable and sustainable housing
- 7 program(s) delivering training and workforce development benefits
- 9 program(s) addressing the remediation and reduction of legacy pollution
- 13 program(s) delivering critical clean water and wastewater infrastructure benefits

“Overall, agencies are making concrete, tangible improvements to benefit disadvantaged communities across America through the Justice40 Initiative. These investments are resulting in cleaner air and water, more affordable clean energy, good-paying jobs, and other results that people are seeing and feeling today and into the future.”[26]

**In 2023, Tom Vilsack highlighted “the U.S. commitment to investing in innovative climate solutions, quantifying and demonstrating results, and sharing resources and solutions with the world”**

According to a Dec. 8, 2023, press release from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, “The United States’ leadership in climate-smart agriculture and forestry is taking center stage at the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) as Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack and other U.S. Department of Agriculture officials highlight the U.S. commitment to investing in innovative climate solutions, quantifying and demonstrating results, and sharing resources and solutions with the world.

““COP28 comes at a critical juncture, seven years after the Paris Agreement entered into force and seven years before 2030, when significant targets must be met to keep us within reach of the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius,” Secretary Vilsack said. ‘We’re proud to be here in

Dubai, highlighting the steps we're taking to tackle the climate crisis and bring new opportunities to producers and rural communities in America and worldwide. USDA and the Biden-Harris Administration are making unprecedented investments in climate-focused practices and partnerships and, as we share our learnings from American agriculture and forestry on a global scale, the progress we're making domestically will also have international benefits.”[27]

**In December 2023, the Agriculture Innovation Mission (AIM) for Climate, a joint initiative led by the United States and the United Arab Emirates, announced an additional \$9 billion of funding to tackle agriculture's role in the climate crisis**

In a Dec. 8, 2023, article, the Associated Press reported, “An additional \$9 billion of funding to tackle agriculture's role in the climate crisis was announced on the sidelines of the United Nations climate talks on Friday.

“The Agriculture Innovation Mission (AIM) for Climate, a joint initiative led by the United States and the United Arab Emirates that debuted at the climate talks in Glasgow two years ago, now has \$17 billion to invest in agriculture and food systems innovation. Food systems — all the processes involved in making, shipping and disposing of food — account for about a third of planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions.”[28]

**In 2022, Tom Vilsack highlighted the USDA's domestic and international efforts to advance climate-smart dairy production, including helping mobilize \$1 billion from the Green Climate Fund to accelerate sustainable dairy sector transformation in East Africa, Asia and the Americas as part of Pathways to Dairy Net Zero**

According to a Nov. 12, 2022, press release from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, “At the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) this week, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack highlighted the U.S. Department of Agriculture's initiatives and investments in climate-smart agriculture and forestry, noting that global food security depends upon the ability of farmers and producers worldwide to increase their productivity while strengthening their climate resilience and minimizing their climate impacts.”[29]

According to the same release, “Recognizing the vital role of sustainably managed livestock and dairy systems in combatting climate change and ensuring food security, Vilsack highlighted USDA's domestic and international efforts to advance climate-smart dairy production, including:

“Awarding more than \$400 million for nine dairy-focused projects under the first round of Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities, which will help create additional revenue streams for U.S. dairy producers by developing markets for climate-smart dairy commodities and will help the U.S. dairy sector more effectively monitor, verify and report greenhouse gas reduction benefits.

[28] Melina Walling and Joshua Bickel, “U.S. and UAE-backed initiative announces \$9 billion more for agricultural innovation projects,” Associated Press, Dec. 8, 2023

[29] Press Release, “Vilsack Highlights USDA's Climate Initiatives and Investments at COP27,” U.S. Department of Agriculture, Nov. 12, 2022

“Collaborating with the State Department, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, the Global Dairy Platform and the International Food Policy Research Institute to help mobilize \$1 billion from the Green Climate Fund to accelerate sustainable dairy sector transformation in East Africa, Asia and the Americas as part of Pathways to Dairy Net Zero.”[30]

**In 2023, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food for Progress Program has provided more than \$227 million for climate-focused projects in seven African and South Asian countries**

According to a Dec. 8, 2023, press release from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, “In addition, Vilsack described how USDA has made climate-smart agriculture a focus of its international development and capacity-building programs. In 2023, USDA’s Food for Progress Program provided more than \$227 million for climate-focused projects in seven African and South Asian countries, and USDA’s international fellowship and exchange programs targeted nearly \$3 million toward climate-related training for scientists, policymakers and business leaders from 18 countries in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean.”[31]

**In 2023, Tom Vilsack announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture would invest \$300 million to improve the measurement and reporting of planet-warming emissions by the country’s agriculture and forestry sectors**

In a July 12, 2023, article, the Associated Press reported, “Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced Wednesday that his department will invest \$300 million to improve the measurement and reporting of planet-warming emissions by the country’s agriculture and forestry sectors.

“The investment — which comes from the Inflation Reduction Act, the U.S.’s climate law — will create a research network to monitor carbon levels in soil, which is crucial for understanding how much of the greenhouse gas is stored in the ground. It will also expand the agency’s data management capacity and improve the research methods used to quantify and analyze greenhouse gases.

“Agriculture contributed about 10% of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions in 2021, according to the Environmental Protection Agency, so a goal of the research will be to improve the system by which farmers can be rewarded for using climate-friendly practices.”[32]

**In July 2024, Tom Vilsack announced \$90 million in 53 Conservation Innovation Grants projects that address climate change, with a particular focus on innovative solutions to reduce livestock emissions of enteric methane**

According to a July 18, 2024, press release from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, “Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is investing \$90 million in 53 Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) projects, which support the development

[30] Press Release, “Vilsack Highlights USDA’s Climate Initiatives and Investments at COP27,” U.S. Department of Agriculture, Nov. 12, 2022

[31] Press Release, “Secretary Vilsack Highlights U.S. Agriculture’s Climate Leadership at COP28,” U.S. Department of Agriculture, Dec. 8, 2023

[32] Melina Walling, “U.S. Department of Agriculture to invest \$300 million in monitoring agricultural emissions,” Associated Press, July 12, 2023



of new tools, approaches, practices and technologies to further natural resource conservation on private lands. This year, increased funds were available because of President Biden’s Inflation Reduction Act, which is funding CIG projects that address climate change, with a particular focus on innovative solutions to reduce livestock emissions of enteric methane, a potent greenhouse gas.”[33]

**In 2023, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced that it would use \$300 million to establish a monitoring and data collection network to measure greenhouse gas emissions and determine how much carbon can be captured using certain farming practices**

In a July 12, 2023, article, the New York Times reported, “The Agriculture Department said on Wednesday that it would establish a monitoring and data collection network to measure greenhouse gas emissions and determine how much carbon can be captured using certain farming practices.

