

## SENATOR JOE BIDEN ON CLIMATE CHANGE

*“Climate, energy, security – these are all facets of a single challenge. A strong domestic and international response that increases our energy security, that slows, stops and reverses the buildup of greenhouse gases – that policy will make us more secure.” – Senator Joe Biden*

### THE BIDEN PLAN: GROWING OUR ECONOMY BY SAVING OUR ENVIRONMENT

**The science is clear:** Human activities are changing our climate, and Senator Biden continues to lead the fight for responsible management of our environment. Climate change threatens not just our environment, but our economy and our national security. The time to act is now.

**Slow, stop, and reverse our emissions:** Senator Biden believes we need a cap-and-trade system for greenhouse gas emissions to protect our planet, encouraging the market to find the most efficient way to do it. He calls for reducing our emissions by 80 percent by 2050 –what scientists tell us will be needed to avoid the most catastrophic impacts of climate change.

**Make sure other countries do their part:** Reducing our emissions alone won't solve the problem. We need other countries, including developing nations, to do so as well. That means a global deal, where all countries contribute what they can to a solution.

**Position our economy for tomorrow:** Senator Biden believes that the jobs of tomorrow will be in innovative new technologies. That's why he's pushing for an Apollo Project for Energy, so that Americans are filling the green collar jobs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. By investing in education, as well as research and development, we can be sure that America will be competitive in growing industries like renewable energy and energy efficiency.

### THE BIDEN RECORD: LEAVING A BETTER PLANET FOR OUR GRANDCHILDREN

**Early awareness:** Over two decades ago, Senator Biden was the very first to introduce legislation in the Senate to meet the challenge of climate change. His 1986 legislation called for a national strategy to understand and respond to the emerging threat of global warming.

**Consistent efforts to face the challenge:** Senator Biden has supported efforts to address climate change through cap-and-trade legislation. Most recently, he spoke out in favor of landmark legislation on the Senate floor that would have helped us reduce our emissions.

**Support for clean and renewable energy:** Senator Biden has long supported increasing our research and development for energy efficiency and clean energy, to reduce dependence on imported oil, and to create new jobs and technologies for a new economy.

**Working for an international deal:** As Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Biden has led bipartisan efforts to make sure that this global problem has a global solution. In 2008 alone, Senator Biden has:

- Offered a bipartisan resolution calling on the United States to return to a leadership role in international negotiations, to secure a fair and effective international deal;
- Introduced bipartisan legislation to promote the export of U.S. clean energy technologies, to spur clean growth overseas and business here at home;
- Passed through the Foreign Relations Committee legislation to measure the carbon emissions of projects funded through international institutions like the World Bank; and
- Charged the Foreign Relations Committee to make international climate change negotiations a priority for all members and the subject of a formal study.