



Proposals for a North American Climate Strategy

Propuestas para una Estrategia Climática de América del Norte
Pour une Stratégie Climatique Nord-Américaine

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June 2016

Introduction

In December 2015, more than 190 nations adopted the Paris Agreement, a legally binding pact that aims to limit greenhouse gas pollution and build global resilience to the effects of climate change. The agreement required years of negotiation and tremendous political will, but world leaders now face an even greater task: implementation. In order to fulfill the agreement's vision of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions, countries will need to meet their national climate goals, strengthen those goals over time, and spur progress globally through international forums. In all of these efforts, countries can be more effective acting as allies rather than alone.

For the first time in recent memory, the national governments of the United States, Mexico, and Canada are politically aligned on climate change. The three countries should take this opportunity to explore and launch coordinated climate initiatives that could propel the shift to clean energy across the continent and—through international leadership—accelerate the reduction of greenhouse gas pollution globally.

Recognizing the strong role that an allied North America could play in the movement to address climate change, a coalition of think tanks in the United States, Mexico, and Canada—including the Center for American Progress, the Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas, the Centro Mexicano de Derecho Ambiental, the Pembina Institute, the World Resources Institute, and Canada 2020—has identified a set of trilateral initiatives that could be both effective and within the power of the three governments to undertake.

On June 29, 2016, President Barack Obama, President Enrique Peña Nieto, and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau convene for the North American Leaders' Summit in Ottawa, Ontario. This summit provides a near-term opportunity for the three leaders to explore options for trilateral cooperation—such as the initiatives detailed in this report—and to articulate a coordinated North American climate plan.

Our Mission

The Center for American Progress is an independent, nonpartisan policy institute that is dedicated to improving the lives of all Americans, through bold, progressive ideas, as well as strong leadership and concerted action. Our aim is not just to change the conversation, but to change the country.

Our Values

As progressives, we believe America should be a land of boundless opportunity, where people can climb the ladder of economic mobility. We believe we owe it to future generations to protect the planet and promote peace and shared global prosperity.

And we believe an effective government can earn the trust of the American people, champion the common good over narrow self-interest, and harness the strength of our diversity.

Our Approach

We develop new policy ideas, challenge the media to cover the issues that truly matter, and shape the national debate. With policy teams in major issue areas, American Progress can think creatively at the cross-section of traditional boundaries to develop ideas for policymakers that lead to real change. By employing an extensive communications and outreach effort that we adapt to a rapidly changing media landscape, we move our ideas aggressively in the national policy debate.