“The network, using \$300 million in funding from the Inflation Reduction Act, will help quantify the outcomes of so-called climate-smart or regenerative agricultural practices, a cornerstone of the department’s approach to addressing a warming planet. The research and data that is collected will also be crucial to measuring progress on President Biden’s goal of halving greenhouse emissions by the end of the decade.

“‘It’s not just simply about promoting climate-smart agriculture, not simply about promoting proper science,’ Tom Vilsack, the agriculture secretary, said in a news conference on Tuesday ahead of the announcement. ‘It’s also about expanding income sources for small and mid-size producers.’”[34]

**In September 2023, Tom Vilsack announced more than \$1 billion in competitive grants to plant and maintain trees, combat extreme heat and climate change, and improve access to nature in cities**

According to a Sept. 14, 2023, press release from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, “Today, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service is awarding more than \$1 billion in competitive grants to plant and maintain trees, combat extreme heat and climate change, and improve access to nature in cities, towns, and suburbs where more than 84% of Americans live, work, and play. Communities in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and several U.S. Territories and Tribal Nations are receiving funding, covered by the Justice40 Initiative and made possible by President Biden’s Inflation Reduction Act – the largest climate investment in history.”[35]

[33] Press Release, “Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$90 Million in Innovative Projects that Help Conserve Natural Resources and Address Climate Change as Part of Investing in America Agenda,” U.S. Department of Agriculture, July 18, 2024

[34] Linda Qiu, “Agriculture Dept. to Invest \$300 Million to Measure Greenhouse Emissions,” New York Times, July 12, 2023

[35] Press Release, “Biden-Harris Administration Invests \$1 Billion for Nearly 400 Projects to Expand Access to Trees and Green Spaces in Communities and Neighborhoods Nationwide through Investing in America Agenda,” U.S. Department of Agriculture, Sept. 14, 2023

**The Department of Commerce has approximately \$1.9 billion in funds available to spend in Fiscal Years 2022 - 2027 through its Justice40 covered programs**

According to the Environmental Justice Scorecard website, “Through President Biden’s Investing in America agenda and other sources, Department of Commerce has: approximately \$1.9 billion in funds available to obligate (i.e., to spend) in Fiscal Years (FY) 2022 - 2027 through its Justice40 covered programs.

“Through President Biden’s Justice40 Initiative, Department of Commerce is working to deliver benefits to disadvantaged communities. Each program that is part of the Justice40 Initiative delivers benefits in at least one of seven investment categories, and many programs are delivering benefits to communities across multiple categories of investment. The 14 covered program(s) at Department of Commerce working to deliver benefits for communities include:

- 13 program(s) protecting communities from the impacts of climate change
- 1 program(s) advancing clean and affordable energy for communities
- 2 program(s) delivering training and workforce development benefits

“Overall, agencies are making concrete, tangible improvements to benefit disadvantaged communities across America through the Justice40 Initiative. These investments are resulting in cleaner air and water, more affordable clean energy, good-paying jobs, and other results that people are seeing and feeling today and into the future.”[36]

**In October 2024, the Department of Commerce announced \$15.3 million in funding for “NOAA and external collaborators to provide transparent climate projection products and equitable services for the public”**

According to an Oct. 8, 2024, press release from Climate.gov, “Today, the Department of Commerce and NOAA announced \$15.3 million in funding for NOAA and external collaborators to provide transparent climate projection products and equitable services for the public. This work will address increased demand by public and private sectors for reliable, long-term extreme weather climate information.

““This investment, made possible thanks to President Biden’s historic Inflation Reduction Act, will develop new information services to help communities better prepare for the impacts of extreme weather and climate disasters brought on by climate change — ensuring that families and communities across the country stay safe as we continue to mitigate the rising challenges from the climate crisis,” said U.S Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo.”[37]

[36] Environmental Justice Scorecard, White House Office of Management and Budget, July 24, 2024

[37] Press Release, “Biden-Harris Administration awards \$15.3 in million to improve climate projections of future extreme weather,” Climate.gov, Oct. 8, 2024

**The Department of Defense has identified up to \$5 billion in grants that can include consideration and/or evaluation of climate risk**

According to the Department of Defense’s 2024 Climate Adaptation Plan, “Processes for including climate considerations within the DOD’s budgetary documents, including grants, are reflected in a \$3.1 billion subset of the FY 2023 budget request and are set forth in the FY 2023 Meeting the Climate Challenge report (released in April 2022). The FY 2024 Enhancing Capability – Mitigating Climate Risk Report identifies the investments needed for the Department to meet all mission requirements and maintain the ability to operate in all conditions in a \$5.1 billion subset of the FY 2024 Budget request.

“Programs with grants which include climate considerations include but are not limited to:

- REPI Program (REPI proposals, REPI Challenge, the NFWF’s National Coastal Resilience Fund, the NFWF’s ATBC, and the DOI’s Readiness and Recreation Initiative);
- OLDCC’s DCIP, Installation Resilience (IR), PSMI;
- SERDP and the ESTCP;
- DORIC”[38]

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[38] Department of Defense Climate Adaptation Plan: 2024-2027, Sept. 5, 2024

**In January 2024, Secretary Miguel Cardona announced awards totaling more than \$37 million over five years for the Supporting America’s School Infrastructure (SASI) program and one new grant for \$10 million over five years under the National Center on School Infrastructure (NCSI) program to support initiatives including climate adaptation**

According to the U.S. Department of Education’s 2024-2027 Climate Adaptation Plan, “In early January 2024, Secretary Miguel Cardona announced eight new grant awards totaling more than \$37 million over five years for the Supporting America’s School Infrastructure (SASI) program and one new grant for \$10 million over five years under the National Center on School Infrastructure (NCSI) program. Together, these awards seek to increase the capacity of States to support high-need local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools in ensuring equitable access to healthy, safe, sustainable, and modern learning environments. Climate adaptation is one consideration among physical environment matters.”[39]

## **The Department of Energy has approximately \$92 billion in funds available to spend in Fiscal Years 2022 - 2027 through its Justice40 covered programs**

According to the Environmental Justice Scorecard website, “Through President Biden’s Investing in America agenda and other sources, DOE has: approximately \$92 billion in funds available to obligate (i.e., to spend) in Fiscal Years (FY) 2022 - 2027 through its Justice40 covered programs.

