CLIMATE

WHY WE WORK
ON CLIMATE

"Nothing has more potential than global warming to alter forever the world our children inherit, from the food they eat to the water they drink."

Steve Cochran
VP Climate

EDF MILESTONES

1987	EDF cosponsors the first major international conferences on global warming.
1997	EDF's market approach becomes the basis of the Kyoto climate agreements, later ratified by 187 nations.
2006	We help design regional climate initiatives to cut CO_2 pollution from power plants in the Northeast and West.
2007	The U.S. Supreme Court rules that EPA has the authority to regulate global warming pollution, siding with EDF and its allies.
2009	EDF plays a key role in helping pass legislation in the House to cap and reduce global warming pollution.

GREEN LIGHT FOR CALIFORNIA'S BOLD CLIMATE LAW

When climate legislation stalled in the Senate this year, the battleground shifted west. Several oil companies bankrolled a ballot initiative to block California's Global Warming Solutions Act (AB32). For the first time, a global warming law was put before voters.

By a margin of 61% to 39%, EDF and allies soundly defeated the industry assault and preserved the momentum for global warming action. "With the world's eighth largest economy, California can influence not just national climate policy, but global policy as well," says Steve Cochran, our VP for climate.

EDF had cosponsored and helped pass the landmark 2006 law, which sets an economy-wide cap on carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions, requiring a reduction to 1990 levels by 2020.

Early on, EDF identified the defense of AB32 as a must-win battle. To support the law, we helped form a broad coalition of nonprofit groups and hundreds of businesses, chaired by former Secretary of State George Shultz and investor Tom Steyer. We also built partnerships with labor and the environmental justice community.

Misleadingly labeled the California Jobs Initiative, the campaign to kill AB32 was funded in large part by Texas oil companies that operate polluting refineries in California. EDF and its allies exposed the ruse: 97% of contributions came from oil-related companies, and 85% came from out of state.

To counter false claims that AB32 would cost jobs, EDF's sister organization, the Environmental Defense Action Fund, raised funds for TV and radio advertising. Because contributions to the Action Fund are not tax-deductible, it is free to spend on lobbying activities. "This was essential to quickly spread the truth to voters," says our West Coast political director Wade Crowfoot.

We made jobs a key part of our message. Since AB32 was enacted, clean-tech jobs in California have grown ten times faster than jobs in other sectors.

Meanwhile, we also helped preserve the ability to regulate greenhouse gases at the national level, beating back efforts by opponents in Congress to revoke EPA's authority to cut pollution under the Clean Air Act.
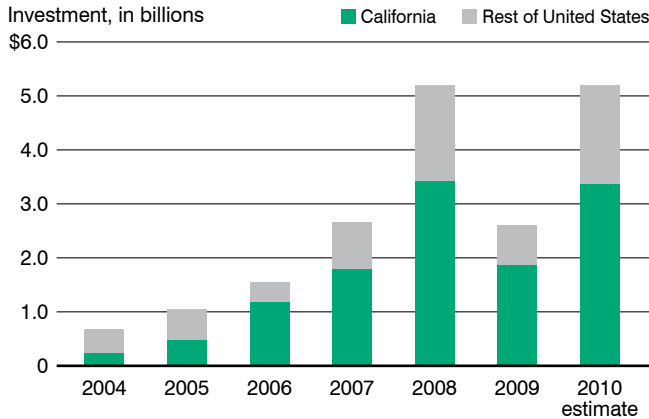
Having withstood the challenges, California's bold climate law goes into effect in 2012. It will spark innovation and reinvigorate the campaign for national climate action.

VIDEO How California ignored opposition scare tactics and chose healthy air: **edf.org/noprop23**

"This is a monumental victory for energy independence and national security. EDF played a key role with its partners in making it possible."

George Shultz
Former U.S. Secretary of State

VENTURE CAPITAL FLOWS TO CLEAN TECH

Investment, in billions ■ California ■ Rest of United States

Since AB32 passed in 2006, clean-tech investment in California has exceeded that of the other 49 states combined.

WEANING THE U.S. OFF FOSSIL FUELS

With the country highly dependent on dirty fossil fuels, it's clear fundamental changes are needed in our national energy policy.

For decades, EDF has been at the forefront of efforts to put the nation on a clean energy path, promoting regional climate initiatives and energy efficiency. In recent years, we helped establish vehicle pollution standards adopted by 14 states. That set the stage for tougher national standards, announced by the Obama administration, raising car fuel efficiency 40% by 2016.

We're also focusing on electricity generation, the largest source of global warming pollution. The Pecan Street Project, a smart-grid initiative developed by the City of Austin in collaboration with EDF and Austin Energy, is one of the first local efforts to transform the electric grid into an interactive network. The project rewards conservation and smoothly integrates a variety of clean energy sources like wind and solar power.

The smart grid is opening up the electric utility industry to real innovation, much as the Internet did for communications. For Pecan Street, EDF established carbon reduction goals for investments and brought in cutting-edge companies like Cisco, GridPoint and Oracle. Officials estimate up to 30,000 clean-energy jobs could be created in Austin alone. We're now helping develop similar projects in Chicago and other cities.

15% of global warming pollution comes from tropical deforestation

CLIMATE GOALS

EDF seeks to avoid the catastrophic consequences of climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and applying effective adaptation strategies.

- Win permanent cuts in U.S. global warming pollution
- Secure an international climate agreement
- Help businesses hasten low-carbon innovations

THE KEY ROLE OF RAINFORESTS

The clearing and burning of tropical forests produces more greenhouse gases annually than all the world's cars and trucks combined. To make rainforests worth more alive than dead, EDF teamed up with partners in Brazil, which harbors a third of the world's rainforests. Our solution—to award credits in the global carbon market to nations that reduce deforestation—gained traction in recent UN climate talks.

In 2010, our partners in Brazil helped win a national cap on emissions. We also made progress by positioning rainforest countries to benefit from California's upcoming carbon market. "Avoiding deforestation is the quickest, cheapest route to achieving greenhouse gas reductions," says Dr. Stephan Schwartzman, EDF director for tropical forest policy.