

Current Positions of Presidential Candidates on Climate Policies (April 20, 2007)*

DEMOCRATS

SENATOR JOE BIDEN

Website: <http://www.joebiden.com/home>

Climate Change: <http://www.joebiden.com/issues/#0011>

[EXCERPT] “The United States, as the strongest nation in the world, must return to a leadership role to solve global warming. Containing greenhouse gas emissions within our own borders is a necessary and important start—but it is not enough. Joe Biden has led a bipartisan coalition calling on the President to return to negotiations for a new climate change treaty. Developing countries—China, India, Mexico, Korea and Brazil—will soon be the greatest source of greenhouse gas pollution. They must be a part of the solution.”

But we cannot exert pressure on these countries until we take meaningful action to limit greenhouse gas emissions here at home. Joe Biden supports a “cap and trade” approach to regulating emissions and investment in technologies that can significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions.”

CARBON CAP & TARGETS: In 2005, he supported the McCain-Lieberman bill which then set a target to reduce emissions back to levels in 2000 by 2010.

FUEL EFFICIENCY: Opposed a 40 mpg standard in 2005 and 2003. In 2002, supported a 35 mpg standard.

RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY STANDARD: Supported establishing a 10% renewable electricity standard in 2005. Opposed a 20% renewable electricity standard in 2002.

EFFICIENCY TARGETS: General support for increased energy efficiency, no target specified.

NEW COAL PLANTS AND LIQUID COAL: No articulated position yet.

SENATOR HILLARY CLINTON

Website: <http://www.hillaryclinton.com/?splash=1>

Does not contain an issues page, addresses issues through video.

CARBON CAP & TARGETS: A co-sponsor of the McCain-Lieberman bill, which would achieve 15% reductions by 2020 and 65% reductions by 2050.

FUEL EFFICIENCY: Opposed a 40 mpg standard in 2005. Supported a 40 mpg standard in 2003.

RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY STANDARD: Supports a 20% standard by 2020.

EFFICIENCY TARGETS: General support for increased energy efficiency. Introduce a bill to achieve a zero emissions target in federal buildings by 2030. Has not specified an economy wide target.

NEW COAL PLANTS AND LIQUID COAL: No articulated position yet.

* This information was compiled from candidate websites, their votes in Congress, and recent public statements. It reflects the current positions of candidates. As candidates release their energy plans or new policies, we will update this document. A current version of this chart can be found at www.heatison.org.

SENATOR CHRIS DODD

Website: <http://www.chrisdodd.com/home>

Energy Plan: http://chrisdodd.com/energy_independence/plan

[EXCERPT] “Chris Dodd has a deep commitment to creating an energy policy that will reduce our dependence on foreign oil, reduce pollution that threatens the future of our planet, and create millions of good jobs for Americans in the 21st century global economy. Ultimately, by using energy more efficiently, and by using more clean and renewable sources of energy, Sen. Dodd believes that we should be able to lead the world in reducing the amount of greenhouse gas emissions that are contributing to global warming. In his view, it is high time that the United States re-join the commitment made by industrialized nations in Kyoto, Japan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Britain has already met its Kyoto targets. It is time for the United States to accept its responsibility to cap and ultimately reduce emissions. In doing so, we will be able to lead other industrial nations in creating the kind of energy future that can create a stronger economy, a healthier environment, and a more peaceful world.”

CARBON CAP & TARGETS: A co-sponsor of the Sanders-Boxer bill, which would achieve 15% reductions by 2020 and 80% reductions by 2050.

FUEL EFFICIENCY: Supports a 50 mpg standard by 2017. Supported a 40 mpg standard in the Senate in 2005 and 2003.

RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY STANDARD: Supports 20% renewable electricity standard by 2020.

EFFICIENCY TARGETS: Wants to meet all growth in electricity demand through energy efficiency. This would result in a 15% decrease in America’s electricity consumption by 2018.

NEW COAL PLANTS AND LIQUID COAL: All new coal plants must capture and store carbon emissions.

SENATOR JOHN EDWARDS

Website: <http://johnedwards.com>

Energy Plan: <http://johnedwards.com/about/issues/energy/new-energy-economy/>

[EXCERPT] “Our nation’s dependence on oil and other fossil fuels is contributing to global warming and jeopardizing our national security. To protect our future, John Edwards believes that Americans must be patriotic about something other than the war.

Our generation must be the one that ends our nation’s dependence on oil and ushers in a new energy economy. We need energy independence from unstable and hostile areas of the world, from global warming pollution, and from the old ways of doing business. If we harness American ingenuity to reach for transformative change, we can emerge from the crisis of global warming with a new energy economy that stimulates innovation, brings the family farm back to life, and creates more than 1 million jobs in America’s farms and industries.”