“Through President Biden’s Justice40 Initiative, DOE is working to deliver benefits to disadvantaged communities. Each program that is part of the Justice40 Initiative delivers benefits in at least one of seven investment categories, and many programs are delivering benefits to communities across multiple categories of investment. The 167 covered program(s) at DOE working to deliver benefits for communities include:

- 43 program(s) protecting communities from the impacts of climate change
- 119 program(s) advancing clean and affordable energy for communities
- 20 program(s) delivering and advancing clean transportation options for communities
- 16 program(s) advancing affordable and sustainable housing
- 38 program(s) delivering training and workforce development benefits
- 24 program(s) addressing the remediation and reduction of legacy pollution
- 5 program(s) delivering critical clean water and wastewater infrastructure benefits

“Overall, agencies are making concrete, tangible improvements to benefit disadvantaged communities across America through the Justice40 Initiative. These investments are resulting in cleaner air and water, more affordable clean energy, good-paying jobs, and other results that people are seeing and feeling today and into the future.”[40]

## **In October 2024, the Department of Energy’s Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management announced more than \$58.5 million in federal funding to help develop a commercially viable carbon dioxide removal industry in the United States**

According to an Oct. 18, 2024, press release from the U.S. Department of Energy, “The U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management (FECM), with DOE’s Hydrogen Fuel Cell Technologies Office (HFTO), today announced more than \$58.5 million in federal funding for 11 projects to help develop a commercially viable carbon dioxide removal industry in the United States. The funding will support pilot projects and testing facilities to demonstrate and scale carbon dioxideremoval technologies that reduce carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)

pollution by removing it directly from the atmosphere.”[41]

**In October 2024, the Department of Energy announced \$149.87 million to advance the adoption of cleaner, more cost-effective technologies to reduce pollution, improve air quality, create good-paying jobs, and slash the federal government’s carbon footprint**

According to an Oct. 29, 2024, press release from the Department of Energy, “As part of the Biden-Harris Administration’s Investing in America agenda, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) today announced \$149.87 million for 67 energy conservation and clean energy projects at Federal facilities across 28 U.S. states and territories and six international locations. Funded by President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the selected projects will advance the adoption of cleaner, more cost-effective technologies to reduce pollution, improve air quality, create good-paying jobs, and slash the Federal Government’s carbon footprint. Today’s announcement represents the second and final installment of the \$250 million Assisting Federal Facilities with Energy Conservation Technologies (AFFECT) grant program, which will help the Federal Government achieve President Biden’s goal of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions from all Federal buildings by 2045. Today’s AFFECT announcement will be bolstered by leveraging nearly \$1.6 billion in private capital and Federal funds, corresponding to a total investment of \$13.50 for every Federal dollar spent—maximizing value for taxpayers while also helping tackle the climate crisis.”[42]

**In August 2024, the Department of Energy’s Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management announced it would make up to \$54.4 million in additional funding available to advance diverse carbon management approaches that reduce carbon dioxide pollution**

According to an Aug. 13, 2024, press release from the U.S. Department of Energy, “The U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management (FECM) today announced it will make up to \$54.4 million in additional funding available to advance diverse carbon management approaches that reduce carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) pollution. The funding will support the development of technologies that capture CO<sub>2</sub> from industrial and power generation sources or directly from the atmosphere and transport it either for permanent geologic storage or conversion into valuable products such as fuels and chemicals. The development of these technologies is crucial to advance the nation’s efforts to address climate change and achieve the Biden-Harris Administration’s goal of net-zero emissions economy-wide by 2050.”[43]

**In October 2024, the Department of Energy “announced more than \$43 million in selected projects to support the development of transformational technologies essential for reducing energy use and greenhouse gas emissions across industrial subsectors”**

According to an Oct. 8, 2024, release from the U.S. Department of Energy, “Today, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced more than \$43 million in selected projects to support the

[41] Press Release, “DOE Invests \$58 Million to Tackle Climate Change by Removing Carbon From the Atmosphere,” U.S. Department of Energy, Oct. 18, 2024

[42] Press Release, “Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$150 Million to Advance Net-Zero Projects at Federal Facilities, Saving Taxpayers Money,” U.S. Department of Energy, Oct. 29, 2024

[43] Press Release, “DOE Will Invest \$54.4 Million To Expand Portfolio of Carbon Management Technologies,” U.S. Department of Energy, Aug. 13, 2024



development of transformational technologies essential for reducing energy use and greenhouse gas emissions across industrial subsectors. With 16 projects selected as part of a \$38 million funding opportunity on cross-sector technologies and five projects selected in partnership with the Electrified Processes for Industry without Carbon (EPIXC) Institute, these investments will drive industrial emissions down while increasing America’s manufacturing competitiveness in global markets.”[44]

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[44] Press Release, “U.S. Department of Energy Announces More Than \$43 Million in Projects to Drive Industrial Decarbonization Through Cross-Cutting Technologies,” U.S. Department of Energy, Oct. 8, 2024

# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



## **In 2021, the Department of Health and Human Services established the Office of Climate Change and Health Equity**

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services website, “Established in 2021, the Office of Climate Change and Health Equity addresses the impact of climate change on the health of the American people. Exercising powers of convening, coordination and collaboration, the Office serves as a department-wide hub for climate change and health policy, programming, and analysis, in pursuit of environmental justice and equitable health outcomes.”[45]

## **The Department of Health and Human Services has approximately \$6.4 billion in funds available to spend in Fiscal Years 2022 - 2027 through its Justice40 covered programs**

According to the Environmental Justice Scorecard website, “Through President Biden’s Investing in America agenda and other sources, HHS has: approximately \$6.4 billion in funds available to obligate (i.e., to spend) in Fiscal Years (FY) 2022 - 2027 through its Justice40 covered programs.

“Through President Biden’s Justice40 Initiative, HHS is working to deliver benefits to disadvantaged communities. Each program that is part of the Justice40 Initiative delivers benefits in at least one of seven investment categories, and many programs are delivering benefits to communities across multiple categories of investment. The 13 covered program(s) at HHS working to deliver benefits for communities include:

- 3 program(s) protecting communities from the impacts of climate change
- 1 program(s) advancing clean and affordable energy for communities
- 2 program(s) advancing affordable and sustainable housing
- 2 program(s) delivering training and workforce development benefits
- 4 program(s) addressing the remediation and reduction of legacy pollution
- 3 program(s) delivering critical clean water and wastewater infrastructure benefits

“Overall, agencies are making concrete, tangible improvements to benefit disadvantaged communities across America through the Justice40 Initiative. These investments are resulting in cleaner air and water, more affordable clean energy, good-paying jobs, and other results that people are seeing and feeling today and into the future.”[46]

[45] Climate Change and Health Equity Actions, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services website, Accessed Oct. 30, 2024

[46] Environmental Justice Scorecard, White House Office of Management and Budget, July 24, 2024

## **The Department of Homeland Security says it has four programs protecting communities from the impacts of climate change**

According to the Environmental Justice Scorecard website, “Through President Biden’s Justice40 Initiative, DHS is working to deliver benefits to disadvantaged communities. Each program that is part of the Justice40 Initiative delivers benefits in at least one of seven investment categories, and many programs are delivering benefits to communities across multiple categories of investment. The 4 covered program(s) at DHS working to deliver benefits for communities include:

“4 program(s) protecting communities from the impacts of climate change

“Overall, agencies are making concrete, tangible improvements to benefit disadvantaged communities across America through the Justice40 Initiative. These investments are resulting in cleaner air and water, more affordable clean energy, good-paying jobs, and other results that people are seeing and feeling today and into the future.”[47]

# DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT



**The Department of Housing and Urban Development has approximately \$132 billion in funds available to spend in Fiscal Years 2022 - 2027 through its Justice40 covered programs**

According to the Environmental Justice Scorecard website, “Through President Biden’s Investing in America agenda and other sources, HUD has: approximately \$132 billion in funds available to obligate (i.e., to spend) in Fiscal Years (FY) 2022 - 2027 through its Justice40 covered programs.

