

# 2024 Presidential Candidate Positions on Energy and Climate Policy

**Issue Brief**

**Updated September 27, 2024**

On November 5, 2024, voters will choose the 47th President of the United States. This issue brief provides a summary of each candidate's proposals regarding federal energy policy.

**Vice President Kamala Harris** has vowed to continue implementing policies like the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) while increasing the pace of the clean energy transition.

**Former President Donald Trump** has promised to increase oil and natural gas production to record high levels. He also plans to again withdraw the United States from the Paris Agreement, as he did during his first term in office.

The potential outcomes of the election and awareness of the candidate's energy policies is critical in preparing for the energy landscape in 2025 and beyond.

## **Potential Scenarios: The Impact That Elections Will Have on the Future of Energy Policy**

November's elections will determine who will occupy 34 Senate seats, 435 House seats, and the presidency, with varied implications for federal energy policy.

There are six broad scenarios that could happen after November's elections:

1. **Harris** wins the Presidency and **Democrats take both branches** of Congress.
2. **Harris** wins the Presidency and **Republicans take both branches** of Congress.
3. **Harris** wins the Presidency and Congress is **divided**.
4. **Trump** wins the Presidency and **Democrats take both branches** of Congress.
5. **Trump** wins the Presidency and **Republicans take both branches** of Congress.
6. **Trump** wins the Presidency and Congress is **divided**.

**Congressional Republicans** have varied views on the direction of federal energy policy. Today, much of the differences concern the party's support for the IRA, which was passed by

## Potential Scenarios (Cont.)

Democratic leadership in 2022 through the “budget reconciliation” process with little Republican support. Some Republicans [support certain specific policies](#) under the law, while others are advocating to repeal it entirely.

Energy security and competition with China are also of high concern for both congressional Republicans and former President Trump. In regard to climate policy, the Conservative Climate Caucus, a growing [coalition of Republican lawmakers](#), is exploring climate mitigation and adaptation policy options. However, it is unclear how this coalition’s priorities will fit into the broader Republican agenda for the 119th Congress.

**Congressional Democrats** are generally united around the Biden-Harris Administration’s energy and climate change agenda to expand sustainable energy and strengthen greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions requirements.

If Democrats gain majorities in the House and the Senate with Vice President Harris as president, they will likely pursue a [more expansive version](#) of the policies currently being enacted under the Biden-Harris Administration. Priorities include promoting environmental justice, reducing pollution and “making polluters pay,” lowering energy costs, creating clean energy jobs, building climate resilient communities, and improving the United States’ global climate leadership.

**Both Congressional Republicans and Democrats** are supporting action on federal energy permitting reform. The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee has recently reported legislation, the [Energy Permitting Reform Act of 2024](#), with a strong bipartisan vote of 15-4. The legislation was sponsored by Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairman Joe Manchin (I-WV) and Ranking Member John Barrasso (R-WY).

BCSE is aware of additional policies promoted by our members that should be included as the bill moves through the legislative process and BCSE looks forward to continuing to work with policymakers, stakeholders, and partners to enact further market-based policies that drive forward the clean energy transition.

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## Harris Campaign Positions

During her presidential campaign, Vice President Kamala Harris has stood by the energy and climate policies passed during the Biden-Harris Administration. In her [economic agenda](#) and the [2024 Democratic Party platform](#), Harris calls for “fighting climate change, reducing pollution, and fueling a clean energy boom.” This includes protecting and continuing the implementation of the IRA’s clean energy investments and expanding international cooperation on climate action.



## Harris Campaign Positions (Cont.)

### Inflation Reduction Act Tax Credits

President Biden’s term saw the passage of the IIJA, the IRA, the 2021 American Rescue Plan, and the 2022 CHIPS and Science Act, which allocated trillions of taxpayer dollars in energy efficiency and clean energy investments. As of May 2024, however, [less than 17%](#) of the \$1.6 trillion allocated by these four pieces of legislation has been spent – leaving more work to be done to ensure successful implementation.

As vice president, Harris cast the tiebreaking vote to pass the IRA. If elected, the Harris administration would focus on completing the implementation of the IRA and the IIJA. The DNC platform commits to [blocking Republican attempts](#) to repeal these clean energy investments.

