

# Chapter topics tell the story of the Climate Action Plan

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For the last two weeks, I have been writing about The President's Climate Action Plan (TPCAP), Obama's newly released plan to battle climate change. This is a twenty-one-page outline of a plan that, if implemented, will have a serious impact on our freedoms and our economy. I would urge everyone to read the plan and think about the massive regulations we already have from administrations that operate out of and create law without our legislature, and how many more could come from this plan.

Calling this an outline is an understatement, at the least. Consider some of the topics covered in the Table of Contents: Deploying Clean Energy; Cutting Carbon Pollution from Power Plants; Building a 21st Century Transportation Sector; Increasing Fuel Economy Standards; Developing and Deploying Advanced Transportation Technologies; Cutting Energy Waste in Homes, Businesses, and Factories; Reducing Energy Bills for American Families; Reducing Other Greenhouse Gas Emissions; Curbing Emissions of Hydrofluorocarbons; Reducing Methane Emissions; Preserving the Role of Forests in Mitigating Climate Change; and Leading at the Federal Level.

But wait, there's more: Prepare the United States for the Impacts of Climate Change; Building Stronger and Safer Communities and Infrastructure; Directing Agencies to Support Climate-Resilient Investment; Establishing a State, Local, and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness; Supporting Communities as they Prepare for Climate Impacts; Boosting the Resilience of Buildings and Infrastructure; Rebuilding and Learning from Hurricane Sandy; Protecting our Economy and Natural Resources; Identifying Vulnerabilities of Key Sectors to Climate Change; Promoting Resilience in the Health Sector; Promoting Insurance Leadership for Climate Safety; Conserving Land and Water Resources; Maintaining Agricultural Stability; Managing Drought; Reducing Wildfire Risks; and Preparing for Future Floods.

When I read this document, I recall many of the topics and case studies that I have written about over the years and it is not difficult for me to think about the policies and bureaucracies that have already been established and I can easily imagine the policies and bureaucracies that this plan could generate. There have also been failed attempts in past decades at establishing laws that

would have “fundamentally transformed” (if I may use that term) this nation, one of which was the Wildlands Project.

The Wildlands Project was barely stopped from becoming law in the mid-90s. It would have set aside the majority of the United States as a conservation area that would have prohibited all human contact, allowing humans to live only in major metropolitan areas connected by narrow transportation corridors. As crazy as it sounds, there are still many people and progressive foundations that actively support and promote this idea.

Here are more of the topics covered: Using Sound Science to Manage Climate Impacts; Developing Actionable Climate Science; Assessing Climate-Change Impacts in the United States; Launching a Climate Data Initiative; and Providing a Toolkit for Climate Resilience.

The final section of the document covers even more: Lead International Efforts to Address Global Climate Change; Working with Other Countries to Take Action to Address Climate Change; Expanding Bilateral Cooperation with Major Emerging Economies; Combatting Short-Lived Climate Pollutants; Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation; Expanding Clean Energy Use and Cut Energy Waste; Negotiating Global Free Trade in Environmental Goods and Services; Phasing Out Subsidies that Encourage Wasteful Consumption of Fossil Fuels; Leading Global Sector Public Financing Towards Cleaner Energy; Strengthening Global Resilience to Climate Change; Mobilizing Climate Finance; and finally, Leading Efforts to Address Climate Change through International Negotiations.

Taken only at face value and first glance, are there some worthy goals embodied in this document? Of course. And that means that those who are critical of it will be branded as anti-progress and anti-environment, when nothing could be further from the truth. The truth is that we have already seen thousands of pages of bad law written by administrators of Obamacare, and thousands more coming in it and the immigration bill.

So when considering this document, is it so unreasonable to say that when all is said and done, “what could possibly go wrong?”

More on TPCAP next week.

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