“Through President Biden’s Justice40 Initiative, HUD is working to deliver benefits to disadvantaged communities. Each program that is part of the Justice40 Initiative delivers benefits in at least one of seven investment categories, and many programs are delivering benefits to communities across multiple categories of investment. The 26 covered program(s) at HUD working to deliver benefits for communities include:

- 4 program(s) protecting communities from the impacts of climate change
- 1 program(s) advancing clean and affordable energy for communities
- 26 program(s) advancing affordable and sustainable housing
- 1 program(s) addressing the remediation and reduction of legacy pollution

“Overall, agencies are making concrete, tangible improvements to benefit disadvantaged communities across America through the Justice40 Initiative. These investments are resulting in cleaner air and water, more affordable clean energy, good-paying jobs, and other results that people are seeing and feeling today and into the future.”[48]

## **The U.S. Department of the Interior has approximately \$33 billion in funds available to spend in Fiscal Years 2022 - 2027 through its Justice40 covered programs**

According to the Environmental Justice Scorecard website, “Through President Biden’s Investing in America agenda and other sources, Interior has: approximately \$33 billion in funds available to obligate (i.e., to spend) in Fiscal Years (FY) 2022 - 2027 through its Justice40 covered programs.

“Through President Biden’s Justice40 Initiative, Interior is working to deliver benefits to disadvantaged communities. Each program that is part of the Justice40 Initiative delivers benefits in at least one of seven investment categories, and many programs are delivering benefits to communities across multiple categories of investment. The 75 covered program(s) at Interior working to deliver benefits for communities include:

- 64 program(s) protecting communities from the impacts of climate change
- 8 program(s) advancing clean and affordable energy for communities
- 2 program(s) delivering and advancing clean transportation options for communities
- 3 program(s) advancing affordable and sustainable housing
- 14 program(s) delivering training and workforce development benefits
- 16 program(s) addressing the remediation and reduction of legacy pollution
- 20 program(s) delivering critical clean water and wastewater infrastructure benefits

“Overall, agencies are making concrete, tangible improvements to benefit disadvantaged communities across America through the Justice40 Initiative. These investments are resulting in cleaner air and water, more affordable clean energy, good-paying jobs, and other results that people are seeing and feeling today and into the future.”[49]

## **In March 2024, the U.S. Department of the Interior announced the allocation of more than \$120 million to tribal governments to fight the impacts of climate change**

In a March 14, 2024, article, the Associated Press reported, “The Biden administration will be allocating more than \$120 million to tribal governments to fight the impacts of climate change, the Department of the Interior announced Thursday. The funding is designed to help tribal nations adapt to climate threats, including relocating infrastructure.

“Indigenous peoples in the U.S. are among the communities most affected by severe climate-related environmental threats, which have already negatively impacted water resources, ecosystems and traditional food sources in Native communities in every corner of the U.S.”[50]

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[50] “Interior Department will give tribal nations \$120 million to fight climate-related threats,” Associated Press, March 14, 2024



## **U.S. Department of Justice: “The Department of Justice has made addressing climate change an agency-wide priority”**

According to the U.S. Department of Justice’s climate change website, “In Executive Orders 14,008 and 13,990, President Biden articulated a ‘whole-of-government’ approach to tackling climate change. The Department of Justice has made addressing climate change an agency-wide priority, reflected in Objective 3.5 of its FY 2022-26 Strategic Plan. The Environment and Natural Resources Division undertakes vital work on the front lines of the climate crisis.

“The Division prioritizes actions to address greenhouse gas emissions and the impacts of climate change in its civil and criminal litigation.”[51]

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[51] Climate Change, U.S. Department of Justice website, Accessed Oct. 30, 2024

**The Department of Labor has approximately \$4 billion in funds available to spend in Fiscal Years 2022 - 2027 through its Justice40 covered programs**

According to the Environmental Justice Scorecard website, “Through President Biden’s Investing in America agenda and other sources, DOL has: approximately \$4 billion in funds available to obligate (i.e., to spend) in Fiscal Years (FY) 2022 - 2027 through its Justice40 covered programs.

“Through President Biden’s Justice40 Initiative, DOL is working to deliver benefits to disadvantaged communities. Each program that is part of the Justice40 Initiative delivers benefits in at least one of seven investment categories, and many programs are delivering benefits to communities across multiple categories of investment. The 4 covered program(s) at DOL working to deliver benefits for communities include:

- 1 program(s) advancing affordable and sustainable housing
- 4 program(s) delivering training and workforce development benefits

“Overall, agencies are making concrete, tangible improvements to benefit disadvantaged communities across America through the Justice40 Initiative. These investments are resulting in cleaner air and water, more affordable clean energy, good-paying jobs, and other results that people are seeing and feeling today and into the future.”[52]

**In December 2023, the State Department wrote, “The United States has prioritized boosting international climate finance, as well as demanding that international financial institutions evolve to better enable emerging market and developing countries to respond to global challenges, including climate change. That is why President Biden launched the first U.S. International Climate Finance Plan in 2021 and committed to work with Congress to scale up international public climate finance to over \$11 billion annually by 2024, quadrupling from the highest previous levels of climate finance provided by the United States”**

According to a Dec. 2, 2023, release from the U.S. State Department, “The United States is committed to exercising U.S. leadership to implement the goals of the Paris Agreement, to accelerate the global clean energy transition, and to enable vulnerable countries and communities to build resilience against the impacts of climate change.