### Permitting Reform

Vice President Harris plans on “[cutting red tape](#)” that has been slowing the build out of the clean energy transition. The DNC platform specifically calls for [improving and speeding up processes](#) for environmental review of clean energy projects and further scaling up development of clean energy on public lands.

### Oil and Natural Gas

The DNC platform commits to “[standing up to Big Oil](#)” by eliminating tens of billions of dollars in oil and gas subsidies. It also calls for holding oil and gas executives accountable for potential collusion or price-gouging. However, in her latest campaign agenda, Vice President Harris cites record-breaking [natural gas production](#) during the Biden-Harris administration as one of the reasons for the United States’ newfound energy security and decreasing oil prices, all while lowering emissions.

While Harris called for a ban on fracking in her 2020 campaign, she has since state that she [would not ban fracking](#).

### Renewables

The Biden-Harris administration led a renewed focus on increasing manufacturing jobs with investments in solar energy. Through the IRA, the administration created the [Solar for All program](#) to deploy solar power to more than “900,000 households in low-income and disadvantaged communities.”

The Democratic party appears united around the Biden administrations’ efforts to expand private sector investment in wind energy. The DNC platform highlights ongoing efforts to deploy [offshore wind](#) in addition to solar modules.

## Harris Campaign Positions (Cont.)

Vice President Harris plans to continue investing in the clean energy economy, remove barriers to clean energy project developments, and “[safeguard access](#)” to the necessary minerals through domestic and international supply chain development.

### Energy-Efficient Appliances

The DNC platform highlights efforts to increase energy efficiency by offering rebates on [energy-efficient home appliances](#). Vice President Harris also plans to offer energy tax credits on [home energy technologies](#).

### International Climate Cooperation

On his first day in office in 2021, President Biden [re-entered the United States](#) into the Paris Agreement, committing to limit the rise in global temperature to below 2° C.

In 2023, Vice President Harris represented the United States at the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP 28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. There, she announced a [\\$3 billion commitment](#) to the Green Climate Fund to help developing nations mitigate and adapt to climate impacts.

The DNC platform calls for boosting funding for initiatives like the [President’s Emergency Plan for Adaptation and Resilience \(PREPARE\)](#), launched in 2021, that builds out “better early warning systems for climate impacts in critical regions of the globe.” It also calls for elevating clean energy priorities within the [global development finance system](#) and investing in debt-for-nature swaps.

### Sustainable Transportation

The Biden-Harris Administration’s transportation policy is guided by a goal to [cut all greenhouse gas emissions](#) from the transportation sector by 2050.

In 2021, the Biden-Harris Administration strengthened [fuel economy](#) and tailpipe standards to help reduce carbon emissions. In 2024, the administration’s Environmental Protection Agency issued strict new [regulations for greenhouse gas emissions](#) from passenger cars, which aim to drive [56% of new vehicle sales](#) to be electric by 2032.

In addition, the DNC platform calls for [electrifying](#) school buses, transit buses, and federal vehicles, as well as ports and waterways. The platform also commits to doubling funding to repair and expand active transportation and public transit.

### China

The DNC platform calls for reshoring supply chains and investing in alliances and partnerships to [outcompete China](#). Nevertheless, the DNC platform also states that the United States will work together with China to address climate change.

## Harris Campaign Positions (Cont.)

In June 2022, the Biden-Harris Administration enacted a [two-year pause](#) on tariffs on solar products made by Chinese companies in southeast Asia, in an effort to ensure the United States had an adequate supply of solar panels. These tariffs were [reinstated](#) in June 2024.

Vice President Harris plans to compete with China in clean energy manufacturing by creating [“America Forward” tax credits](#) for the clean iron and steel, sustainable materials, data center, semi-conductor, and other industries, with additional support to companies planning to retool or rebuild existing facilities.

### Electric Transmission

The DNC platform calls for incentivizing “investment [in transmission upgrades](#) and new lines, and in the grid-component manufacturing that’s needed to support that growth.”

