

Climate Protection and Carbon Accountability Act (CPCAA)

An Act to establish enforceable limits on greenhouse gas emissions, prohibit the permitting of new fossil fuel infrastructure inconsistent with science-based climate targets, and accelerate the transition to a sustainable economy.

Title I — National Carbon Budget and Science-Based Targets

Section 101. National Greenhouse Gas Emissions Cap

- By 2027, total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions shall not exceed **4.5 billion metric tons CO₂e** annually.
- The national emissions cap shall decline annually by **7.5%**, consistent with IPCC carbon budget pathways to limit warming to 1.5°C.
- The EPA shall set binding **sectoral emission limits** by regulation, including for transportation, electricity, industry, agriculture, and buildings.

Section 102. Climate Impact Thresholds for Permitting

- No federal agency may approve or renew a permit for a project projected to cause lifecycle emissions exceeding **1 million metric tons CO₂e** *unless* it demonstrates alignment with national carbon reduction targets.
- New fossil fuel extraction, refining, or combustion infrastructure **shall be prohibited** unless the applicant proves the project:
 - Replaces higher-emission infrastructure on a net basis *and*
 - Is consistent with a net-zero by 2040 trajectory.

Title II — Fossil Fuel Infrastructure Moratorium

Section 201. Prohibition of New Fossil Fuel Projects

- Effective immediately upon enactment, no new federal permits shall be granted for:
 - Coal mining or combustion facilities.
 - Oil and gas extraction on federal lands or waters.
 - Natural gas export terminals or pipelines exceeding 100 miles.
- This prohibition shall not apply to projects solely dedicated to decommissioning, remediation, or conversion to clean energy.

Section 202. Just Transition Fund

- A **Climate Transition Trust Fund** of \$100 billion is hereby established to:
 - Support fossil fuel workers and communities through wage replacement, job retraining, and pension security.
 - Fund public ownership or cooperative conversions of stranded fossil infrastructure.

- Accelerate investments in clean energy, public transport, and building electrification in frontline and energy-dependent communities.

Title III — Enforcement and Accountability

Section 301. Citizen Enforcement

- Any person may bring a civil action against:
 - A private entity exceeding sectoral carbon limits.
 - A government agency issuing permits in violation of this Act.
- Successful plaintiffs shall be entitled to injunctive relief, legal costs, and penalties remitted to the Climate Transition Trust Fund.

Section 302. Agency Accountability

- Federal agencies must conduct a **carbon compliance review** every two years.
- The **Office of Climate Compliance** shall issue public “Carbon Integrity Scores” for agencies and major private sector emitters.

Section 303. Criminal Penalties for Knowingly Falsifying Emissions Data

- Any officer of a corporation or government agency who knowingly misrepresents carbon data shall be guilty of a felony, punishable by up to 5 years in prison and a \$5 million fine.

Title IV — Integration with Existing Law

Section 401. Superseding Authority

- This Act shall supersede any provision of federal law inconsistent with its mandates, including exemptions or waivers previously granted under NEPA, the Clean Water Act, or the Energy Policy Act, insofar as they authorize fossil expansion inconsistent with this Act’s targets.

Section 402. Harmonization with State Law

- States may adopt more stringent emission reduction goals or project bans. Nothing in this Act shall preempt such authority.



Legislative Purpose and Findings

Congress finds that:

- The climate emergency constitutes a national security, economic, and public health threat.

- Current laws fail to limit cumulative emissions, creating a governance vacuum incompatible with human dignity and intergenerational justice.
- This Act provides the enforceable backbone required to preserve a livable planet within scientifically defined boundaries.