“To that end, the United States will continue to support developing country partners as they pursue ambitious climate action. The United States has prioritized boosting international climate finance, as well as demanding that international financial institutions evolve to better enable emerging market and developing countries to respond to global challenges, including climate change. That is why President Biden launched the first U.S. International Climate Finance Plan in 2021 and committed to work with Congress to scale up international public climate finance to over \$11 billion annually by 2024, quadrupling from the highest previous levels of climate finance provided by the United States.”[53]

**In 2022, the State Department pledged \$600.8 million over the next four years to support the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility**

According to an April 19, 2022, press release from the U.S. State Department, “On April 8, the United States pledged \$600.8 million over the next four years to support the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF-8). This is the United States’ largest GEF pledge ever. This pledge aligns with continuing U.S. priorities and supports the Biden-Harris Administration’s commitment to addressing climate change, conserving global carbon sinks and other critical ecosystems, and restoring the health of our ocean. The United States joined 28 other donors in collectively pledging more than \$5 billion to support GEF-8, a nearly 30 percent increase over GEF-7.

“The U.S. pledge will help protect tropical rainforests and other critical carbon sinks; address ocean plastics pollution; combat wildlife trafficking and illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing; and reduce hazardous transboundary pollutants such as PCBs and mercury that can affect Americans’ health. In its Fiscal Year 2023 Budget, the Administration has requested \$150.2 million for the GEF, as the first of four planned installments for the U.S. contribution to GEF-8.”[54]

[53] Press Release, “Progress Report on President Biden’s Climate Finance Pledge,” U.S. Department of State, Dec. 2, 2023

[54] Press Release, “United States Pledges \$600 Million to Combat Global Environmental Threats,” U.S. Department of State, April 19, 2022

## **The U.S. Department of Transportation has approximately \$150 billion in funds available to spend in Fiscal Years 2022 - 2026 through its Justice40 covered programs**

According to the Environmental Justice Scorecard website, “Through President Biden’s Investing in America agenda and other sources, DOT has: approximately \$150 billion in funds available to obligate (i.e., to spend) in Fiscal Years (FY) 2022 - 2026 through its Justice40 covered programs.

“Through President Biden’s Justice40 Initiative, DOT is working to deliver benefits to disadvantaged communities. Each program that is part of the Justice40 Initiative delivers benefits in at least one of seven investment categories, and many programs are delivering benefits to communities across multiple categories of investment. The 40 covered program(s) at DOT working to deliver benefits for communities include:

- 18 program(s) protecting communities from the impacts of climate change
- 26 program(s) advancing clean and affordable energy for communities
- 40 program(s) delivering and advancing clean transportation options for communities
- 21 program(s) delivering training and workforce development benefits

“Overall, agencies are making concrete, tangible improvements to benefit disadvantaged communities across America through the Justice40 Initiative. These investments are resulting in cleaner air and water, more affordable clean energy, good-paying jobs, and other results that people are seeing and feeling today and into the future.”[55]

## **The U.S. Department of Transportation says that it has 40 programs covered by the Justice40 Initiative, totaling approximately \$150 billion in contract authority and advanced appropriations for fiscal years 2022-2026**

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation website, “There are seven areas of Federal investments covered by the Justice40 Initiative. On November 29, 2023, the White House announced USDOT’s updated Justice40 covered programs list. USDOT currently has 40 programs, totaling approximately \$150 billion in contract authority and advanced appropriations for fiscal years 2022-2026 across five modes in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law authorizations. Over time, additional programs might be added or subtracted.”[56]

[55] Environmental Justice Scorecard, White House Office of Management and Budget, July 24, 2024

[56] Justice40 Covered Programs, U.S. Department of Transportation website, Accessed Aug. 21, 2024

## Covered Program

## Funding

Carbon Reduction Program	\$6.419 BILLION
Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program	\$2.5 BILLION
Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program	\$15.694 BILLION
Congestion Relief Program	\$250 MILLION
Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Supportive Services (DBE/SS) Program	UP TO \$10 MILLION ANNUALLY
Environmental Review Implementation Funds	\$100 MILLION
Reliability and Accessibility Accelerator Program	UNKNOWN
National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Formula Program	\$5 BILLION
Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects (NSFLTP) Program	UNKNOWN
On the Job Training Supportive Services	UNKNOWN
Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Program	UNKNOWN
Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail	UNKNOWN
Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Formula Program	\$7.3 BILLION
PROTECT Discretionary Grant Program	UNKNOWN
Reduction of Truck Emissions at Port Facilities (RTEPF) Grant Program	UNKNOWN
Transportation Alternatives (TA)	\$7.2 BILLION
Tribal High Priority Projects Program	\$45 MILLION
TTP Bridge Program	UNKNOWN
Tribal Transportation Program	UNKNOWN
Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant Program	\$1.1 BILLION

**In April 2024, the Biden Administration announced nearly \$830 million in grant awards to make transportation infrastructure in 39 states and territories more resilient against climate change**

According to an April 11, 2024, press release from the U.S. Department of Transportation, “The Biden-Harris Administration today announced nearly \$830 million in grant awards for 80 projects nationwide that will help states and local communities save taxpayers money while strengthening surface-transportation systems and making them more resilient to extreme weather events worsened by the climate crisis, flooding, sea-level rise, heat waves, and other disasters. These grants are the first of their kind dedicated to transportation infrastructure resilience and were made possible by President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law’s Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation (PROTECT) Discretionary Grant

Program, which complements PROTECT Formula funding that is already flowing to states for these types of projects. To strengthen America’s climate resilience, President Biden has secured more than \$50 billion for climate resilience and adaptation through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act, and established a National Climate Resilience Framework, which is advancing locally tailored, community-driven climate resilience strategies.”[57]

**In 2022, Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg announced that the Federal Highway Administration would put more than \$6 billion toward state carbon reduction efforts**

In an April 21, 2022, article, *The Hill* reported, “The Federal Highway Administration will put more than \$6 billion toward state carbon reduction efforts, Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg announced Wednesday.

“The Carbon Reduction Program (CRP), funded by the bipartisan infrastructure law, will go toward local and state projects aimed at reducing on-road highway-based carbon dioxide emissions. These could range from installing infrastructure to electrify freight vehicles to improving the terrain for bicycles.”[58]

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[57] Press Release, “Biden-Harris Administration Announces Nearly \$830 Million in Grants to Make Transportation Infrastructure More Resilient to Climate Change,” U.S. Department of Transportation, April 11, 2024

[58] Zack Budryk, “Transportation department announces over \$6 billion to reduce transportation emissions,” *The Hill*, April 21, 2022

**U.S. Department of the Treasury: “Treasury recognizes that climate change poses an immediate threat to the United States and the Department’s mission and is taking steps to adapt and prepare for future changes to protect our operations and workforce and preserve the nation’s economic strength”**

According to the U.S. Department of the Treasury’s 2024-2027 Climate Adaptation Plan, “Treasury recognizes that climate change poses an immediate threat to the United States and the Department’s mission and is taking steps to adapt and prepare for future changes to protect our operations and workforce and preserve the nation’s economic strength. This will include a comprehensive, collaborative approach that incorporates evolving knowledge and changing conditions into facility operations and programs. As a result, the Department will remain agile and continuously refine its approach by integrating new technologies, best practices, and designs into operations, construction, planning, and maintenance.”[59]

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[59] Climate Adaption Plan, U.S. Department of the Treasury, Accessed Oct. 30, 2024



**The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has approximately \$322,000 in funds available to spend in Fiscal Years 2022 - 2027 through its Justice40 covered programs**

According to the Environmental Justice Scorecard website, “Through President Biden’s Investing in America agenda and other sources, VA has: approximately \$322,000 in funds available to obligate (i.e., to spend) in Fiscal Years (FY) 2022 - 2027 through its Justice40 covered programs.