### Workforce Development

The Biden-Harris Administration launched the [American Climate Corps](#) (ACC) in 2023 as a workforce training and service initiative. In his 2024 State of the Union address, President Biden set a goal to [triple the size](#) of the ACC by 2030.

### Nuclear

Although neither the DNC nor the Harris campaign have released a clear statement on nuclear energy, the Biden-Harris administration has [previously supported](#) expanding nuclear energy facilities and training programs.

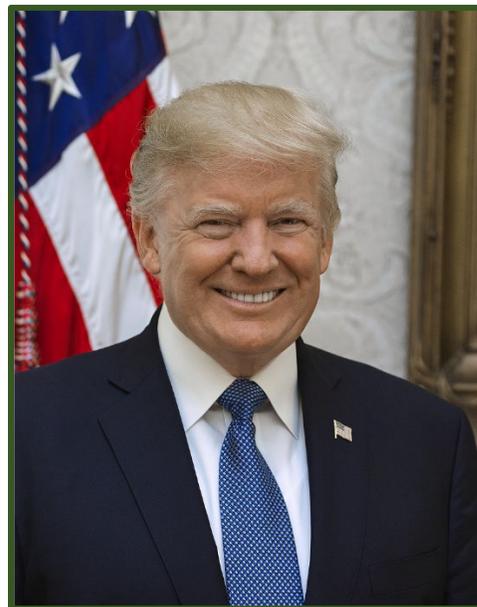
### Power Plant Rule

In April 2024, the Biden-Harris Administration’s Environmental Protection Agency placed limits on greenhouse gas emissions from [fossil fuel power plants](#). The rule aimed to further the administration’s effort to achieve “a carbon pollution-free power sector by 2035 and net zero emissions economy by no later than 2050” by further decarbonizing the power sector.

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## Trump Campaign Positions

Energy policy has been a key focus for former President Donald Trump's 2024 campaign. In his campaign platform ([Agenda 47](#)) and in the [2024 Republican Party platform](#), Trump has emphasized the need for energy policy that protects the United States from national security threats like China and that benefits U.S. economic competitiveness. His climate policy priorities include withdrawing the United States from the Paris Agreement again, as he did during his first term in office.



### Inflation Reduction Act Tax Credits

Former President Trump has indicated that he would [repeal parts of the IRA](#), but [it is unclear](#) whether his administration would revoke the legislation in its entirety.

Current Republican leadership in the House has [called for the repeal](#) of some IRA provisions in the 118th Congress. However, [in a letter](#) released in August 2024, 18 Republicans called on House Speaker Mike Johnson to support several key energy tax credits within the IRA.

Some Republicans have indicated a desire to [amend aspects of the IRA](#), including provisions that would ensure federal funds do not support businesses owned by foreign adversaries.

### Permitting Reform

Former President Trump has called for [streamlining](#) the permitting process for oil and natural gas.

### Oil and Natural Gas

Former President Trump has vowed to [increase oil and natural gas](#) production by limiting the barriers to start drilling on day one of his presidency. In meetings with [Republican lawmakers](#) in June 2024, Trump promised to renew drilling on the [Arctic National Wildlife Refuge \(ANWR\)](#), as well as increase oil drilling nationwide to drive down prices for U.S. consumers and to help limit President Vladimir Putin's strength in Russia's war with Ukraine.

### Renewable Energy

Former President Trump has called for an end to some renewable energy subsidies which [could impact](#) solar energy. Trump has also vowed to end Biden's [wind energy subsidies](#).

## Trump Campaign Positions (Cont.)

### Energy-Efficient Appliances

Former President Trump has called for ending any Biden-era Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Agency regulations [limiting the sales](#) of incandescent lightbulbs, gas stoves, and non-efficient dishwashers and showerheads.

### International Climate Cooperation

In June 2017, then-President Trump announced he would [withdraw the United States](#) from the Paris Agreement because the agreement was “[unnecessary](#) and put the country at a competitive disadvantage to China.” (Due to United Nations regulations, this did not take effect until November 2020.)

Trump’s campaign has committed to [again withdrawing](#) the United States from the Paris Agreement if elected in 2024.

