



One Climate. One Future. One Chance.

August Congressional Meetings talking points

Thank you for committing to meet with your member of Congress this summer to discuss bold climate solutions! You have the power to make your voice heard and make a difference. You don't have to be an expert in climate science or policy, but having some background on the issues will help ensure the success of your meeting. Use the talking points and FAQ below to help you plan your meeting and prepare for potential questions from your member of Congress or their staff.

INTRODUCE YOURSELF AND YOUR COMPANIONS

Tell your member of Congress or his/her staff-person who you are, and give any of your companions a chance to introduce themselves as well. Tell them why you are concerned about climate change you and what motivates you to act – make the issue personal. Consider making the following points:

- Climate change and rising energy prices are some of the most pressing issues of our time
- We have an opportunity to green the American economy, create new opportunities, secure our future, and stabilize our climate
- The majority of Americans recognize that climate change is real and want strong action from the federal government to tackle the challenge

INTRODUCE THE MOVEMENT

When people come together in social movements, politicians listen. Tell your member of Congress that over 1,500 people like you across the country have committed to taking action in August in conjunction with the 1Sky campaign and are calling for bold climate solutions. Be sure to give some background on 1Sky:

- 1Sky is a new national campaign focused on passing effective federal climate policy
- The campaign is a collaborative effort of over diverse 100 organizations from all sectors of society (list available at: <http://www.1sky.org/allies>) and tens of thousands of citizens
- We are calling for solutions at the scale of the climate challenge before us in line with science and equity

CALL FOR BOLD ACTION

A key focus of our August actions is the need for strong short-term targets to cut global warming pollution at least 25 to 40% below 1990 levels by 2020. Tell your member of Congress that these targets are what the science demands and that we need much stronger bills than we have seen to date. The 1Sky campaign is calling for bold policies that will do the following:

- **CUT CLIMATE POLLUTION AT LEAST 25% BELOW 1990 LEVELS BY 2020**, in line with the scientific recommendations of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).
- **CREATE 5 MILLION GREEN JOBS AND PATHWAYS OUT OF POVERTY** in a sweeping national mobilization of the American workforce.
- **END THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW COAL PLANTS** that emit global warming pollution and support renewable energies.

More details on 1Sky's policy platform can be found at: <http://www.1sky.org/about/solutions> and in your package for delivery to your member, which will contain the 1Sky policy solutions.

If relevant and asked, discuss current measures in the US House of Representatives: Representatives Waxman (CA), Markey (MA) and Inslee (WA) have drafted a set of climate principles in the House that has attracted more than 90 co-signers and

provides an important roadmap for driving climate change policy and legislation in the right direction. The legislation that these principles are designed to support must strengthen short-term targets under the domestic cap to ensure that we achieve global warming emissions reductions of 25% below 1990 levels by 2020.

MAKE THE ASK

Ask your elected official to pledge to support the 1Sky platform as a foundation for developing a series of policies that are at the scale of the climate challenge before us. Remind them that strong climate policy means a strong green economy and a secure America. See if they will sign the 1Sky pledge (attached in your package). Thank them for their time, and be sure to develop a plan to follow up!

Policy background/FAQ

What about climate legislation currently pending in the House and Senate?

Many climate bills have either been introduced in the House or Senate or are pending introduction. While some bills are stronger than others, none fully address the magnitude or the scientific reality of the climate crisis. In particular, none of the legislation meets the scientific standard of at least 25% to 40% emissions reductions below 1990 levels by 2020.

What if they ask me if they should sign on to the House climate change principles?

If your Representative asks if they should sign-on to the House principles, say yes, but urge that the legislation that these principles are designed to support must strengthen short-term targets under the domestic cap to ensure that we achieve global warming emissions reductions of 25% below 1990 levels by 2020.

What about the Lieberman-Warner climate bill that failed in the Senate in June?

The Lieberman-Warner bill was the strongest piece of climate legislation considered by the Senate to date, but its emissions reduction targets were not in line with the science, and the bill also would have allowed polluters to emit carbon at zero cost. Ultimately the Lieberman-Warner bill failed to pass in part because it did not attract significant public and grassroots support. This highlights the need for much stronger action and a citizenry engaged in demanding bold solutions in line with the 1Sky platform.

Why are short- and long-term reduction targets important?

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has recommended that developed countries like the U.S. cut carbon emissions at least 25 to 40% below 1990 levels by 2020, and at least 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. Leading climate scientists like NASA's James Hansen who is a member of 1Sky's Scientific Advisory Council warn that we have less than 10 years to reverse our current emissions trajectory and prevent catastrophic climate change. Any serious federal climate policy must commit to achieving the short-term targets required by the science so that the long-term emissions reduction targets recommended by the IPCC can be ensured.

Are five million green jobs really possible?

Absolutely. Economic analysis indicates that renewable energy development could create over a million jobs in manufacturing alone! Manufacturing, however, is just one part of renewable energy development – and renewable energy development is just one part of the green economy. Additional green jobs in conservation, efficiency, and renewable energy production and distribution will provide widespread economic opportunity and pathways out of poverty. 1Sky supports the creation of a Clean Energy Corps to jump-start this green economy by providing service opportunities and job training for millions of Americans in these emerging fields. We are completing an overview of the research ensuring our goal of 5 million is possible, and if you or your member is interested in having it when it is completed in September 2008, contact jason@1sky.org.

Is ending the development of new coal-fired power plants feasible?

Ending the development of new coal-fired power plants that emit global warming pollution is absolutely necessary if we are serious about fighting climate change. Coal emissions are major sources of the global warming problem. Deployment of carbon capture technology is at least 10 years away and we cannot afford to wait any longer to address the climate challenge. We need a rapid shift away from coal and other fossil fuels towards clean, renewable alternatives like wind and solar, which are readily available. We recognize the need for a just transition for those workers employed by the fossil fuel sector; funds for job training in the new green economy should be targeted to these communities.

Won't climate legislation raise energy prices?

Oil and energy prices have already been rising steadily in the absence of climate legislation. If climate policy is designed correctly so that polluters pay for the global warming emissions they put into our sky, the money raised can be invested in programs to help American families transition to a low-carbon economy. By finally breaking the hold fossil fuels have on our economy, climate legislation will create green jobs while expanding clean, affordable renewable energy in America and making our country more energy efficient. Numerous studies have shown that the cost of inaction on global warming far outweighs the cost of action. By helping consumers save money with increased energy efficiency and creating new jobs and industries in America, climate legislation can help revive our struggling economy.