

U.S. Climate Alliance

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U.S. Climate Alliance partners with Resources for the Future and the Climate Impact Lab on calculating cost of climate damages

- The U.S. Climate Alliance, a bipartisan coalition of 15 governors, announces intention to collaborate on the Social Cost of Carbon, a critical tool for assessing the damages associated with carbon pollution
- The Alliance declares support for independent work by RFF and the Climate Impact Lab to estimate how much greenhouse gas emissions and the damage they cause will cost society in the future
- The partners commit to working together to share information and promote opportunities to use the Social Cost of Carbon in crafting climate change policy
- Announcement follows recent moves by the Trump administration to weaken climate-related regulations by lowering estimates of the cost of carbon pollution

Speaking at international climate change talks in Germany, governors representing the [U.S. Climate Alliance](#) announced a new partnership today with [Resources for the Future](#) and the [Climate Impact Lab](#). The Social Cost of Carbon is an economic tool that was first established under President George W. Bush nearly a decade ago, and standardized under President Barack Obama, that provides a dollar valuation of the damages caused by carbon pollution. It plays a vital role in climate change policymaking, and has been used to inform major climate regulations, hundreds of federal and state actions and rulemakings, and billions of dollars of investment decisions.

The Trump administration has sharply lowered these Social Cost of Carbon estimates, and [disbanded](#) efforts to update the metric in accordance with the most recent science. Undervaluing the impacts of climate pollution similarly undervalues the benefits from regulatory actions to curb greenhouse gas emissions and climate-smart investments, such as sea walls, to protect communities vulnerable to rising ocean levels.

Today's announcement aligns the U.S. Climate Alliance with two complementary academic collaborations aimed at updating and improving the Social Cost of Carbon. In the absence of federal efforts, RFF and the Climate Impact Lab are working to implement [recommendations](#) provided by the U.S. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to ensure that the Social Cost of Carbon estimates reflect the best available science and to enhance their transparency.

RFF's [Social Cost of Carbon Initiative](#) will yield an updated set of estimates for the Social Cost of Carbon that are responsive to the full set of National Academies recommendations and that are generated through an open and transparent process, based upon fully open source and publicly available analysis. RFF is an independent, nonprofit research institution dedicated to improving environmental, energy, and natural resource decisions through impartial economic research and policy engagement.

The [Climate Impact Lab](#), a collaboration of economists, scientists, and risk analysts from some of the nation's leading research institutions, is leveraging an evidence-based, data-driven approach to quantify climate impacts at a hyper-local scale to produce a first-of-its-kind empirically derived Social Cost of Carbon.

Today, the U.S. Climate Alliance, RFF and Climate Impact Lab are forming a partnership to advance the Social Cost of Carbon, share information related to scientific progress to update the metric, and promote opportunities to use the Social Cost of Carbon appropriately across a wide range of policy applications. The partners will also work collaboratively to identify policy needs and develop guidance for policymakers around the globe to inform the development of cost-effective actions to tackle climate change.

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The Climate Impact Lab is collaboration of more than 20 researchers from the University of California, Berkeley, University of Chicago, Rhodium Group, and Rutgers University. Together, they are linking together state-of-the-art climate modeling, economic statistics, and big data analytics to build the world's most comprehensive body of research quantifying the impacts of climate change around the globe.

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The **U.S. Climate Alliance** was formed by Governors Jerry Brown, Andrew Cuomo and Jay Inslee in response to the U.S. federal government's decision to withdraw the United States from the Paris Agreement on climate change. The bipartisan coalition of states is committed to the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions consistent with the goals of the Paris Agreement.

US Climate Alliance

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