



Photos (from left): Ottawa, Wachiwit, and MarioGuitv via iStock

Invest in a Big & Bold Infrastructure Package, Divest from Fossil Fuel Companies

We believe that change is powered by people – that this country belongs to all of us, and we hold the power to create our shared future. Every person must have fresh air to breathe, clean water to drink, safe and healthy communities to live in, and equal access to and representation in our democracy no matter our race, age, identity, income, or zip code. Right now, Congress has the opportunity and mandate to guarantee these rights for every person by passing an infrastructure package on the size and scale of the crises we face. Action can't wait. Congress must fulfill their duty by building back bolder and fulfilling the unmet promises of our democracy.

WE SUPPORT

A big and bold infrastructure package in line with the THRIVE Act with investments that match the scale of the problem and that prioritize climate action and equity, labor, and environmental standards.

Restoring protections to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and ensuring that destructive oil and gas development does not take place.

WE OPPOSE

No Climate. No Deal. We oppose an infrastructure package that removes or reduces specific investments and policies directed at addressing the climate crisis.

Moving forward with a bipartisan package without simultaneously moving a big, bold infrastructure package that meets the needs of this moment through reconciliation.

The billions in special interest subsidies that disproportionately benefit the oil, gas, and coal industries.

Sierra Club is asking Congress to deliver a bold infrastructure plan that builds on the vision of President Biden's American Jobs Plan and the movement-backed THRIVE Act – a plan as large as the physical reality of the climate crisis, the economic reality of mass unemployment, the structural reality of systemic racism and public health disparities.

The Ask:

Sierra Club urges Congress to pass a big and bold infrastructure package that includes all the following investment priorities that match the scale of the problem:

ACHIEVE 100% CLEAN ENERGY

In order to cut climate pollution in half by 2030, we need to swiftly spur a five-fold increase in wind, solar, and geothermal power. **This will require \$1.1 trillion in public investments over the next decade**, with three times as much coming from the private sector. **Two key policies that must be included in a Federal infrastructure package are a fully-funded Clean Electricity Payment Program (CEPP), and bold federal investment in clean energy tax incentives, as in the Clean Energy for America Act.**



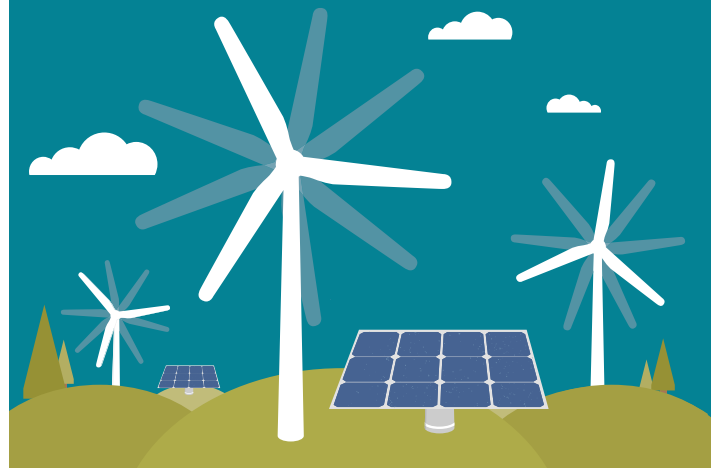
Photo: Scharfsinn86 via iStock

IMPROVE ACCESS TO PUBLIC TRANSIT AND PRODUCE UNION-BUILT ELECTRIC CARS, TRUCKS, AND BUSES

Congress should **invest the \$200 billion that is required** to fully electrify our public transit buses, school buses, and commuter rail, while also investing to expand access

We need a plan that is bold in scale and strong in standards, as outlined in [Sierra Club's recent report](#), in order to:

- ***Create over 15 million family-sustaining jobs — enough to virtually end the unemployment crisis,***
- ***Cut climate pollution nearly in half by 2030, and***
- ***Curb racial, economic, gender, and environmental injustice***



to public transit for the 45% of the country that doesn't have it, as in the **BUILD GREEN Infrastructure and Jobs Act**. Congress should also **fully fund the Clean Cars for America proposal** from Senate Majority Leader Schumer that would invest **\$454 billion** to replace over 63 million gas vehicles with affordable, U.S.-made, union-built electric vehicles.

RETROFIT AND ELECTRIFY ALL PUBLIC HOUSING, SCHOOLS, AND HOSPITALS

Congress should invest \$170 billion to upgrade and electrify the full public housing stock, as reflected in the broadly backed **Green New Deal for Public Housing**. In addition, Congress should invest over \$400 billion to retrofit all public schools to support healthy learning environments, energy efficiency, electrification, and climate resilience, as outlined in the **Green New Deal for Public Schools**.

REPLACE 100% OF LEAD PIPES

The American Water Works Association estimates that it would cost **\$60 billion to achieve President Biden's goal of replacing 100% of lead service lines.** Congress should invest at the full amount to secure clean drinking water for all.

CREATE A CIVILIAN CLIMATE CORPS & CLEAN UP ABANDONED MINES AND WELLS

Congress should invest \$132 billion to create a CCC workforce that reflects the diversity of America, drawing on the **Civilian Climate Corps for Jobs and Justice Act, 21st Century Conservation Corps Act, and RENEW Conservation Corps Act.**

Pollution Cleanup: Congress should invest at least \$60 billion to **completely address the historic backlog of unfunded cleanup needs at polluted Superfund and Brownfields sites.**

Unplugged Oil and Gas Wells: Environmental & Indigenous groups are calling for **\$35 billion to clean up nearly 500,000 orphaned oil and gas wells, while urging \$10 billion more for abandoned mine reclamation.**

Investments must be coupled with strong bonding requirements and instituting fees on idled wells and on oil and gas production to ensure oil and gas companies fulfill their legal obligations to cover the costs of remediation.

fossil fuel companies account for more than a third of global greenhouse gas emissions in the modern era, all subsidized by American taxpayers to the tune of \$15 billion per year. The fossil fuel industry is so intent on keeping their taxpayer-funded subsidies that, in 2020 alone, oil, gas, and coal interests spent more than \$115 million lobbying Congress in defense of these giveaways – generating an over 13,000% return on investment. **We endorse and urge inclusion of Senator Sanders and Representative Omar's [End Polluter Welfare Act](#), which repeals the billions in special interest subsidies that disproportionately benefit the oil, gas, and coal industries.**



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PROTECT THE ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDFIRE REFUGE

The Gwich'in call the coastal plan of the Refuge "The Sacred Place Where Life Begins," because their survival has always depended on the land. Any disruption of this place would threaten their food security and way of life. This unique place has been protected for generations, until drilling supporters slipped an unrelated rider opening up the Arctic Refuge into the 2017 tax bill and the Trump administration rushed to hold a lease sale before leaving office. President Biden has suspended those leases, but permanent protection is needed. **Congress must act to restore protections to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and ensure that destructive oil and gas development does not take place there by taking action to repeal the mandatory lease sales in the Refuge.**



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END FOSSIL FUEL SUBSIDIES

Congress should include the elimination of fossil fuel subsidies in the infrastructure package. The 20 largest

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