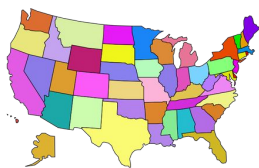


Policy Climate Action: Bitmoji Classroom

Page 1 of 6



[Explore this page](#) which outlines climate policies at the state level. Click around the maps and investigate your state and any other states you may be interested in!

Answer the following questions:

1. Read through the page linked above. Why are state climate policies (in addition to federal and international policies) important?
 - a. Expanding on your answer to the above question, why might local climate policies be important?
2. Choose one state. Using the interactive maps on the site, summarize (a) the current greenhouse gas emission targets in that state, and (b) that state's climate action plan.
3. If you could design a climate policy for your state, which of the following areas would you focus on: (1) greenhouse gas emissions targets, (2) carbon pricing, (3) electricity sector policies, (4) transportation policies, or (5) another approach. Describe your rationale for your decision and what your policy may look like.



Read this [article on CivilEats.org](#): "Climate Change Is Walloping US Farms. Can This Farm Bill Create Real Solutions?"

Answer the following questions:

1. What are some key issues farmers in the U.S. are dealing with in the face of climate change?
2. What are the two main areas on which Farm Bill funding would focus?
3. What is a commodity farm (Google it if you need to), and why is commodity farming a poor choice in the face of climate change?
 - a. How could policy help shift agriculture away from commodity farming?
4. How could policy help shift us away from the current animal agriculture system?
5. How can policy help reduce food waste?
6. What might be benefits, and/or shortcomings, of the 2023 Farm Bill.
7. Based on what you have learned, share your thoughts in response to the two big questions from the article:
 - a. Would the 2023 Farm Bill play a meaningful role in addressing and responding to the climate crisis?
 - b. Can a government bill really shift the food system toward a lower-emission, climate-resilient future?

Policy Climate Action: Bitmoji Classroom

Page 2 of 6



[Explore this](#) and [linked pages](#) on the Indian Law Resource Center's website: Protecting Indigenous Rights In Climate Policy.

Answer the following questions:

1. Using the REDD+ example, describe how policies addressing climate change can be harmful towards indigenous communities.
 - a. Why is it important that policy centers indigenous livelihoods & rights?
2. Explore the linked guide titled "Conservation and Indigenous Peoples in Mesoamerica: A Guide" – read the Introduction. Based on what you learn, expand on your answer to question (1).
 - a. How does the inclusion of indigenous rights in environmental and climate policy strengthen said policy?



[Explore this article](#) on climate justice from the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication.

Answer the following questions:

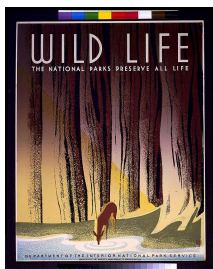
1. Define climate justice in your own words.
 - a. Why, according to the article, is climate justice a "critical dimension of climate change"?
2. Of the climate opinions measured, which surprised you the most? Why?
3. Why is it still difficult to implement climate justice policies, despite widespread public support for them? (Hint: read the "Takeaways" section).
 - a. What are some shortcomings of policy in addressing climate justice?
 - b. What are some potential strengths of policy in addressing climate justice?
4. Thought experiment: What specific climate justice policies (existing or imagined) would be most important to adopt in your community? How would public support of such policies help their adoption and implementation?



List three reasons why [centering social justice is sound climate policy](#). For you, what is the most compelling of these reasons, and why?

Policy Climate Action: Bitmoji Classroom

Page 3 of 6



Climate change remains one of the most prominent threats to both human and natural forms of life. Its impacts have created devastating conditions for ecosystems and wildlife, demonstrating the necessity for strong climate policies that mitigate detrimental climate effects. The National Wildlife Federation (NWF) offers a series of policy recommendations that are necessary to reverse the warming of the Earth's atmosphere and protect the biodiversity of our communities.

Answer the following questions:

1. What are some of the impacts of climate change highlighted by the NWF?
2. What does the NWF identify as the primary goal for governments and industry to meet by 2050?
3. What are some of the climate mitigation policies recommended in the article?
4. Why do they emphasize the significance of congressional action?
5. What are some of the climate adaptation policy recommendations?
6. What do they identify as key to creating effective adaptation strategies? Why might this be important when developing adaptation strategies?
7. What does the NWF identify as a cost-effective solution to protecting people and property from climate change impacts?
8. How can addressing infrastructure development and maintenance advance climate resilience?



Click around [this website](#) to learn about the mission and methodology of the Urban Ocean Lab, an organization that cultivates equitable climate and ocean policy for the future of coastal cities.

