



The Opportunity

Climate change is an unprecedented global crisis. The problems are complex and entrenched, the outlook increasingly dire. But as more and more people take action, a seemingly intractable problem becomes a solvable one.

Now is that time. Progress thought unrealistic a decade ago is reality today. Carbon pollution in the U.S. and Europe is well below its high point; China is on track to reach its peak five years ahead of its global commitment to the United Nations. Investments in renewable energy and electric vehicles are soaring while costs plummet. Young people are realizing their political, economic and social capital on this issue and forcing companies and politicians to respond.

The Challenge

Heat-trapping gases and other climate pollutants emitted since the beginning of the industrial revolution have warmed the planet an average of 1.8° Fahrenheit (1° Celsius) above pre-industrial levels — causing dangerous and devastating changes for people and communities worldwide.

The Objective

In 2015, the countries of the world gathered in Paris and pledged to limit warming to below 2°C by 2100. To have a chance of meeting the goal, we must cut climate pollution immediately, and get to a point where we take as much carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere as we put into it.

We must seize this momentum and unleash its full potential. Philanthropic leadership from supporters like you is vital to turning the possible into reality.

Cut pollution from the biggest emitters.

Our approach is to advance strategies that turn the engines of the economy toward low-carbon prosperity — stabilizing the climate while enabling people to thrive. Our priorities:

Advance the fastest, most cost-effective solution to slow the rate of warming:

Methane is a potent greenhouse gas responsible for a quarter of the warming we experience today. The biggest industrial culprit is oil and gas. Our goal: Slash methane from the oil and gas industry 45% by 2025, putting us on a path to achieve a 75% reduction by 2030. Our affiliate, MethaneSAT LLC, is building a satellite to expose and drive down global methane pollution.

Spark a global market to direct billions of dollars into cutting climate pollution: EDF is helping shape an agreement that will cap aviation pollution — one of the fastest growing sources of carbon pollution — and launch the first global carbon market for an entire industrial sector. The world's major airlines and 70 governments support the plan.

Cut pollution from the world's biggest emitters: We are building on nearly 30 years as a trusted adviser in **China** to help the government design and implement a national carbon market — to be the world's largest when it goes into effect in 2020. In the **United States**, we are working with allies to move the country to a 100% clean economy — net zero emissions by 2050 — by harnessing economic incentives to make low-carbon prosperity possible. We also are defending existing laws from attack. In **India**, which is projected to become the world's largest climate polluter, we are helping get the country on a low-carbon, high-growth trajectory, bringing prosperity without intensive pollution.

Protect the world's tropical forests and build global financial demand for healthy forests: Tropical forests play a critical role in the climate, and no forest is more important than the Amazon, which stores more carbon than any forest on Earth. EDF is helping our Brazilian partners defend the forest from illegal burning. In Brazil and globally, we are creating economic incentives to ensure tropical forests are worth more alive than dead.

Build resilient communities and ecosystems.

A certain amount of warming is locked in and already harming people and communities. We need to make sure they can withstand the changes. Our priorities:

Secure a food source for 3.5 billion people:

We are advancing climate-resilient fishing practices, which adapt as fish shift their ranges with warming waters. This is critical since nearly half the world's population relies on food from the ocean.

Support climate-resilient farming and prepare for drought:

With farmers and major food and agriculture companies like Tyson and Smithfield, we are working to create more resilient food systems. In the U.S. West, EDF is advancing technologies such as satellite data on crop irrigation needs and market approaches like water trading to help communities meet water needs during drought.

Use natural solutions to protect threatened communities:

The Mississippi River Delta is one of the largest deltas on Earth and loses a football field worth of land every 100 minutes. We are demonstrating how to use the Mississippi River's natural processes to rebuild the coastline and protect communities from storms and flooding, as a model for coastal communities.

Remove pollution already emitted.

Scientists have concluded that removing climate pollution from the atmosphere is necessary to stabilize the climate. EDF is helping lead the way in promoting policies and public investment to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Our priorities:

Advance natural solutions for storing carbon:

This includes long-established techniques like reforestation of degraded areas, as well as new approaches.

Explore technologies for drawing carbon out of the atmosphere:

We promote rigorous scientific review, and development of carbon removal strategies that are safe and deliver real climate benefit while being cost effective.

Environmental Defense Fund focuses on solutions that are practical, cost-effective and have the potential for high impact. We deliver results by deploying our strengths: science; technological innovation; economics; nonpartisan policy; and partnerships with large corporations.

We work on solutions in three categories:

- Our primary focus — and the bulk of our efforts — is on **cutting the amount of pollution going into the atmosphere.**
- We are developing and growing our work to **support climate resilience** so that communities can withstand the unavoidable impacts of a rapidly warming climate.
- We are exploring and expanding efforts to **remove pollution already emitted** into the atmosphere.



Climate change is one of the greatest crises humanity has faced. We have reason to hope, but we must act now. You are the essential ingredient — only by joining together, in great numbers, can we change the future.

One day, we will be asked, “What did you do?”
Thank you for joining us.