### Sustainable Transportation

Former President Trump has vowed [to end](#) the Biden-Harris Administration’s fuel economy standards. Trump has also promised to [roll back](#) the Biden-Harris Administration’s EPA car pollution rules.

### China

Former President Trump has vowed to [end the importation](#) of Chinese electric vehicles. Furthermore, the campaign has promised to enact a [four year phase out](#) of all U.S. essential good imports of Chinese products, which would likely include technology from the renewable energy sector.

Trump has also stated that he will financially pressure countries to remove their tariffs on the United States, citing an “eye for an eye” tariff policy through the [Trump Reciprocal Trade Act](#). He aims for this policy to “eliminate U.S. dependence on China.”

### Electric Transmission

Although the Trump campaign has not released stances on transmission planning specifically, some expect that Trump-nominated judicial appointees and FERC commissioners would [halt initiatives](#) to expand long-distance transmission and connect wind and solar power to the grid.

### Workforce Development

Former President Trump has called for onshoring American [manufacturing jobs](#).

## Trump Campaign Positions (Cont.)

### Nuclear

The Trump campaign has expressed its support of [expanding small modular nuclear reactors](#). The RNC platform calls for “unleash[ing] Energy Production from all sources, [including nuclear](#).”

### Power Plant Rule

According to Reuters, the Trump campaign has promised to [overturn](#) the Biden-Harris Administration’s 2024 rule limiting greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel power plants and “put coal country back to work.”



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## Project 2025

[Project 2025's Mandate for Leadership](#) is a 920-page book published by the [Heritage Foundation](#), a conservative think tank, that outlines policy recommendations for an incoming Republican president. Although this handbook is not a direct account of the policies that Trump has indicated that he would adopt in a second term, it provides a list of policy recommendations that have support among a group of conservative lawmakers. Of note, Axios has reported that [one of Trump's closest aides](#) in the White House, Johnny McEntee, was a senior advisor on Project 2025.

Project 2025 includes energy policy proposals, such as:

- Eliminating the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)’s Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy and reducing the quantity of clean energy subsidies.
- Eliminating or dramatically reforming DOE’s Office of State and Community Energy Programs, Office of Grid Deployment, Loan Programs Office, and the Energy division of the Advanced Research Projects Agency.
- Eliminating funding for grid storage and grid enhancing programs.

## Potential Tax Policy Developments

In 2025, Congress will decide whether to reauthorize provisions from the [Tax Cuts and Jobs Act \(TCJA\)](#), which expire at the end of the calendar year. A new tax bill in 2025 could provide opportunities to secure important policy gains on energy tax policy, especially if the election results in divided government.

**Harris Tax Positions:** In her economic agenda, Vice President Harris has promised to “raise the [corporate tax rate](#) to 28%, up from the current 21% rate set by the 2017 TCJA.” CNN reports that “doing so would raise about \$1 trillion over the next decade, according to the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget.”

**Trump Tax Positions:** Former President Trump “has promised to [extend the cuts](#)” from his 2017 TCJA. He has also called for “reducing the corporate tax rate from the current 21% to 15%,” according to CNN.

Republican members of the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee are currently undertaking a review of tax policy as they prepare for possible action when provisions of the 2017 TCJA expire in 2025. Eighteen Republican House members, who are members of the bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucus, have [provided input](#) by going on record in support of the clean energy tax credits which were enacted as part of the IRA in 2022.

Understanding these dynamics, BCSE is working to develop policy recommendations that will support increased deployment and investment in clean and efficient energy resources under all election outcomes and will continue outreach to members of the tax writing committees.

### For more information on this topic:



#### Trump Campaign Positions

[Agenda 47](#)  
[2024 Republican Party Platform](#)

#### Harris Campaign Positions

[Harris Economic Plan](#)  
[2024 Democratic Party Platform](#)  
[White House IRA Landing Page](#)

#### Additional BCSE Issue Briefs

[The “Best in Class” Trackers on IRA Implementation and Impact](#)  
[Clean Energy Policy Priorities for the 119th Congress](#)  
[2024 Congressional Elections and Committee Makeup](#)

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