Answer the following questions:

1. Why is it important that policy addresses sea level rise?
2. Why is it important that ocean policy is crafted carefully and equitably?
3. Read through the four main areas of focus of the Urban Ocean Lab
4. Head to the "2023 Policy Priorities" page on the site. What does a "Blue New Deal" entail?
 - a. How is the theme of resilience woven throughout the vision for a "Blue New Deal?"
5. Head to the "Factsheets" page and choose one of the four to explore: Coastal Ecosystems; Regenerative Ocean Farming; Sea Level Rise; Offshore Wind Energy. *(Students can split into four groups; each group assigned to one of the factsheets).*
 - a. Summarize your chosen factsheet in your own words in 2-3 sentences.
 - b. Propose two different examples of how policy can address the issue area covered by your factsheet. Be creative!
 - i. Choose one of your proposed policies. Does this policy address social justice in the face of climate change? If so, how?



Why Voting Local Matters- Watch the [video](#) from PBS

Learn about the importance of local climate policies and their significance for enacting climate action. While federal bills are critical steps for change, local laws can be more efficient, effective, and direct when it comes to community level climate challenges- making your local vote just as important as your federal one!

Answer the following questions:

1. Prior to watching this video, did you think state/local or federal policies were more effective means of fighting climate change?
2. What are some of the potential benefits of federal climate policies?
3. What are some of the potential challenges of federal climate policies?
4. What are some of the potential benefits of local climate policies?
5. What are some of the potential challenges of local climate policies?
6. What is one way New York City's local government is implementing climate policy?
7. What are some of the local climate policies your town, county, or state has enacted?

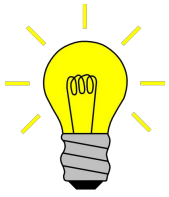


Read the White House [briefing](#) about Environmental Justice:

Following his first week in office, President Biden signed Executive Order 14008, aimed at addressing the climate crisis, with a particular focus on environmental justice. The new executive order enhances a previous one by adding several initiatives to strengthen environmental equity throughout American communities.

Answer the following questions:

1. How does Executive Order 14008 relate to the three lenses?
2. What are some of the new environmental justice initiatives established by the order?
3. How does advancing environmental justice assist in combating climate change?
4. What is the significance of monitoring strategies like the WHEJAC and the Environmental Justice Scorecard?
5. What are some additional agencies working to advance climate equity?
6. How might these federal proposals support state and local climate policy making?
7. What might be some of the potential limitations of these federal initiatives?



[Energy Efficiency Programs in K-12 Schools](#) - Read the section on **Strategies for Effective Program Implementation: Climate policies are ineffective unless implemented with productive planning, application, and monitoring strategies. Read about the necessary development and implementation procedures, particularly for K-12 schools looking to increase their energy efficiency.**

1. What additional environmental benefits can green buildings have?
2. What is an example of a secondary energy saving benefit of green buildings?
3. What are some ways to ensure energy efficiency is included in the design process of a new building or school?
4. Give examples of some of the key participants who might be involved in green building development or planning..



[This article](#) demonstrates the ability for local governments to enact wide-scale climate action. While we tend to think of important climate legislation as happening at the federal level, it is also being drafted and implemented across the country on a local and state level. The efforts of local leaders is critical to the success of climate action!

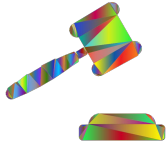
Answer the following questions:

1. How can local governments improve climate change policies and preparedness strategies?
2. What are some of the recommendations local leaders can take to increase their communities resilience?
3. What are some of the ways in which mayors are working to improve the sustainability of their cities?
4. What are some of the initiatives cities like Boston and Baltimore have taken to address histories of social and environmental inequities?
5. Which of the report's recommendations would be most beneficial for your local government to adopt and why?
6. Are the current mitigation commitments adequate to meet global targets?
7. How does this article relate to the three lenses?



Check out [NOAA's State Climate Summaries](#) to see how your state's climate has changed, as well as its future climate projections.

1. What is the key message for your state?
2. What is your state's historical climate and how is it projected to change?
3. How much of an increase in temperature has your state experienced?
4. Is your state projected to experience increased extreme weather events? If so, which ones?
5. What changes in precipitation with the US see and why?
6. What types of policies do you think your state should implement to address climate-induced challenges?



Georgetown Climate Adaptation Programs Tracker: This database lets you search for climate policies and adaptation initiatives for your state. It will show you any relevant legislation, executive orders or plans in your state.

1. Does your state have a Climate Adaptation plan? If so, what are some of the key elements in the plan? If not, why do you think your state does not have one?
2. What year was the first climate policy recorded in this database implemented in your state? What about that policy makes it stand out to be the earliest policy in this database?
3. Look to some of the states neighboring yours. Were there policies in those states you would like to see in yours? Why do you think those policies do not exist in your state?

Extra links to explore: