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CLIMATE SUCCESS STORY  The Gulf South's first climate action plan, approved in 2022 by the Louisiana Climate Initiatives Task Force, lays out strategies and policy actions for reducing statewide GHG emissions.

In January 2022, the Louisiana Climate Initiatives Task Force unanimously approved the Gulf South's first statewide climate action plan, which sets Louisiana on a path to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050, while also improving quality of life, creating a more-equitable society, strengthening the economy, and protecting the environment. The 23-member task force, put in place by an executive order from Governor John Bel Edwards, represents the diverse interests of Louisiana’s people, state agencies, energy and chemicals industries, academia, private sector, community advocates, and Indigenous peoples.

In a state like Louisiana, which is both on the frontlines of climate impacts and where heavy industry plays a large role in the economy, consensus among competing interests has felt nearly impossible. The state faced this challenge head-on by incorporating a structured decision-making framework into the 15-month planning process that brought together 150 stakeholders in 49 public meetings to ensure decisions were transparent, collaborative, and outcomes-oriented. The robust planning process led to the approval of the Louisiana Climate Action Plan, which comprehensively lays out 28 strategies and 84 policy-specific actions to reduce statewide GHG emissions. To track the outcomes of these actions, the task force has committed to continue meeting quarterly to publicly track implementation, hold workshops, and continue to partner with local communities.

With the climate action plan as a foundation, the state has quickly moved into implementation by pursuing federal funding, executive and legislative action, and continuing to engage across the wide spectrum of stakeholders and communities. The Louisiana Climate Action Plan’s bottom-up approach, inclusivity, and transparent decision-making has built political momentum toward climate action and provides the framework for a more equitable and resilient Louisiana.
CLIMATE ACTION-AT-A-GLANCE

The following list includes both statutory and executive policies and actions that have been adopted or are in the process of being adopted.

ECONOMY-WIDE GHG TARGETS & CLIMATE GOVERNANCE
- Lead by Example programs & goals
- Economy-wide GHG goal
- Carbon neutral goal
- State climate action plan

ELECTRICITY
- 100% clean electricity goal
- Renewable portfolio standards

JUST TRANSITION/EQUITY
- Environmental justice offices or interagency bodies
- Just transition offices or interagency bodies

TRANSPORTATION
- Low-emission vehicle goals
- Zero-emission vehicle goals

INDUSTRY
- Regulations addressing HFCs
- Regulations addressing methane from oil & gas, landfill, and agricultural sources
- Regulations addressing GHG emissions from industrial sources
- Buy clean programs, studies, or pilot projects

RESILIENCE
- Statewide resilience or adaptation plan
- Resilience offices or interagency bodies

NATURAL & WORKING LANDS
- NWL conservation or sequestration goals
- NWL in GHG inventories

CARBON MARKETS & VALUING CLIMATE DAMAGES
- Carbon market participation

CLIMATE FINANCE
- Green and/or resilient infrastructure bank

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