“Through President Biden’s Justice40 Initiative, VA is working to deliver benefits to disadvantaged communities. Each program that is part of the Justice40 Initiative delivers benefits in at least one of seven investment categories, and many programs are delivering benefits to communities across multiple categories of investment. The 1 covered program(s) at VA working to deliver benefits for communities include:

- 1 program(s) advancing affordable and sustainable housing

“Overall, agencies are making concrete, tangible improvements to benefit disadvantaged communities across America through the Justice40 Initiative. These investments are resulting in cleaner air and water, more affordable clean energy, good-paying jobs, and other results that people are seeing and feeling today and into the future.”[60]

## **The EPA has approximately \$83.4 billion in funds available to spend in Fiscal Years 2022 - 2027 through its Justice40 covered programs**

According to the Environmental Justice Scorecard website, “Through President Biden’s Investing in America agenda and other sources, EPA has: approximately \$83.4 billion in funds available to obligate (i.e., to spend) in Fiscal Years (FY) 2022 - 2027 through its Justice40 covered programs.

“Through President Biden’s Justice40 Initiative, EPA is working to deliver benefits to disadvantaged communities. Each program that is part of the Justice40 Initiative delivers benefits in at least one of seven investment categories, and many programs are delivering benefits to communities across multiple categories of investment. The 79 covered program(s) at EPA working to deliver benefits for communities include:

- 34 program(s) protecting communities from the impacts of climate change
- 11 program(s) advancing clean and affordable energy for communities
- 14 program(s) delivering and advancing clean transportation options for communities
- 7 program(s) advancing affordable and sustainable housing
- 27 program(s) delivering training and workforce development benefits
- 35 program(s) addressing the remediation and reduction of legacy pollution
- 25 program(s) delivering critical clean water and wastewater infrastructure benefits

“Overall, agencies are making concrete, tangible improvements to benefit disadvantaged communities across America through the Justice40 Initiative. These investments are resulting in cleaner air and water, more affordable clean energy, good-paying jobs, and other results that people are seeing and feeling today and into the future.”[61]

## **In October 2024, the EPA announced the selection of 55 applicants across 27 states and territories to receive nearly \$3 billion through EPA’s Clean Ports Program. The EPA said the grants would support the deployment of zero-emission equipment, as well as infrastructure and climate and air quality planning projects at ports across the country**

According to an Oct. 29, 2024, press release from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, “Today, October 29, as part of President Biden and Vice President Harris’ investing in America agenda, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced the selection of 55 applicants across 27 states and territories to receive nearly \$3 billion through EPA’s Clean Ports Program. These

grants will support the deployment of zero-emission equipment, as well as infrastructure and climate and air quality planning projects at ports across the country. The grants are funded by President Biden’s Inflation Reduction Act — the largest investment in combating climate change and promoting clean energy in history— and will advance environmental justice by reducing diesel air pollution in U.S. ports and surrounding communities while promoting good-paying and union jobs that help America’s ports thrive.”[62]

**In July 2024, the EPA announced that it had selected recipients “of over \$4.3 billion in Climate Pollution Reduction Grants to implement community-driven solutions that tackle the climate crisis, reduce air pollution, advance environmental justice, and accelerate America’s clean energy transition”**

According to a July 22, 2024, press release from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, “Today, July 22, as part of the Biden-Harris Administration’s Investing in America agenda, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced selected recipients of over \$4.3 billion in Climate Pollution Reduction Grants to implement community-driven solutions that tackle the climate crisis, reduce air pollution, advance environmental justice, and accelerate America’s clean energy transition. The 25 selected applications will fund projects in 30 states, including one Tribe, that target reducing greenhouse gas pollution from six sectors: transportation, electric power, commercial and residential buildings, industry, agriculture/ natural and working lands, and waste and materials management. In addition to today’s selected applications for specific projects, this first-of-its kind program secured by President Biden’s Inflation Reduction Act is also helping 45 states and dozens of metro areas, Tribes and territories develop Climate Action Plans and is the single largest effort to spur the development of concrete local climate action goals across the nation.”[63]

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[62] Press Release, “Biden-Harris Administration Announces Selections for Nearly \$3 Billion of Investments in Clean Ports as Part of Investing in America Agenda,” Environmental Protection Agency, Oct. 29, 2024

[63] Press Release, “Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$4.3 Billion in Grants for Community-Driven Solutions to Cut Climate Pollution Across America,” Environmental Protection Agency, July 22, 2024

# NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION



**NASA has approximately \$10.4 million in funds available to spend in Fiscal Years 2022 - 2023 through its Justice40 covered programs**

According to the Environmental Justice Scorecard website, “Through President Biden’s Investing in America agenda and other sources, NASA has: approximately \$10.4 million in funds available to obligate (i.e., to spend) in Fiscal Years (FY) 2022 - 2023 through its Justice40 covered programs.

“Through President Biden’s Justice40 Initiative, NASA is working to deliver benefits to disadvantaged communities. Each program that is part of the Justice40 Initiative delivers benefits in at least one of seven investment categories, and many programs are delivering benefits to communities across multiple categories of investment. The 2 covered program(s) at NASA working to deliver benefits for communities include:

- 2 program(s) protecting communities from the impacts of climate change
- 1 program(s) advancing clean and affordable energy for communities
- 1 program(s) delivering and advancing clean transportation options for communities
- 1 program(s) advancing affordable and sustainable housing
- 1 program(s) delivering training and workforce development benefits
- 1 program(s) addressing the remediation and reduction of legacy pollution
- 1 program(s) delivering critical clean water and wastewater infrastructure benefits

“Overall, agencies are making concrete, tangible improvements to benefit disadvantaged communities across America through the Justice40 Initiative. These investments are resulting in cleaner air and water, more affordable clean energy, good-paying jobs, and other results that people are seeing and feeling today and into the future.”[64]

**In 2024, NASA’s Sea Level Change Team said that it would be embarking on 14 new research projects on topics ranging from using machine learning in climate models to refining understanding of melting glaciers, adding, “During the next four years, these projects will receive over \$11 million in funding”**

According to an Oct. 29, 2024, post on the NASA Sea Level Change Team website, “On its 10th anniversary, the NASA Sea Level Change Team convened at the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies in New York City, New York on Sept. 10. Discussions evolved around further

[64] Environmental Justice Scorecard, White House Office of Management and Budget, July 24, 2024

# NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION



connecting science to stakeholders, while the team welcomed its newest members, joining more than 60 scientists representing a variety of institutions.

