U.S. Climate Alliance Commits to Achieve Net-Zero Emissions No Later than 2050

*Will Reduce Collective GHG Emissions At Least 50-52 percent Below 2005 Levels by 2030 in Support of the U.S. NDC*

WASHINGTON DC – The U.S. Climate Alliance – a bipartisan coalition of governors representing states with more than 60 percent of U.S. GDP, 55 percent of the U.S. population and 40 percent of U.S. emissions – committed today to collectively achieving overall net-zero greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) as soon as practicable, and no later than 2050, and reduce collective net GHG emissions at least 50-52 percent below 2005 levels by 2030.

The Alliance today also applauded the Biden administration for setting the new U.S. climate target yesterday – known as the nationally determined contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement. The Alliance’s new science-based targets support the U.S. NDC and make clear Alliance states will continue to work together to safeguard public health, protect the environment, drive down emissions, grow the U.S. economy and create good community- and family-sustaining jobs.

“In response to the urgent threat of climate change, we commit to reduce our collective net GHG emissions at least 50-52 percent below 2005 levels by 2030 and collectively achieve overall net-zero GHG emissions as soon as practicable and no later than 2050. We will pursue a suite of climate policies to reduce and sequester GHG emissions across all sectors to meet or exceed these ambitious targets,” said the U.S. Climate Alliance.

“Recognizing that health, environmental, and economic crises disproportionately impact overburdened communities and can displace workers, we will center equity, environmental justice and a just economic transition in our efforts to achieve our climate goals. We will work together to create more participatory processes and practices across government, such as inclusive community engagement programs and equity screening tools to eliminate existing disparities as well as job training and economic diversification efforts to support workers and communities impacted by the transition to net-zero emissions.

Through these actions, we will meet our share of the U.S. NDC and will partner with this and future administrations to implement, reinforce and make more durable the U.S. climate target.”
About the Alliance

The Alliance was formed in 2017 to help fill the void left by the previous administration’s decision to withdraw the U.S. from the Paris Agreement. The collective targets announced today build upon – and expand – the Alliance’s existing commitment to implement policies that advance the goals of the Paris Agreement and reduce GHG emissions by at least 26-28 percent below 2005 levels by 2025.

Together, Alliance states have built a foundation of ambitious climate action that provides a durable roadmap for national policy makers and the Biden administration. The Alliance is also forging a new state-federal partnership and its states will continue to play an integral role in helping the U.S. achieve the goals of this accord and advance a clean energy transition while supporting impacted workers and communities.

Alliance states have shown in recent years that bold climate action can help drive economic growth across multiple industries. In fact, between 2005 to 2018, Alliance states collectively outpaced the rest of the country in both emissions reductions and economic output, achieving an estimated 14 percent decrease in emissions and a nearly 17 percent increase in per-capita economic output. These trends held in 2019 and the Alliance’s recent analysis showed that its member states created more than 133,000 new jobs in clean energy industries from 2016 to 2019 – surpassing the rest of the nation – as they pursued bold climate action. Even in the face of the devastating impacts from the coronavirus pandemic and the resulting economic downturn over the past year, state-led climate action continues.

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