



To: Transition Team
From: Sierra Student Coalition
RE: Young People, Climate and Energy in 2009
Date: December 15, 2009

The Sierra Student Coalition is the youth-run (age 14-30) chapter of the Sierra Club, the nation's oldest and largest grassroots environmental organization. Our mission is to develop leaders for the environmental movement by training, empowering, and organizing youth to run effective campaigns that result in tangible environmental victories.

The Sierra Student Coalition wants to see immediate action on climate and energy from the Obama Administration. We believe that there are concrete steps that the Obama Administration can take to begin to move the country towards a clean energy economy that repowers, rebuilds and re-energizes America.

Specifically, we want the following components to be included in the Obama Administration's energy plan:

1. EPA will require CO2 limits in permits for new coal plants (BACT), and announces and commences 12 month rulemaking to set new source performance standards for coal plants that include CO2 (NSPS);
2. EPA strengthens 2020 CO2 reduction target for the United States to 35% below 2005 levels;
3. EPA will commence rulemaking to rescind the waiver denial and grant CA waiver allowing CA and other states to implement GHG limits;
4. EPA commences rulemaking to eliminate Clean Water Act loophole allowing valley fills.

Additionally, we believe that we can solve our country's two biggest challenges- energy and the economy- simultaneously. We ask the Obama Administration to help green the Economic Stimulus package. By greening the Economic Stimulus package, we can create millions of healthy, safe jobs that can't be outsourced and that can employ the Millennial Generation for years to come.

Lastly, we believe that young people are uniquely poised to help develop and implement solutions to our climate and energy crisis. The Millennial Generation is the most diverse, technologically savvy and globally adept generation in US history. We are a generation that volunteers and we are a generation that votes. And we are ready to help our country develop a "Yes We Can" approach to meeting today's pressing energy, economic and climate challenges.

Specifically:

1. We can advocate. We are ready to engage thousands of newly activated young people in dialogue with our public officials to showcase the youth demand for a clean energy economy. We will be bringing thousands of young people to DC to advocate for real solutions to global warming at the Power Shift conference on February 27th-March 2nd
2. We can volunteer. Young people are ready to volunteer in communities across the country to help increase building and home efficiency.
3. We can research, develop and design the clean energy and efficiency solutions to our energy and climate challenges. At universities and in communities across the country, young people are developing the new technologies that will solve our energy crisis.
4. We can get to work. Green jobs present an opportunity to employ young people across the United States in good paying jobs that can't be outsourced. It is critical that young people from across the socio-economic spectrum can find safe, healthy jobs in a clean energy economy.