“During the meeting, the team brainstormed three major goals. Discussion of the first priority – ‘Research and Innovation’ – included ways to gain even deeper insights into the intricate processes driving sea level rise. The goal of ‘Integration’ was to improve on making the raw information more useful for coastal planners. Lastly, ‘Earth Action and Outreach,’ centered on better ways to bring the team’s work to the public through the NASA Sea Level Portal.

“The team will embark on 14 new research projects on topics ranging from using machine learning in climate models to refining understanding of melting glaciers. During the next four years, these projects will receive over \$11 million in funding and will be headed by new as well as longtime members of the science team.”[65]

**NASA’s Sea Level Change Team has been enabled by more than \$285 million in global sea level-related satellite missions and more than \$100 million in associated science during the Biden-Harris Administration**

According to a Sept. 25, 2024, fact sheet from the U.S. State Department, “Enabled by over \$285 million of investments in global sea level-related satellite missions and over \$100 million in associated science during the Biden-Harris Administration, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA’s) Sea Level Change Team built high-resolution technical assessments of future sea-level rise and associated impacts for every Pacific Island country. When combined with national adaptation planning, these assessments provide a scientific foundation for supporting climate-resilient, science-based decision-making to adapt to and manage the impacts of sea-level rise on lives, livelihoods, and ecosystems.”[66]

[65] Ethan Huang, “NASA’s Sea Level Team at 10 Years: New Challenges, New Colleagues,” NASA Sea Level Change website, Oct. 29, 2024

[66] “U.S. Actions to Tackle Sea-Level Rise at Home and Abroad,” U.S. Department of State, Sept. 25, 2024

# U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT



**In December 2023, USAID announced that it was committing more than \$53 million for new low-carbon and climate resilient activities in 23 cities in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean**

According to a Dec. 6, 2023, press release from USAID, “Today at COP28, USAID Administrator Samantha Power announced that USAID is committing more than \$53 million for new low-carbon and climate resilient activities in 23 cities in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean. These funds will provide resources to translate national climate ambitions into local action in urban areas. Cities are responsible for 75 percent of the planet’s CO2 emissions and are home to over half of the world’s population. By funding local solutions in cities, USAID is minimizing the costs and consequences of climate impacts while protecting development gains.

**In September 2024, USAID launched a five-year initiative to increase investments in sustainable commercial agriculture, forestry, and other land uses in Southeast Asia**

According to a Sept. 4, 2024, press release from USAID, “Today, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) launched a five-year initiative to increase investments in sustainable commercial agriculture, forestry, and other land uses in Southeast Asia. USAID Partnerships for Green Investment (PAGI) will collaborate with investors and companies working with agricultural and forestry commodities to reduce carbon emissions, enhance climate resilience, protect biodiversity, and improve equitable benefit sharing with communities. This initiative will seek to advance the US-ASEAN Comprehensive Strategic Partnership by leveraging finance to achieve net zero goals, catalyzing private sector investments across the region that will spur economic growth, advance financial inclusion, and leverage technology to support food security, with particular attention to small and medium-sized enterprises as well as civil society.”[67]

**USAID has launched a \$3 million partnership framework between the USAID Southeast Asia Smart Power Program and the ASEAN Centre for Energy to increase the regional renewable energy share and the installed renewable energy capacity to 23 percent and 35 percent, respectively, by 2025. USAID has also unlocked \$446 million in climate financing through USAID Green Invest Asia’s work in the agriculture and land use sectors, reducing a projected 156 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent and improving the sustainable management of 1.7 million hectares of land**

According to USAID’s “Confronting the Climate Crisis in Southeast Asia” website, “In Southeast Asia, climate change disproportionately impacts already marginalized and underrepresented communities. Aligned with the Climate Strategy’s principles of equity, inclusion, and locally-led development, USAID Mekong for the Future works to enhance civil society engagement in policy development, oversight, and advocacy. In addition, USAID Enhancing Equality in Energy for Southeast Asia improves gender equality in the energy sector to advance women’s economic

[67] Press Release, “USAID Announces Initiative to Boost Southeast Asia Investments in Low-Carbon Land Use,” USAID, Sept. 4, 2024

empowerment and strengthen energy institutions.

## “KEY RESULTS

- Launched a \$3 million partnership framework between the USAID Southeast Asia Smart Power Program and the ASEAN Centre for Energy to increase the regional renewable energy share and the installed renewable energy capacity to 23 percent and 35 percent, respectively, by 2025
- Developed 21 decision support tools through SERVIR-Mekong (a program from 2014-2022 that laid the foundation for SERVIR Southeast Asia), leading to the training of more than 1,500 people, mobilization of \$500,000 of investment, and the adoption of four policies to improve climate resilience
- Unlocked \$446 million in climate financing through USAID Green Invest Asia’s work in the agriculture and land use sectors, reducing a projected 156 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent and improving the sustainable management of 1.7 million hectares of land
- Engaged in drafting, through a collaboration between Mekong For the Future and the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights, of the first-ever environmental rights framework for the region.”[68]

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[68] “Confronting the Climate Crisis in Southeast Asia,” USAID website, Accessed Oct. 30, 2024



**In its climate action plan, the Social Security Administration said that increased temperatures may lead to heat stroke, heat exhaustion, heat cramps, heat rashes, and dizziness as risks of injuries to employees working outside. The SSA also said that “Climate-related hazards may also lead to the inability of employees to access our offices due to damaged roadways, sidewalks, and parking lots and employees falling on slippery surfaces”**

According to the Social Security Administration’s 2024-2027 Climate Adaptation Plan, “Increased temperatures may lead to heat stroke, heat exhaustion, heat cramps, heat rashes, and dizziness as risks of injuries to employees working outside. Climate-related hazards may also lead to the inability of employees to access our offices due to damaged roadways, sidewalks, and parking lots and employees falling on slippery surfaces.”[69]

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[69] Climate Adaptation Plan, Social Security Administration, Accessed Oct. 30, 2024

**The Inflation Reduction Act included \$3.4 billion for GSA to build, modernize and maintain more sustainable and cost-efficient high-performance facilities, including \$2.15 billion specifically for low-embodied carbon construction materials**

According to an Oct. 30, 2024, press release from the U.S. General Services Administration, “The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) announced a \$3 million contract award to Leo A Daly + NBBJ, a joint venture, for preconstruction design and construction management services for the Henry M. Jackson Federal Building plaza and paving repairs project in downtown Seattle.

