

SUMMARY OF AVAILABLE MEASURES TO CURB GREENHOUSE GASES

(Investing in the Planet's Future)

1. Tax fossil fuel usage.
2. Prevent export of fossil fuels to foreign lands where they would further pollute our atmosphere. This includes coal, oil, oil shale, tar sands, liquid natural gas (LNG), etc.
3. Incentivize planting trees and forest preservation in the US, the Amazon and in other countries. Buy farmland that was formerly forest and return it to managed forest land.
4. Stop fossil fuels exploration subsidies.
5. Phase out coal power plants rapidly. Staged phase out of coal-fired power plants by 2030 – retire the oldest plants first. State and/or Federal subsidizing would help utilities transition away from coal.
6. Immediately set up nationwide high energy efficiency requirements for all new buildings. Require net zero energy consumption for new buildings four stories or less.
7. Require a minimum 50% energy efficiency improvement in existing buildings by 2030. This would save 25% of our national energy diet, save money and create over a million jobs. To help this transition we need a financing system that is underwritten by utility or state property-based liens that put the loan payback burden on the property and not on the personal credit of the current property owner. (PACE property tax-based paybacks and/or utility billing paybacks are already being used in several states.)
8. Strictly restrict natural gas and oil fracking to prevent natural gas (methane) from escaping into the atmosphere. (Methane is 25 times as potent as CO₂ in greenhouse gas effect.)
9. Decentralize utility power generation (power gets lost in transmission lines). Promote local neighborhood energy production alliances and community mini-utilities. For example, community solar projects.
10. Increase the use of renewable energy power generation sources by utilities. Solar hot water/steam, photovoltaic solar, energy storage (salt tanks, pumped storage, etc.), geothermal, wind, hydropower, bio-waste fuel burning, algae based oil.
11. Accelerate the increased fuel efficiency of new cars and trucks. A more rapid transition than is already on the books is needed. Incentivize abandonment of fossil fuels. Move to electric and eventually hydrogen cell-fueled vehicles. (Hydrogen can be produced by solar and wind power generation.) Offer incentives to destroy low mpg vehicles.
12. Promote and incentivize widespread use of mass transit (reduce car usage).
13. Transition mass transit vehicles to use all electric power.
14. Build a national high-speed rail transit network to replace short distance airplane flights. Use federal incentives to states like the interstate highway program did.
15. Change to LED lighting everywhere. Transition incentives could help.
16. Use more energy efficient appliances in our homes. Incentivize retirement of inefficient appliances.
17. Promote automated monitoring and shut off controls for lighting and appliances in homes and commercial buildings.
18. Set up free and widespread training/classes in energy efficiency to reduce energy consumption in homes and businesses (for both adults and kids).
19. Promote organic farming and fertilizers. Enrich soils and improve soil microbes that sequester CO₂ and improve food quality. Incentivize transition away from corporate farming and synthetic fertilizers. Subsidize organic farm labor wages. Subsidize cost of organic foods to low income families.
20. Promote vegetarian diets. Frees up land used for feeding livestock. Reduces methane.