CARBON CAP & TARGETS: Wants to establish a national cap requiring 15% reductions by 2020 and 80% reductions by 2050.

FUEL EFFICIENCY: Proposes increasing fuel economy standards to 40 mpg within ten years. Supported such a standard in 2003.

RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY STANDARD: Proposes establishing a standard to get 25% of the nation’s electricity from renewable energy by 2025.

EFFICIENCY TARGETS: Wants to meet all growth in electricity demand through energy efficiency. This would result in a 15% decrease in America’s electricity consumption by 2018.

NEW COAL PLANTS AND LIQUID COAL: Proposes a ban on all new coal plants unless they are compatible with carbon capture and sequestration.

SENATOR MIKE GRAVEL

Website: <http://www.gravel2008.us/>

Energy Page: <http://www.gravel2008.us/issues>

[EXCERPT] "Global climate change must be made an issue of national security. We must act swiftly to reduce America's carbon footprint in the world by passing legislation that caps emissions. However, any legislation will have little impact on the global environment if we do not work together with other global polluters. Fighting global warming can only be effective if it is a collective global effort. As President, Senator Gravel will see that the U.S. launches and leads a massive global scientific effort to end energy dependence on oil and integrate the world's scientific community to this task. A national public works program to rewire the country towards new energy technologies would create tens of thousands of new American jobs."

CARBON CAP & TARGETS: Supports a cap; no emissions reduction target specified yet.

FUEL EFFICIENCY: No articulated position yet.

RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY STANDARD: No articulated position yet.

EFFICIENCY TARGETS: No articulated position yet.

NEW COAL PLANTS AND LIQUID COAL: No articulated position yet.

REPRESENTATIVE DENNIS KUCINICH

Website: <http://kucinich.us/>

Energy Page: <http://kucinich.us/issues/energy.php>

[EXCERPT] "As a peace advocate, I hope to launch a major renewables effort so that Middle East oil fields do not loom so large as strategic or military targets. There has to be a renewable energy portfolio of 20% by 2010. And that means introducing wind, solar, hydrogen, geothermal, biomass, and all of the options that must be available and need incentivizing. That also means withdrawing incentives for the production of nonrenewable energy. I'm not talking about building new hydro dams; I'm not talking about damming up more rivers and streams."

CARBON CAP & TARGETS: Co-sponsor of the Waxman bill, which would achieve 15% reductions by 2020 and 80% reductions by 2050.

FUEL EFFICIENCY: Supported a 33 mpg standard in 2005.

RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY STANDARD: Supports a 20% standard by 2010.

EFFICIENCY TARGETS: General support for increased energy efficiency, no target specified.

NEW COAL PLANTS AND LIQUID COAL: No articulated position yet.

SENATOR BARACK OBAMA

Website: <http://www.barackobama.com/>

Energy Page: <http://www.barackobama.com/issues/energy/>

[EXCERPT] “We need to take steps to stop catastrophic, manmade climate change. If we do not act, the consequences will be devastating for future generations, especially for the poorest global populations. Barack Obama believes the U.S. must act decisively and creatively to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change.

Obama is an original cosponsor of legislation to establish limits on greenhouse gas emissions. To remain below these limits, the bill encourages the market to determine how best to reduce greenhouse gases, rewarding cost-effective approaches through a system of tradeable allowances. Revenues generated from this program will be directed to helping industries and individuals most affected by the limits, and also to fund research and development of new, more efficient, energy technologies.”

CARBON CAP & TARGETS: Is an original co-sponsor of the McCain-Lieberman bill which would reduce emissions 15% by 2020 and 65% by 2050.

FUEL EFFICIENCY: Supported an increase in fuel economy standards to 40 mpg in 2005.

RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY STANDARD: Supported a 10% renewable electricity standard in Congress. No articulated position on a 20% renewable electricity standard.

EFFICIENCY TARGETS: General support for increased energy efficiency, no target specified.

NEW COAL PLANTS AND LIQUID COAL: Supports liquid coal if it meets a low carbon fuel standard.

GOVERNOR BILL RICHARDSON

Website: <http://www.richardsonforpresident.com/>

Energy Page: <http://www.richardsonforpresident.com/issues/#environment>

[EXCERPT] “Our next President must be able to start reversing global warming and making real progress on energy independence and that means making a real commitment to renewable sources of energy. That’s what I’ve done in New Mexico where we’re requiring that 10% of all energy come from renewable sources and we’re moving toward 20%, we’ve provided incentives for solar, wind, biofuels and other renewables, and again that’s what I’ll do as President. As Energy Secretary I implemented tough efficiency standards that have saved consumers billions in energy costs. Everybody talks the talk on these issues—I’ve done it.”