“With funding from the Inflation Reduction Act as part of President Biden’s investing in America agenda, GSA plans to replace the waterproofing under the plaza to repair leaks. GSA also plans to replace the plaza bricks with a low-embodied carbon alternative. Leo A Daly + NBBJ will provide design and engineering services to determine the best way to complete the project and provide cost estimation services. Construction is anticipated to begin in Fall 2026, with completion scheduled for Summer 2028.

“‘The Henry M. Jackson Federal Building is a cornerstone of Seattle’s downtown community,’ said Sukhee Kang, Northwest/Arctic Regional Administrator. ‘With this Inflation Reduction Act funding, GSA is able to reinvest in the future of the facility and use more sustainable materials.’

“The Seattle project is one of more than 150 low-embodied carbon projects that GSA announced on November 6, 2023.

“The Inflation Reduction Act includes \$3.4 billion for GSA to build, modernize and maintain more sustainable and cost-efficient high-performance facilities. This IRA funding includes \$2.15 billion specifically for low-embodied carbon construction materials. GSA’s IRA projects will implement new technologies and accelerate GSA’s efforts toward achieving a net-zero emissions federal building portfolio by 2045. Through these investments, GSA estimates a total greenhouse gas emissions reduction of 2.3 million metric tons, the same amount that 500,000 gasoline-powered passenger vehicles produce each year.”[70]

**In August 2024, the GSA “visited the IBEW-NECA Detroit Electrical Industry Training Center in Warren, MI to celebrate major climate investments across Michigan as part of President Biden’s Investing in America Agenda. Through the Inflation Reduction Act [PDF], GSA is investing more than \$53 million in Michigan”**

According to an Aug. 6, 2024, press release from the U.S. General Services Administration, “Today, U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) Administrator Robin Carnahan visited the IBEW-NECA Detroit Electrical Industry Training Center in Warren, MI to celebrate major climate investments across Michigan as part of President Biden’s Investing in America Agenda. Through the Inflation Reduction Act [PDF], GSA is investing more than \$53 million in Michigan, including a \$34.1 million award announced today for sustainable improvements at the Patrick V. McNamara

[70] Press Release, “GSA Awards Design Contract for Seattle Federal Plaza Sustainability Project,” U.S. General Services Administration, Oct. 30, 2024

Federal Building.

“‘Thanks to once-in-a-generation investments in our nation’s infrastructure, we’re using over \$3.4 billion from the Inflation Reduction Act to get a triple win: creating more American jobs, reducing energy consumption which saves taxpayer dollars, and ensuring healthier communities,’ said GSA Administrator Robin Carnahan. ‘We’re continuing that progress by investing over \$34 million into the Patrick V. McNamara Federal Building to help make this building safer, more resilient, and better equipped to support the people it serves.’

“‘The project will restore the parking structure’s long-term integrity and durability using low embodied carbon construction materials, install 22 electric vehicle charging stations, and improve electrical and lighting systems. The contract for design-build services was awarded to Pullman SST, Inc. and construction is planned to start in 2025. The project plans to use steel meeting GSA’s most-stringent top 20% limit (and some additional steel meeting GSA’s Top 40% global warming potential (GWP) limit), along with concrete meeting GSA’s top 40% GWP limit. Material selections alone are estimated to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by the equivalent of at least 17 metric tons of carbon dioxide. The McNamara building is also slated for a \$7 million IRA investment to repair the building’s facade.”[71]

[71] Press Release, “GSA celebrates major climate investments in Michigan as part of President Biden’s Investing in America agenda,” U.S. General Services Administration, Aug. 6, 2024

## **The NSF disclosed approximately \$46 million in funds available to spend in Fiscal Year 2023 through its Justice40 covered programs**

According to the Environmental Justice Scorecard website, “Through President Biden’s Investing in America agenda and other sources, NSF has: approximately \$46 million in funds available to obligate (i.e., to spend) in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 through its Justice40 covered programs.

“Through President Biden’s Justice40 Initiative, NSF is working to deliver benefits to disadvantaged communities. Each program that is part of the Justice40 Initiative delivers benefits in at least one of seven investment categories, and many programs are delivering benefits to communities across multiple categories of investment. The 3 covered program(s) at NSF working to deliver benefits for communities include:

- 3 program(s) protecting communities from the impacts of climate change
- 2 program(s) advancing clean and affordable energy for communities
- 2 program(s) delivering and advancing clean transportation options for communities
- 1 program(s) advancing affordable and sustainable housing
- 2 program(s) delivering training and workforce development benefits
- 2 program(s) addressing the remediation and reduction of legacy pollution
- 2 program(s) delivering critical clean water and wastewater infrastructure benefits

“Overall, agencies are making concrete, tangible improvements to benefit disadvantaged communities across America through the Justice40 Initiative. These investments are resulting in cleaner air and water, more affordable clean energy, good-paying jobs, and other results that people are seeing and feeling today and into the future.”<sup>[72]</sup>

**In 2024, SBA Administrator Isabel Casillas Guzman announced a new Green Lender Initiative to enroll additional climate lenders in SBA’s loan programs**

According to a July 22, 2024, press release from the U.S. Small Business Administration, “Today, Administrator Isabel Casillas Guzman, head of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and the voice in President Biden’s Cabinet for America’s more than 33 million small businesses, announced a new Green Lender Initiative to enroll additional climate lenders in SBA’s loan programs. The initiative will employ SBA loan guarantees to attract additional private capital in support of clean energy investments spurred by President Biden’s Inflation Reduction Act.”[73]

**Senator Ed Markey: “By teaming up with the Environmental Protection Agency and green energy lenders, SBA will leverage historic capital investments from the Inflation Reduction Act— including the \$20 billion in national climate bank funding that I secured—to support financing for clean energy projects and sustainable small businesses”**

According to a July 22, 2024, press release from the U.S. Small Business Administration, “Today’s announcement by the Small Business Administration is a win for the clean energy economy and the climate. By teaming up with the Environmental Protection Agency and green energy lenders, SBA will leverage historic capital investments from the Inflation Reduction Act— including the \$20 billion in national climate bank funding that I secured—to support financing for clean energy projects and sustainable small businesses,” said Senator Markey. “This will supercharge our energy transition in cities and towns across the Commonwealth while creating good high-wage clean jobs, putting small business owners in the driver’s seat.”[74]

[73] Press Release, “Biden-Harris Administration Opens SBA Loan Programs to New Green Lenders to Help Small Businesses Meet Climate Goals,” U.S. Small Business Administration, July 22, 2024

[74] Press Release, “Biden-Harris Administration Opens SBA Loan Programs to New Green Lenders to Help Small Businesses Meet Climate Goals,” U.S. Small Business Administration, July 22, 2024