

It's time to Power Up, Colorado

Colorado and our country have been living through particularly difficult times. As the new administration and Congress consider how to contain the coronavirus, get our economy back on track and address environmental injustice, they have a chance to make some important changes that are long overdue.



We can create good jobs in Colorado by addressing the nation's biggest sources of climate pollution. We can power up the economy and make our air safer to breathe by building clean trucks, buses, cars and clean energy.

Investing in clean power and a newer, cleaner transportation system will build up our manufacturing base, make American businesses more competitive and save thousands of lives through pollution reductions. With concerted outreach and coordination, cleaning up these sectors has the potential to bring significant public health benefits to communities of color and low-income communities where the pollution burden falls heaviest. **We need 100% clean electric power by 2035, all new cars to be zero emitting by 2035, and all new trucks and buses to be zero emitting by 2040.**

We're seeing momentum for clean energy, clean transportation and climate action in Colorado:

- [Over 62,000 Coloradoans](#) worked in clean energy and transportation and energy efficiency, as of 2019.
- Colorado is home to more than 454 solar companies employing over 4,000 people throughout the state.
- There are [over 33,000 electric cars](#) on the road in Colorado, and cities including Denver, Boulder, Avon and Breckenridge have added electric buses to their fleets. Colorado recently [ranked 8th](#) in the nation for policies supporting electrifying transportation.
- Construction has begun on a [300 MW solar farm](#) at the Pueblo steel mill bringing a new era of lower carbon steel production to Colorado while helping to preserve good jobs.
- Colorado's weatherization program completed [1,285 projects](#) across 55 counties in 2020 resulting in \$498,580 in annual cost savings

Colorado is taking action. In 2019 the legislature [passed](#) a climate action plan that requires the state to curb emissions 50%, including power sector emissions by 80%, by 2030 and statewide emissions 90% by 2050. The legislature also created the country's first Office of Just Transition. While state regulators have taken action to [reduce](#) oil and gas methane leaks and increase [deployment](#) of zero emissions vehicles **the state is not on track to achieve its climate goals this decade.** In addition to bold action at the federal level Colorado leaders need to adopt policies and regulations that result in quantifiable, enforceable pollution reductions while powering up the economy in the process. **Colorado families and businesses would benefit from strong state and federal action.**

Climate change is not a distant threat. It's already impacting Colorado's economy, forests and public health. The number of fires burning annually in Colorado has **more than quadrupled**, with **30x more acres burned** in the last decade, compared to the 1970s. Three of the state's largest wildfires ever happened in 2020, greatly [exacerbating](#) already poor air quality on the Front Range caused by oil and gas pollution and vehicle emissions. The number of summer days above 95 degrees in Denver has **doubled** since the 1970s. Low snowfall years are [already costing](#) the state economy hundreds of millions of dollars, and **if we don't act, things will get much worse.**

We can rebuild our economy and create healthier communities by modernizing our transportation and power sectors, but we need Congress to act.