

CALIFORNIA'S POLLUTERS PAY CLIMATE SUPERFUND ACT

Who's Going to Pay for the Climate Crisis? The climate crisis is an economic crisis. Californians are facing an unprecedented and escalating financial burden from ongoing climate harms. These costs are felt every day through rising insurance premiums, higher utility bills, and increasing medical expenses. Extreme wildfires and floods wipe out generations of family wealth and drain state and local budgets. The 2025 L.A. fires displaced tens of thousands of Angelenos and were estimated to cost \$250 billion in lost homes, lost wages, and recovery.

Unless something changes, Californians will continue to suffer the burden of multibillion-dollar costs.

At the same time, much of the world is undergoing transformational change to better, cheaper, and more resilient clean energy economies. This presents enormous opportunities to lower costs and pollution for Californians. As the CEC concluded, *"The clean energy transition... is the single biggest opportunity California has to permanently lower energy costs for working families."*

Polluters Pay Climate Superfund: A Common-Sense Solution. A small number of the world's largest corporations have emitted the bulk of global greenhouse gas pollution, raking in immense profits while we all pay the price. A Climate Superfund Act would assess fees to the largest fossil fuel polluters for the climate damage their emissions caused in this state, and then use those funds to invest in cleaner, more resilient California communities. Specifically, a Climate Superfund Act would:

- Direct CalEPA to complete a climate cost study to quantify the total damages to the state (through 2045), attributable to fossil fuel emissions.
- Direct CalEPA to identify responsible parties and assess compensatory fees on the largest fossil fuel polluters, proportional to their historic fossil fuel emissions, to address the in-state damages quantified in the cost study.
- Fund California's future. These fees would be used to fund programs to mitigate, remedy, or prevent costs and harms associated with climate change. A Climate Superfund Act would prioritize strong labor standards and dedicate at least 40% of the funds to benefit communities hit hardest by fossil fuel pollution. It meets the moment—to protect Californians and lower costs by investing in:
 - A more stable and affordable clean energy economy to power our homes, schools, and transportation;
 - Critical, effective climate solutions that protect our health;
 - Resilient communities, including sustainable infrastructure, essential worker support, and emergency preparation and response.

A Climate Superfund would raise billions of dollars to invest in a healthier more affordable California.

And remarkably, the likely Climate Superfund fees would amount to only a tiny fraction of the profits these fossil fuel companies raked in since 1990.

California is one of over a dozen states considering a Climate Superfund. Vermont and New York enacted climate superfund laws in 2024. Here in California, over 30 cities, counties and school boards have endorsed state action on a Climate Superfund Act, including Los Angeles, San Diego, San Jose, and San Francisco.

A Climate Superfund Act would be complementary to but distinct from California's various local and state lawsuits to hold polluters accountable for violating the law and lying about climate change to block meaningful action to address it.

Supporting Organizations

Sponsors: Center for Biological Diversity, California Environmental Voters, Clean and Healthy California

Health

American Academy of Pediatrics, California
American Lung Association
Bay Area Regional Health Inequities Initiative (BARHII)
Black Women for Wellness Action Project
Breast Cancer Prevention Partners
California Nurses for Environmental Health and Justice
Central California Asthma Collaborative
Climate Health Now
Extreme Weather Survivors
Health in Partnership
La Clínica de La Raza, Inc.
Physicians for Social Responsibility, Los Angeles
Physicians for Social Responsibility, Sacramento
Physicians for Social Responsibility, San Francisco Bay
Prevention Institute
Public Health Advocates
San Diego Pediatricians for Clean Air
Southern California Public Health Association
Wellness Equity Alliance

Labor

American Federation of State, County and
Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
AFT 1521 / Los Angeles College Faculty Guild
California Association of Professional Employees (CAPE)
California Federation of Teachers
California Nurses Association
ILWU Northern California District Council
Oakland Education Association
San Diego Education Association
United Teachers Los Angeles

Civil Rights, Economic Justice and Advocacy

Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE)
Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders for
Civic Empowerment (AAPI FORCE)
Avaaz
California Black Power Network
California Calls
California Public Banking Alliance
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)
Consumer Attorneys of CA
Consumer Watchdog
Courage CA
Equal Rights Advocates
Indivisible CA StateStrong
Indivisible East Bay
Initiate Justice
LA Forward
Our Revolution
Oxfam America
Presente.org
Public Citizen
Public Good Law Center
Rise Economy
Rising Sun Center for Opportunity
RootsAction.org
Society of Native Nations
Strategic Concepts In Organizing and
Policy Education (SCOPE)

