



JULY 2021

INFORMING CLEAN ENERGY POLICY



The Clean Energy Futures team analyzed the energy, economic, environmental, and health outcomes of an illustrative Clean Energy Standard that reaches 80% clean electricity by 2030 (80x30 CES). The report found that the climate benefits are large and outweigh the costs, and the health benefits would be immediate, substantial, and widespread, with an estimated 317,500 lives saved from 2020-2050 from reduced exposure to fine particulate matter and ozone.

The Clean Energy Futures project is a collaboration by researchers from Syracuse University; the Center for Climate, Health, and the Global Environment at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health; Georgia Institute of Technology; and Resources for the Future.

GOALS

A Clean Electricity Standard could help determine whether the U.S. gets back on track to meet its commitment under the Paris Climate Agreement. As Congress considered an 80x30 CES as part of the \$3.5 trillion infrastructure package, our goal was to move quickly so policymakers understood the costs and benefits of a CES and had access to mapping for the first time at county scale the changes in air quality and related health benefits for the lower 48 states.

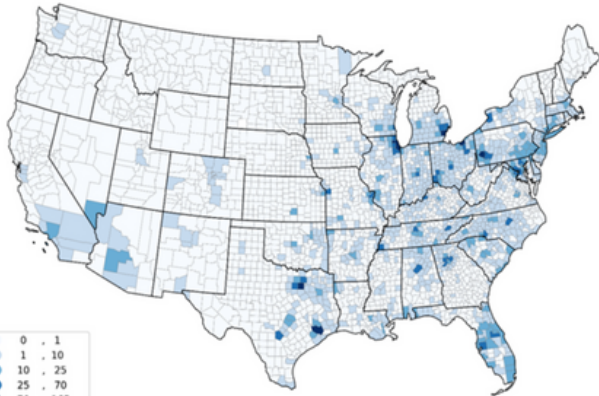
STRATEGY

To reach White House staff, Members of Congress, and advocates, we worked with Climate Nexus and Energy Media to develop key messages, web content, maps, lists of states that would benefit the most from a CES, and implement a press and social media strategy on the state-specific findings on the costs and benefits of an illustrative 80x30 CES.





9,200 premature deaths would be avoided under an 80x30 clean electricity standard in the year 2030



Ali Zaidi
@alizaidi46

Reasons we should get to work building back better in the power sector (with tax credits and an EECES):

- > Estimated 317,500 lives saved
- > Estimated \$1.13 trillion in health savings due to cleaner air
- > Air quality improvements in every state by 2030

...and good-paying jobs!

Harvard C-CHANGE @HarvardCCHANGE · Jul 12

Transitioning our grid to 80% clean electricity by 2030 would have major climate and health benefits. Get the details in a new @CleanNRGFutures report from

IMPACT

Because of our relationships with key Congressional offices and the Biden administration, we could effectively time our outreach to staff drafting the bill, allowing our research to inform legislation requiring utilities to slash emissions across the country as part of the infrastructure bill.

RESULTS

We held briefings with Senators Smith and Lujan who wrote the CES legislation, the White House National Climate Advisor, the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, and the staff of Senators Schumer, Sanders, Van Hollen, Warner, and several health and science organizations. We also briefed the House Energy & Commerce Committee, which handled CES during the reconciliation process, and the Department of Energy, which would have played a key role in implementing this policy.

We received extensive coverage of the study in targeted state and national media read by policymakers, including NPR's [MarketPlace](#), [Politico](#), [Guardian](#), [The Hill](#), and [E&E News](#). Our social media strategy reached influential White House and Congressional leaders like [Ali Zaidi](#) and [Senator Martin Heinrich](#).

Our report was included in an [analysis of 11 different CES studies and reports](#) by Energy Innovation showing it is possible to transition to clean electricity, save lives, and create jobs at a modest cost to consumers.