

# Obama on Energy and the Environment

## SPECIFIC POLICY POSITIONS

### Climate change

Backs ambitious legislation to cut U.S. global-warming pollution 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. Under Obama's cap-and-trade proposal, the federal government would auction greenhouse-gas emission "credits" to companies that want to continue to pollute. Money from the auction would be used to develop clean-energy technologies, increase efficiency, and underwrite the labor costs of transitioning to new technologies.

### Nuclear power

Wants to keep the nuclear power option open but says that the U.S. should not build more reactors until the industry finds a safe way to dispose of commercial nuclear waste. He opposes dumping radioactive wastes at Nevada's Yucca Mountain.

### Oil

In early August, reversed his anti-drilling position to support oil exploration along the southeastern coast and Florida shores. Favors Democratic proposals to require oil companies to use existing drilling leases. He also calls for selling 70 million barrels of oil stockpiled in the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. Would impose tougher controls on oil speculation, end tax breaks for the oil and gas industry, and impose a "windfall profits" tax on multinational oil companies. Favors tougher fuel-economy standards on new cars and trucks.

### Electricity

To promote cleaner electricity technologies, he would require power companies to generate one-quarter of their electricity from solar, wind, or other sustainable sources by 2025. He also favors ambitious efficiency goals for new and existing buildings.

### Alternative transportation fuels

Backs federal ethanol mandates and seeks greater federal support for making ethanol from nonfood crops. He has also supported development of coal-to-oil technologies, although he now says that all new fuels should have to meet a national low-carbon standard. He promises to dedicate \$150 billion to developing and commercializing clean-energy technologies.

## KEY ADVISERS



**Grumet**      **Kammen**      **Learner**      **Anderson**      **Loy**

Obama's environment and energy policy team is headed by **Jason Grumet**, president of the Bipartisan Policy Center, a Washington think tank. Also on the front lines of policy development are **Daniel Kammen**, professor of energy, public policy, and nuclear engineering at the University of California (Berkeley), and **Howard Learner**, executive director of the Chicago-based Environmental Law and Policy Center. **Elgie Holstein**, who held environmental posts in the Clinton administration, is the campaign's senior energy policy adviser. Other team members are **Julie Anderson**, former climate-change program director at the Union of Concerned Scientists and now counsel for the National Commission on Energy Policy; and **Frank Loy**, a former head of the German Marshall Fund, who now serves on the boards of several environmental groups.

## RECORD

**Climate change:** Co-sponsored aggressive legislation to curb U.S. emissions of greenhouse gases. The measure was introduced by Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Chairwoman Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., and Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt.

**2005 Energy Policy Act:** Voted for the omnibus energy bill because of provisions boosting ethanol use and research on clean-coal technologies—two issues important to his Illinois constituents.

**Oil drilling:** Opposes oil drilling in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and supports some oil exploration along U.S. coasts.

**Renewable-electricity standards:** Supported legislation requiring electric utilities to produce some of their power from renewable sources.

**Transportation fuel standards:** Worked with Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind., to raise fuel-efficiency standards.

**Ethanol:** Supported federal benefits for ethanol production and for distribution of ethanol-based fuels.

## KEY INTEREST GROUPS

**League of Conservation Voters:** The group backed Obama's 2004 bid for the Senate. Since then, he has sided with the environmental community on 86 percent of the issues included in its congressional scorecards. In July, the league endorsed him.

**Sierra Club:** The group endorsed Obama in his 2004 Senate race in Illinois and is expected to endorse a presidential candidate soon. Because the club tends to side with Obama on most energy and environmental issues, he is likely to get its nod.

**U.S. Chamber of Commerce:** The chamber heightened its profile in Washington last year by opening the Institute for 21st Century Energy. Although the chamber does not endorse candidates, it tends to oppose Obama's energy and environmental positions.

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