



Center for Climate and Energy Solutions

August 23, 2021

The Honorable Tom Carper
Chairman, Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Carper:

As the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW) develops recommendations pursuant to the Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, we are writing to urge your support for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Climate Partnership Program and the development of a Corporate Climate Action Platform.

On August 18, 2021, the [EPA released a report](#) detailing their voluntary Climate Partnership Program's significant environmental progress. These programs enabled businesses to go above and beyond regulatory requirements to reduce their impact on the climate, and today, over one-fifth of the world's 2,000 largest companies have committed to meet net-zero emission targets.

While mandatory regulatory requirements are often the best means to ensure that businesses decrease their emissions, it will take time to develop such a requirement. Meanwhile, it is important to accelerate meaningful voluntary actions and ensure progress to date is not lost.

Voluntary corporate commitments are welcome, especially since these companies comprise a coalition of the willing who believe action is necessary to address the ongoing climate crisis; however, unfortunately these commitments are subject to many competing forces. There are those who criticize the methods companies are choosing to proceed toward net-zero, while other companies are using their corporate commitments to obfuscate a lack of true, meaningful action (i.e., greenwashing). Additionally, under the existing system, it is difficult—if not nearly impossible—for the public to easily monitor these corporate commitments.

To address these concerns, the EPA's Climate Protection Partnerships Division (CPPD) should establish and maintain a Corporate Climate Action Platform (Platform). Designed to improve accountability and promote transparency, this Platform would feature the greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction inventories, commitments, and mitigation plans for large market cap companies. The Platform will also provide a means for companies to measure, report, and verify their progress towards these commitments and provide transparency on how they plan to reach their goals.



Digital Climate Alliance

By focusing on a subset of the largest companies that are headquartered or maintain substantial operations in the United States, the Platform would be a tool that will not only help us address climate change, but it will also improve the public's understanding and awareness of how leading companies are addressing their climate impacts. Additionally, as the Platform is being developed, the CPPD should also consider establishing metrics for recognizing varying levels of ambition and progress towards companies fulfilling their commitments. Since CPPD's programs historically facilitated ambitious voluntary actions by corporate partners, while also ensuring outcomes that are real, verifiable, and measurable, it is uniquely qualified to house and manage such a platform.

Therefore, we request that the Senate EPW Committee, through the Budget Reconciliation Process established in the Budget Resolution for FY 2022, provide funding to the EPA's CPPD to establish a Corporate Climate Action Platform that would enable large cap public and private companies to register their GHG inventories, commitments, and mitigation plans.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully,

Center for Climate and Energy Solutions
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About the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions:

The Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES) is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization working to forge practical solutions to climate change. We advance strong policy and action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promote clean energy, and strengthen resilience to climate impacts.

About the Digital Climate Alliance:

The Digital Climate Alliance is a coalition of companies developing and utilizing digital technologies and tools to reduce their environmental impacts and, those of their customers. Twenty-first century problems need twenty-first century solutions. The Alliance's goal is to promote digital technologies and tools to enable solving climate, water, and energy challenges that impact economic development, business growth, social well-being, and ecosystem health.