Environmental Justice & Equity

All Things Bayview
Asian Pacific Environmental Network
Azul
California Environmental Justice Alliance (CEJA) Action
California Green New Deal Coalition
Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice (CCA EJ)
Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment
Central California Environmental Justice Network
Communities for a Better Environment
Frontline Catalysts
Little Manila Rising
PODER
Reclaim Our Power!
UNIDOS Network Inc

Climate, Clean Energy & Youth

1000 Grandmothers for Future Generations
350 Bay Area Action
350 Conejo / San Fernando Valley
350 Contra Costa Action
350 Humboldt
350 Marin
350 Sacramento
350 San Francisco
350 Santa Barbara
350 Sonoma
350 South Bay Los Angeles
350 Los Angeles Southland Legislative Alliance
350 Ventura County Climate Hub
350.org
Acterra: Action for a Healthy Planet
Bay Area Youth Climate Summit
Beyond Extreme Energy
Biofuelwatch
CA Youth vs. Big Oil
California Climate Voters
Climate Action California
Climate Action Campaign
Climate Defenders / Defensores De La Tierra
Climate Equity Policy Center
Climate First: Replacing Oil & Gas (CFROG)
Climate Hawks Vote
Climate Reality Project, California Coalition
Climate Resolve
CLUE-Santa Barbara Climate Justice Group
Coalition for Clean Air
Coastal Defenders
Coastal Lands Action Network
Conejo Climate Coalition
Elected Officials to Protect America
Evergreen Action
Extinction Rebellion San Francisco Bay Area
Food and Water Watch
Fossil Free California
Fossil Free Media
FracTracker Alliance
Fridays for Future Palo Alto & Sacramento
Glendale Environmental Coalition
Good Neighbor Steering Committee of Benicia
Greenpeace USA
GRID Alternatives
Indivisible CA Green Team
Long Beach Alliance for Clean Energy
Mothers Out Front Silicon Valley
NextGen California
NorCal Elder Climate Action
Oil and Gas Action Network
Oil Change International
Pacifica Climate Committee
Resilient Palisades
San Diego 350
Santa Cruz Climate Action Network
SoCal 350 Climate Action
SoCal Elders Climate Action
Stand.earth
Sunflower Alliance
Sunrise Bay Area
Sunrise Movement
Sunrise Movement LA
Sustainable Mill Valley
The Climate Center
Third Act
Third Act Sacramento
Third Act SF Bay Area
Third Act SoCal
TIAA-Divest!
Tri-Valley Air Quality Climate Alliance
Ventura Climate Coalition
Vote Solar
Voting 4 Climate & Health
Voters of Tomorrow
Youth for Earth
Youth v. Oil
Youth Will
Youth4Climate
Youthpower Climate Action

Faith

California Interfaith Power & Light
Church and Society of First Presbyterian Church of San Anselmo
Climate Justice Group, First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego
Dayenu: A Jewish Call to Climate Action
Friends Committee on Legislation of California
GreenFaith
Immaculate Heart Community Environmental Commission
Interfaith Solidarity Network
Los Angeles Faith & Ecology Network
The Aquarian Minyan
Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC-CA)

Party Organizations

Black Mountain Democratic Club (San Diego)
CA Working Families Party
Culver City Democratic Club
Eastlake-Bonita Democratic Club
Martin Luther King Jr. Democratic Club
Progressive Democratic Club (Los Angeles County)
San Diego County Democratic Party
San Diego County Young Democrats
Santa Cruz County Democratic Central Committee
Santa Monica Democratic Club

Environment & Sustainability

Ballona Wetlands Institute
California Institute for Biodiversity
Californians Against Waste
CALPIRG Students
Carbon Cycle Institute
Center for Developing Leadership in Science
Center for Environmental Health
Clean Water Action California
CleanEarth4Kids.org
Community Environmental Council
Defend Ballona Wetlands
Earth Ethics Inc.
Ekō
Endangered Habitats League
Environmental Center of San Diego
Environmental Defense Center
FACTS: Families Advocating for Chemical and Toxics Safety
Friends of the Earth
Friends of the River
Great Basin Land & Water
Isla Vista Surfrider Foundation Club
Los Padres ForestWatch
Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)
Pacific Beach Coalition
Pacific Environment
Plant Based Treaty Los Angeles
Protect Playa Now
San Francisco Bay Keeper
Sierra Club California
Sustainable Rossmoor
The Story of Stuff Project
Transition Sebastopol
Union of Concerned Scientists
WildEarth Guardians
Your Children's Trees

Housing, Transit & Urban Planning

Active San Gabriel Valley
Bicycling Monterey
BikeLA
CERBAT
Move LA
Our Time to Act
Redeemer Community Partnership
Sunnyvale Safe Streets

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For more info:

<https://cleanandhealthyca.org/climate-superfund>