CARBON CAP & TARGETS: Supports implementing a national cap and has called for 75% reductions by 2050.

FUEL EFFICIENCY: Supports 50 mpg in 10 years.

RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY STANDARD: Passed a 20% renewable electricity standard as governor of New Mexico and supports a similar federal standard.

EFFICIENCY TARGETS: General support for increased energy efficiency, no target specified.

NEW COAL PLANTS AND LIQUID COAL: No articulated position yet.

REPUBLICANS

SENATOR SAM BROWNBACK

Website: <http://www.brownback.com/s/>

Energy: <http://www.brownback.com/s/Issues/tabid/60/Default.aspx#Energy>

[EXCERPT] “Due to years of neglect and short-sighted domestic policies, America is on the verge of an energy crisis. Our supply of energy has not kept pace with our demand. Today our nation produces 39% less oil than we did in 1970. This leaves us dependent on foreign suppliers, who often do not have America’s best interests at heart. In the last Congress, I co-sponsored the Vehicle and Fuel Choices for America Security Act. This bill aims to reduce our oil consumption by 2.5 million barrels per day in ten years by taking an innovative, market-based approach that relies on advanced technology and an expansion of renewable fuels.”

CARBON CAP & TARGETS: Opposed the McCain-Lieberman bill in 2005, which would have reduced emissions to 2000 levels by 2010.

FUEL EFFICIENCY: Senator Brownback opposed a 35 mpg standard in 2002 and a 40 mpg standard in 2003 and 2005.

RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY STANDARD: In 2005 and 2002, he supported a 10% renewable electricity standard. In 2002, he opposed a 20% renewable electricity standard.

EFFICIENCY TARGETS: General support for efficiency, no target specified.

NEW COAL PLANTS AND LIQUID COAL: No articulated position yet.

GOVERNOR JIM GILMORE

Website: www.jimgilmore08.com

Energy: www.jimgilmore08.com/issues.html

[EXCERPT] “The United States today imports 60 percent of its oil, a situation that places our economy and our national security at risk. Jim Gilmore believes we can do better! As President, Jim Gilmore will launch a national energy independence project called American Energy Freedom, a NASA like effort to motivate and stimulate American ingenuity and technology using research and development tax incentives to help free our nation from its dependence on foreign oil within 25 years. In the meantime, Jim Gilmore will push for steady and dramatic increases in domestic energy production and an increase in the size of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. Jim Gilmore also will support expanding our use of alternative fuels like ethanol, making dramatic improvements in battery technology for plug-in hybrid vehicles and the long-range development of hydrogen power for vehicles.”

CARBON CAP & TARGETS: Supports voluntary measures. Has not specified a reduction target.

FUEL EFFICIENCY: No articulated position yet.

RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY STANDARD: No articulated position yet.

EFFICIENCY TARGETS: No articulated position yet.

NEW COAL PLANTS AND LIQUID COAL: No articulated position yet.

SPEAKER NEWT GINGRICH

No official website yet.

CARBON CAP & TARGETS: Supports voluntary measures, has not specified an emissions reduction target.

FUEL EFFICIENCY: No articulated position yet.

RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY STANDARD: No articulated position yet.

EFFICIENCY TARGETS: General support, no target specified.

NEW COAL PLANTS AND LIQUID COAL: No articulated position yet.

MAYOR RUDY GIULIANI

Website: <http://www.joinrudy2008.com/>

Global warming and energy are not discussed on his website.

CARBON CAP & TARGETS: No articulated position yet.

FUEL EFFICIENCY: No articulated position yet.

RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY STANDARD: No articulated position yet.

EFFICIENCY TARGETS: No articulated position yet.

NEW COAL PLANTS AND LIQUID COAL: No articulated position yet.

GOVERNOR MIKE HUCKABEE

Website: <http://www.explorehuckabee.com/index.cfm?FuseAction=Home.Home>

Global warming and energy are not discussed on his website.

CARBON CAP & TARGETS: No articulated position yet.

FUEL EFFICIENCY: No articulated position yet.

RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY STANDARD: No articulated position yet.

EFFICIENCY TARGETS: No articulated position yet.

NEW COAL PLANTS AND LIQUID COAL: No articulated position yet.

REPRESENTATIVE DUNCAN HUNTER

Website: <http://www.gohunter08.com/>

Does not mention global warming or energy.

CARBON CAP & TARGETS: No articulated position yet.

FUEL EFFICIENCY: Opposed a 33 mpg standard in 2005.

RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY STANDARD: No articulated position yet.

EFFICIENCY TARGETS: No articulated position yet.

NEW COAL PLANTS AND LIQUID COAL: No articulated position yet.

SENATOR JOHN MCCAIN

Website: <http://www.johnmccain.com/>

Energy Page: <http://www.johnmccain.com/Informing/Issues/65bd0fbe-737b-4851-a7e7-d9a37cb278db.htm>

[EXCERPT] "John McCain has a proud record of common sense stewardship. Along with his commitment to clean air and water, and to conserving open space, he has been a leader on the issue of global warming with the courage to call the nation to action on an issue we can no longer afford to ignore. He believes that ignoring the problem reflects a 'liberal live for today' attitude unworthy of our great country, and poses a serious and unacceptable threat to our environment, our economy, and U.S. national security. He has offered common sense approaches to limit carbon emissions by harnessing market forces that will bring advanced technologies, such as nuclear energy, to the market faster, reduce our dependence on foreign supplies of energy, and see to it that America leads in a way that ensures all nations do their rightful share."

CARBON CAP & TARGETS: Lead co-sponsor of the McCain-Lieberman bill which would reduce emissions 15% by 2020 and 65% by 2050.

FUEL EFFICIENCY: Opposed a 40 mpg standard in 2005 and 2003. He supported a 35 mpg standard in 2002.

RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY STANDARD: Opposed a 10% standard in 2005 and 2002. Opposed a 20% standard in 2002.

EFFICIENCY TARGETS: General support for increased energy efficiency, no target specified.

NEW COAL PLANTS AND LIQUID COAL: No articulated position yet.

REPRESENTATIVE RON PAUL

Website: <http://www.ronpaul2008.com/>

Does not mention global warming or energy.

CARBON CAP & TARGETS: No articulated position yet.

FUEL EFFICIENCY: Opposed a 33 mpg standard in 2005.

RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY STANDARD: No articulated position yet.

EFFICIENCY TARGETS: No articulated position yet.

NEW COAL PLANTS AND LIQUID COAL: No articulated position yet.

GOVERNOR MITT ROMNEY

Website: <http://www.mittromney.com/>

Energy: <http://www.mittromney.com/Issue-Watch/Energy>

[EXCERPT] “We must become independent from foreign sources of oil. This will mean a combination of efforts related to conservation and efficiency measures, developing alternative sources of energy like biodiesel, ethanol, nuclear, and coal gasification, and finding more domestic sources of oil such as in ANWR or the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS).”

CARBON CAP & TARGETS: As governor of Massachusetts, he withdrew from the regional cap and trade system set up by Northeastern states and implemented a voluntary program to reduce emissions to 1990 levels by 2010 and an additional 10 percent reductions by 2020.

FUEL EFFICIENCY: Opposes an increase in CAFE standards as a stand alone measure.

RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY STANDARD: No articulated position yet.

EFFICIENCY TARGETS: No articulated position yet.

NEW COAL PLANTS AND LIQUID COAL: Supports liquid coal.

REPRESENTATIVE TOM TANCREDO

Website: <http://www.teamtancredo.com/>

Does not mention global warming or energy.

CARBON CAP & TARGETS: No articulated position yet.

FUEL EFFICIENCY: Opposed a 33 mpg standard in 2005.

RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY STANDARD: No articulated position yet.

EFFICIENCY TARGETS: No articulated position yet.

NEW COAL PLANTS AND LIQUID COAL: No articulated position yet.

SENATOR FRED THOMPSON

No official website yet.

CARBON CAP & TARGETS: No articulated position yet.

FUEL EFFICIENCY: Opposed a 36 mpg standard in 2002.

RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY STANDARD: Opposed a 10% and 20% standard in 2002.

EFFICIENCY TARGETS: No articulated position yet.

NEW COAL PLANTS AND LIQUID COAL: No articulated position yet.

GOVERNOR TOMMY THOMPSON

Website: <http://www.tommy2008.com/Home.aspx>

Energy: http://www.tommy2008.com/On_The_Issues.aspx

[EXCERPT] "Governor Thompson believes America must become more independent in its energy needs and break reliance on foreign oil. We must begin with greater investments in renewable energy, like ethanol, so we can bring these technologies to market faster and more efficiently. And we must come together and deal with our changing climate."

CARBON CAP & TARGETS: No articulated position yet.

FUEL EFFICIENCY: No articulated position yet.

RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY STANDARD: No articulated position yet.

EFFICIENCY TARGETS: No articulated position yet.

NEW COAL PLANTS AND LIQUID COAL: No articulated position yet.