

Talking Points

for Candidates Pledge Climate Action Meetings

Climate Change Poses a threat to our Citizens in the following ways:

Health of Our Citizens

One of the least talked about effects of climate change is the damage to public health. Fossil fuels drive climate change and climate change affects our health and well-being in the following ways:

- o Extreme heat: dehydration, heat stroke
- o Severe storms: injuries, displacement and contaminated water
- o Degraded air: worsens asthma and heart disease
- o Ticks and mosquitoes increase their range: West Nile, Lyme, Zika
- o Floods and warm water grow microbes: cholera, paralytic shellfish poisoning, toxic algae
- o Depression, anxiety and PTSD due to severe weather, heat and Impacts of disasters.
- o Heat and drought damage to crops: CO2 lowers nutritional value

This summary has been documented in the U.S. Government analysis, "The Impacts of Climate Change on Human Health in the United States," by National Institutes of Health, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, medical societies and a majority of American and global scientists. This summary also concludes that the most vulnerable populations are elders and children.

Economic Growth

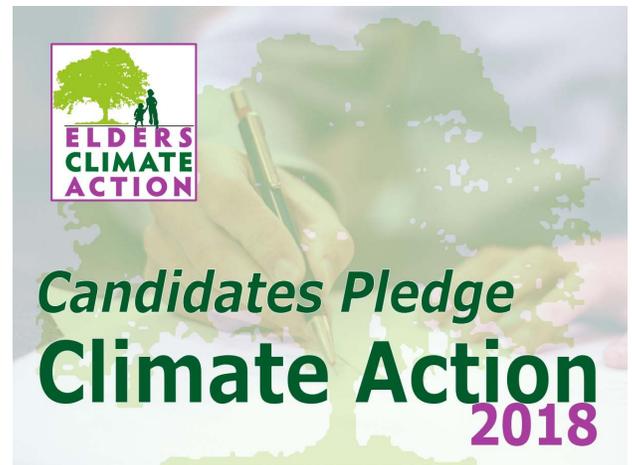
Experts say this "historic and unprecedented year of disastrous extremes" reinforces "the fact that climate change is a threat to our health, and also a threat to our economy."

Devastating hurricanes and wildfires—fueled in part by anthropogenic climate change—contributed to more than \$306.2 billion in disaster-related damage across the United States last year, making 2017 the costliest year on record for extreme weather events.

During 2017, the U.S. experienced a historic year of weather and climate disasters," according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Climatic Data Center with 16 separate billion-dollar disaster events in the US.

Reputation as a World Leader

The US as the highest per capita polluter in the world. Withdrawal from Paris Climate Agreement hands leadership on climate change issue to other countries such of China making it harder to negotiate on other important issues.



National Security

Soaring global temperatures, rising sea levels and increases in extreme weather events play a role in intensifying conflicts, increasing the displacement of people and worsening the extent of destruction caused by natural disasters.

Defense departments commonly identify climate change as a 'threat multiplier'. This means that climate change plays a role in making existing challenges worse. Climate change does not directly cause conflict, but it can affect the availability of food and water and increase the likelihood of significant human migration and resettlement. Struggles over essential resources and the increased movement of people within countries and across borders can play a role in making conflict worse.

Military Bases in our country and across the world are increasingly impacted by natural disasters and rising sea level impacting our military readiness.

Action on Climate Change Stimulates technological innovation, development of a more resilient infrastructure and increase domestic employment

- We have technological
- Solar Energy: 15 years ago the best projection was that we would install 1 gigawatt of solar energy capacity per year by 2010. By 2010, we exceeded that goal by 17 times and by 2016 exceeded the goal by 75 times.
- Wind Energy: Wind energy was predicted to provide 30 gigawatts of electricity worldwide by 2010. As of 2016 we had exceeded that prediction by 16 times over.

Quotes from Climate Solutions Caucus member in the US House of Representatives – The Climate Caucus is bipartisan group with 33 Republicans and 33 Democrats

“Climate change is real, it’s here and it’s deadly. We are past the time for action, and I’m proud to join my colleagues on the Climate Solutions Caucus to seek a meaningful solution to this global problem. This is an issue that extends beyond party lines, so I’m glad that we’ll be able to work in a bipartisan way to find real solutions.” Pete Aguilar

Rep. Ted Deutch (D-FL), co-chair of the caucus, said, “Let’s keep up the momentum! South Floridians can’t go one day without noticing the effects of climate change—just this week, we have the highest tides of the year making major roads unpassable. The American people want action, and I’m pleased to see more of my colleagues coming on board.”
