



## Alliance for Sustainable Colorado Position on Federal Clean Energy and Security Legislation

The Alliance for Sustainable Colorado ("the Alliance") strongly supports the U.S. Senate in passing climate legislation, which puts Americans to work in renewable energy industries and creates green collar jobs, increases the energy efficiency of our Nation, leads us away from our reliance on foreign oil, and begins the arduous task of mitigating climate disruption by bringing the atmospheric concentration of CO<sup>2</sup> to scientifically based reduction goals. We implore the Senate to consider the social, environmental and economic impacts of extractive industries and fossil fuels used to produce electricity, heat buildings, and fuel transportation. Instead, legislation must foster the United States' global leadership in driving the use of more sustainable sources in meeting our energy needs.

We support provisions in federal clean energy and security legislation that strengthen:

- Resource efficiency in the built environment through increased energy efficiency in State building codes and national compliance requirements;
- Creation of clean energy industries and increased national use of renewable and alternative sources of energy;
- Reduction of Green house gases and other harmful emissions;
- Reduced dependence on coal fired power plants beginning with the most polluting according to a defined timetable and specified end dates;
- Use of natural gas as a transition fuel with clearly defined time horizons and end dates and specific provisions for minimizing impacts to lands, water, air and wildlife;
- Funding research and development of renewable technologies, specifically excluding nuclear power as economically and environmentally infeasible.

We oppose provisions to such legislation that:

- Provide exemptions for coal-fired power plants or encourage development of new plants;
- Reduce or eliminate authority of the EPA to regulate coal-fired power plants;
- Weaken the Clean Air Act.

Below are links we have found useful in defining our position. These groups are unaffiliated to the Alliance for Sustainable Colorado, and are either working on the legislation or are providing data valuable in the analysis of such legislation. Note that these sites are for reference only and do not represent the Alliance in any way.

1. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change---[www.ipcc.ch/](http://www.ipcc.ch/)
2. Pew Center on Climate Change---[www.pewclimate.org](http://www.pewclimate.org)
3. McKinsey & Company---[www.mckinsey.com](http://www.mckinsey.com)
4. NASA-Goddard Institute for Space Studies---<http://www.giss.nasa.gov/>
5. United States Global Change Research Program---<http://www.globalchange.gov/>
6. Rocky Mountain Institute---<http://www.rmi.org/sitepages/pid126.php>
7. Climate safety---[www.climatesafety.org](http://www.climatesafety.org)
8. Realclimate.org---[www.realclimate.org](http://www.realclimate.org)
9. 1 Sky---[www.1sky.org](http://www.1sky.org)
10. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration---<http://www.noaa.gov/climate.html>
11. Natural Resources Defense Council---<http://www.nrdc.org/policy/>
12. Architecture 2030---[http://www.architecture2030.org/news/news\\_072209.html](http://www.architecture2030.org/news/news_072209.html)
13. Environmental Defense Fund--- <http://www.edf.org/home.cfm>
14. National Center for Atmospheric Research---<http://www.ncar.ucar.edu/research/climate/>
15. Dr. James Hansen - *Target atmospheric CO2: Where should humanity aim?* ---<http://arxiv.org/abs/0804.1126>
16. Presidential Climate Action Project---<http://www.climateactionproject.com/resources.php>